# Master of Research

## POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2016 ~ Year 1

**BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

The Master of Research is a two-year program and is the main pathway to Macquarie’s Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programs. In **Year 1** (BPhil) you will undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in your area of study. **Year 2** (MRes) is a masters-level postgraduate research training program. You will specialise in research preparation and focus on a specific research topic, and will be required to submit a research thesis of 20,000 words.

## YEAR 1

### Session 1 Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory Faculty Unit</th>
<th>FOAR701 Research Paradigms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This unit provides a broad overview of the research paradigms that characterise the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. <strong>Through FOAR701:</strong></td>
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<td>- The Faculty of Arts seeks to provide students with a constructive framework to recognise the possible contribution of diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches.</td>
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<td>- Students will learn to better recognise the assumptions that underpin diverse approaches, their strengths, and their relations to each other, especially to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas.</td>
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<td>- Students will have a strong grasp of the intellectual terrain across Arts disciplines, having become familiar with some of the core paradigms that have persisted in our fields, including through multiple variants over time.</td>
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**PLUS**

3 x Disciplinary and/or Transdisciplinary Units

## YEAR 1

### Session 2 Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory Unit</th>
<th>MRES700 Research Communications</th>
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<td>This unit aims to enable students to:</td>
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<td>- communicate research effectively in different modes for different audiences;</td>
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<td>- understand what it means to conduct and report responsibly in their discipline;</td>
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<td>- participate in academic peer review practices; and</td>
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<td>- appreciate the uses and relative merits of traditional and contemporary research communication practices.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory Faculty Unit</th>
<th>FOAR700 Research Frontiers 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This unit is delivered by departments and provides an opportunity for students to engage with leading edge research in their discipline. Students will acquire advanced disciplinary knowledge, know about how research is carried out in a disciplinary area and will demonstrate competence in the application of research skills to the disciplinary area.</td>
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**PLUS**

2 x Disciplinary and/or Transdisciplinary Units
### SESSION 1

**POIR 702 Theories of International Relations (Co-badged with IRPG841)**

This unit provides students with a grounding in the principle theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and world order. Beginning with a focus on the historical emergence of traditional approaches such as realism, liberalism and Marxism and their competing perspectives on the causes of war and the conditions for peace, the unit goes on to consider more recent approaches, including gender approaches, critical theory, constructivism, post-colonialism, postmodernism and green theory.

Session 1 – Day  
Prof Stephanie Lawson  
W6A–434  
stephanie.lawson@mq.edu.au

**POIR703 Public Policy: Theories and Practice (Co-badged with POL820)**

This unit provides an introduction to the Australian and international policy context, with a critical analysis of the role and influence of key institutions and actors. The unit evaluates current debates and controversies, including issues around reform and changes to the policy environment. The unit explores recent developments in the literature of policy studies, in Australia and internationally, and examines a range of theories of the policy process, including the "policy cycle" of formulation, implementation and evaluation.

Session 1 – Day  
A/Prof Geoffrey Hawker  
W6A–428  
Geoffrey.Hawker@mq.edu.au

**POIR 705 (Co-badged with POIR901 Research Methods in Politics and International Relations)**

This unit examines general aspects of academic research including purpose/aims, questions and 'problems', organisation and design, the philosophy of science and associated debates, as well as specific methods and materials applied to pursue a research project including archives, interviews, surveys, quantitative, and discourse analysis.

Session 1 – Day  
Session 1 – Evening  
Session 1 – External  
Politics & International Relations staff  
Dr Lloyd Cox  
W6A–423  
lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au

### SESSION 2

**POIR700 Advanced Studies in International Relations (Co-badged with IRPG831)**

Even in a world said to be globalising, inter- and intra-state relations remain central to an understanding of political and policy outcomes. The political drivers of foreign policy are unique to each polity but bilateral and multi-lateral relations develop, in ways both positive and negative, through historical experience. This unit considers key, current issues in world politics in an empirical frame of reference that varies from semester to semester but always through issue-oriented and analytical perspectives.

Session 2 – Day  
Politics & International Relations staff  
Dr Lloyd Cox  
W6A–423  
lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au

**POIR701 Advanced Studies in Politics (Co-badged with POL825)**

This unit examines the politics of health policy, introducing the institutions and actors engaged in global and domestic health governance, and examining the impact of power and inequality on health policy formulation and health outcomes. It explores a range of current issues in health policy, including the securitisation of health, the prevention, treatment and management of chronic and communicable diseases, the social determinants of health, and public health intervention. The unit provides a comparative understanding of health issues using case studies from Australia and around the world.

Session 2 – Evening  
Session 2 – External  
Politics & International Relations staff  
Dr Lloyd Cox  
W6A–423  
lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au

**POIR 704 Global Political Economy (Co-badged with IRPG849)**

This is one of two shell units designed to permit candidates to choose two units from either: 1. a POIR specialisation in subfields of (for example) political theory, politics of gender, Mid East politics; or 2. selected units from relevant Faculty of Arts units as determined for the MRes.

Session 2 – Day  
Dr Noah Bassil  
W6A–426  
noah.bassil@mq.edu.au