

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



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| 1 | Awarding Institution | Newcastle University |
| 2 | Teaching Institution | Newcastle University |
| 3 | Final Award | MA |
| 4 | Programme Title | European Union Studies |
| 5 | UCAS/Programme Code | 4029 F/P |
| 6 | Programme Accreditation | N/A |
| 7 | QAA Subject Benchmark(s) | N/A |
| 8 | FHEQ Level | Level 7 |
| 9 | Date written/revised | July 2021 |

10 Programme Aims

1. To offer a research environment in which students can learn about the European Union from knowledgeable staff, their own study, and interaction with other students.
2. To provide students with an advanced knowledge and understanding of the politics, institutions, law and policies of the European Union.
3. To develop students' skills in undertaking and completing self-designed research papers and dissertations.
4. To produce graduates who, if suitably qualified, will be capable of embarking upon research degrees in European Union studies.
5. To produce graduates capable of successfully pursuing careers in the European Union, government agencies, business, the media and other areas where an advanced knowledge and understanding of the European Union is needed or desirable.
6. To meet the needs of stakeholders
7. To provide a programme which meets the FHEQs required at level 7
8. To comply with prevailing University policies and AQQ codes of practice

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: European integration; public policy in the EU; the EU as an international actor; social science methods and methodologies; international and regional studies politics topics; independent learning; cooperative group work; individual presentations skills

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 Have an advanced knowledge and understanding of the contemporary European Union
- A2 Have knowledge of the more important approaches and methods in social science research and of the techniques required to carry out advanced research
- A3 Have a foundation of specialist knowledge and research skills from which they can embark upon careers with significant European and international dimensions or pursue a postgraduate research degree in European Union studies
- A4 Have the theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to successfully complete an MA dissertation

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| Teaching and Learning Methods |
| The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding is seminars (A1-A4). Throughout the MA programme students are strongly encouraged to engage in independent reading for which they are given extensive support and guidance on reading materials and their appropriate use. Students are strongly supported by staff in their completion of self-designed research projects. |
| Assessment Strategy |
| Knowledge and understanding are primarily assessed by research projects which are designed to assess theoretical and conceptual understanding and the capacity of students to relate knowledge through case studies and other empirically focused projects (A1-A4). |
| Intellectual Skills |
| On completing the programme students should be able to: |
| B1 Synthesise information from a variety of primary and secondary sources |
| B2 Analyse, evaluate and interpret the principal source materials for European Union studies |
| B3 Plan, conduct and communicate original research through research papers |
| B4 Understand the theoretical basis of European Union studies research |
| Teaching and Learning Methods |
| Cognitive skills are developed through seminars (B1-B2), research projects (B2-B3, B4) and supervision of research projects and dissertations (B3). Students are encouraged to develop cognitive skills through analysis of case studies (B1), independent reading and designing research projects (B2-B4). |
| Assessment Strategy |
| Intellectual skills are examined through research papers and the MA dissertation (B1-B4). |
| Practical Skills |
| On completing the programme students should be able to: |
| C1 Critically evaluate key arguments in European Union studies |
| C2 Critically evaluate the most important texts and themes in European Union studies |
| C3 Present a reasoned and informed position both in writing and in spoken presentations |
| C4 Identify, locate, and retrieve appropriate paper and electronic materials relevant to European Union studies |
| Teaching and Learning Methods |
| Critical skills are developed through independent reading and encouraging active participation individually and in groups in seminar settings (C1-C3). Formal spoken presentations (C3) and written research projects (C1-C4) are informed by appropriate materials in European Union studies some of which references are provided to students and others of which students have to locate. |
| Assessment Strategy |
| Practical skills are assessed through research projects (C1-C4). |
| Transferable/Key Skills |
| On completing the programme students should be able to: |
| D1 Take responsibility for his/her own learning and personal professional development |

- D2 Manage time and prioritise tasks by working to deadlines
 D3 Communicate effectively to others when working in seminar group settings
 D4 Make effective use of appropriate scholarly and other materials relevant to the study of the European Union

Teaching and Learning Methods

Student self-learning and time and task management is encouraged in weekly seminars and one on one research supervision sessions (D1-D2). Communication is practiced in weekly seminars (D3). Students are directed to appropriate journals and provided information concerning appropriate internet usage (D4).

Assessment Strategy

Self-learning is assessed in the context of the timely submission of research projects (D1-D2). Effective use of scholarly and other resources is assessed in the context of their analysis and correct presentation in research projects (D4).

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

One year full time or two years part time.
 180 credits (120 coursework, 60 dissertation)
 100 credits compulsory (2 x 20 credit modules and 1 x 60 credit dissertation), 80 optional credits

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

Rigorous compulsory training in the political, social and economic development of the European Union (EU).

EU is discussed and examined with reference to and in the context of global politics.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[4029 Programme Regulations 21-22](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Accreditation reports
 N/A

Additional mechanisms
 N/A

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/gsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>)

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.