



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Programme Regulations 2022–2023

## Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies

MA

**Important document – please read**  
This document contains important  
information that governs your  
registration, assessment and  
programme of study



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## Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

### About this document

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As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

The Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the School of Advanced Study which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at the School of Advanced Study. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme handbook](#), will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study. Further information about how to use the Programme Regulations and Programme handbook can be found in the [Student guide](#).

In addition to Programme Regulations you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the University of London and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not in the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

### Terminology

The following language is specific to the Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies programme:

**Core module:** a compulsory module that must be taken.

**Elective module:** a module that is chosen from a number of options.

**Dissertation module:** a compulsory module that forms the programme's dissertation component.

**Terms:** Term 1 runs from October to March. Term 2 runs from March to October. The core and elective modules run in either one term or the other and students can start in either term. The relevant term is included in the module title, i.e. '(October)' if the module runs in Term 1 and '(March)' if the module runs in Term 2. The dissertation study periods run from February to March and from July to October.

**Delay:** when you have registered for a module, but then decide to start it in a later term than the first one available.

**Defer:** when you have registered and started work on a module, but want to stop participating in that term and start afresh in a later term.

Throughout the Regulations, ‘we’ ‘us’ and ‘our’ mean the University of London; ‘you’ and ‘your’ mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the *ask a question* tab in the [Student Portal](#).

### Changes made to the Programme Regulations in 2022–2023

The following changes have been made to the Programme Regulations for 2022–2023:

- The resubmission period for the final assessment of a failed core or elective module has been extended (see [Section 5](#)).
- The title of elective module RPM270 ‘Gender, sexual identity and age in the refugee context’ has been updated to ‘Gender and group identities in the refugee context’.
- The Assessment criteria for the Research proposal have been updated (see [Appendix B](#)).

## 1 Structure of the programme

### The degree

#### 1.1

The MA Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies consists of:

- two compulsory core modules (each worth 30 credits)
- four elective modules (each worth 15 credits)
- two compulsory dissertation modules (together worth 60 credits).

### Exit qualifications

See [Section 8](#) for exit qualification criteria.

#### 1.2

The Board of Examiners has discretion to grant a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) or Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies as an exit qualification to a student who does not successfully complete the MA degree but who does meet the criteria of the PGCert or PGDip.

## 2 Registration

### Effective date of registration

#### 2.1

You may commence the programme in March or October. Your effective date of registration for the programme will be either:

- 1 October if you first registered at the October registration closing date, or
- 1 March if you first registered at the March registration closing date.

### Period of registration

#### 2.2

The minimum and maximum periods of registration are counted from your effective date of registration.

Details of the minimum and maximum periods of registration can be found in the [Programme Specification](#).

### Registering for modules

Each core and elective module runs for a 16 week term that begins in either October (Term 1) or March (Term 2). All module names include the term in which they run (e.g. RPM240 Advanced international refugee law (March)). RPM400 and RPM500 have iterations which run in both terms. Refer to [Appendix A](#) for more information.

To register for a module, you must select it and pay for it by the deadline date. When you register for a module you are committing to studying the module in the next term that the module runs so you should only register for modules that you are ready to study. For example, if you register for the core modules RPM010 and RPM020 at the start of the academic year, you will be expected to study them both that year in consecutive terms. If you register for RPM400 and RPM500 together, it is expected that you will continue onto RPM500 as soon as you have completed RPM400.

More information is available in the 'Study Session Planner' section of the [Programme handbook](#) and in the [fee schedule](#) on the University of London website.

### 2.3

When you first register for the programme you must register for at least one core module.

### 2.4

If you register for a core, elective or dissertation module, you must study it when you are eligible to take it in the first term that it runs.

## Maximum and minimum number of modules you can study in a term

### 2.5

You can register for up to one new core module or up to two new elective modules in any term, excluding dissertation and failed modules:

- The dissertation modules can be studied alongside core and elective modules, and do not count towards the maximum number of core and elective modules that can be studied in any one term.
- Failed modules, where the final assessment is being retaken, do not count towards the maximum number of core and elective modules that can be studied in any one term.

### 2.6

There is no upper or lower limit to the total number of elective modules you can choose from Term 1 (October) or Term 2 (March) during your registration for the MA degree.

## Registering for core and elective modules

### 2.7

If your effective date of registration is 1 October, your first module will be RPM010 Protecting human rights, refugees and displaced persons in international law (October), which will start in October and finish in February of the following year.

If your effective date of registration is 1 March, your first module will be RPM020 An introduction to refugee and forced migration studies (March), which will start in March and finish in July of the same year.

### 2.8

The deadline date to register for core and elective modules that run in Term 1 is 1 October. The deadline date to register for core and elective modules that run in Term 2 is 1 March.

## **Registering for the dissertation modules**

There are two dissertation modules, both of which run in both terms: RPM400 Dissertation research proposal, and RPM500 Research dissertation.

RPM400 Dissertation research proposal includes dissertation study sessions 1 and 2: the research methods course (5%) and submission of the research proposal (10%). RPM500 Research dissertation includes dissertation study periods 3 and 4: research, writing up and submission of the dissertation (85%).

### **2.9**

You can register for RPM400 Dissertation research proposal at any point during your registration.

### **2.10**

You can register for RPM500 Research dissertation at the same time as, or after, registering for RPM400 Dissertation research proposal.

See regulations 7.3–7.5 for more details on registration for and submission of RPM400 and RPM500.

### **2.11**

The deadline for registering for dissertation modules is later than the deadline for core and elective modules in Term 1 and Term 2. To register for the dissertation modules at these later deadlines, log a request on the [Student Portal](#).

The registration deadline for dissertation modules RPM400 and RPM500 in Term 1 is 15 January.

The registration deadline for dissertation modules RPM400 and RPM500 in Term 2 is 15 June.

### **2.12**

If you register for RPM500 Research dissertation by the 15 January deadline, you will submit your dissertation in October of that calendar year.

If you register for RPM500 Research dissertation by the 15 June deadline, you will submit your dissertation in March the following calendar year.

### **2.13**

When you register for RPM400 Dissertation research proposal, you must study the research methods course in consecutive terms and must submit the research proposal by the first available deadline.

Deadlines are listed within the subject guide for each module.

## **Delaying your studies**

### **2.14**

To delay a module, you must notify us through the [Student Portal](#) before the term starts or as soon as possible once it has started, and not after you have started work on the module.

### **2.15**

You can delay a module once and commence it for a second time without seeking permission.

## **2.16**

You will need to seek permission from the Programme Director if you wish to commence a module for a third time. You will be required to pay a new module fee.

### **Deferring your studies**

## **2.17**

To defer a module, you must notify us through the [Student Portal](#) no later than 28 days prior to the final assessment deadline for the module. You can defer a module regardless of whether you have completed the assessment entry process or not.

## **2.18**

You can defer a module and start it for a second time by telling us through the [Student Portal](#). You do not need our permission to defer a module on a first occasion and when you restart the module you will not have to pay an additional fee.

## **2.19**

If you wish to defer a module on a second occasion with a view to starting it for a third time you must first request and obtain permission from the Programme Director. If permission is given, for core and elective modules you must pay a new module fee by the deadline date when you restart the module.

## **2.20**

If you stop studying a module and do not tell us, or tell us less than 28 days before the final assessment deadline, you will not usually be considered for a deferral.

## **2.21**

If you defer a core or elective module and restart it in a later term you must start the module from the beginning. Previously submitted E-tivities will be discarded and their marks will not carry forward. When you restart the module your attempts at the assessments will be treated as first attempts.

## **2.22**

If you defer RPM400 Dissertation research proposal and restart it in a later term you must start the module from the beginning. Any attempts at the Research methods and methodology course will be discarded and any marks for it will not carry forward. When you restart the module your attempts at the assessments will be treated as first attempts.

See [regulations 6.1–6.2](#) for the rules around drawing on your own previous work.

## **2.23**

If you defer RPM500 Research dissertation you must submit the dissertation in the next study session.

## **2.24**

Continuity of dissertation supervision cannot be guaranteed if you defer submission of RPM500 Research dissertation on a second occasion.



If, having already deferred submission of RPM500 Research dissertation on one occasion, it is agreed that you can defer submission on a further occasion you must pay the Dissertation second-deferral fee. This fee must be paid by the dissertation deadline for the term in which you are deferring. Any further requests for deferral will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and with approval from the Programme Director.

#### **2.25**

Any penalties for plagiarism and other assessment offences that were applied to a module that has been deferred on one or more occasions will be carried over in their entirety upon recommencement of the deferred module.

### **Replacing an elective module**

#### **2.26**

We will consider a request to replace an elective module with another if you contact us through the Student Portal. It will be our decision whether or not to approve a request.

#### **2.27**

We will not normally approve a request to replace a module with another if you have already started work on the module.

#### **2.28**

If you fail an elective module on the second attempt, you will be permitted to replace the module with another elective module. We will only allow you to replace a module under these circumstances on one occasion.

#### **2.29**

We will only approve requests to replace elective modules for up to a maximum of:

- one module where you have not yet started work on the module, and
- one module where you have failed a module on the second attempt.

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## **3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer**

### **3.1**

We will not recognise prior learning or approve credit transfer for this programme.

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## **4 Assessment for the programme**

### **Summary assessment table**

#### **4.1**

See [Appendix A](#) for the module titles.

## Programme Regulations 2022–2023 Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies (MA)

MA structure	2 compulsory core modules		4 elective modules from		2 compulsory linked dissertation modules	
<b>Module</b>	RPM010, RPM020.		RPM210, RPM220, RPM230, RPM240, RPM250, RPM260, RPM270, RPM280, RPM290.		RPM400.	RPM500.
<b>Element of assessment</b>	E-tivity	Coursework	E-tivity	Coursework	Dissertation proposal	Dissertation thesis
<b>Element weighting</b>	30%	70%	30%	70%	15%	85%
<b>Item of assessment</b>	Five E-tivities: E-tivity 1 is worth 0%, E-tivity 2 is worth 2%, E-tivity 3 is worth 5%, E-tivity 4 is worth 15%, E-tivity 5 is worth 8%.	One item of coursework worth 70%.	Three E-tivities: E-tivity 1 is worth 0%, E-tivity 2 is worth 20%, E-tivity 3 is worth 10%.	One item of coursework worth 70%.	Participation in the research methods E-tivities worth 5% and one Research proposal worth 10%.	One dissertation thesis worth 85%.

### Taking assessments

See [Section 5](#) for what happens if you do not submit a piece of coursework.

#### 4.2

After registering for a module, you must complete the assessments by the deadlines given in the handbook.

#### 4.3

You must retain a copy of all of your submissions to us in the event of any electronic difficulties in their submission to us or return from us.

### Participation-based E-tivity

#### 4.4

If you cannot participate in a particular discussion forum due to mitigating or other exceptional circumstances, you should contact the Programme Director by email. If accepted, you will be recorded as 'participating' for that discussion session. This may be done no more than twice per module for core modules, and once per module for elective modules and RPM400 Dissertation research proposal.

### Submission of E-tivities, coursework and the dissertation

Note that the deadline dates and times are UK times and that it is your responsibility to adjust to UK time if you are in another time-zone.

#### **4.5**

E-tivities, coursework and dissertation items must be submitted through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) by the submission dates given in the module timetable on the VLE.

#### **Penalties for missing a deadline or exceeding a word limit**

Instructions, word limits and deadlines for submitting coursework, E-tivity and dissertation items are given in each Module Study Guide, provided on the [VLE](#). You will lose marks if you do not keep to these rules.

Further information on assessment can be found in the [Programme handbook](#).

#### **Penalty for missing a deadline**

#### **4.6**

You must keep to the deadlines stated in the Module Study Guide. If you are late in submitting an item of coursework, E-tivity or dissertation we will reduce the mark you receive, which is used for progression and classification.

#### **Penalty for exceeding the word limit**

#### **4.7**

You must keep to the word limits stated in the Module Study Guide. If you exceed the word limit for an item of coursework, E-tivity or dissertation we will reduce the mark you receive, which is used for progression and classification.

Further details of the penalties incurred for late submission or exceeding the word limit can be found in the Assessment section of the [Programme handbook](#).

#### **The dissertation**

#### **4.8**

The dissertation component of the programme consists of two linked modules: RPM400 Dissertation research proposal and RPM500 Research dissertation.

#### **4.9**

You are expected to work with your appointed supervisor in the preparation of your dissertation. Full details of the responsibility of the supervisor will be supplied to you following registration on RPM500 Research dissertation.

#### **Mitigating circumstances**

Mitigating circumstances are any serious circumstances beyond a student's control which may have adversely affected their academic performance. For more information about mitigating circumstances, see [Section 12](#) of the General Regulations. See also [Section 5](#) of these Programme Regulations for what happens if you do not take an assessment.

#### **4.10**

You must bring any mitigating circumstances to our attention as soon as you become aware that your performance may be adversely affected by serious circumstances beyond your control.

You should do this before the deadline date for coursework, dissertations and E-tivities.

## 5 Number of attempts permitted at assessment

### Maximum number of attempts

'Final assessment' refers to the final coursework item (70%) of the core and elective modules, or the RPM500 Research dissertation component of the dissertation (85%). E-tivities are referred to by name.

#### 5.1

The maximum number of attempts permitted at the final assessment of core modules, elective modules, RPM400 Dissertation research proposal and RPM500 Dissertation is two. The exceptions to this are where you have deferred a module or have to restart a core module because you previously failed the module or failed to submit on the second attempt.

#### 5.2

The maximum number of attempts permitted for each E-tivity is one. The exceptions to this are where you have deferred a module, or you failed the module or failed to submit the final assessment at the second attempt.

### If you do not submit coursework

If you believe there are circumstances beyond your control that prevent you from keeping to these regulations, and require an extension to the deadline, we will consider your circumstances if you write to the Programme Director immediately with evidence. See also the regulations for mitigating circumstances.

#### 5.3

If you have not deferred an elective module and you do not submit the coursework you will receive a mark of zero for the element and it will count as an attempt. You will be required to submit the coursework within 56 days of the results release date, by a new deadline specified by the Programme Director. Submission at the second deadline will count as your second and final attempt.

#### 5.4

If you have not deferred a core module and you do not submit the coursework you will receive a mark of zero for the element and it will count as an attempt. You will be required to submit the coursework within 56 days of the results release date, by a new deadline specified by the Programme Director. Submission at the second deadline will count as your second attempt.

#### 5.5

If the Programme Director grants an extension to the coursework deadline date, a new deadline date will be specified. If you meet this deadline it will be counted as a first attempt. If you do not meet this extended deadline and we do not recognise mitigating circumstances, you will receive a mark of zero for the coursework and it will count as an attempt.

### If you fail a module at the first attempt

#### 5.6

If you obtain an overall mark of 49% or less for a core or elective module at the first attempt this will be classified as a fail and you will be required to make a further attempt at the final assessment.

## **5.7**

If you fail a core or elective module at the first attempt you must submit or resubmit the coursework element within 56 days of the results release date.

If you need to resubmit coursework you will need to make another assessment entry and pay the resubmission fee by the assessment entry deadline.

### **If you pass at a second attempt your mark will be capped**

## **5.8**

If you need to make a second attempt at the final assessment of a core or elective module the overall mark given for the module will be capped at 50%.

If you make a second attempt at RPM500 Research dissertation the combined overall mark given for the dissertation component (modules RPM400 and RPM500) will be capped at 50%.

### **If you fail at a second attempt**

## **5.9**

If you do not resubmit the final piece of coursework for a core module or do not achieve an overall mark of 50% for the module on your second attempt, your registration for that module will be cancelled and previous E-tivity marks will be discarded. To restart the module, you must pay a new module fee. You may only restart a module on one occasion.

## **5.10**

On restarting a core module if you do not resubmit the final item of coursework, or do not achieve an overall mark of 50% for the module on your second attempt, your registration for the programme will cease unless otherwise recommended by the Board of Examiners.

## **5.11**

See the regulations on replacing an elective module in [Section 2](#) of this document.

If you do not submit the final assessment for an elective module or do not achieve an overall mark of 50% for the module at your second attempt, you will not be able to take the module again.

### **Progression if you have failed a module**

## **5.12**

If you fail a module at the first attempt, you are allowed to register for further modules but only under the following conditions:

- For core modules: you can register for further modules but must resubmit the final item of coursework within 56 days of the results release date. However, you should be aware that your registration may cease if you fail a core module at the second attempt having used your opportunity to restart it.
- For elective modules: you can register for further modules but must submit the final assessment within 56 days of receiving the result.

## **Dissertation modules**

The dissertation element of the programme consists of two linked modules, RPM400 Research dissertation proposal and RPM500 Research dissertation.

If you believe there are mitigating circumstances that prevent you from keeping to the deadline, and require an extension to the deadline, we will consider your circumstances if you write to us immediately with evidence.

### **RPM400 Dissertation research proposal**

#### **5.13**

You must submit the research proposal for RPM400 Research dissertation proposal by the first available deadline, given in the study planner on the VLE.

#### **5.14**

If you do not submit the research proposal for RPM400 by the deadline without prior agreement of an extension, you must submit it by the next deadline in the following term. Late submission will be noted on your record and may be taken into consideration by the Board of Examiners at the final award.

#### **5.15**

If you do not submit the research proposal for RPM400 by the second deadline without prior agreement for an extension, you will receive a mark of 0 (zero) for it, but must still submit it to progress onto RPM500 Research dissertation.

### **RPM500 Research dissertation**

#### **5.16**

If you fail the dissertation through non-submission without prior agreement, or with a mark of 49% or less for either RPM500 or for the dissertation component (the combined marks for modules RPM400 and RPM500), you will be required to resubmit the dissertation (RPM500) by the next deadline in the following term. If passed at the second attempt, your result for the combined modules will be capped at 50%.

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## **6 Assessment offences and penalties**

Section 8 of the [General Regulations](#) provides the Rules for coursework, projects and dissertations while information on assessment offences and penalties can be found in Section 9.

#### **6.1**

If you draw on your own previous written work, whether submitted as coursework for your current degree, or for a previous degree or qualification, this must be clearly stated to avoid self-plagiarism.

#### **6.2**

If you draw on work from E-tivities or coursework that you have undertaken as part of this programme for your dissertation, then you must have this approved by your dissertation supervisor and this must amount to no more than 3000 words in total.

Please refer to the dissertation section of the [Programme handbook](#) for further details on writing and submitting your dissertation.

## 7 Progression within the programme

### 7.1

We strongly recommend that you have attempted the assessments for both core modules before you start work on any elective module.

You must have registered for both core modules in a previous term before registering for any elective modules.

### 7.2

For more information on the dissertation study sessions please refer to the [Programme handbook](#).

You will study the dissertation modules in four study sessions, two of which include the research methods course 'Researching Refugees' which is a compulsory component of RPM400 Dissertation research proposal.

### 7.3

You must submit the RPM400 Dissertation research proposal at the end of the second dissertation study session. You cannot start studying RPM500 unless you have completed your dissertation proposal.

### 7.4

You can register for RPM500 Research dissertation at any time.

### 7.5

You can start studying RPM500 Research dissertation after submitting the research proposal in completion of RPM400 Dissertation research proposal and after attempting the final assessments of both core modules.

## 8 Schemes of award

If your final assessments are submitted in February or March, the date of award will be 1 August in the year of the last assessments that contribute to the award.

If your final assessments are submitted in July or October, the date of award will be 31 December in the year of the last assessments that contribute to the award.

### Award requirements

#### 8.1

To be awarded the MA Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies, you must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each of the two core modules, four elective modules and the dissertation component.

### Mark scheme

See the Assessment section of the [Programme handbook](#) for more information about the assessments.

## **8.2**

Marks awarded for each element of the assessment of a module and the overall module mark will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

## **8.3**

The overall mark for each core module is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for E-tivity 1, E-tivity 2, E-tivity 3, E-tivity 4, E-tivity 5, and the coursework in a ratio of 0: 2: 5: 15: 8: 70.

## **8.4**

The overall mark for each of the elective modules is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for E-tivity 1, E-tivity 2, E-tivity 3 and the coursework in a ratio of 0: 20: 10: 70.

## **8.5**

The overall mark for the dissertation is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for RPM400 Dissertation research proposal and RPM500 Research dissertation in a ratio of 15:85.

## **8.6**

To pass a core or elective module, you must achieve an overall mark for the module of at least 50%.

## **8.7**

To pass the dissertation component, you must achieve

- a mark of at least 50% for RPM500; and
- a combined mark of at least 50% for RPM400 and RPM500 where the modules are weighted in a ratio of 15:85.

## **8.8**

The overall module mark for core and elective modules will be capped at 50% if the module was passed at the second attempt. The overall mark for the dissertation component will be capped at 50% if RPM500 was passed at the second attempt.

## **8.9**

To calculate the final grade for the award, the marks for the modules are weighted according to their credit values.

## **8.10**

The following mark scheme is used for the MA:

<b>Mark range</b>	<b>Classification</b>
70% – 100%	Distinction
60% – 69%	Merit
50% – 59%	Pass
0% – 49%	Fail



### **8.11**

In order to be considered for the award of:

- Merit: you should obtain a weighted average mark of 60% - 69% across all modules.
- Distinction: you should obtain a weighted average of at least 70% across all modules.

### **Exit qualifications**

#### **8.12**

The Board of Examiners may grant the Postgraduate Certificate in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies as an exit qualification if you pass modules to the value of 60 credits or more.

#### **8.13**

The Board of Examiners may grant the Postgraduate Diploma in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies as an exit qualification if you pass modules to the value of 120 credits or more.

#### **8.14**

If we award you the Postgraduate Certificate in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies you may not subsequently be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma or MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies.

#### **8.15**

If we award you the Postgraduate Diploma in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies you may not subsequently be awarded the MA Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies.

## Appendix A – Structure of the programme

Module outlines are subject to occasional review, and specifications detailing the full aims and learning objectives for each of the following modules should be referred to separately. They can be found in the [Programme handbook](#). An outline of the module syllabus is provided on the MA Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies programme page, via the [Course structure and modules](#) tab.

Elective modules will run subject to availability and not all elective modules will necessarily be available every year.

### MA Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies

#### Two compulsory core modules (30 credits each):

- RPM010 Protecting human rights, refugees and displaced persons in international law (October)
- RPM020 An introduction to refugee and forced migration studies (March)

#### Any four elective modules (15 credits each) from a choice of nine options:

These modules run from October to February:

- RPM220 Asylum law in Europe: towards regional harmonisation of international protection (October)
- RPM230 Asylum and refugees in Africa and Latin America: regional models for refugee protection in the global South (October)
- RPM250 Internal displacement in law and policy: war and beyond (October)
- RPM270 Gender and group identities in the refugee context (October)
- RPM290 Disasters, climate change and displacement (October)

These modules run from March to July:

- RPM210 Securing refugee protection in practice (March)
- RPM240 Advanced international refugee law (March)
- RPM260 Statelessness, nationality and the protection of stateless persons (March)
- RPM280 Displacement, healthcare and humanitarian action (March)

#### Compulsory dissertation modules (60 credits in total)

These modules have study periods that run from February to March *and* July to October:

- RPM400 Dissertation research proposal
- RPM500 Research dissertation

## Appendix B – Assessment criteria

These guidelines reflect the standards of work expected at postgraduate level.

### Coursework and dissertation – Assessment criteria

The following criteria will be used in determining the marks awarded for the final assessment components for each module.

Mark	Criteria
85-100 Distinction	Outstanding performance above a distinction level. Work is of exceptional quality. The highest level of knowledge and understanding is demonstrated by independence and originality in conception, the highest level of critical skill, synthesis and analysis. The work contains analysis of sufficient originality and importance to change the conventional way of approaching the subject, and its presentation is of the highest standard. The work will be well-argued, well-organised and impeccably documented, and be of publishable or near-publishable quality.
75-84 Distinction	Excellent work, demonstrating a consistently very high level of knowledge and understanding. It shows clear evidence of originality and/or independent critical evaluation, high levels of skill in synthesis and analysis. Propositions are analysed with sufficient originality to challenge received ideas, and in a clear, sustained, relevant and focussed manner. Presentation standards will be excellent.
70-74 Distinction	Very good to excellent work, demonstrating a very good level of knowledge and understanding. Work shows strong evidence of originality and/or independent critical evaluation, high levels of skill in synthesis and analysis. Arguments are well-organised and lucid. Presentation standards are very good, with very good documentation.
60-69 Merit	Good to very good work, showing a good level of knowledge and understanding, demonstrated by evidence of originality of thought with signs of independence, a good level of critical skill, synthesis and analysis. Work will be well-organised, clearly argued, coherent, and appropriately referenced. Presentation will be of a high standard.
50-59 Pass	The work is of an acceptable standard, demonstrating an adequate level of knowledge and understanding, some evidence of competence in synthesis and analysis, and adequate levels of presentation.
47-49 Fail	<i>A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:</i> Unsatisfactory work, showing a basic but incomplete level of knowledge and understanding. Important elements may be lacking, and the argument may be persistently obscure and lacking in coherence and focus.
35-46 Fail	<i>A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:</i> Poor or very poor work, below or well below the standard required at the current stage. Work that is very or seriously flawed, displaying a lack of research and a lack of engagement with the question; incoherence or a grave misunderstanding of the topic; no signs of independence and originality in conception, little or no critical skill or ability to synthesise and analyse; very poor standards of presentation including inadequate or extremely poor referencing; short work.
25-34	<i>A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:</i>

Fail	Extremely poor work, demonstrating all the flaws outlined above.
0-24 Fail	<i>A Fail will be awarded in cases in which the work is:</i> Unacceptable or not submitted.

**E-tivities – Assessment criteria**

<b>Mark</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Core modules 5/5 13-15/15  Elective Modules 17-20/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough critical analysis of a range of arguments from a wide literature (e.g. considers criticisms and defences of positions discussed and provides a clear and convincing position of own view derived from this discussion).</li> <li>• Concise and well-structured.</li> <li>• Provides original arguments (e.g. makes original connection to wider academic debates, formulates an innovative criticism/defence).</li> <li>• Very clear expression.</li> </ul>
Core modules 4/5 10-12/15  Elective Modules 13-16/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad understanding of topic.</li> <li>• Refers to relevant wider literature.</li> <li>• Engagement with academic debate on topic.</li> <li>• Well written.</li> <li>• Appropriate structure.</li> <li>• Some critical analysis with arguments (is able to consider criticisms and defences of positions discussed).</li> </ul>
Core modules 3/5 7-9/15  Elective Modules 9-12/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant answer to topic.</li> <li>• Satisfactory understanding and broadly accurate understanding.</li> <li>• Proper referencing.</li> <li>• Clear expression.</li> </ul>
Core modules 2/5 4-6/15  Elective Modules 5-8/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited relevance to topic.</li> <li>• Partial/incomplete understanding.</li> <li>• Unclear expression.</li> <li>• Poor referencing.</li> </ul>
Core modules 1/5 1-3/15  Elective Modules 1-4/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted according to instructions.</li> <li>• Shows basic academic skills such as locating relevant articles through appropriate search tools such Library catalogue.</li> <li>• Errors in understanding.</li> <li>• Absence of analysis.</li> </ul>
Core modules 0/5 0/15  Elective Modules 0/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to submit in accordance with instructions.</li> <li>• Unable to illustrate basic academic skills in any meaningful capacity.</li> <li>• Absence of understanding.</li> </ul>

**Participation-based E-tivity – Assessment criteria**

Mark	Criteria
Core modules 8/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student actively participated in at least 8 of the 12 discussion forums</li> </ul>
Elective modules 10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student actively participated in at least 4 of the 6 discussion forums</li> </ul>
RPM400 Dissertation research proposal 5/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student actively participated in at least 8 of the 12 discussion forums</li> </ul>
	<p>A student will be granted all of the allocated marks for the E-tivity if they actively participate in the required number of discussion forums. If they fail to actively participate in the required number of discussion forums they will receive a grade of 0 (zero).</p> <p>‘Active participation’ means:</p> <p>Posting thoughtful, considered contributions that display engagement with the study materials (instruments, cases and/or commentary) that are relevant to the discussion topic and address the question(s) posed. Such contributions can also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to questions that arise during the discussion forum.</li> <li>• Asking relevant questions during the discussion forum.</li> <li>• Providing personal viewpoints concerning issues arising in the discussion forum.</li> <li>• Reflecting on the discussion by providing summaries of the arguments so far.</li> <li>• Providing pointers to relevant links or articles relating to the discussion.</li> </ul>

**Research proposal – Assessment criteria**

<b>Mark</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
	Demonstrates all or many of the pertinent elements:
9–10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-written and concise - shows excellent academic skills</li> <li>• Well-defined research topic and research questions</li> <li>• Good understanding of how topic fits with pertinent academic literature</li> <li>• Well-designed research methodology with ethical issues addressed</li> <li>• Excellent engagement with earlier tutor feedback</li> </ul>
7–8/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally well-written and shows good academic skills</li> <li>• Good research topic and appropriate research questions</li> <li>• Understanding of how topic relates to pertinent academic literature</li> <li>• Outline of feasible methodology and ethical issues arising</li> <li>• Good effort to engage with earlier tutor feedback</li> </ul>
5–6/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfactory academic skills seen in structure, clarity of expression etc.</li> <li>• Identification of broad areas of research and effort to identify research questions</li> <li>• Some engagement with existing literature on topic</li> <li>• Basic engagement with methodological and ethical issues</li> <li>• Reasonable effort to engage with earlier tutor feedback</li> </ul>
1–4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only basic academic skills evident in structure, writing etc.</li> <li>• Unclear/poor research topic or research questions/hypothesis</li> <li>• Little reference to academic literature</li> <li>• Lack of methodological and ethical consideration</li> <li>• Limited reflection on earlier tutor feedback</li> </ul>
0/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to submit in accordance with instructions</li> <li>• Unable to demonstrate even basic academic skills</li> <li>• Absence of understanding or real engagement with assignment</li> </ul>