



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2024–2025

Global Diplomacy:
Central and South America
Europe
North America
Russia and Eastern Europe

MA

Important document – please read

Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Specification	2
Programme title and qualifications	4
Entrance requirements	7
Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes	9
Learning, teaching and assessment strategies	10
Assessment methods	11
Student support and guidance	12
Quality evaluation and enhancement	13
After graduation	14

Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised: 2 May 2024

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

For queries about any of the programme information provided, registered students should use the *ask a question* button in the [student portal](#) otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Global Diplomacy programmes:

Associate Tutor: Programme team member who delivers small group teaching, or may be used for their specialist expertise to deliver lectures or lead seminars.

Dissertation stage: A learning stage that follows each module which develops the skills needed to write and submit a final dissertation.

Elective modules: Programme specific optional modules that are studied in succession after the core module(s).

E-tivity: Online assessment prepared in response to a task or tasks specified by the Programme Director.

Module: Individual units of the programmes are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The quality committee with responsibility for Global Diplomacy programmes, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Changes to the Global Diplomacy Programme Specification 2024–2025:

- The University computer requirements have been updated
- Provision for studying individual modules has been added
- The Student support and guidance section has been updated to include the University of London Careers Service.
- The Quality evaluation and enhancement section has been updated.

Programme title and qualifications

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The award certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the award. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for this programme is as follows:

- Distinction
- Merit
- Pass

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the Programme Regulations, under Scheme of Award.

Qualifications

Students are registered on one of the following:

- MA Global Diplomacy: Central and South America
- MA Global Diplomacy: Europe
- MA Global Diplomacy: North America
- MA Global Diplomacy: Russia and Eastern Europe

Exit qualifications

- Postgraduate Diploma in Global Diplomacy: Central and South America
- Postgraduate Diploma in Global Diplomacy: Europe
- Postgraduate Diploma in Global Diplomacy: North America
- Postgraduate Diploma in Global Diplomacy: Russia and Eastern Europe
- Postgraduate Certificate in Global Diplomacy: Central and South America
- Postgraduate Certificate in Global Diplomacy: Europe
- Postgraduate Certificate in Global Diplomacy: North America
- Postgraduate Certificate in Global Diplomacy: Russia and Eastern Europe

An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules/courses (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study, if the student leaves the programme.

Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study under these regulations.

Individual modules available for study on a stand-alone basis

There is also provision for select individual modules of the programme to be studied on a stand-alone basis without being registered for a related qualification. A maximum of 30 credits may be counted as credit towards a related qualification. Neither progression nor credit is automatic.

Qualification titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Arts – MA

Postgraduate Diploma – PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate – PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

The qualifications are placed at the following Levels of the FHEQ:

- MA Level 7
- PGDip (exit qualification) Level 7
- PGCert (exit qualification) Level 7

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group

Not applicable

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

[University of London](#)

Academic direction

University of London

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study. Supported by an individual personal tutor and dedicated Associate Tutor for each module.

Programme structures

Each MA Global Diplomacy programme consists of four modules and a dissertation as follows:

- Two core modules
- Two elective modules derived from the list of those available
- One dissertation comprised of four modules
 - Research methods and ethics
 - Research proposal (15 credits)
 - Literature review
 - Dissertation: Write up and submission (45 credits)

All students must study the core module/s first, barring exceptional circumstances. All assessments for each module must normally be submitted before a student may progress to a subsequent module.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the [Programme Regulations](#).

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum
MA degree	Two years

Study materials are made available after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

See [General Regulations](#) for maximum period of registration.

Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and the [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).

Where credits are assigned to each module of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified FHEQ credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

For each Global Diplomacy programme, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- 30 UK credits or 15 ECTS credits at FHEQ Level 7 for the core and elective modules.
- 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits at FHEQ Level 7 for the dissertation module.

A student awarded an MA will have accumulated 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits.

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of learning.

Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

Recognition of prior learning is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place elsewhere, before entry onto this programme of study.

Where the prior learning covered a similar syllabus to a module/course studied elsewhere, credit will be awarded as if the student took the University of London module/course.

See the [General Regulations](#) (Section 3) [and [Programme Regulations](#) for more rules relating to prior learning.

For this programme the University of London may recognise the prior learning and award credit towards the qualification.

Further information on recognition of prior learning is on the [website](#).

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the [website](#).

Full details are provided on the programme pages under [Entry requirements](#).

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under [Entry requirements](#). All teaching is in English. Therefore students need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application. Additional information on English language proficiency tests are given on the [website](#).

Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a portable computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

Students must be able to download and install software to their Windows or MacOS device to include secure examination browsers for online assessment purposes (if offered on their programme of study). Depending on the security settings for each assessment students may be required to have full administrator rights on their computer to install and run the software needed to take part in the assessment. Full administration rights are likely to apply to a computer that they own but not to one provided by their employer, for example.

The portable computer must have at least the following minimum specification:

- Windows: 10 and 11 on 64-bit platforms
- MacOS Big Sur (version 11) and higher
- CPUs newer than 2011 (Intel Sandy Bridge (Core i3, i5 and i7 or newer))
- OpenGL 2.0 graphics driver
- Web camera & microphone (internal or external)
- A broadband internet connection capable of streaming video and a minimum of 0.15Mbps upload speed.
- Minimum device requirements are subject to change and older operating systems may become obsolete over time.

It should also have the following applications installed:

- Word processor (for Microsoft Word documents)
- A PDF reader (e.g. Adobe)

Please note: full mobile access is not available for all programmes. Proctored assessments will not work on any smartphone, tablet, Chromebook, Linux Operating Systems or other mobile device of any kind.

Students with access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking assessments, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#).

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see [Inclusive Practice Policy](#)

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see the [website](#)

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

Learning outcomes of the Global Diplomacy programmes:

The programme takes an integrated approach to knowledge, intellectual, practical and transferrable skills. As such the educational aims for Global Diplomacy and the associated programmes are as follows:

- The ability to demonstrate an in-depth critical understanding of the nature and development of global and/or regional diplomacy, as applicable, drawing on a variety of contributing disciplines.
- An advanced understanding of changes in global and/or regional diplomacy and procedures and the relationship of those changes to contemporary international politics.
- A sound grounding in both theoretical and empirical approaches to debates in global diplomacy and regional differentiations so that students have the competencies and skills to analyse global events using a mixture of theoretical and empirical tools.
- A detailed knowledge of issues in global diplomacy and/or the region in historical and contemporary contexts. By providing a thorough grounding in the subject, students are made aware of the importance of relevant topics to a sophisticated understanding of global events and political developments.

This specification provides a summary of the main features and learning outcomes that a student will be able to demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided by the Global Diplomacy programmes.

Students who successfully complete an MA Global Diplomacy will be able:

Subject specific – knowledge and understanding

- To understand and assimilate the main features of the landscape of global diplomacy and/or the region's diplomacy.
- To understand the relationship between theory and policy in international studies, diplomacy and political economy with special reference to global and/or regional diplomacy.
- To gain a theoretical and historical understanding of the practice of global diplomacy and/or the region's diplomacy, broadly conceived. To develop a sound knowledge of the scholarly literature of more than one discipline that constitutes the field (e.g. diplomatic studies, international politics, and political economy).
- To gain a rounded familiarity with the various actors within global and/or a regional diplomatic system. Develop the ability to think critically, with reference to theoretical and empirical (historical and/or contemporary) content about global and/or regional diplomacy.

- Engage with international studies and diplomatic studies, with particular institutional relevance of the perspective of the global region as applicable.
- Develop the skills needed for further independent research, writing and thinking in global and/or the region's diplomacy.

Intellectual and transferable skills:

- To analyse, evaluate and reflect critically on information received.
- To develop and present new ideas coherently and concisely extracting key elements from complex information.
- To research core issues independently.
- To present written and oral materials clearly and effectively and to engage constructively with feedback.
- To develop the ability to think critically, with reference to theoretical and empirical (historical and/or contemporary) content.
- To identify and solve problems, selecting and applying competing theories and methodologies appropriately.
- To gather, organise and deploy data and evidence to form balanced judgements and to develop and support critical argument and policy recommendations.
- To present written and oral materials clearly and effectively and to engage constructively with feedback.
- To engage in lateral thinking across different academic disciplines, types of arguments, evidence and methodologies.
- To take core decisions in complex situations.
- To work creatively, flexibly and co-operatively with others and to delegate responsibility.
- To assess and evaluate own and others' work constructively.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Students learn on this programme by engaging with academically rigorous and up-to-date learning materials and resources in a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). For each module, students will be provided with access, through the University of London Online Library, to all necessary reading materials from a range of appropriate sources, as well as having access to the relevant journals and academic databases subscribed to by the University.

To help a student to organise their time, a bespoke Study Timetable is provided for each module and for the overall programme. This sets out the timetable for their learning and assessment. The programme and the modules themselves are carefully designed to allow students to progress according to their own learning styles. Modules are run over two six-monthly periods, in conjunction with the ongoing study of the dissertation. Each module lasts 16 weeks, followed by one of the four stages of the dissertation module.

The VLE will give students instant access to current module materials, including the assessment tasks known as “e-tivities”, electronic journals and other materials provided by the Online Library. Students will have a direct link to their dedicated Associate Tutor who will be the main point of contact between the University of London and the student. The Associate Tutor will facilitate student learning by helping students to structure their learning and by being available to assist students with any questions that they may have about the academic content of the programme. A technical team may also be called upon to help with any difficulties in accessing the VLE. A key component of the student experience will be peer to peer learning, and so students will be enrolled in bespoke discussion forums.

Each module, with the exception of the dissertation, has six online assessments (e-tivities), which take the form of written work prepared in response to a task or tasks specified by the Programme Director. E-tivity 6 for all modules (except the dissertation module) is a 4,500-5,000 word assignment submitted online.

The e-tivities provide formative and, in the case of e-tivities 2-6, summative feedback to Students, highlighting areas in which they can improve. E-tivities also act as a means of monitoring student progress. Timely and concise feedback for each e-tivity will be provided. The Global Diplomacy Board of Examiners will be the final arbiter of the above regulations and a student’s completion of these criteria.

Students will also undertake a dissertation that relates to the named degree. The dissertation module is divided into four dissertation development stages; one stage is completed at the end of each module. Appropriate research methods are taught in each of the four stages to allow completion of the module as a whole through the submission of the dissertation. At the end of the second stage, students submit a research proposal counting for 15 % and at the end of the fourth stage their dissertation counting for 85% of the overall dissertation module mark.

The purpose of this approach to the dissertation is to enable the student to develop and demonstrate their capacity to carry out a substantial piece of independent academic work on a selected topic.

Students will be assessed on their capacity to:

- define a topic;
- articulate a coherent scheme for examining the topic;
- gather necessary information; and
- analyse and present this information in a way that satisfactorily assesses the topic.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Assessment methods

All assessments are submitted online via a University of London platform. Students must ensure that their device is kept up to date and complies with [University computer requirements](#).

Both the core and elective modules are assessed through a series of e-tivities culminating in the online submission of a written assessment, e-tivity 6, of 4,500-5,000 words (excluding footnotes, endnotes, bibliography and figures). E-tivities 2, 3, 4 and 5 have word counts between 400 and 1,500 words and are also submitted online. Of the six e-tivities, e-tivity 1 is assessed solely through formative assessment, e-tivities 2–6 carry either 5, 15 or 70 marks but also provide for summative assessment and feedback.

The dissertation is made up of four modules. *DYM501-01 Research methods and ethics* and *DYM503-01 Literature review* are formative assessment only and will help you with the skills required for writing your proposal and final dissertation. The *DYM502-01 Research proposal* module is assessed with a 1,500 word research proposal. Over the course of your studies you will then develop your proposal into the final dissertation. *DYM504-01 Dissertation: Write up and submission* module is assessed by the submission of a written dissertation of approximately 15,000 words, excluding the bibliography and appendices.

Individual modules

Students may choose whether or not to be formally assessed in the credit-bearing individual modules for which they are registered. Students who choose to be formally assessed will be examined in the same way as students studying for a qualification.

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- [Student Portal](#): for accessing student induction, study skills support, careers and employability resources, student wellbeing advice.
- University of London Careers Service – offers tailored careers and employability support to students whatever their course, wherever they are studying, and whether they are starting, developing, or changing their career. Support includes webinars led by careers consultants, employer and alumni panel events and a range of online careers resources.
- The VLE: This gives access to materials (including lessons, activities and assignments) for each module studied.
- The VLE also includes a range of additional study resources such as:
 - Online student discussion areas which allow students to communicate with each other.
 - Past assessment papers and Examiners' commentaries; these provide generic feedback from assessment.
 - Employability skills module; guidance on how to manage your career in the future
- Module subject guides for each module studied; these introduce and develop the topics.
- [Programme Regulations](#).
- [The Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.

- University of London library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its online and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and University of London federation members. However, some of the flexible and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London and are delivered without academic lead by a federation member. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The [Quality Assurance Schedules](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, programme specific regulations.

Awards standards

All University of London qualifications must comply with the Office for Students' (OfS) [Conditions of Registration](#) relating to quality and standards, which includes condition B5 ([sector-recognised standards](#)). This is to ensure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every online and distance learning programme that is developed by a federation member of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one federation member) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student performance, progression and completion statistics
- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and continues to provide a good student experience..

Enhancements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback mechanisms

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every year, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme can allow students to progress to a higher level award in the subject area.

Graduate employment routes

Students who choose to study a Global Diplomacy programme do so as it provides them with an opportunity to merge a strong theoretical understanding with equally rigorous practical skills that equip them to go out into the workforce with both knowledge and the ability to deliver. University of London uses an intricate combination of expertise, cutting edge research and practical skills which makes its students attractive to employers.

These programmes provide sound intellectual and skills training, which are useful for analysing and designing solutions to many of today's global problems. Graduating students have gone on to a variety of professions where they have been able to utilise the knowledge and skills they learned while studying with the University of London.

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become part of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

Programme Specification 2024–2025 MA Global Diplomacy: Central and South America, Europe, North America, Russia and Eastern Europe

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni [webpage](#).

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)