Advice on Study Choices: **Master’s Information Session**

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Acting on your feedback

- The student voice is incredibly important
- In your feedback you have asked for advice on study choices
- Online study choices guide
- Now running this session for all of you
Overview

• Why undertake postgraduate study?

• The PAIS MA Programme

• Tips for a Strong MA Application

  PAIS double MAs

• Q & A discussion
From BA to MA ...

- "Read - Taught"
- Three years - broad
- Student & Staff-Led components

- Read -Taught
- Independent - Active learning
- One Year - Specialized
- Structured Independent Research

- Highest level of education
- Independent Research
- Three year specialized
Why do postgraduate study?

• Added value – enhancing your CV
  – A Masters degree may be an advantage in the jobs market given the large and increasing number of 2i honours undergraduates competing for positions. Better qualified without being over-qualified, further development of ‘soft’ skills
  – MA specialism can lead to specific career openings in business, public organisations, think tanks etc. at international as well as national level
  – Will a Master’s get you a job blog post

• ‘conversion’ for professional purposes
  – Law, teaching, librarianship and information management, careers guidance, social work, business & management
  – For specific advice on the qualifications needed for particular careers please speak to careers
Why do postgraduate study? (2)

• To explore new areas of academic study... or to specialize in areas that you want to cover in more depth

• As a route into further academic study (PhD)
  – PAIS admits 30+ new doctoral candidates each year, of whom 25-30% tends to have done their MA in PAIS.
MA Focus:
Enhance Skills

- Research skills
- Hard applied knowledge
- Problem solving
- Analytical ability and logical thinking
- A flexible and adaptable approach to learning
- Intellectual capacity, logical and analytical thinking
- Critical evaluation
- The ability to work to deadlines and time management
- Creativity
- Team-working
- Self-organization
- Motivation, enthusiasm and drive
- Interpersonal and Communication skills
- Negotiation
- Project Design and Management
Things to consider

• Where do you want to study?
• Where can you find out information about postgraduate programmes?
  – Common question – what’s the difference between an MA and a MSC (or even a Mphil or a MLitt?)
• Application deadlines
Things to consider (2)

• Funding and finances
  – Prospects Funding Guide
  – Postgraduate Search
  – Government loan scheme
# Masters Loans - At a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Student loans for full-time, part-time and distance learning Masters degrees in all subjects (taught or research).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong></td>
<td>Up to £10,609.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
<td>UK nationals resident in England. EU nationals resident in the EU, EEA or Switzerland.</td>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Any UK university.</td>
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<td><strong>Repayment</strong></td>
<td>6% of annual income over £21,000. Interest at RPI+3%.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
<td><strong>Now open</strong> for 2018-19 courses.</td>
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PAIS MAs

- Political and Legal Theory
- Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- US Foreign Policy
- International Development
- Public Policy
- International Politics and Europe
- International Politics and East Asia
- International Security
- International Political Economy
- International Relations
These are VERY competitive programmes that are internationally recognized and much sought after.

- But a Fees reduction for current Warwick Students (usually £1000).
What's different about research in PAIS?

50+ Academic Staff (and growing)

Conceptual, theoretical and methodological pluralism

Conceptual & policy-relevant research; Emphasis on problem-oriented research

International Networks - Global in Scale
RESEARCH IN PAIS:
Research Excellence Framework

Political Studies Association analysis:

“In general, the ‘big five’ departments at Essex, the LSE, Oxford, UCL and Warwick come out top from REF2014, whatever ranking system is used.”

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

World Ranking 2017: 44
PAIS reputation

- 1st in the Times/Sunday Times
- No 1 research environment (REF)
- Warwick Top 3 target for Graduate recruiters (The Graduate Market in 2018, by High Flyer Research)
Funding for our MAs

- Funding opportunities outlined here
- These include Warwick Taught Masters scholarships (TBC) and PAIS MA scholarships, deadline 26th April 2019
- £1000 fee waiver for Warwick graduates who receive a 2.1
MA Differs from Undergraduate Experience in PAIS

- A ‘step-up’ – content and expectation of independent study

- Three modules plus extended research dissertation and dissertation conference.

- No lectures but a variety of approaches.

- International cohort (30+ nationalities) from variety of academic and professional backgrounds a source of riches.

- Supporting programme of dedicated workshops to enhance skills for academic, personal and professional development.
Tips for a strong MA application

• Read up on the course

• Know the entry requirements (& deadlines)

• Gather your application materials
  ➢ Transcript (HEAR)
  ➢ Statement of purpose
  ➢ References

• Submit the application, including documents
To access your HEAR you will first need to register with GradIntel - you should, at some point, have received an email about the registration process. For queries about HEAR registration you can contact the Examinations Office at AOTranscripts@warwick.ac.uk.
Academic references

Who to ask
• Recent module/personal tutor
• Someone you have a positive relationship with
• PAIS references guide
• Predicted grades?

Communication
• Why, where, and when you’re applying
• Individual institution reference processes
The statement of purpose

• Keep it concise, relevant, and interesting

• Points to address:
  ➢ Why *this* course at *this* university?
  ➢ How have you prepared for the course?
    (especially if you’re grades are in the 2:2 range)
  ➢ How does it fit in your wider plans/aspirations?

• Pay attention to detail
PAIS DOUBLE MASTERS

- School of Journalism, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC, USA
- Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo, Canada
- Department of Political and Social Sciences, Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain
- School of Politics and Public Administration, Konstanz University, Germany
- S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU Singapore
All 5 programmes follow a similar structure

• **At PAIS in Year One:**
  – Taught component of any of the PAIS MA Programmes
  – Summer term – Dissertation workshops; Initial meetings with PAIS supervisor; provisional title; MA Conference

• **At partner institution in Year Two:**
  – Taught component of the partner institution MA Programme
  – Dissertation – jointly supervised – first supervisor at partner; second supervisor in PAIS
  – 15,000 words rather than 10,000
  – Jointly marked – agreed single mark at both institutions

• **Pass both programmes – gain a Masters from each institution**
Why do a Double Masters?

• Makes you more competitive for what comes next – job or PhD
• Gives you an international experience
• Shows you can succeed in two different countries and two different educational systems
• Enables you to broaden your academic experience
• Internship opportunities
A good source of reference on whether to undertake further study (with advice on personal statements too)
Study with us MA Pages

MA Study 2019/20

MA Programmes
- Political and Legal Theory
- Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- US Foreign Policy
- International Development
- Public Policy
- International Politics & Europe
- International Politics & East Asia
- International Security
- International Political Economy
- International Relations

Ten single and six double Masters - which will you choose?

We are one of the largest and most highly regarded departments of our kind in the UK. In 2014, we were named as one of the UK’s ‘Big Five’ politics departments by the Political Studies Association, due to our global reputation for research excellence and our dedication to teaching and learning.

Globally, as a department, we rank 42nd among all politics and international studies departments in the world, according to the QS World University Rankings 2018. Nationally, we are placed 3rd in the UK by the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 for the third year running, 3rd by The Guardian University Guide 2018, and 4th by The Complete University Guide 2018.

In the UK Research Excellence Framework exercise in 2014 (REF2014), we were ranked number one for ‘research environment’ and fourth out of all UK based departments for ‘research power’ and ‘research intensity’. Of the research published by our staff in books and journal articles over a six year period from 2008, 80% was assessed as being ‘world class’ or ‘internationally excellent’. All of this is significant for you because it means that our ‘research-led’ postgraduate teaching is underpinned by the latest, internationally...
Further queries

Oz Hassan

You can find his advice and feedback hours on his webpage

MA programme directors
Why choose PAIS?

The department of Politics and International Studies is a dynamic, intellectually stimulating environment where students from across the globe come together with cutting-edge academic researchers to study, collaborate, and exchange ideas. The range of expertise represented in our 50+ academics is reflected in the wide range of degree programmes and optional modules, allowing you to personalise your degree according to your interests and career goals.

Questions....?