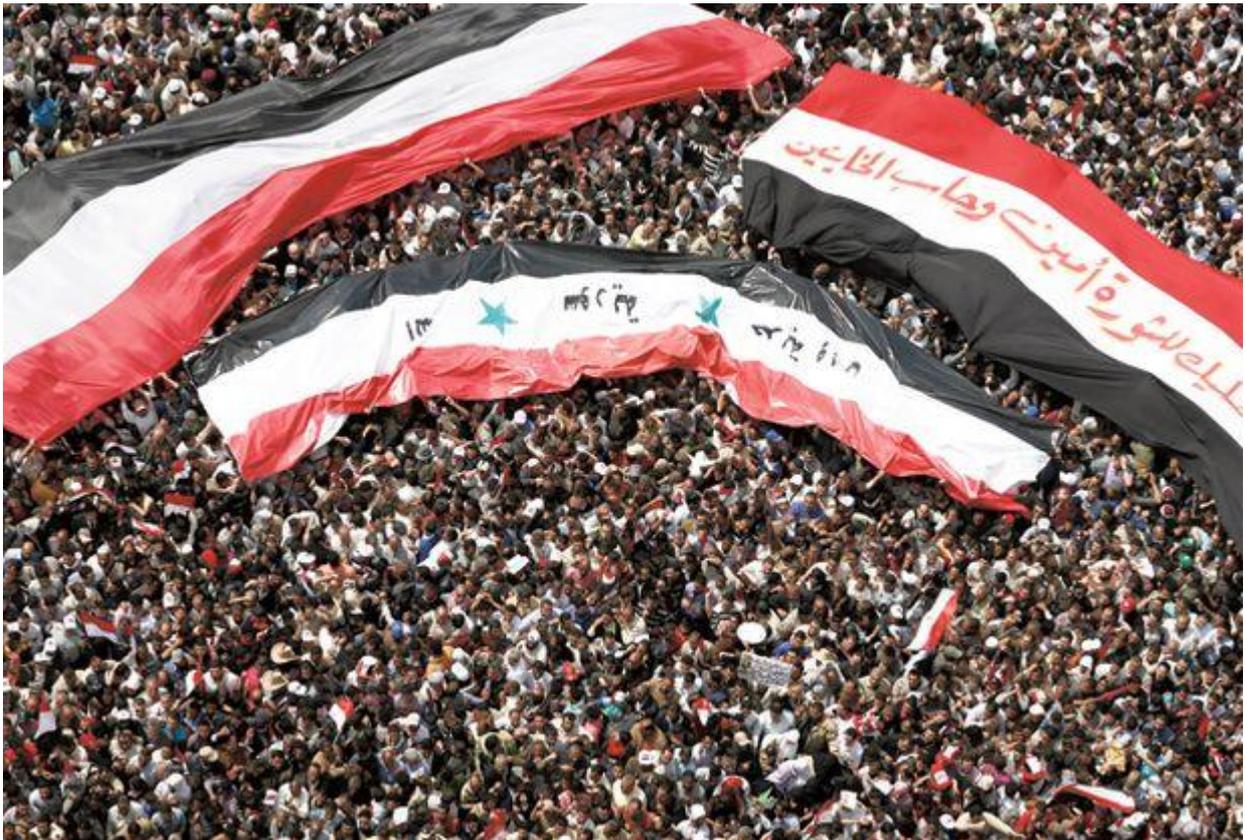


**University of Edinburgh  
Graduate School of Social and Political  
Science**



**MSc in International Relations of the Middle East  
and  
MSc in International Relations of the Middle East *with*  
Arabic**

**PROGRAMMES HANDBOOK**

**2016-2017**

**THIS BOOKLET CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT IF  
REQUIRED**

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# 1 Introduction: Key contacts

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### ***Role of this Handbook***

This Handbook is a guide for students on the MSc programmes: (1) **International Relations of the Middle East** and (2) **International Relations of the Middle East with Arabic**. It will help you make the most of your time whilst at the University of Edinburgh. Please read it carefully, and in conjunction with the Graduate School Taught MSc Student Handbook, which includes (but is not limited to) information relating to: Assessment Regulations; Degree classification and requirements for the award; Submission and return of coursework; deadlines, extensions and penalties; academic misconduct (including plagiarism); academic appeals; student complaints procedure; special circumstances; dignity and respect; safety and security; and facilities in the School.

**NOTE** This handbook does not supersede the University [Regulations](#), nor the formal requirements for each degree as set out in the University's Postgraduate Study Programme in the University Calendar, nor the Terms and Conditions of Admission set out in the Postgraduate Prospectus. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this handbook was correct at the time of distribution, but the handbook does not form part of any contract between the University and any student.

## **2 MSc International Relations of the Middle East**

### ***PROGRAMME AIMS***

The academic aim of the programme is two-fold. Firstly, it seeks to situate the Middle East in broader analytical, conceptual and theoretical debates of International Relations and Political Science. In doing so, it seeks to provide a theoretically-grounded understanding of the region using existing frameworks of analysis in the social sciences. Secondly, the programme aims to foster knowledge of Middle East international relations by examining local cultures, histories, languages and religions. In combining empirical depth and theoretical rigour the programme aims to promote the interaction between area studies and social scientific disciplines.

Students would achieve the following learning outcomes:

- a. Obtain an in-depth understanding of the main historical events, processes and actors that have shaped and continue to shape political dynamics in the Middle East;
- b. Acquire a strong understanding of International Relations theoretical and conceptual tools required to understand Middle East international relations;

- c. Obtain a thorough knowledge of different approaches to Middle Eastern studies;
- d. Form an academically informed, independent and critical knowledge of the Middle East.

## **PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

Teaching is based on lectures and seminars. An important part of learning takes place through individual reading and reflection, which then feed into group discussions, presentations and individual interventions. Students are therefore expected to read extensively and deeply in preparation for all seminars, and to participate fully in class. From the outset, students must cultivate the study skills required for scholarship at an advanced, truly postgraduate level – with full use of library, effective note taking, critical analysis, class participation and writing.

The full-time MSc programme is taken over 12 months of full-time study (September to August). The part-time MSc programme lasts for 24 months. Candidates for both MSc and Diploma (see below) are normally required to take the two compulsory core courses and four further optional courses of their choice. Courses normally consist of 2 class-contact hours per week where regular attendance is expected and necessary for good progress. Candidates for the Diploma are required to pass all taught courses. MSc students are required to pass the coursework (minimum 50%) before undertaking a dissertation between April and August.

In the full-time programme, students are expected to take 60 course credits per semester (equalling three 20-credit courses each semester). In the part-time programme, these requirements are spread out over 4 semesters. Students are encouraged to discuss an effective structure of their part-time study with the Programme Director before deciding how many courses to do in each semester of their part-time study.

For programme details and up-to date course information, see the Degree Programme Table (DPT):

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/dpt/ptmsscintme1f.htm> (full-time)  
part-time to follow

Students on this programme will take 2 compulsory courses and choose 4 options from a range of modules offered by SPS and LLC, primarily within PIR and IMES. Students will have the option of taking introductory courses in one of the three main Middle Eastern languages: Arabic, Persian, and Turkish.

<b>Core 1:</b> At <b>LEAST</b> one of <u>International Relations Theory</u> or <u>International Security</u>	20
<b>Core 2:</b> <u>The Middle East in International Relations</u>	20
<b>Optional Courses:</b> 4 IMES/PIR Middle East-relevant courses	80

**Total Credits: 180**

## **COURSES**

### **Core Courses:**

#### **The Middle East in International Relations (*offered in Semester 2*)**

The main aims of this course are to: 1) provide substantive knowledge on the international relations of the Middle East (ME); 2) familiarise students with International Relations theories and their applicability to the ME; and 3) familiarise students with the foreign policies of states and non-state actors in the Middle East. The course divides will provide an introduction to the ME and a historical examination of the origins of the state and state-system in the ME. It will examine the main theoretical approaches and conceptual tools relating to the study of ME International Relations..

#### **International Relations Theory (*offered in Semester 1*)**

The course is designed to introduce the student to the major theoretical and conceptual paradigms of international relations and to encourage him/her to apply these critically to international events, developments and issues. The key objective of the course is to introduce students to the most significant orthodox and critical theoretical approaches within international relations. A critical assessment will be made of the principal propositions and arguments of the theories drawn from the traditions of realism/neorealism, the English School of IR, liberalism/neoliberalism, and marxism/structuralism. Students will also be encouraged to engage with recent theoretical developments such as feminism, critical theory and social constructivism. Furthermore, the course will introduce students to the so called cosmopolitan communitarian debate in IR theory. The course will end by exploring the main propositions of the Ethics of War and students will be asked to identify arguments for and against humanitarian intervention.

#### **International Security (*offered in Semester 2*)**

The course will introduce students to the main theories and approaches to security through historical and contemporary security issues. The field of security studies has widened significantly over the past 25 years, moving from purely military questions to other issues such as the environment or migration, and from a systemic or state-level understanding to society and the individual (human security). The course starts by first engaging with how scholarly and practical understandings of security have evolved in the past decades. In order to do so, the course explores some key scholarly developments in the evolution of security studies, most notably by showcasing the difference between more traditional rationalist approaches with constructivist and critical ones. The course then explores the conceptual and empirical meaning of 'security' through a number of key issues and topics, including the

changing nature of war, the security implications of new technologies such as drones and cyber weapons, private security companies, counter-terrorism and risk. The goal is to explore what these developing areas of empirical security research mean for the concept of 'security', how different theoretical lenses help us to answer empirical research questions in different ways, how 'new' approaches to security relate to 'traditional' approaches, and develop an appreciation of ongoing limitations and challenges in the field.

### **Optional Courses:**

For programme details and up-to date course information, see the Degree Programme Table (DPT):

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/dpt/ptmscintme1f.htm> (full-time)  
part-time to follow

.....

\*\*\*Students also have the option of taking introductory courses in one of the three other main Middle Eastern languages: Arabic, Persian, and Turkish.

**The following courses are** available and can be assessed or audited but for no credit:

IMES08030	Arabic 1A for Postgraduates
IMES08031	Arabic 1B for Postgraduates
IMES08041	Arabic 2A for Postgraduates
IMES08042	Arabic 2B for Postgraduates
IMES08028	Persian 1A for Postgraduates
IMES08029	Persian 1B for Postgraduates
IMES09001	Persian 2A for Postgraduates
IMES09001	Persian 2B for Postgraduates
IMES08040	Turkish 1A for Postgraduates
IMES08045	Turkish 1B for Postgraduates
IMES08044	Turkish 2A for Postgraduates
IMES08043	Turkish 2B for Postgraduates

### ***Dissertation***

The dissertation is an extended piece of scholarship in which a student is expected to produce a substantive piece of independent research in International Relations of the Middle East. The dissertation is expected to tackle a research problem, engage the relevant literature, and build upon the relevant concepts and theories introduced in the taught elements of the degree. Students will deploy a range of primary and secondary sources as well as appropriate data-analytic and bibliographic skills. Each student will be allocated a research supervisor from either IMES or PIR by the Spring to advise on and oversee her or his research progress. The dissertation should be submitted by Thursday 11 August 2017.

### **3 MSc International Relations of the Middle East *with Arabic***

#### ***PROGRAMME AIMS***

The programme aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the main historical events, processes and actors that have shaped and continue to shape political dynamics in the Middle East as well as a strong understanding of International Relations theoretical and conceptual tools required to understand Middle East international relations, and obtain a thorough knowledge of different approaches to Middle Eastern studies which will help you form an independent and critical knowledge of the Middle East. It also aims to provide you with a high standard of spoken and written Arabic which will enable you to use the language both as a means of communication and as an important research tool to interview informants, read the local press and survey Arabic language scholarship.

#### ***PROGRAMME STRUCTURE***

In the first year you will study Arabic intensively (approximately 15 hours per week), take one compulsory course on Middle Eastern politics and choose an option. You will spend the summer in the Arab world immersed in an Arabic-speaking environment where you will gain a valuable personal experience of Middle Eastern life. In the second year, you will consolidate your Arabic and take two courses in IR, as well as two options from a menu of courses on Middle Eastern politics, history and culture. After completing the taught programme, you will write a dissertation on a topic agreed with your supervisor.

## Year 1

### Core Courses

Ideology and Political Practice in the Modern Middle East (sem 1)	20
Intensive Arabic A (Semester 1)	50
Intensive Arabic B (Semester 2)	50
One Option Course from IMES or PIR/SPS	20
Intensive Arabic C (Summer Study Abroad)	40
Total Credits:	180

## Year 2

### Core Courses

<b>Core 1:</b> At <b>LEAST</b> one of <u>International Relations Theory</u> <i>or</i> <u>International Security</u>	20
<b>Core 2:</b> The Middle East in International Relations	20
Advanced Arabic D (Semester 1)	20
Advanced Arabic E (Semester 2)	20
Two Option Courses from PIR/SPS and IMES ME-relevant courses	40
Dissertation	60
Total Credits:	180

## COURSES

### Core Courses:

#### **Ideology and Political Practice in the Modern Middle East**

Since the age of European colonial rule in the Middle East came to an end around the Second World War, nominally independent nation-states in the Middle East have tried to negotiate the opportunities and challenges of the Cold War, regional conflict and co-operation, underdevelopment, and more recently, globalisation. This course takes up the study of this rich politics by addressing a number of key issues: state-building, pan-Arabism, Islamic revivalism, informal politics, popular protest, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It aims to provide students with an enhanced critical understanding of a series of key issues in the politics of the post-1950 Middle East, foster the ability to evaluate debates on historical method and promote the development of analytical and communicative skills.

### **Intensive Arabic A**

The course introduces the basic grammar and structures of the grammar of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and is designed to teach students to understand, speak and write MSA to an advanced elementary / low intermediate level. The course includes a wide range of written and spoken exercises, with a view to developing a sound basis for further study. The student should develop a familiarity with differences between formal and spoken Arabic and gain a basic knowledge of some aspects of Arabic culture.

### **Intensive Arabic B**

This course consolidates knowledge of the grammar and syntax of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA); develops further fluency in the reading of longer texts in MSA and consolidates translation skills both into and from Arabic. By the end of the module students will have developed enhanced oral, aural and written communication skills, presentational and interpersonal communication skills and experience of language learning techniques, enabling students to further their study of Arabic on their own initiative and derive maximum benefit from the residence abroad.

### **Intensive Arabic C**

This course is the third phase of the Intensive Arabic programme. Following an assessment on arrival at an approved language institute in the Arab world (currently Cairo or Jordan) students will be placed in a class at an appropriate level for c. 12 weeks. Classes will focus on the 4 language skills in Modern Standard Arabic but students will also be encouraged to develop a working knowledge of the relevant colloquial dialect. Students will also improve their knowledge of Arab culture and society. A pass/fail in-house written and oral exam, held on Monday of the induction week of the following semester, awaits you.

### **Advanced Arabic D**

This course is the fourth phase of the Intensive Arabic programme which aims to consolidate Arabic learned during the first year of the programme and introduces students to Media Arabic. The level is upper-intermediate (B2 in the Common European Framework). It will provide a richer Arabic vocabulary and improve grammatical accuracy in reading and writing. The course will aim to enable students to read with greater speed and increased confidence and further develop both their speaking and listening skills. The focus will be on Modern Standard Arabic.

### **Advanced Arabic E**

This course is the fifth phase of the Intensive Arabic programme which aims to enable students to read and understand more complex Arabic texts. This will be achieved by enhancing their vocabulary and reinforcing their knowledge of Arabic grammatical structures, and developing further both their speaking and listening skills in MSA. Upon

completion of this phase, students should be able to attain an advanced level (C1 in the Common European Framework). By the end of this module, students should have developed their vocabulary to the point where they are able to cope without undue difficulty with extended texts in Modern Standard Arabic on an increasing range of topics. In addition the student should be able to discuss current affairs in Modern Standard Arabic and to handle most situations of daily life using the appropriate colloquial structures.

### **The Middle East in International Relations**

The main aims of this course are to: 1) provide substantive knowledge on the international relations of the Middle East (ME); 2) familiarise students with International Relations theories and their applicability to the ME; and 3) familiarise students with the foreign policies of states and non-state actors in the Middle East. The course will provide an introduction to the ME and a historical examination of the origins of the state and state-system in the ME. It will examine the main theoretical approaches and conceptual tools relating to the study of ME International Relations. Part 3 will look into the particular patterns of state-society interactions and geopolitics in the region, including so-called 'rentier states', oil monarchies, authoritarian republics and 'consociational' states. The course will then examine the cases of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the interaction of revolution, counter-revolution and geopolitics in the region since 2011.

### **International Relations Theory**

The course is designed to introduce the student to the major theoretical and conceptual paradigms of international relations and to encourage him/her to apply these critically to international events, developments and issues. The key objective of the course is to introduce students to the most significant orthodox and critical theoretical approaches within international relations. A critical assessment will be made of the principal propositions and arguments of the theories drawn from the traditions of realism/neorealism, the English School of IR, liberalism/neoliberalism, and marxism/structuralism. Students will also be encouraged to engage with recent theoretical developments such as feminism, critical theory and social constructivism. Furthermore, the course will introduce students to the so called cosmopolitan communitarian debate in IR theory. The course will end by exploring the main propositions of the Ethics of War and students will be asked to identify arguments for and against humanitarian intervention.

### **International Security**

The course will introduce students to the main theories and approaches to security through historical and contemporary security issues. The field of security studies has widened significantly over the past 25 years, moving from purely military questions to other issues such as the environment or migration, and from a systemic or state-level understanding to society and the individual (human security). The course starts by first engaging with how scholarly and practical understandings of security have evolved in the past decades. In order to do so, the course explores some key scholarly developments in the evolution of security studies, most notably by showcasing the difference between more traditional rationalist

approaches with constructivist and critical ones. The course then explores the conceptual and empirical meaning of 'security' through a number of key issues and topics, including the changing nature of war, the security implications of new technologies such as drones and cyber weapons, private security companies, counter-terrorism and risk. The goal is to explore what these developing areas of empirical security research mean for the concept of 'security', how different theoretical lenses help us to answer empirical research questions in different ways, how 'new' approaches to security relate to 'traditional' approaches, and develop an appreciation of ongoing limitations and challenges in the field.

### **List of Relevant Option Courses (2015-2016)**

Students should consult the Degree Programme Table (DPT) <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/dpt/ptmscintma1f.htm> for optional [courses](#) : however, due to the intensive nature of the Arabic courses taken in the first year of this degree, students should be aware that many timetabled courses clash with their necessarily intensive hours of Arabic language training, which is prioritised by the programme. For more information, you should consult the DPT **Dissertation.**

The dissertation is an extended piece of scholarship in which a student is expected to produce a substantive piece of independent research in International Relations of the Middle East. The dissertation is expected to tackle a research problem, engage the relevant literature, and build upon the relevant concepts and theories introduced in the taught elements of the degree. Students will deploy a range of primary and secondary sources as well as appropriate data-analytic and bibliographic skills. Each student will be allocated a research supervisor from either IMES or PIR during the Spring semester to advise on and oversee her or his research progress.

### **Progression**

In order to progress to Semester Two in Year 1, students must achieve a minimum of 40% in IMES11021 Intensive Arabic A. Students who do not achieve this exit the programme.

In order to progress to the second year of study, students must pass Intensive Arabic C at 50% or above. Students who do not achieve this exit the programme with the Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations of the Middle East with Basic Arabic (PTPGCMIDBA1F), provided they have passed Intensive Arabic A (50 credits) and intensive Arabic B (50 credits) and 20 credits of non-language courses.

In order to progress to the dissertation stage, students must pass at least 80 credits out of the 120 credits taken in Year Two at Masters postgraduate level (50% or above), including IMES11039 Advanced Arabic D and IMES11035 Advanced Arabic E, and have passed at least 240 credits out of 300 credits taken across year one and year two at Masters postgraduate level (50% or above). In addition, students must be awarded an aggregate pass at Masters postgraduate level (50%) in all year two coursework. Students who pass Intensive Arabic A, B and C, but not D and E, are eligible for the PG Diploma in Middle Eastern Politics with Intermediate Arabic (PTPGCMIDIA1F).

Progression will be examined at the Interim Board of Examiners meeting held in May/June following marking of all coursework for the programme. Decisions regarding progression to the study abroad phase and the dissertation phase of the programme will be made at this board. A further meeting will be held in September to confirm the results of IMES11040 Intensive Arabic C. There is no individual discretion granted in relation to progression.

## **4 LEARNING AND RESOURCES AND ASSESSMENT**

### **Course Seminars**

Learning takes place through individual reading and reflection, and through seminars often involving group discussion initiated by student presentations. Students are therefore expected to read extensively and deeply in preparation for all seminars as well as to participate fully in discussions of material. From the outset students must cultivate the study skills required for scholarship at an advanced level - using library sources fully, effective note taking, critical analysis and writing.

The Arabic language courses will involve a combination of classwork, progressive tests, and oral, aural and written exams, as well as a period of study abroad in an Arabic-speaking country.

### **Library**

The Main Library building is in George Square. However, there are other library sites you may need to use – for example the Islamic Library at IMES (non-lending) or the Law and Europa Libraries at Old College. Details of library sites, opening hours, catalogue, and electronic databases can be found at [www.lib.ed.ac.uk](http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk). You can renew books online, and can 'recall' books on loan to other users (but must request a recall in person at the circulation desk).

### **Seminars**

Each Monday evening at 5:30 during semester, IMES holds a seminar given by an Edinburgh or visiting presenter. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in these and contribute to the discussion. Students are also encouraged to attend the 'Transatlantic seminars' held in PIR on Fridays at 1pm in the Chrystal Macmillan Building.

## **5 PASTORAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

The Programme Director is available as a first line of support and advice for any scholarly or personal issues that may arise whilst you are on the Programme. *It is your responsibility to inform the Programme Director immediately of any problems which are interfering with your coursework or progress through the programme*, including any religious or medical requirements that might affect your participation in any aspects of the Programme.

Where problems cannot be resolved at a lower level, you are invited to contact the Director of the Graduate School. Her contact details are to be found in *The Graduate School Taught Masters Handbook*.

The University has a Disability Office ([www.disability-office.ed.ac.uk/](http://www.disability-office.ed.ac.uk/)) and a Student Counselling Service (<http://www.student-counselling.ed.ac.uk/>).