



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
& POLITICS AND IR

MSc Geopolitics and Security

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2018/2019

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Disclaimer

This document was published in September 2018 and was correct at that time. The Department* reserves the right to modify any statement if necessary, make variations to the content or methods of delivery of programmes of study, to discontinue programmes, or merge or combine programmes if such actions are reasonably considered to be necessary by the College. Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum, and to give as much notice as possible.

* Please note, the term 'Department' is used to refer to both 'Departments' and 'Schools'.

An electronic copy of this handbook can be found on the Geography Departmental website (www.rhul.ac.uk/geography) where it will be possible to follow the hyperlinks to relevant webpages.

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1 Introduction to the Departments

1.1 Welcome

Welcome to the Departments of Geography and Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway. We very much hope that your year with us will be enjoyable and stimulating, and we look forward to working with you on the programme. This handbook aims to give you all the basic information you will require for your academic studies. This includes information on the structure and organisation of the degree programme, teaching arrangements and assessment.

Aims of the programme

Both *geopolitics* and *security* are defining issues of our era. We, as a global community, face unprecedented challenges relating to environmental catastrophe, resource shortages, economic meltdown, terrorism and infrastructural failure. We need to understand the conditions that make our daily lives vulnerable and develop strategies to manage risk and mitigate the impact of crisis. Innovative, up to date, and grounded in real-life skills and experiences, this programme is designed for both ambitious young graduates and experienced professionals working in commercial or political organisations such as banking, energy, media, think tanks and government, where risk management is critical to strategic policy development. The course will attract students from a diverse range of backgrounds.

The aims of the MSc in Geopolitics and Security are:

To provide a systematic understanding and knowledge of theories, institutions, and practices across the fields of Geography and International Relations more generally and in specific sub-disciplines related to Geopolitics and Security. This means that students will be able to understand and select theoretical tools and methodological techniques relevant to the creation and interpretation of knowledge in Geopolitics and Security in order to examine and assess contemporary political thought, policy and practice.

To provide a rigorous programme of research training, in both qualitative and quantitative methods for the analysis of Geopolitics and Security. The aim is to enable students to carry out independent primary fieldwork and research-based dissertations, to undertake further postgraduate study under current Economic and Social Research Council guidelines, and equip students to fulfil professional research roles in Geopolitics and Security related fields, including both governmental and non-governmental departments and agencies, consultancies and the private sector. The programme will provide training in theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the creation and interpretation of knowledge in Geopolitics and Security and to the critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in that field.

To have 'key competencies' (i.e. skills, but 'skills' as practical intelligence rather than in their simplistic form) as the core theme of student employability and improvement. These key competencies include advanced analytical, communication and dissemination skills, ability to manage complexity, change and unpredictability, critical awareness, group working, reflectiveness and empathy. In addition, we aim to develop students' personal qualities, encompassing self-awareness regarding the student's learning i.e. 'learning how to learn', and the capacity to reflect on, in and for action.

The MSc in Geopolitics and Security is distinctive in four main ways:

1. Taught between the Department of Geography *and the Department of Politics and International Relations*, we are in a unique position to combine expertise from two world-leading research departments with strong research cultures, encompassing a vibrant postgraduate community. The partnership will promote the benefits of interdisciplinary conversations and different approaches towards the study and practice of geopolitical and security work.

2. The Masters is both research and professionally focused. We provide practical focussed research skills training and guidance in order to enable students to carry out and complete independent primary fieldwork and research-based dissertations, ideal preparation for further doctoral research, whilst helping students develop and hone the knowledge, skills and capacities appropriate to developing further careers in these areas.

3. The Masters combines cutting edge developments in critical geopolitics and critical security research in order not to neglect more traditional geopolitical concerns, but to interrogate them differently. The programme explores rising powers, resource conflict, cybersecurity and contemporary instances of territorial dispute through critical and insightful perspectives.

4. Within Geography, the MSc is housed with Geopolitics, Development, Security and Justice research group, a leading research centre in the fields of development, environment, politics and sustainable development, linking natural and social science theories, policies, tools and methodologies. From 2013 we began a new collaboration with the Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Cyber Security, one of only two centres in the UK funded by the government. Through this unique context, we are in an unparalleled position to convey research knowledge, experience and skills.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the programme, students should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of key concepts, theoretical debates, and developments applicable to Geopolitics and Security;
- a sound knowledge of the texts, theories and methods used to enhance understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with Geopolitics and Security;
- an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of research methods within Geopolitics and Security;
- knowledge of advanced scholarship in the chosen area of the discipline to a level appropriate for an MSc degree.

Skills and other attributes

- the ability to evaluate relevant critical, theoretical and contextual research at the forefront of the field;
- the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;
- the ability to assess the nature and value of a wide variety of source materials – including, where appropriate, academic commentaries, research-based literature, official publications and statistics, journalistic sources, political biographies – and make effective use of such materials;
- the ability to develop their own lines of criticism and argument;*
- the ability to conduct research independently at an advanced level using traditional and electronic resources;*
- the ability to assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies;*
- the ability to develop reasoned and balanced arguments;*
- the ability to manipulate precise and intricate ideas, construct logical arguments and use technical terminology correctly;*
- the ability to deal with complex issues, both systematically and creatively, and make sound judgments;*
- the ability to identify, investigate, analyze, formulate and advocate solutions to problems;*
- the ability to communicate complex information and ideas effectively, both orally and in writing;*
- the ability to write up a substantial dissertation project, using the appropriate methodological and bibliographical skills;*

2 Key contacts and staff

Head of Department: Professor Phil Crang

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Departmental Educational Support Officer: Dr Mike Dolton

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Director of the MSc: Professor Peter Adey

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Co-Director of Graduate Studies: Dr Innes Keighen

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Geography Main Office, Q162, 01784 443563

Liz Hamilton (Faculty Administrator Mon-Tue)

Karen Oliver (Faculty Administrator Wed-Fri)

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Key Academic Staff teaching on the MSc:

Peter Adey (Professor of Human Geography) peter.adey@rhul.ac.uk

(on sabbatical term 2 2019)

Klaus Dodds (Professor of Geopolitics) k.dodds@rhul.ac.uk (Research leave to 2020)

Alasdair Pinkerton (Reader in Human Geography (acting director of the Masters Spring 2019) a.d.pinkerton@rhul.ac.uk

Rachael Squire (Lecturer in Human Geography), Rachael.Squire@rhul.ac.uk

Anna Jackman (Lecturer in Human Geography), Anna.Jackman@rhul.ac.uk

Key contacts in Politics and International Relations:

Professor Sandra Halperin (Head of Department), Sandra.Halperin@rhul.ac.uk

Professor Chris Hanretty (Director, MSc IR and MSc International Security), chris.hanretty@rhul.ac.uk

Charlotte Langston (Faculty Administrator), FBW139,

Charlotte.Langston@royalholloway.ac.uk

3 Programme Structure

All courses are worth 11.1% or 20 credits except for the Dissertation which is worth 33% or 60 credits. Your units must add up to 100% or 180 credits (90 ECTS). This equates to 6 courses over the Autumn and Spring terms, with the Dissertation over the Summer.

Compulsory	Theory and Methods	Free Options	Dissertation. 33%
	Choose one	Autumn Choose one	Dissertation on an aspect of Geopolitics and Security
Autumn	Autumn	*Resilience and the Governing of Emergency	
Principles of Geopolitics and Security	Research Methods For Political Geography	US Foreign Policy	
Spring	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR	Identity, Power and Radical Political Theory	
Research Design in Geopolitics and Security	Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Politics and IR	Elections and Campaigning	
		International Public Policy	
		European Union Politics and Policy	
		Political Economy of Development	
		Fieldwork Methods	
		Spring Choose two	
		*Climate Change, Governance and the Seas	
		*Military and the Media	
		Media, War and Conflict	
		China in the World	
		Human Rights: From Theory to Practice	
		Understanding Defence	
		Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention	
		International Policy Practice	
		The Global Politics of Food Security	

		<p>The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Global Perspective</p> <p>Analysing Public Opinion</p> <p>European Union Budget, Revenue and Spending</p> <p>Political Economy of the Middle East</p> <p>Political Leaders and Democratic Politics</p> <p>Development Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa</p>	
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*Options taught in Geography

Organisation of Part-Time Study

Year 1 – MSc and Diploma Programme, Part-Time

Autumn (Term 1)	Spring (Term 2)	Summer (Term 3)
<p>Students choose one from:</p> <p>Research Methods for Political Geography</p> <p>Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Politics and IR</p> <p>Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Politics and IR</p>	<p>Students choose one from the list of free options (see above)</p>	
<p>Principles in Geopolitics and Security</p>		

Year 2 - MSc and Diploma Programme Part-Time

Autumn (Term 4)	Spring (Term 5)	Summer (Term 6)
<p>Free Option</p>	<p>Research Design in Geopolitics and Security</p>	<p>Dissertation (MSc Students Only)</p>
	<p>Free Option</p>	

The details of courses and options are provided in the course option booklet (distributed during welcome week) and in the course materials contained in each course page on Moodle. Coursework deadlines have been collated in the next section, but see each individual course Moodle page for further details and any amendments.

4 Assessment and Coursework Deadlines (Geography, GG codes)

Please see individual course Moodle pages for further details and any amended deadline.

Date & Time	Coursework
Monday 29 th October – 4pm	GG5605 Scenario Evaluation
Monday 26 th November – 4pm	GG5605 Scenario
Friday 7 th December – 11.00-14.00	GG5601 Presentations
Friday 14 th Dec – 11.00-14.00	GG5601 Presentations
Monday 14 th Jan – 4pm	GG5601 Reflective Diary
Monday 14 th Jan – 4pm	GG5605 Essay
Monday 21 th Jan – 4pm	GG5608 (GG5020) Project report
Monday 4 th Feb – 4pm	GG5602 Presentation pack
Friday 15 th February – 10am	GG5602 Project Presentation
Friday 22 nd February – 4pm	GG5606 Blog Post
Tuesday 12 th March	GG5606 Scenario group participation and presentation
Thursday 14 th March – 4pm	GG5407 Slide Pack
Wednesday 13 th 2pm	GG5602 Dissertation Presentation
Friday 29 th March – 4pm	GG5606 Scenario group report
Monday 29 th April – 4pm	GG5602 Dissertation Proposal
Monday 2 nd September – 4pm	GG5600 Dissertation

The completed coursework should be submitted to the Faculty Administrators, Geography department by the deadline. You must submit your work through Turnitin. Turnitin can be found on the course Moodle page, and will be made available before the deadline. Please bring your Turnitin receipt with you to hand in. Please ensure your work is anonymous (i.e. do not put your name anywhere on it) but *do* include

your candidate number. Please note your candidate number (7 digits) is different to your student number (which begins 1000xxxxxx). Please hand in one hard copy and an electronic copy (you can bring a data stick, which will be returned to you; you cannot email your electronic copy in). You should obtain a receipt confirming submission.

Assessments;
Term One

GG5601 Principles of Geopolitics and Security

- 1: 5000 word Reflective Diary
- 2: 10 minute Presentation

GG5605 Resilience and the Governing of Emergency

- 1: 1000 word scenario evaluation.
- 2: 1000 word scenario
3. 3000 word essay.

GG5608 (GG5020) Social Science Methods for Political Geography

1. Two part 5000 word report

Term Two:

GG5602 Research Design in Geopolitics and Security

1. 5 minute security mapping project expose/literature presentation
2. Security mapping project presentation (usually 1.5 hrs)
3. 15 minute Dissertation Proposal
4. 2000 word dissertation proposal

GG5407 Climate Change Governance and the Seas

1. One slide pack

GG5606 Media and the Military

1. 600-800 word blog post
2. Scenario participation and presentation
3. 5000 word scenario group report

Term 3:

GG5600 Dissertation

Up to 15,000 word dissertation project

5 The dissertation

Students are required to prepare a dissertation of up to 15,000 words on a topic approved by their Supervisor. The dissertation must be based on primary research; an extended literature review is inadequate. More detailed advice and instructions will be provided during the autumn and spring terms, while the Research Training modules are designed to equip students with appropriate methods and techniques for undertaking this work. In the first term students should consider topics for possible dissertations and discuss these with appropriate members of staff. We would encourage students to consider linking their dissertation work with relevant external organisations either in the UK or abroad. It is essential that you contact the appropriate organisation as early as possible so that dissertation research can be developed in collaboration and for the needs of those organisations. Some students may already have contacts with particular organisations; however staff will be able to advise and give guidance to students needing help with this.

During this process, each student will be allocated a main supervisor for their dissertation who will advise students on the topic, research methodology and objectives of the dissertation. The decision of adviser will depend on the best fit in terms of staff research interests and the nature of the dissertation.

At the end of the second term, as part of Research Design in Geopolitics and Security, the dissertation proposal form and a 2000-word dissertation research proposal, which should include a literature review, must be submitted to the director of the programme (see Appendix 5, 6, 7 for proposal form, declaration form and marking proforma).

Please note: ***you will not be permitted to proceed with your dissertation until you have satisfied the requirements of the research proposal. This will be determined by your advisor, and you may be asked to re-submit your research proposal should it be deemed unsatisfactory.***

The dissertation supervisor

Your department will assign you a dissertation supervisor who will oversee your work. In most cases students are happy with the supervisory relationship. However, there are occasions where for some reason the supervisory relationship does not work and breaks down. If this happens, you should speak as soon as possible with the Programme Director or your Personal Advisor to see whether the problem can be resolved informally, e.g. through mediation, changing supervisor. You should not wait until after you have received your final degree results to raise the matter as it is very difficult for the College to resolve such matters or take remedial action at that point

The dissertation supervisor will meet with you monthly during scheduled meetings following allocation of an advisor in the Spring term. During the summer term advisers

will be available on a more ad-hoc basis to be arranged by email. Advisers who will be available to discuss the dissertation and read over no more than one whole draft of the dissertation once, or the equivalent volume in chapters and sections. **No drafts of dissertations should be read less than two weeks before the deadline.** Topics for discussion will include:

- the specific title;
- academic context/literature review;
- aims/objectives of the research;
- research methodology;
- ethical issues relating to the research;
- proposed timetable for the research;
- full budget for the research;
- risk assessment for the research.

Each student will be expected to give an oral presentation outlining their research ideas and fieldwork plan in Research Design in Geopolitics and Security (exact date will be announced by the Programme Director in term 2 and students cannot proceed with fieldwork until after this date). Please note that you should use your extended research proposal as the basis for the presentation and you should use previous oral presentation feedback for putting together the presentation. Students will be expected to talk for 10 minutes with another 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Students who have not submitted their research proposal will not be allowed to proceed to do their fieldwork and dissertation. Students will not be able to proceed with fieldwork unless they have satisfactorily completed risk assessment and ethical forms.

You should work with your dissertation adviser who will be happy to look over drafts of the project before submission. Your adviser will expect to read no more than the equivalent of one whole draft of the project. So you could submit several (for instance problem) chapters a number of times, or the whole dissertation once. As with submitting most drafts for feedback, you should expect light comments, guidance and advice, and with enough reasonable time for the supervisor to get those comments back to you in advance of the deadline. Anything submitted in the last week before the deadline is probably cutting it too fine.

The completed dissertation should be submitted to the Faculty Administrators, Geography department on or before **4:00pm on Monday 2nd September 2019**. You must submit your work through Turnitin. Turnitin can be found on the course Moodle page, and will be made available before the deadline. Please bring your Turnitin receipt with you to hand in. Please ensure your work is anonymous (i.e. do not put your name anywhere on it) but *do* include your candidate number. Please note your candidate number (7 digits) is different to your student number (which begins 1000xxxxxx). Please hand in one hard copy and an electronic copy (you can bring a data stick, which will be returned to you; you cannot email your electronic copy in). You should obtain a receipt confirming submission.

On completion of the examination and the posting of the provisional results in late September or early October, one copy of the dissertation is returnable to candidates if

it is not required for the Departmental Library. Students should make their own arrangements to collect these, or should leave a stamped addressed envelope with the Faculty Administrator so that they can be posted to them.

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. COURSEWORK ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Coursework is marked slightly differently between the two departments so it is important to bear in mind minor differences in expectation between coursework submitted for different course codes.

Geography marking Criteria.

Degree Class	Grade	%age	Grade Description for Written Papers	Grade Description for Oral Presentations	Grade Description for Dissertation
High Distinction	A+	85+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional degree of understanding of the issues, concepts and underlying principles; exceptional degree of creativity, originality and independence of thought; penetrating analysis and synthesis is demonstrated in the selection, interpretation and evaluation of source material; excellently presented; referencing and bibliography of exemplary standard; incisive and fluent style, with no or very minor errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit. Publishable quality. 	Original and thought-provoking presentation, identifying subtleties in details of the assignment; clear and original structure of content and conclusions; ideas linked coherently and conducted with confidence; evidence of comprehensive research and original thought in analysis, synthesis and evaluation; pitch of voice, pace and audio-visual aids used to professional standard in presentational quality and mode of use; encouraged appropriate involvement and questioning, answering with authority and/or originality.	Exceptional degree of understanding of the subject area; exceptional degree of creativity, originality and independence of thought in the construction of research aims and questions, and in the analysis or interpretation; ability to plan, organise and execute research independently to the highest professional standards; ability to evaluate critically research design, methodology and published work; penetrating analysis of primary sources of literature and information; professionally presented, with referencing and bibliography of exemplary standard; incisive and fluent style; no errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar and within word limit. Publishable quality.
Distinction	A	75-84	Deep understanding of the issues, concepts and underlying principles; evidence of originality or imaginative insights; substantial evidence of ability to analyse and synthesise is demonstrated in the selection, interpretation and evaluation of source material; excellently presented; referencing and bibliography of near-exemplary standard; incisive and fluent style, with no significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit.	Presentation addressed explicitly the topic, identifying subtleties in assignment details; evidence of original thought with respect to structure of content and conclusions; clear and appropriate structure of presentation ideas linked coherently; explicit and relevant synthesis, analysis and evaluation of a broad range of sources; clearly audible, appropriate pace and audio-visual aids used to a very high standard in presentational quality and mode of use; encouraged involvement and questioning, answering with knowledge and understanding.	Deep understanding of the subject area; significant evidence of originality in the construction of the research aims and questions; analysis or interpretation shows sustained evidence of originality or imaginative insights; substantial independent research conducted at a very high level of professional competence; critical understanding of research design and methodology; in-depth reading; excellently presented, with referencing and bibliography of exemplary standard; incisive and fluent style; no significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit. A dissertation graded at distinction should contain work of publishable quality.
	A-	70-74			
Pass (Good)	B+	67-69	Clear understanding of the main issues, concepts and underlying principles; source material is carefully selected, interpreted and evaluated; some evidence of ability to analyse and synthesise is demonstrated in the selection, interpretation and evaluation of source material; well-presented; detailed referencing; properly formatted bibliography; fluent style; few errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit.	Explicitly addressed set topic; structure evident, but could be more focused; evidence of coherent links between ideas, commenced and concluded appropriately; included relevant synthesis and analysis, and evidence of some evaluation; clearly audible, good pace and audio-visual aids used to increase effectiveness; encouraged appropriate involvement and questioning, demonstrating knowledge and understanding in answers.	Good understanding of the subject area; some originality in the construction of its main research aims, questions and interpretations; substantial independent research conducted at a good level of professional competence; critical understanding of research design and methodology; coherent structure, in-depth reading; well-presented, with referencing in acceptable style and properly formatted bibliography; fluent style; few errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit.
	B	63-66			
	B-	60-62			
Pass (Satisfactory)	C+	57-59	The main issues and concepts are described coherently; limited synthesis and analysis of underlying principles; interpretation and evaluation of source material is attempted, though not pursued in depth; adequately presented; some referencing; short bibliography; straightforward style; some errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit.	Addressed the set topic; structure evident, but could be improved; evidence of coherent links between most ideas; included some synthesis and analysis, but could have been evaluated more effectively; audible for all the presentation, and audio-visual aids were used; pace not always appropriate and ran over/under time; audience needs not well gauged, and limited encouragement to participate/question, answering with basic understanding.	Clear understanding of the subject area; clear formulation of its main research aims and questions; coherent but limited interpretation / analysis; significant independent research conducted at an adequate level of professional competence; a considered research design and methodology; evidence of satisfactory reading; adequately presented, some referencing and short bibliography; straightforward style; some errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar, and within word limit.
	C	53-56			
	C-	50-52			
Passmark 50					
Fail	F+	40-49	Insufficient understanding of the main issues and concepts; serious weakness in coverage, content, internal consistency and organization; inadequate or uncritical use of source materials; little synthesis and analysis of underlying principles; limited interpretation and evaluation of source material, significant weaknesses in presentation; little or no referencing; inadequate or absent bibliography; simple style; significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Not within word limit.	Partially addressed the set topic; some evidence of structure, but presentation partially rambling or unfocused; ideas could have been linked more coherently; included little or no analysis or evaluation; presentation slightly inaudible, and audio-visual aids not very effective; presentation ran over/under time; audience needs not taken into account in design of the presentation; no attempt made to encourage appropriate audience involvement and questioning, and some weaknesses in basic understanding indicated in answers.	Insufficient understanding of the subject area; confused or vague research aims and questions; interpretation of source material weak or uncritical; poor quality of independent research; serious weaknesses in coverage and organization; poor use of literature and inadequate wider reading; significant weaknesses in presentation; little or no referencing and an inadequate or absent bibliography; simple style; significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Not within word limit.
Fail (Poor)	F	20-39	Very limited understanding of the main issues and concepts; profound weakness in coverage, content, internal consistency, and organization; almost no evidence of independent or original thought; little evidence of engaging with source materials; poorly presented; little or no referencing; inadequate or absent bibliography; sketchy style; significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Not within word limit.	Largely failed to address the set topic; rambling or unfocused, no real structure; included little or no analysis or evaluation; partially inaudible and audio-visual aids not used, or used ineffectively; presentation ran severely over/under time; no attempt to gauge audience needs in design of the presentation; no attempt to encourage audience participation and questioning, and answers largely erroneous or had little or not relevance to the topic.	Very limited understanding of the subject area; no evident research aims or questions; very limited interpretation of source material; insufficient independent research; profound weaknesses in coverage and organization; poorly presented; little or no referencing and an inadequate or absent bibliography; sketchy style; significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Not within word limit.

Alternative Assessments

You will come across other modes of assessment within the GG course codes which are directly linked to employability skills, whilst enabling students to experience more diverse forms of expression and assessment. These include: media analysis and reports, policy briefings and statements, blog writing and an emergency scenario. The emphasis in these modes will be on clarity of expression; brevity – i.e. less is more when it comes to writing; simple but powerful structure; getting to the point quickly; presentation and visual style.

Degree class	%age	Grade for Alternative Assessment Modes
Distinction	85+	Original and thought-provoking, identifying subtleties in details of the assignment; clear and original structure of content and conclusions; ideas linked coherently and conducted with confidence; evidence of comprehensive research and original thought in analysis, synthesis and evaluation; visual presentation used to professional standard in presentational quality and mode of use; formidable clarity; excellent and inventive use of limited space; sophisticated understanding of the audience.
Distinction	75-84	Explicitly addresses the topic, identifying subtleties in assignment details; evidence of original thought with respect to structure of content and conclusions; clear and appropriate structure of ideas, linked coherently; clarity and brevity of expression; explicit and relevant synthesis, analysis and evaluation of a broad range of sources; visual presentation to a very high standard. Well catered to desired audience.
	70-74	
Pass (good)	67-69	Explicitly addressed set topic; structure evident, but could be more focused; evidence of coherent links between ideas; included relevant synthesis and analysis, and evidence of some evaluation; understood less is more; visual presentation is effective; good understanding of audience needs.
	63-66	
	60-62	
Pass (satisfactory)	57-59	Addressed the set topic; structure evident, but could be improved; evidence of coherent links between most ideas; included some synthesis and analysis, but could have been evaluated more effectively; presentation could do with improvement, became overwordy; need to simplify expression, know your audience.
	53-56	
	50-52	
Fail	40-49	Partially addressed the set topic; some evidence of structure, but presentation partially rambling or unfocused; ideas could have been linked more coherently; included little or no analysis or evaluation; over-length; visual presentation rough.
Fail (poor)	20-39	Largely failed to address the set topic; rambling or unfocused, no real structure; included little or no

		analysis or evaluation; poorly presented; lacked clear sense.
Fail (very poor)	1-19	Failed to address topic; very rambling and unfocused, no structure; included no analysis or evaluation; no thought of who the audience might be.

APPENDIX 2 GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN COURSEWORK

All coursework must be typed or word-processed in double spacing. Be sure that the printer is producing a dark, easily readable text. Examiners will give specific attention to the following points:

Structure: Written work should have a clear structure, with an introduction, key elements of the work and a conclusion.

Argument and evidence: many written assignments are expected to develop a line of reasoning that is supported by appropriate evidence. You will be assessed on the extent to which you have used various sources of evidence to contribute to the overall argument and analysis. You are encouraged to include professional and personal experiences in your written work, but they must be reported as such and clearly be related to the arguments being made.

Analysis, synthesis and evaluation: You will be expected to be critical within the arguments you make, and be able to evaluate evidence and argue alternative approaches. Examiners are looking for signs of original thinking. This might entail the reappraisal of existing or presentation of new data to provide new insights into current ideas, understandings and debates.

Referencing: Sources of information must be clearly identified within the text. Unsupported assertions must be avoided. Full references must be listed in proper form in the bibliography at the end. See Section 6.4 for more guidance on referencing.

Illustrations: Figures and tables can be used to support the text. These may be original or may be taken or copied from existing sources, with due acknowledgement. Be sure that illustrations are adequately explained, e.g. include such essentials as scales, orientation, etc., as well as captions.

Presentation: This includes the general layout and style, as well as spelling and grammar.

APPENDIX 3 GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations will play an important part of your assessed work. Examiners will give specific attention to the following points:

Content: The content should be relevant and focused. Sufficient and appropriate material should be used to illustrate arguments and concepts. Use of experience and critical reflection on material is encouraged. Sources should be acknowledged in the presentation and/or handout.

Argument: The presentation should have a coherent argument, and material should be organised and structured to aid in the comprehension of the argument. Examiners will be looking for evidence of analysis and interpretation, not just description. The presentation should have a clear structure, with an introduction and conclusion.

Presentation: Examiners will be looking for clarity and audibility in the presentation. Pace should be appropriate for the allocated time, and there should be sufficient time for questions and interaction with the audience at the end. You are encouraged to use audio-visual aids but they need to be appropriate and well handled. You are also encouraged to extemporise rather than read direct from your notes

APPENDIX 4 DISSERTATION PROPOSAL FORM

Candidate no.

Title of Dissertation:

Outline of Research Aims and Scope

Context of Research & Literature Review

Methodology and Sampling Strategy

Overall evidence of critical understanding

Plan for Fieldwork

Ethical awareness

Budget

Risk assessment

Use of Visual Aids/Illustrations/Maps

Grade Awarded:

Please note: this grade is indicative of the assessment of the first examiner. The final mark awarded is subject to revision by either the second internal examiner or the external examiners.

Further comments:

APPENDIX 5 DISSERTATION MARKING PROFORMA

Candidate no:

Title:.....
.....

If you supervised this dissertation, please give an indication of the approximate wordage of draft material read:

Please comment under the following headings:

Research aims and scope

Context of research and literature review

Methodology and data collection

Analysis and interpretation

Presentation and use of visual material/illustrations/maps/other

OVERALL IMPRESSION:

Mark/Grade Awarded:

Please note: this grade is indicative of the assessment of the first examiner. The final mark awarded is subject to revision by either the second internal examiner or the external examiners.

APPENDIX 6 DISSERTATION WORD DECLARATION FORM

ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Department of Geography

MSC GEOPOLITICS AND SECURITY Masters - Dissertation

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this independent dissertation entitled:

.....
.....
.....

has been composed by myself from my own work and that where other source material has been used, this has been acknowledged.

This Dissertation comprises no more than 15,000 words (**including** abstract, acknowledgements, table of contents lists, text boxes and references, but **excluding** appendices and illustrative material), and complies with the relevant regulations in respect of length.

Signed

Name (block capitals)

Date

On completion of this declaration, it must be handed in separately to the Departmental Office

APPENDIX 7 STUDENT OPTION FORM

MSc Geopolitics & Security 2018 – 19 – Full Time Student Option Form

Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Please complete the form following the PIR induction. Please submit to Karen Oliver or Liz Hamilton in the Geography office, Q162. You will have a chance to discuss your options with the programme director on Friday morning.

Autumn Term 1

Compulsory GG5601 Principles in Geopolitics & Security	Choose One GG5608 Social Science Methods for Political Geography <input type="checkbox"/> OR PR5921 Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Politics & IR <input type="checkbox"/> OR PR5923 Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Politics & IR <input type="checkbox"/>	Choose one course from the list of free options (see below): 1.
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Spring Term 2

Compulsory GG5602 Research Design in Geopolitics & Security	Choose two courses from the list of free options: 1. 2.
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Summer Term 3

Compulsory GG5600 Dissertation
