

## MA in Euro-Asian Studies

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading  
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading  
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences  
For students entering in 2003  
Programme Director: Dr. Yelena Kalyuzhnova  
Board of Studies: The Department of Economics  
Accreditation: N/A  
Programme length: 12 months  
Date of specification: August 2003

### Summary of programme aims

To develop skills in the analysis of the history, political and economic systems, and culture of the Euro-Asian region, and to instil an understanding of the key issues and debates in the main areas of the geopolitics and domestic policy of the states in the region.

### Transferable skills

Students are expected to have acquired an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments (problem-solving skills). Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts (communicational skills—written and oral). Students will be able to research news sources in libraries and on the internet, and research and assess academic literature. Students will need to use IT skills, namely using the computer and managing files, word-processing and information network services as well as acquiring an awareness of the purpose and functionality of spreadsheets, databases, presentations.

### Programme content

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
	<i>Compulsory Modules</i>	x	x
ECM48	Issues in Euro-Asian Studies I	20	M
ECM49	Issues in Euro-Asian Studies II	20	M
ECM42	Development Beyond Central Planning I	20	M
ECM46	Dissertation	40	M
	<i>Optional Modules</i>		
	<i>80 credits of modules</i>		
PIM03	Conflict & Conflict Resolution	30	M
ECM43	Development Beyond Central Planning II	20	M
ECM11	Economic Integration in Europe I	20	M
ECM12	Economic Integration in Europe II	20	M
PIM05	International Dimension of European Integration	30	M
LWM02A	International Human Rights	30	M
LWM03A	International Law & World Order	30	M
PIM08	International Politics of Asia-Pacific	30	M
PIM11	International Security Studies	30	M
PIM18	Strategic Studies	30	M
PIM17	Terrorism and Security	30	M

### **Part-time/Modular arrangements**

The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years by arrangement with the Director of the Centre for Euro-Asian Studies. The dissertation will be presented at the end of the second year of study.

### **Progression requirements**

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, specially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules involves a 2 hour examination (weight 70%) and coursework (weight 30%). A dissertation supervisor is appointed for each student.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
50-59%	Good Standard (Pass)
<u>Failing categories</u>	
40-49%	Work below threshold standard
0-39%	Unsatisfactory Work

To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked at 40-49% must not exceed 40 credits and no module mark must fall below 40. For the 12-month programme, 50% or more in the dissertation is also required.

Students who gain an average mark of 70% or above, including a mark of 70% or more in the dissertation (if applicable) and no mark below 50% will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining a mark of 60%, including a mark of 60% or more in the dissertation (if applicable) may be eligible for a Merit pass.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, specially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules, other than the Dissertation, will be assessed by means of a timed unseen examination together with assessed written work or other forms of assessed work (an oral presentation for example). Details of the assessment methods in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms.

### **Admission requirements**

- (a) Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an upper second class honours degree or equivalent. The additional requirements for the programme can be obtained from the pre-requisites of the core modules of the programme.
- (b) Admissions Tutor: Dr. Y. Kalyuzhnova

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Programme Directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Adviser, Study Advisers, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

The Programme Director acts as personal tutor to the student and also interviews every student before the beginning of term to offer advice on the operation of the degree programme and on the choice of options. Many of the students are from countries outside the UK and the tutors are therefore careful to ensure that students settle down in their new surroundings and understand the requirements of the MSc programme. The initial interview is also useful in detecting whether students have some language problems (despite obtaining an IELTS score of 6.5), in which case they are strongly advised to register for language tuition. All Autumn term modules set a test at the end of the term with the primary purpose of familiarising students with the UK examination system and the requirements of the programme. Students who fail overall on their modules are identified and invited to discuss their problems with their tutor. In addition to lecture and class times, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. The Centre for Euro-Asian Studies also provides a Handbook with details of each module and a Handbook covering the MSc programmes as a whole, including details of the method of assessment of programmes.

### **Career prospects**

Students come from outside the UK and return to employment in their home countries (sponsored students return to their Ministry). UK students enter a variety of occupations connected with politics and security issues in Euro-Asia. A minority of students proceed to a PhD and enter academic/research or international organisations. Specific career opportunities exist in the civil service, media (journalism and broadcasting) and academia (with further study).

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The programme does not involve study abroad. Students may be considered for internships with the Royal Institute of International Affairs or other Institutes in London or elsewhere

### **Educational aims of the programme**

Students should develop skills in the analysis of the history, political and economic systems, and culture of the Euro-Asian region, and to instil an understanding of the key issues and debates in the main areas of the geopolitics and domestic policy of the states in the region. As well as specific knowledge of the region, students should acquire the intellectual and practical skills expected of students with a postgraduate qualification.

## Programme Outcomes

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the geopolitics of the Euro-Asian region, especially the Newly Independent States</li><li>- Russian foreign and security policy</li><li>- Conflicts and peace-keeping in Eurasia</li><li>- The domestic politics of Russia and other Euro-Asian countries</li><li>- Sino-Russian relations</li><li>- the international relations of Central Asian countries</li></ul>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b> Formal lectures, seminars, individual and group presentations, guided reading and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements of the programme complementing an emphasis on self-study.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Unseen, timed examinations and coursework comprising long essays, projects, presentations and tests</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <p>think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments (problem-solving skills). Students will be able to research news sources in libraries and on the internet, and research and assess academic literature.</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to make logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative policies, justify statements and analyse legal instruments. Long essays, debate and presentations provide the principle vehicles for developing intellectual skills.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> Coursework (essays) Exams Dissertation</p>
<p><b>C. Practical skills – able to:</b></p> <p>Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts (communicational skills—written and oral).</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- regular oral presentations by students</li><li>- seminar work</li><li>- essay writing</li></ul> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Practical skills are not assessed directly</p>

**D. Transferable skills** – able to:

- Solve problems and complete demanding tasks under strict deadlines
- communicate clearly and consiely orally and in writing
- using the computer and managing files, word-processing and information network services as well as acquiring an awareness of the purpose and functionality of spreadsheets, databases, presentations.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

- regular oral presentations by students
- seminar work
- essay writing
- research tasks (search library and internet)

*Assessment*

Transferable skills are not directly assessed

*Please note:* This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.