

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 year FT and 2 years PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	✓	PT	✓	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>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.</p>

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

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Students taking this programme will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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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. Assessment on core taught modules will consist of EITHER an essay OR an open-book exam worth 90% of the final mark, and a 10% seminar participation mark.

18	Programme Description
	Students take four core modules – The Rise of the Modern Food System, The Politics of the Global Food System, the Political Sociology of the Modern State and Contemporary Political Sociology– and four options (all 15 credits), as well as writing a 60 credit dissertation. Full-time students take all eight taught modules in terms 1 to 3 and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take two core modules and two options 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	SSPO233H7	The Rise of the Modern Food System	15	Core
7	SSPO234H7	The Politics of the Global Food System	15	Core
7	SPPO221H7	The Political Sociology of the Modern State	15	Core
7	SSPO222H7	Contemporary Political Sociology	15	Core
7		Option modules (4 x 15 credits)	60	Options
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core
Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO233H7	The Rise of the Modern Food System	15	Core
7	SSPO234H7	The Politics of the Global Food System	15	Core
7		Option modules (2 x 15 credits)	30	Options

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SPPO221H7	The Political Sociology of the Modern State	15	Core
7	SSPO222H7	Contemporary Political Sociology	15	Core
7		Option modules (2 x 15 credits)	30	Options
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core
Indicative list of options				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO250H7	Fragmentation and Integration in Global Politics	30	Option
7	SSPO251H7	Flashpoints in Global Security	30	Option
7	SSPO223H7	Reading Classic Texts Today	30	Option
7	SPO224H7	Political Theory and Contemporary Politics	30	Option
7	SSPO237H7	Theories of Public Policy-Making: Interests, Institutions and Ideas	30	Option
7	SSPO238H7	The Puzzles of Policy: Policy in Politics and Practice	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	Programme Director	Dr Jason Edwards
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2019
²²	Date approved by Education Committee	March 2019
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2019
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	September 2022