Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MSc Politics of Population, Migration and Ecology**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMSPOPME_C
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	Politics
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Certificate, PG Diploma
8	**Duration of Study (number of years)**	1 year FY, 2 years PT
9	**Mode of Study (FT/PT/DL)**	FT/PT
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Group**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**

This MSc is strongly research-led. It is aligned with the work of the Politics research group, Population, Environment and Resources, and its two compulsory modules draw directly on the research interests of the group.

Population and demography have become important political issues. Aging populations in the developed world; the 'youth bulge' and continuing rapid population growth of sub-Saharan Africa and parts of west Asia; and the mass urbanization of the developing world all have pronounced political implications. Global military power is related to relative population size and age structure, patterns of which are changing rapidly. Shifts in the ethnic and religious composition of countries, partly due to migration flows, are connected to tensions around national identity, immigration policy and multiculturalism in the UK and other western countries.

Population growth and movement have pronounced implications for natural and social ecologies. Critical political analysis of these implications examines the discursive frameworks within which population questions are constructed and debated. The programme will enable students to see how political economy, demography and the environment are interrelated at theoretical and policy levels. Different theoretical approaches to population matters will be discussed and linked to new terms of environmental discourse (sustainability, resilience, decoupling, natural capital, environmental services etc).

A strength of the programme is that students are introduced to a spectrum of methodological approaches, ranging from quantitative techniques for analysing and projecting demographic changes to discourse analysis of policy documents and historical case studies of political debates and associated political movements.

The programme has links with interdisciplinary initiatives within SSHP to build on overlapping interests within the School in the area of environmental studies

Distinctive Features

- Part-time, evening, face-to-face study
- Taught by leading figures in the field
- Providing theoretical and empirical insights into topical and controversial issues around population growth and social stability
- International perspective: informed by relevant case studies from a number of countries.
- Methodologically wide-ranging and ambitious, combining statistical techniques, policy studies, discourse analysis and critical theory.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in social science or another relevant subject., or relevant experience combined with an adequate academic background (subject to interview).

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:
	1. Access demographic data, analyse trends and interpret findings
	2. Understand the policy debates around population stabilisation or growth and their relationship to different economic and environmental positions
	3. Undertake case studies which combine data analysis, analysis of policy discourses and understanding of the local context
	4. Demonstrate knowledge of how ethnic, religious and national identities intersect with resources and population in specific cases around the world

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 and two options (all 30 credits) and write a 60 credit dissertation. This is the standard structure for Politics masters programmes. 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	SSPO121S7	Geopolitics, Population and Environment	30	Core
7	SSPO127S7	The Politics of Population Change: Immigration, Aging and Conflict	30	Core
7		Option module	30	Option
7		Option or elective module	30	Option
7	SSPO128D7	Dissertation - Politics of Population, Migration and Ecology	60	Core

Part-Time programme – 2 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO127S7	The Politics of Population Change: Immigration, Aging and Conflict	30	Core
7		Option module	30	Option

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO121S7	Geopolitics, Population and Environment	30	Core
7		Option or elective module	30	Option
7	SSPO128D7	Dissertation - Politics of Population, Migration and Ecology	60	Core

Indicative list of options

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO120S7	Emerging Powers in World Politics	30	optional
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	optional
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	optional
7	SSPO006S7	Middle East Politics	30	optional
7	POSO020S7	Modern British Politics	30	optional
7	POSO044S7	Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict	30	optional
7	POSO023S7	The Political Sociology of the Modern State	30	optional

7	POSO022S7	Political Theory and Contemporary Politics	30	optional
7	POSO041S7	Public Management: Theories and Innovations	30	optional
7	POSO025S7	Public Policy: Interests, Ideas, Institutions	30	optional
7	POSO075S7	Qualitative Social Research	30	optional
7	POSO076S7	Introduction to Quantitative Social Research	30	optional
7	POSO006S7	The European Union: Integration, Politics and Policy	30	optional
7	POSO035S7	War, Politics and Society	30	optional

Elective modules can be taken from other departments in the College, with the approval of the programme director.

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**	Eric Kaufmann
25	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	October 2014
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring Term 2013
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer Term 2013
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	September 2019