

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PHILOSOPHY



APPENDIX TO THE MASTERS BY RESEARCH STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024/25

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the [core Masters by Research student handbook](#)

The Department of Economics sits within the School of Law and Social Sciences which covers the following disciplines: Economics, Law, Criminology and Social Work and Politics, International Relations and Philosophy (PIRP).

Welcome to your School

We would like to welcome you to the School of Law and Social Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London. Our school includes: [Department of Economics](#), [Department of Law, Criminology and Social Work](#), [Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy](#). All three departments are highly regarded for their research and teaching and have an active and vibrant research culture. We strive for excellence in research and generating real-world impact beyond academia.

Being a postgraduate research student in our School, you become an integral part of our research community. We offer a stimulating research environment and advanced training in both research-specific and transferable skills. Our MPhil and PhD student community is relatively small, thereby ensuring a consistently high level of interaction between the students and academics. Across the School, we have over ninety research students representing more than 20 different countries, bringing diverse perspectives, experience and skills to our departments.

You will find support in your studies not only from your immediate supervisory team but also from the PGR contact in your home department:

- Economics: Professor Manolis Galenianos (Manolis.Galenianos@royalholloway.ac.uk)
- Law, Criminology and Social Work: Dr Jane Marriott (jane.marriott@rhul.ac.uk)
- PIRP: Professor Jennifer Piscopo (Jennifer.Piscopo@royalholloway.ac.uk)

Dr Emily Glorney
School Director of PGR Education

Welcome to your department

Welcome to the MPhil/PhD programme in Politics and International Relations, and Philosophy at Royal Holloway. This appendix, in conjunction with the main [Research Degree Student Handbook](#), contains as much information as possible to guide you through the core aspects of the postgraduate

research programme. You should also refer to the University's formal [regulations and Code of Practice](#). If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your supervisors, the Departmental PGR Lead (Jennifer Piscopo), or the [Doctoral School](#).

The Department of Politics and International Relations (PIR) was founded in 2004 and became the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy in 2017. It has rapidly developed an outstanding reputation for teaching and research in a number of areas within this field. It has grown substantially with a number of new appointments since 2006 that have brought it to over 30 permanent academic members of staff in size. Much of our research activities fall within one of our research units: the Gender Institute, the Global Politics and Development Centre (GPDC), the Democracy and Elections Centre (DEC), the Centre for International Security (RHISC), the Centre for Islamic and West Asian Studies (CIWAS), the New Political Communication Unit, the Contemporary Political Theory Research Group and the Centre for Continental Philosophy.

We view postgraduate research students as an integral part of the department's intellectual identity and environment, and our dynamic faculty is constantly seeking out promising research students. We are an ambitious research department, and we aim to recruit outstanding graduate students who can participate in and help build our research programmes.

We are very pleased to welcome you to the department and look forward to working with you.

Professor Jennifer Piscopo
Department PGR Lead

Key contacts

Role	Name	Email	Phone	Room
Executive Dean	Professor Matthew Humphreys	Matthew.Humphreys@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276482	McCrea 1-04
Head of Department	Professor Laura Sjoberg	Laura.Sjoberg@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276802	McCrea 1-05
Deputy Head of Department	Dr Kaat Smets	Kaat.Smets@rhul.ac.uk		McCrea 1-08
School Director of PGR Education	Dr Emily Glorney	Emily.Glorney@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276283	ABF23
Departmental PGR Lead	Professor Jennifer Piscopo	jennifer.piscopo@rhul.ac.uk		McCrea 1-22
School helpdesk*		LSS-school@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276883	McCrea 1-01

* For the majority of your non-academic related issues, please contact the [Doctoral School](#). However, for queries about teaching contracts, expenses and study space within the school, please contact the School of Law and Social Sciences helpdesk.

Staff

Read the list of staff within the Department of [Politics, International Relations](#) and [Philosophy](#)

Research areas

Find out more about the research areas within the Department of [Politics, International Relations](#) and [Philosophy](#)

[Find out more about individual members of staff's research areas](#)

Staff-Student Action Meeting

The purpose of the PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting is to maintain and foster communication within the School. The meeting is a platform to receive and to discuss matters of concern to both students and staff. As such, it provides a formal means of communication between students and the School Board.

The PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting meets at least once every term. You can use the Meeting to raise any issues by either attending one of the meetings or passing the information to the current student representatives. Course representatives are there to represent your views and ultimately, to help improve the quality of education provided by the University.

The Masters by Research

A **Masters by Research** is awarded for original research and submission of a thesis of up to 40,000 words. Candidates must normally be registered for one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). As a Masters by Research student you will exclusively work on your dissertation. You may ask to audit modules taught in the Department, though this is not a formal requirement. Please consult with your dissertation supervisor.