

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 Diploma, PG Certificate
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year FY, 2 years PT
9	Mode of Study	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
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>The programme has links with interdisciplinary initiatives within SSHP to build on overlapping interests within the School in the area of environmental studies</p> <p>Distinctive Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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15	Entry Criteria
	<p>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).</p>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	<p>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 on core modules for MSc programmes in the Politics department consisting of either an essay or an open-book exam worth 90% of the final mark, and a 10% seminar participation mark.</p>

18	Programme Description
	Students take four core modules and four options (all 15 credits) and write a 60 credit dissertation. This is the standard structure for Politics masters programmes. Full-time students take all taught modules Oct-July and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take four modules each year (two 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	SSPO258H7	The Politics of Population Change I: Youth, Aging and Conflict	15	Core
7	SSPO259H7	The Politics of Population Change II: Migration, Identity and Conflict	15	Core
7	SSPO260H7	Geopolitics of Population and Environment: Crises and Contradictions	15	Core
7	SSPO261H7	Geopolitics of Population and Environment: Futures	15	Core
7		Option module	15	Option
7		Option module	15	Option
7		Option module	15	Option
7		Option module	15	Option
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation MSc Politics	60	Core
Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO258H7	The Politics of Population Change I: Youth, Aging and Conflict	15	Core
7	SSPO260H7	Geopolitics of Population and Environment: Crises and Contradictions	15	Core
7		Option module	15	Option
7		Option module	15	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPO259H7	The Politics of Population Change II: Migration, Identity and Conflict	15	Core
7	SSPO261H7	Geopolitics of Population and Environment: Futures	15	Core
7		Option module	15	Option
7		Option module	15	Option
7	SSPO128D7	Dissertation - Politics of Population, Migration and Ecology	60	Core

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

Year of entry: 2022/23

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	Eric Kaufmann
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	October 2014
²²	Date approved by TQEC/EC	Spring 2013
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2013
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2022