**Programme Specification**

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| *1* | **Awarding body** | University of London | | | | | |
| *2* | **Teaching Institution** | **Birkbeck College** | | | | | |
| *3* | **Programme Title(s)** | **MSc Politics** | | | | | |
| *4* | **Programme Code(s)** | TMSPOLTC_C | | | | | |
| *5* | **UCAS code (if applicable)** | N/A | | | | | |
| *6* | **Home Department** | Politics | | | | | |
| *7* | **Exit Award(s)** | PG Cert, PG Dip, MSc | | | | | |
| *8* | **Duration of Study (number of years)** | 1 year FT, 2 years PT | | | | | |
| *9* | **Mode of Study** | FT | x | PT | x | 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* | **QAA Benchmark Statement** | N/A | | | | | |

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| *14* | **Programme Rationale & Aims** |
| | This proposal establishes a general umbrella programme, MSc Politics, which allows students to pick and choose from the wide range of modules offered from the department's existing specialist programmes in Politics. The general degree offers a higher level of flexibility for students than the specialist degrees and is potentially more suitable for students who are not certain about their preferred specialism or are interested in subjects across several specialisms. |

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| *15* | **Entry Criteria** |
| | Honours degree at 2.2 or better |

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| *16* | **Learning Outcomes** |
| | <ul><li>Familiarity with a broad range of theoretical approaches in politics and the ways they are brought to bear on current political issues;</li><li>Understanding of major lines of contestation and critique within politics, and how these relate to political debates in the wider world;</li><li>An advanced knowledge of contemporary research in politics, including engagement with the research done by members of the teaching staff through their research-led teaching;</li><li>An understanding of the main approaches to research design in politics, the issues they present and their implications for doing political research;</li><li>Enhancement of generic intellectual skills, particularly relating to clear and persuasive communication of ideas, and engagement with political arguments.</li></ul> |

| 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. Depending on the module, students submit essays, research projects, take-home exams and unseen exams, and also take quizzes, participate in online forums and maintain seminar logs during the teaching period. |

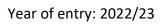| 18 | **Programme Description** |
|----|---------------------------|
|    | This general programme is ideal for students with wide-ranging interests in contemporary politics. It provides a foundation in political analysis, based on political sociology, along with opportunities to develop and apply theoretical insights to a wide range of current issues. Drawing on the long history of cross-disciplinary collaboration in politics at Birkbeck, the degree provides sociological, geographical and historical lenses on political thought and action. |
|    | Students take 30 credits of compulsory modules, choose a further 60 credits from a defined list, and have a free choice for the remaining 30 credits of taught modules. They write a 60 credit dissertation. |

| 19 | **Programme Structure** |
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**Full-Time programme – 1 year**

**Year 1**

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| 7 | SPPO221H7 | Political Sociology of the Modern State | 15 | Core |
| 7 | SSPO222H7 | Contemporary Political Sociology | 15 | Core |
|   |           | Options to the value of 60 credits from list below | 60 | Options |
|   |           | Free choice option(s) from Politics or related areas | 30 | |
| 7 | SSPO244D7 | Dissertation | 60 | Core |

**Part Time programme – 2 years**

**Year 1**

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| 7 | SPPO221H7 | Political Sociology of the Modern State | 15 | Core |
| 7 | SSPO222H7 | Contemporary Political Sociology | 15 | Core |
| 7 |           | 15 or 30 credits from the list of options below | 15/30 | Option |
| 7 |           | 0 or 15 'open' credits | 0/15 | Option |

### Year 2

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| 7 | | 30 or 45 credits from the list of options above | 30/45 | Option |
| 7 | | 15 or 30 'open' option credits | 15/30 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO244D7 | Dissertation | 60 | Core |

### Indicative programme options list

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| 7 | SSPO223H7 | Reading Classic Texts Today | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO224H7 | Political Theory and Contemporary Politics | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO225H7 | Political Communication | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO226H7 | Digital Technology in Governance and Politics | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO227H7 | British Politics: Participation, Representation and Deliberation | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO228H7 | Divided Power in British Politics | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO229H7 | Nationalism and Ethnic Politics | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO230H7 | Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO231H7 | The Political System of the European Union | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO232H7 | The European Union: Policy Modes | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO233H7 | The Rise of the Modern Food System | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO234H7 | The Politics of the Global Food System | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO235H7 | Governing Public Services | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO236H7 | The Political Economy of the Public Sector | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO237H7 | Theories of Public Policy-Making | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO238H7 | The Puzzles of Policy: Policy in Politics and Practice | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO239H7 | Introduction to Quantitative Social Research | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO240H7 | Intermediate Quantitative Social Research | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO241H7 | Advanced Quantitative social research | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO242H7 | Qualitative Social Research Methods | 15 | Option |
| 7 | SSPO243H7 | Qualitative research design | 15 | 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*

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| [20] | **Programme Director** | Prof Deborah Mabbett |
| [21] | **Start Date** (term/year) | October 2022 |
| [22] | **Date approved by Education Committee** | Spring 2022 |
| [23] | **Date approved by Academic Board** | Spring 2022 |
| [24] | **Date(s) updated/amended** | March 2022 |