

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MScL Master of Science and Laws
4	Programme Title	International Security: Conflict, Crime and Justice
5	Programme Code	5901F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Last updated	May 2026

10 Programme Aims

1. To provide a research teaching and learning environment in which students from a range of educational and professional backgrounds and disciplines can acquire advanced understanding of the key concepts, theories, principles, and debates that underpin international security and their local ramifications;
2. To equip students with the conceptual, analytical and critical skills necessary to engage key areas in international security including conflict, crime, and justice;
3. To develop students' skills in undertaking interdisciplinary research;
4. To develop students' skills in conceptualising, designing, undertaking, and completing original research papers and dissertations;
5. To produce employable graduates capable of successfully pursuing careers in the public, voluntary or private sector, and/or who are qualified to pursue advanced research degrees in their chosen field;
6. To contribute to the University's objectives by providing high quality training to an increasing number of postgraduates and enhancing their key skills and employability;
7. To provide a programme which meets the learning outcomes at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications;

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. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for (subject) (X).

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1** Have an advanced knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories, principles and debates that shape the field of international security with particular focus on conflict, crime, justice, and security;

A2 Have an advanced knowledge of interdisciplinary social science research methodologies and methods and the ability to apply these in practice;

A3 Have an ability to apply an interdisciplinary lens to international security and to articulate the role of conflict, crime, justice and security within the realms of human and international security;

A4 Understand the theoretical basis of research in International Security and its local manifestations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding (A1-A4) is seminars, which include diverse combinations of lectures, group exercises, case study analysis, and student presentations. Throughout the programme, students are strongly encouraged to engage in independent reading for which they are given extensive support and guidance through one-on-one drop ins and surgeries. All learning outcomes (A1-A4) are enhanced by the student's self-designed dissertation, the completion of which is strongly supported by one-on-one supervision by staff.

The Schools of GPS and Law and the HASS Faculty also offer a range of events focused on sociology and gender such as workshops and talks from staff and guest speakers (including many renowned scholars), which students are encouraged to attend to improve their knowledge of the fields.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding outcomes (A1-A4) are primarily assessed by research projects, policy evaluations, case studies, and other empirically focused projects in modules, which are designed to assess theoretical and conceptual understanding and the capacity of students to relate knowledge and by the dissertation.

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 their chosen field
- B3** Plan, conduct and communicate research orally and through research papers
- B4** Have the theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to successfully complete an MScL dissertation.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Cognitive skills are developed through seminars and workshops (B1-B2), research projects (B2-B3, B4) and through working with the supervisors of their 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 assessed through module activities (including research papers, policy briefs/evaluations, presentations) and the MScL dissertation (B1-B4).

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1** Critically evaluate key arguments
- C2** Critically evaluate the most important texts and themes
- C3** Present a reasoned and informed position both in writing and in spoken presentations
- C4** Identify, locate, and retrieve scholarly and other relevant materials

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 some of which references are provided to students and others of which students have to locate.
Assessment Strategy
Practical skills are assessed through written coursework and the dissertation.
Transferable/Key Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: D1 Take responsibility for his/her own learning and personal professional development including working independently and working as a member of both subject-specific and multi-disciplinary teams; D2 Manage time and prioritise tasks by working to deadlines; D3 Use appropriate oral communication to convey ideas, findings, and recommendations concerning sociology and/or gender tailored in content style and presentation to the needs of their intended audience; D4 Make effective use of appropriate resources including journals, open data sources, non-governmental publications and other online materials.
Teaching and Learning Methods
Student self-learning and time and task management is encouraged in weekly seminars and one-on-one research supervision sessions for the dissertation module (D1-D2). Communication is practiced in weekly seminars (D3). Ability to process a range of relevant information (D4) is taught through seminar discussions, workshops, dissertation preparation and preparation of assessed work.
Assessment Strategy
Self-learning is assessed in the context of the timely submission of research projects (D1-D2). Effective use of electronic 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 module and 1 x 60 credit dissertation), 80 subject specific modules (2 x 20 Law modules and 2 x 20 GPS modules)
Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
Problem and solutions-based teaching Interdisciplinary teaching Interdisciplinary knowledge gained of international security

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)
Programme Regulations 26-27

13 Support for Student Learning
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. Generic Information

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. Generic Information <i>Accreditation reports</i> <i>Additional mechanisms</i>

15 Regulation of assessment
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. Generic Information

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:
The University Prospectus: Find a Degree Postgraduate Newcastle University (ncl.ac.uk) Degree Programme and University Regulations: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/

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.
