University of the West of Scotland

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session: 2024/25
Last Modified: 11/02/2024
Status: Published

1	Named Award Title:	MSc Politics and Social Justice
2	Award Title for Each Award: [1]	MSc Politics and Social Justice PG Dip Politics and Social Justice PG Cert Applied Social Science
3	Date of Validation / Approval:	June 2020
4	Details of Cohorts Applies to:	Level 11 – All intakes from September 2023
5	Awarding Institution/Body:	**University of the West of Scotland**
6	Teaching Institution(s)[2]:	**University of the West of Scotland**
7	Language of Instruction & Examination:	English
8	Award Accredited By:	
9a	Maximum Period of Registration:	
9b	Duration of Study:	Full Time – 1 year; Part Time – 2 years;
10	Mode of Study:	Full time; part time
11	Campus:	Paisley
12	School:	Education and Social Sciences
13	Programme Board:	Social Sciences
14	Programme Leader:	Dr Diarmuid McDonnell

15. Admission Criteria
Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications:
Honours degree (minimum 2:2 classification) within the broad area of the Social Sciences or a bachelor's degree with significant and relevant work experience. Where candidates do not meet the standard entry requirement, they must demonstrate that they have sufficient relevant

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[1] Include main award and all exit awards e.g. PgD, MSc

[2] University of the West of Scotland and include any collaborative partner institutions involved in delivery.

professional or practice-based experience to undertake their chosen programme of study. They may be admitted to the programme at the discretion of the programme Admissions Officer/Programme Leader. Admission based on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will comply with the University's Regulatory Framework (Chapter 2), as well as University regulations on postgraduate study and guidance on RPL.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
English language proficiency is also a requirement, with candidates expected to achieve IELTs average standard of 6.0.Admission based on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will comply with the University's Regulatory Framework (Section 6), as well as University regulations on postgraduate study and guidance on RPL.

Credit transferred into the programme through Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) must have been subject to reliable and valid methods of assessment at a recognised HEI. Accredited Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) entry is also permitted. The amount of credit transferred though RPL (APL and APEL) will comply with the maxima set out in the Regulatory Framework. Candidates should note that transferred credit does not carry a grade, therefore, award with distinction cannot be granted for awards where credit is transferred in at level 11.

Further desirable skills pre-application (i.e. to satisfy additional PSRB requirements or other)

16	**General Overview** This programme develops students' knowledge, understanding and critical engagement with key issues, trends, processes and developments in politics and social justice. Emphasis is placed on understanding the changing nature of politics and challenges to social justice within the context of globalisation, including linkages between different levels of governance (from local to global) and the growth of non-state actors operating at all levels (from local communities to global networks). The degree is ideal for students with a social science background in politics, public policy, sociology and social policy, or those interested in studying, or working in, civil society campaigning and advocacy organisations. Key features of the programme: • Focus on understanding politics and social justice in local, national, international and global comparative contexts. • Opportunity to develop expertise in the area of politics and social justice that interests you. • Employability and career-relevant content through innovative learning and assessment. • Study within a diverse international community of learners. Students may also seek to undertake doctoral studies after completing the Masters programme. The programme equips students for employment in a number of sectors, particularly (but not exclusively) within politics, advocacy, community work, and work with third-sector agencies and organisations. The academics who teach on the programme draw on their research networks for the benefit of the student experience through a combination of field trips to external organisations and the use of guest speakers from external bodies. The programme team support students to develop their own networks and to co-produce Masters projects with external organisations (e.g. through the UWS-Oxfam Partnership as well as our other partners). The programme is flexible allowing for part-time and full-time study, while also blending on campus, and on-line delivery techniques. Moreover, a range of transferable skills are enhanced and these include the ability to: • Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources. • Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems. • Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement. • Reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback. • Manage their own learning self-critically. • Recognise the importance of explicit referencing and the ethical requirements of study which requires critical and reflective use of information and communications technology in the learning process. • Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing. • Use communication and information technology, including audio-visual. • technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate. • Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time. • management, progressing through the degree programme to become an independent learner.

- Collaborate with others to achieve common goals through, for example, group work, group projects, group presentations.

Students are required to design and undertake an extended piece of written research focused around a specific research question via the MSc Dissertation.

in terms of student choice it is recognised that there is only one elective module within the programme, however it must be emphasised that student choice will be located within rather than between modules. This will be realised through inquiry-based learning approaches and negotiated assessment approaches and strategies.

Masters programmes have a crucial role in taking forward School-level and university wide priorities in terms of enhancing the number of postgraduate students that come to study at UWS from home and overseas markets and to also maximise the student experience. Key drivers relevant to the Masters framework are contained in the School's Operational Plan, the university's Research and Education Enabling Plans, and the wider university's Internationalisation and Research and Enterprise strategies.

The programme outcomes have been informed by a variety of internal and external sources.

17	**Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning**
	The programme is fully aligned with institutional priorities around the development of graduate attributes and with the institutional policy on personal development planning. The UWS Graduate Attributes were created to reflect the range of skills, qualities and abilities students can develop at UWS which will help to prepare them for success outwith the university. The programme will help develop student attributes across three dimensions: • Academic - knowledge, skills and abilities related to high-level academic study. • Personal - qualities and characteristics of well-rounded, developed, responsible individuals. • Professional - skills, aptitudes and attitudes required for professional working life in the 21st century. The aim is to develop graduates who are: • Universal - globally relevant with comprehensively applicable abilities, skills and behaviours. • Work ready - dynamic and prepared for employment in complex, ever-changing environments which require lifelong learning and resilience. • Successful - as a UWS graduate with a solid foundation on which to continue succeeding and realising my potential, across various contexts.
18	**Work Based Learning/Placement Details**
	Work-related learning underpins the programme with the use of authentic employment-focused assessments. The programme also offers students the opportunity to enhance their CV by undertaking a practice-based project as part of their final dissertation in collaboration with a public or third sector organisation.
19	**Attendance and Engagement**
	In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions,

	course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the VLE, and complete assessments and submit these on time.
20	**Equality and Diversity**
	The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Please detail any specific arrangements for this programme. This should be considered and not just refer the reader to the UWS Equality and Diversity policy.

The programme supports equality of opportunity for students from different backgrounds and with different learning needs. Using appropriate platforms, learning materials will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. The programme complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. In line with UWS Equality Outcomes, equality of opportunity and an equitable learning experience for all learners is ensured by embedding accessibility and inclusivity in the design and operation of module sites. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. The School of Education and Social Sciences is committed to enabling all learners. respecting diversity, promoting equality and embedding inclusivity in all aspects of its work. It is fully cognisant of and compliant with relevant external and institutional policy in this area. The design of the programme has been guided by a concern for the student experience and consideration of how different modes of delivery and engagement opportunities affect the student's journey at postgraduate level. As such, ensuring flexibility has been at the centre of planning and programme design. This is reflected in the number of distinct exit points, the mixture available between part-time and full-time study the blend between face-to-face lecture and workshop delivery, project and dissertation supervision, and innovative virtual teaching and learning opportunities. |

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (**Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework**)

21	**Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
	Outcomes should incorporate those applicable in the relevant QAA Benchmark statements.

Please ensure that Learning Outcomes are appropriate for the level of study. Further information is available via SCQF: https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-educators-and-advisers/support-for-colleges-heis/ and a Level Descriptors tool is available (SCQF Level Descriptors Tool | Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) and ensure appropriate cognisance of Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework. https://www.uws.ac.uk/media/6514/regulatory-framework-2023-2024.pdf |

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SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
Knowledge and Understanding

A1	Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of selected areas of the contemporary social science landscape (such as politics, social justice, criminology, social policy, policy analysis and global governance, public administration, and/ or research methodologies).	
A2		
A3		
A4		
A5		

Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding

B1	Apply a range of conceptual and theoretical tools, vehicle way include research methodologies, in selected areas of the contemporary social science landscape.	
B2		
B3		
B4		
B5		

Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills

C1	Communicate sophisticated academic conclusions convincingly using appropriate methods.	
C2		
C3		
C4		
C5		

Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation

D1	Deploy skills of critical analysis auld evaluation to selected issues within contemporary social science.	
D2		
D3		
D4		

D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate responsibility for own academic practice.
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	**2**	**3**	

Footnotes for Core Modules:

[click here to add detail]

Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	**2**	**3**	
11	SSPG11009	Applied Criminology and Criminal Justice	20	X			
11	SSPG11007	Applied Research Methods in Social Sciences	20	X	X		

Level	Code	Title	Credits				
11	SSPG11011	Comparative Governance & Public Admin	20	X			
11	SSPG11012	Comparative Penology	20	X			
11	SSPG11001	Contemporary Social Issues	20		X		
11	SSPG11013	Global Crisis Management	20		X		
11	SSPG11015	Comparative Policing	20		X		
11	SSPG11003	Policy Analysis and Practice	20		X		
11	SSPG11019	Contemporary Populism and Nationalism	20		X		
11	SSPG11002	The State, Globalisation and Social Justice	20	X			
11	SSPG11005	Civil Society and Social Justice	20		X		

Footnotes for option modules

Further optional modules may be available at Level 10 by agreement with the Programme Leader.

22a	**Level 11 – Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)** **Criteria for Progression and Award**
	Students achieving 60 credits from any of the core and optional modules above are entitled to exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social Sciences. A minimum of 40 credits should be at SCQF 11 level and none less than SCQF level 10. No Distinction is awarded at PgCert level (Regulation 3.25). Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

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	Level 11 – Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
	Knowledge and Understanding
A1	Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of the key issues, debates and concepts in politics and social justice.

A2	Demonstrate reflective and critical knowledge and understanding of social research methodologies.
A3	
A4	
A5	

Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding

B1	Apply advanced conceptual tools to resolve policy scenarios within politics and social justice.
B2	Apply a range of routine and specialist research methodologies in exercises of inquiry.
B3	Apply advanced theoretical concepts to inform key debates in politics and social justice.
B4	
B5	

Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills

C1	Communicate sophisticated academic conclusions convincingly, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge and expertise.
C2	Deploy a range of routine techniques to analyse and present the outcomes of inquiry.
C3	Deploy some specialist techniques to analyse and present research findings.
C4	
C5	

Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation

D1	Deploy critical, analytical and evaluative skills in the context of politics and social justice.
D2	Make informed judgements about key issues in politics and social justice.
D3	Demonstrate originality and/ or creativity in response to contemporary challenges and issues in politics and social justice.
D4	
D5	

Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others

E1	Contribute effectively in a team setting, demonstrating awareness of own and others' responsibilities in collaborative contexts.
E2	Demonstrate insight into ethical issues and debates within politics and social justice.
E3	Take significant responsibility for forging relationships with peers in external organisations.
E4	
E5	

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Footnotes
11	SSPG11007	Applied Research Methods in Social Sciences	20	X	X		
11	SSPG11001	Contemporary Social Issues	20		X		
11	SSPG11003	Policy Analysis and Practice	20		X		
11	SSPG11002	The State, Globalisation and Social Justice	20	X			
11	SSPG11005	Civil Society and Social Justice	20		X		

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Learning Outcomes - Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Footnotes
11	SSPG11019	Contemporary Populism and Nationalism	20		X		
11	SSPG11015	Comparative Policing	20		X		
11	SSPG11012	Comparative Penology	20	X			

11	SSPG11009	Applied Criminology and Criminal Justice	20	X			
11	SSPG11013	Global Crisis Management	20		X		
11	SSPG11011	Comparative Governance & Public Admin	20	X			

Footnotes for option modules

Further optional modules may be available at Level 10 by agreement with the Programme Leader.

22b	**Level 11 - PgDip** **Criteria for Progression and Award**
	There is <u>no progression</u> within stages at SCQF Level 11.
	In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Applied Social Science, at least 120 credit points must be achieved (including all core modules) of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 11 and none less than SCQF Level 10.
	Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26)
	Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

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	SCQF LEVEL 11 - MASTERS **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
	Knowledge and Understanding
A1	Demonstrate integrated, critical and reflective knowledge and understanding of the policy, theory and practice of politics and social justice.
A2	Demonstrate extensive and focused insight into areas at the forefront of contemporary politics and social justice.
A3	
A4	
A5	
	Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding

B1	Apply a range of advanced theoretical and conceptual tools to inform debates across the theory policy and practice of contemporary politics and social justice.
B2	Apply some specialist theoretical and conceptual tools to generate original insight into issues at the forefront of contemporary politics and social justice.
B3	
B4	
B5	

	Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills
C1	Convey convincingly the outcomes of self-authored research to experts and peers.
C2	Deploy a range of routine and specialist techniques to analyse and present research data.
C3	
C4	
C5	

	Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation
D1	Make informed and professional judgements about controversial issues at the forefront of contemporary politics and social justice.
D2	Insightfully synthesise and integrate issues at the forefront of contemporary politics and social justice.
D3	
D4	
D5	

	Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others
E1	Exercise substantial autonomy and responsibility in devising, implementing, managing and executing a substantial research project in an area of contemporary politics and social justice.
E2	Demonstrate intellectual leadership and initiative by contributing to new thinking in an area of contemporary politics and social justice.
E3	Demonstrate commitment to ethical and reflective academic practice.
E4	

E5	

Learning Outcomes - MASTERS Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term 1	2	3	Footnotes
11	SSPG11007	Applied Research Methods in Social Sciences	20	X	X		
11	SSPG11001	Contemporary Social Issues	20		X		
11	SSPG11003	Policy Analysis and Practice	20		X		
11	SSPG11002	The State, Globalisation and Social Justice	20	X			
11	SSPG11005	Civil Society and Social Justice	20		X		
11	SSPG11004	Social Sciences Dissertation	60			X	

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Learning Outcomes - MASTERS Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term 1	2	3	Footnotes
11	SSPG11019	Contemporary Populism and Nationalism	20		X		
11	SSPG11015	Comparative Policing	20		X		
11	SSPG11012	Comparative Penology	20	X			
11	SSPG11009	Applied Criminology and Criminal Justice	20	X			
11	SSPG11013	Global Crisis Management	20		X		
11	SSPG11011	Comparative Governance & Public Admin	20	X			

Footnotes for option modules

Further optional modules may be available at Level 10 by agreement with the Programme Leader.

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22c	Level 11 MASTERS Criteria for Award
	In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of MSc Applied Social Science, at least 180 credit points must be achieved (including core modules) of which a minimum of 150 are at SCQF Level 11 and none less than SCQF Level 10. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26) Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

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23	Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework .

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

24	Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).

For students studying at Level 11, they will *normally* be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Change/Version Control

Changes made to the programme since it was last published:

What	When	Who

Updated Links: • Academic Engagement Procedure • Equality and Diversity • University Regulatory Framework • Removed invalid links	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 2023-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections and addition of links and some specific guidance. Addition of Duration of Study and some other text – for CMA.	12/12/23	D Taylor
Replication for purposes of PSMD.	11/02/2024	C Atkinson

Version Number: PG 1 (2023-24)