

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MSc Governance, Economics and Public Policy				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMSGVEPP_C				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A				
6	Home Department	Management				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert (passing 60 credits) and PG Diploma (passing 120 credits)				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year full-time, 2-years part-time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	Law; Politics				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Rationale: Especially since the 2008 financial crisis, there has been a heightened interest in Governance, Economics and Public Policy, the influence this has on the economy and society, as well as on organizations and the managers, civil servants and policy-makers that work with them. A broad range of reasons underpin this increase in significance: high profile failures in corporate governance, including financial institutions; a growing need to demonstrate accountability, transparency and sustainability; increasing political engagement and activism aimed at improving understanding of specific policies and the policy-making process as well as how to hold organisational and political leaders to account.</p> <p>The MSc in Governance, Economics and Public Policy is inter-disciplinary, involving collaboration between the Departments of Management, Politics, Economics and Geography. It builds upon the educational provision currently offered by these four Departments and sits alongside, and complements, the current MSc in Corporate Governance and Business Ethics (Management); MSc in Public Policy and Management (Politics); MSc in Government, Policy and Politics (Politics); MSc in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Politics, Philosophy and Economics); and MSc in Managing Climate Change (Geography).</p> <p>The programme receives support from the Progressive Economy Forum (PEF) (https://www.progressiveeconomyforum.com/), including high profile guest speakers/lecturers; opportunities for our students to participate in activities organized by PEF and input into their dissertation research from PEF Council Members (https://www.progressiveeconomyforum.com/the-pef-council/); and external promotion of the programme and our students' research by PEF.</p>

	<p>There are very few institutions within London that offer a postgraduate qualification within this area, since most do not integrate content in the inter-related areas of governance, economics and public policy. With our part-time, evening teaching, there is potential for this programme to recruit a significant number of part-time students that are working in an area of governance and public policy/politics, wanting to develop a career within it and/or interested in better understanding and influencing governance and policy.</p> <p>Aims: The main aim of the programme is to provide a high level offering in Governance, Economics and Public Policy, which attracts high quality, highly motivated students. Those undertaking the programme of study will be provided with a comprehensive understanding of a range of issues including Corporate Governance, Economics, Public Management and Research Methods; as well as having a range of other modules focusing on relevant areas within the broader subject of the MSc to choose from. The programme of study will link theory and practice, and will be of benefit to those individuals that either have already acquired an appreciation of Governance, Economics and Public Policy and wish to develop further insights into the subject; or have limited knowledge of the subject and wish to develop their understanding and appreciation of it, or use the knowledge gained to embark on a career within this area. Critical thinking and problem focused decision-making will be key components of the programme of study.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally at least a second-class honours degree in any subject area from a UK university or a non-UK equivalent; other qualifications will be considered. • Non-native English speakers need to provide proof of English language ability: A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6 in the sub-tests) and provide the certificate. • A professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations approved by the College. • Relevant experience, supporting statements and references may be taken into consideration, especially in the case of non-standard applications.
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:</p> <p>Subject Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature, behaviour and outcomes associated with the social, economic, political and legal systems that govern the modern corporation: an understanding of the key roles and relationships through which corporate governance is realized; an appreciation of the key similarities and differences across national corporate governance systems and the key pressures for reform within these systems; an understanding of the key ethical issues which arise in relation to corporate activity. • Demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and skills of economics, including the use of empirical evidence in testing economic hypotheses using both formal and informal methods, with the objective of applying them to practical policy questions. • Demonstrate an understanding of the practice and problems of contemporary public administration and the policy-making process, the relevance of private sector management principles to the public sector and the evolving relationship between the public and private sectors in public administration.

	<p>Intellectual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to critically assess theories and systems of corporate governance • Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to critically assess economic theories and to apply them to practical policy issues • Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to critically assess public management theories, public policy and the policy-making process • Assess the reliability and validity of quantitative and qualitative analyses • Demonstrate imaginative and original approaches to the use of theoretical and methodological tools in different subject areas. <p>Practical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate library and archive skills including the ability to conduct literature searches using electronic databases such as the Social Science Citation Index, EBSCOhost, Business Source Premier and LexisNexis. • Apply appropriate essay/report writing skills • Demonstrate an appropriate level of numeracy and IT skills. <p>Personal and Social:</p> <p>Through coursework, class discussion and group work the student will gain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation and communication skills • Writing skills • Ability to work in teams
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>The assessment for each module varies from a combination of coursework and unseen, formal examination, to modules that are assessed by exam only, coursework only or a combination of the two. The length of the coursework and exam will vary depending on whether they are the only mode of assessment for the module or whether they are combined with another mode of assessment.</p> <p>In regards to the coursework, it can be noted that the student is required to adopt a critical and interpretive approach when answering the question set and the department’s marking criteria is adhered to when the examiners mark the scripts. The outline answers provided by the module convenor (to the second marker(s)) act as a standard against which the quality of the work is assessed.</p> <p>The summative assessment for all modules measures each student’s attainment with respect to the learning objectives, and it can be noted that the external examiners are charged with approving the formal, unseen examination papers. The examination questions set ask students to link theory and practice, and critically appraise assumptions. The examination process is rigorous and provides an opportunity to test a student’s understanding of the subject matter.</p> <p>Both the course work assignment and the unseen, formal examination, require students to think logically and to adopt an analytical approach to answering the question. It can be argued that the assessment is balanced and all timetabling takes into account the fact that those students with specific needs, have their needs taken into account and they are not disadvantaged in any way. The pass mark is 50% for the combined course work and unseen, formal examination. Each student is allowed one re-sit.</p>
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18	Programme Description
	<p>Governance, Economics and Public Policy are areas of rapidly growing importance in which Birkbeck has a pre-eminent research position and international reputation. Our programmes are designed for those wishing to better understand the complex and dynamic relationships between corporate governance, economics and public policy, as well as the relationship between organisations in the public, private and third sector, and their stakeholders. The role of governance – public and private – is to set out the rules within which an organisation must operate – and to ensure those rules are observed. Its focus is on a range of issues concerning the proper management of organisations and is central to the evolution of strategy and policy – and hence, effective management (public and private). Since economics is central to public policy, a central feature of the programme is that it will not require prior training in economics or mathematical or statistical techniques.</p> <p>Since many Birkbeck students are working, postgraduate study brings together those with relevant experience and an interest in developing further. The programmes are relevant to policy makers and civil servants, directors and non-executive board members, managers, consultants and those interested in governance, economics and public policy in the private, public and voluntary sectors.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN028H7	Corporate Governance	15	Compulsory
7	SSPO235H7	Governing Public Services	15	Compulsory
7	LALW064S7	Perspectives on Political Economy	30	Compulsory
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7	SSPO236H7	The Political Economy of the Public Sector	15	Compulsory
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Compulsory
7		Option module – from closed list, see below	15	Optional
7		Option module – free choice from any postgraduate modules in the Department of Management (including those in the closed list below)	15	Optional
Part Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN028H7	Corporate Governance	15	Compulsory
7	SSPO235H7	Governing Public Services	15	Compulsory
7	SSPO236H7	The Political Economy of the Public Sector	15	Compulsory
7		Option module – from closed list, see below	15	Optional
7		Option module – free choice from any postgraduate modules in the Department of Management (including those in the closed list below)	15	Optional

Year of entry: 2022/23

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	MOMN011H7	Research Methods in Management (Postgraduate)	15	Compulsory
7	LALW064S7	Perspectives on Political Economy	30	Compulsory
7	BUMN061D7	MSc Dissertation	60	Core
Indicative list of modules for closed options:				
7	BUMN114H7	Environmental Economics	15	Optional
7	BUMN069H7	Institutions, Governance and Development	15	Optional
7	BUMN173H7	Legal Perspectives on Governance	15	Optional
7	MOMN008H7	The Dynamics of Global Capitalism: Theory and Practice	15	Optional

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	Programme Director	Sue Konzelmann
²¹	Start Date (term/year)	October 2020
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Autumn 2019
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Autumn 2019
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	February 2022 (for 2022/3)