Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MSc Food, Politics, and Society**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMSFPOLS_C
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	Politics
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Dip; PG Cert
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 FT and 2 PT
9	**Mode of Study**	FT ✓ PT ✓ DL
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	Level 7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	This programme offers a comprehensive overview of the main themes concerning the inter-relationship between food, politics, and society. It combines theoretical coverage of key debates surrounding (among other issues) the origins of agricultural production, the sociology of consumption, food and the city, and the political ecology of our contemporary industrialised global food system, with more concrete explorations of the historical, sociological and political dimensions of (mal)nutrition, regulation of food markets, struggles and conflict over, and the cultural meanings of food. Though drawing from the field of Food Studies, the programme is self-consciously cross-disciplinary in its incorporation of political-theoretical, historical-sociological, cultural-anthropological and public policy literatures into the syllabus.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	Minimum 2:2 or equivalent in social sciences or humanities UG degree

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	Students taking this programme will be able to: • Understand the main theoretical debates about the relationship between food, politics, and society • Demonstrate a critical understanding of key subjects in the historical and political sociology, and the economic and cultural geography of food production and consumption

- Critically analyse current issues and problems around the production and consumption of food, such as malnutrition and famines, regulation of food markets, food security, food identity and the effects of climate change on global food supply.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how various disciplinary approaches drawn from the social sciences and humanities contribute towards the understanding of food production and consumption
- Demonstrate skills of analysis and critique that can be transferred to further study in the social sciences and humanities

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	The programme uses the established teaching and assessment methods on the Politics MSc programmes, consisting of lectures and seminars for taught modules, along with a dissertation. There is a standard assessment pattern that means that students submit formative essays to obtain feedback in term 1 and assessed essays in term 2, and take exams in term 3.

18	**Programme Description**
	Students take two core modules – Food, Politics and Society and the Political Sociology of the Modern State– and two options (all 30 credits), as well as writing a 60 credit dissertation. Full-time students take all four taught modules Oct-May and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take two modules each year (one core in each year) and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept of their second year.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full-Time programme – 1 year

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO144S7	Food, Politics, and Society (level 7)	30	Core
7	POSO023S7	The Political Sociology of the Modern State	30	Core
7	SSPO145D7	Dissertation MSc Food, Politics, and Society	60	Core
7		SSHP Option module	30	Option
7		SSHP Option module	30	Option

Part-Time programme – 2 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO144S7	Food, Politics, and Society (level 7)	30	Core
7		SSHP Option module	30	Option

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	POSO023S7	The Political Sociology of the Modern State	30	Core
7		SSHP Option Module	30	Option
7	SSPO145D7	Dissertation MSc Food, Politics, and Society	60	Core

Indicative list of options

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	Option
7	SSPO108S7	Theorising Social Research	30	Option
7	POSO022S7	Political Theory and Contemporary Politics	30	Option
7	POSO041S7	Public Management: Theories and Innovations	30	Option
7	SSGE112S7	Energy and Climate Change	15	Option
7	SSPO121S7	Geopolitics, Population and Environment	30	Option
7	SSGE011S7	Environment and Policy	30	Option
7	FDDV024S7	Development, Aid and Power	30	Option
7	FDDV023S7	Development Studies: Theoretical Approaches	30	Option
7	FDRE012S7	Culture, Community, Identity	30	Option

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	**Regulations**

- *Admissions*
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy:
  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf

- *Credit Transfer*
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning
  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf

- *Programme Regulations*
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme
  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations

- *Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)* N/A

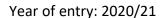| 21	**Student Attendance Framework – in brief**

The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .

Principle

Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

Attendance expectation

Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions,

workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

E-Registers

All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

22	**Student Support and Guidance**
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

23	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input. For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .

24	**Programme Director**	Dr Jason Edwards
25	**Start Date** (term/year)	Autumn 2019
26	**Date approved by Education Committee**	March 2019
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2019
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	April 2019