



# Double MA Europe and the World



Delivered by Aston University, UK, and Sciences Po Lille, France.

## Entry Requirements:

2:1 degree in Social Science, Language or a related subject. Other degrees might be suitable depending on personal statement and motivation. Working knowledge of French language (CEFR B2).

Contact us for more information:

Postgraduate Admissions Team  
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## Overview

This innovative, 2-year masters programme taught in Birmingham and in Lille offers you an internationally-oriented understanding of European and international affairs.

You will benefit from a multicultural teaching environment, spending your first year at Aston University and second year at Sciences Po Lille, France. The second semester of Year 2 consists of an internship.

## Three simple reasons to study Europe and the World at Aston

### Develop skills in critical analysis

Explore contemporary European integration and international relations, in both English and French language.

### Further your practical skills

Develop an applied understanding of international, European, national issues through an internship in the second year of study.

### World class research environment

Aston is ranked 3rd in the UK for Area Studies research (REF 2014). This research informs all of our teaching.

# Course content

The following module descriptions are indications only - the modules on offer and the content of the modules is subject to change.

## Core modules:

### Rethinking European Integration

This module provides students with a rounded understanding of European integration and the current state of the EU, equipping them with the analytical tools to consider why the EU functions as it currently does, whether the EU is sufficiently democratic, the politics behind EU law-making, and controversies over various key policies (the Euro, migration, foreign relations). Hence the module provides the platform for students to become informed and advanced participants in the broader discussion of the challenges and changes facing European integration.

### EU as a Global Actor

This module focuses on the process of European Political and Economic Cooperation up to the present day and beyond; particularly, Europe's growing role as an international actor. Within this framework, issues looked at will include the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy and its role as mediator in international conflicts such as the Gulf War, Middle East, and the former Yugoslavia, with a particular emphasis on the war on terrorism, Iraq, and intelligence co-operation, as well as the Union's positioning vis-à-vis the United States, particularly since the latest EU enlargement.

## Optional modules (indicative):

### Leaders and Leadership in a European and Global Context

This course aims to enable students to acquire familiarity with main areas and problems of leadership studies in political science, and with key concepts used in the analysis of political institutions and leadership. This knowledge forms the conceptual, methodological and analytical basis for many of the political and politics-related issues to be studied by MA students. This course aims to enable students to acquire familiarity with main areas and problems of the study of political leaders and leadership, and with key concepts used in their analysis.

### Religion and Politics

This module provides a detailed overview of the most important aspects of religious and political development in Europe from 1945 until today. It includes a detailed empirical account of the following main themes of research: theoretical approaches to religion and politics; the historical trajectory of religion and politics after 1945; an overview of Huntington's theory of the conflict of civilisations; European secularism and fundamentalism; Christianity and politics; models of church-state relations; Islam and politics; religion and politics in the construction of the European Union; and religion and

### International Political Communication

This module provides students with a thorough knowledge of the theoretical foundations of political communication in contemporary democracies. It examines various aspects of government information policy and the relationship between government, the media and the public, exploring the political content of the mass media. It assesses the relationship between media, political actors and the public, and considers the extent to which mediated activity has influenced politics and the distribution of power.

### Critical Approaches to Security Studies

This module considers key questions in post-Cold War international security. It starts by considering the scope and evolution of Security Studies, and introducing students to key approaches to security, including realism, liberalism and constructivism. Subsequently, students will have the opportunity to examine key concerns of global security by considering issues such as the pattern of global conflict, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, energy security, piracy and the defence trade. We will also consider the changing role of key security actors, such as the UN and NATO.

### International Political Economy

This module focuses on a specific sub-discipline of International Relations, International Political Economy (IPE), which looks at the study of interactions between the global economy and politics, and questions of power and wealth in the international system. Why do we live in a world characterised by inequality? What factors drive regulation in international trade? What shapes the relationship between states and multinational corporations? How do international organizations regulate the global economy, and how do these serve state interests? These are just some examples of the questions addressed by IPE. The module will allow students to engage with IPE by reading and debating key classic and contemporary texts in the field and developing their own interpretations of these.

### EU Law and Policy-Making

This module examines how economic policy-making is conducted at EU level on the basis of the legal instruments adopted since the inception of the integration process through to the most recent treaty developments.

### Negotiation skills through simulation games

The module is aimed at training students in negotiation techniques through the usage of simulation games. The module has general and specific objectives. At the general level, it aims to provide students with key skills in international negotiations. It also aims at providing students with a greater practical knowledge of multilateral negotiation environments as European Union and United Nations. The last general objective is to allow students to experience negotiation processes through a series of real feel simulations, which will underline the challenges associated with international decision-making. At the specific level, the proposed module wishes to prepare students for EuroSim, the largest and longest running EU simulation in the world and/or Model United Nations.

## Career prospects

All of our MA Programmes equip students with the knowledge and analytical and transferable skills to pursue further postgraduate research or a successful career in the public and private sector. The careers pursued by our students vary greatly, but typical careers include:

- employment in international organisations (EU, WTO, UN etc.),
- research in policy-oriented domestic or international think tanks,
- careers in government administration,
- further postgraduate research at PhD level,
- journalism,
- international marketing or business.



## Marion Greziller

Double MA Europe and the World

*I chose this programme because Aston offered a dual programme with Sciences Po Lille that combined European perspectives with international relations. After my undergrad focused on the EU internally I wanted to explore the EU's external relations and get a broader overview of international relations.*

*My lecturers were excellent academically and they were always available for guidance and help. The small size of the department meant everyone knew everyone, in a very friendly atmosphere.*

*Aston has given me an introduction to the world of research and academia and the tools to pursue a PhD.*