

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

## 1. Key Information

<b>Programme Title:</b>	MSc Migration Studies: Policy and Practice
<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	Buckinghamshire New University
<b>Teaching Institution(s):</b>	Buckinghamshire New University
<b>Subject Cluster:</b>	Social Science
<b>Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):</b>	MSc Migration Studies: Policy and Practice
<b>Pathways (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>FHEQ level of final award:</b>	7
<b>Other award titles available (exit qualifications):</b>	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
<b>Accreditation details:</b>	N/A
<b>Length of programme:</b>	1-year Full Time 2 years Part time
<b>Mode(s) of Study:</b>	Full Time Part Time
<b>Mode of Delivery:</b>	Distance learning
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s):</b>	Criminology (2022) Politics and International Relations (2019) * Sociology (2019) * Law (2019) *  *Consulted with reference to QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (2020)
<b>Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):</b>	
<b>Course Code(s):</b>	MSMSPPDF / MSMSPPDP
<b>UCAS Code(s):</b>	
<b>Approval date:</b>	01/12/22
<b>Date of last update:</b>	September 2024

## 2. Programme Summary

The MSc Migration Studies: Policy and Practice programme provides students with postgraduate learning in the multi-dimensional reality of migration. This MSc enables students to develop a systematic understanding of causes and modalities of various types of

international migration, attending to both the well documented increase in international migrants and the complexity of patterns of international migration. The effectiveness of policy and governance at national, global and local levels on migration journeys and the well-being outcomes of migrant and affected non-migrant populations, are examined closely. As such, the programme follows the UN General Assembly in recognising the “positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth” in sending and receiving societies, and recognises the responsibility of policymakers “to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people” called for within the UN Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>1</sup> The MSc in Migration Studies also provides students with professional knowledge and skill sets relevant to working with migrant populations and agencies engaged with them.

### 3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

#### Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Provide a critical awareness and systematic understanding of the current knowledge, theory and evidence-based practice relevant to the field of migration studies
2. Develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques and research methods applicable to research or advanced scholarship on international migration and migrants
3. Build knowledge of self-reflection, professional responsibility, integrity and ethics in relation to social diversity and working with migrants
4. Offer learners opportunities to develop skills and capabilities relevant to professional practice and policymaking relating to migration and migrants
5. Develop communication skills in preparation for the dissemination of work to a wide range of written and oral formats

#### Programme Learning Outcomes

##### Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Communicate an awareness of contemporary trends, issues and debates in international migration and human mobility.
K2	Establish a systematic understanding of causes, modalities and consequences of various types of international migration.
K3	Recognise the lived experiences of migrants in society, the social construction of their identities, and their agency.
K4	Demonstrate systematic and critical understanding of processes through which policies impacting migrant and minority/diasporic communities are formulated, implemented, developed and evaluated.

##### Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
----	------------------

<b>C1</b>	Differentiate theories and methodologies that inform research on issues relating to international migration, and their application in examples of current scholarship and enquiry.
<b>C2</b>	Analyse migration policy formulation/interventions whilst demonstrating an awareness of the wider policy and political context at local, national and supranational level which impact decision making processes.
<b>C3</b>	Investigate ethical perspectives on issues relating to various types of international migration, migrant incorporation and identities in receiving societies.

### Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

<b>ID</b>	<b>Learning Outcome</b>
<b>P1</b>	Employ established techniques of research and enquiry to analyse issues relating to international migration.
<b>P2</b>	Apply practical understanding and insight in using appropriate scholarly knowledge and methods of enquiry to pose policy solutions to challenges relating to migrant experiences in society.
<b>P3</b>	Identify, understand, evaluate relevant theory and apply this to real world issues around migration experiences.
<b>P4</b>	Develop and demonstrate oral and written communication skills.
<b>P5</b>	Conduct an ethical, empathetic, empowering, human rights-aware, solution-focused approach with people who are forced to migrate and seek refuge.

### Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

<b>ID</b>	<b>Learning Outcome</b>
<b>T1</b>	Communicate the implications and practical applications of research.
<b>T2</b>	Determine the ability to work independently and to manage the learning journey.
<b>T3</b>	Demonstrate the ability to work in a collegial way through group work.
<b>T4</b>	Develop the ability to devise and sustain arguments and to devise innovative solutions to problems using a breadth of inventiveness, ideas and techniques.

### Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through the examination of theories and concepts in migration studies (K1-4, AC1-3) which are applied and tested through our rigorous research methods training (K2, AP1-3). Social and ethical awareness are central to the discipline of migration studies and learners on this programme will develop this awareness and understanding across the curriculum (AP4, AC3, T3). The attribute of creativity will be developed through the consideration of key migration problems and solutions to such problems (T3-4, AP5) as well as within the design of learners' independent

post-graduate research projects (T1, T4, AC1, AP1-2). Leadership and self-development will be nurtured in this programme through the growth of skills of self-reflection, group work, communication skills and learning journey management skills (T1-3, AP5).

#### 4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

- Undergraduate degree 2:2 or above in subjects that may include Sociology, Politics and International Relations, Geography, Criminology, or Anthropology; relevant professional experience also considered.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

## 5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course [add further tables for each additional pathway]

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
<p><b>Level 7</b></p>	<p><b>Core modules:</b>                      SOC7008 Migration Studies: Issues &amp; Perspectives (20 credits)                      PSY7008 Applied Research Methods (20 credits)                      SOC7010 Migration Policy and Governance (20 credits)                      SOC7015 Postgraduate Migration Dissertation (60 credits)</p> <p><b>Option modules:</b>                      Choose modules to the total of 60 credits:</p> <p>SOC7013 Case Studies: Working with Communities (20 credits)                      SOC7014 Refugee Studies (20 credits)                      SOC7011 International Human Rights (20 credits)                      PSY7019 Vulnerable Groups in Forensic Settings (20 credits)                      PSY7004 The Psychology of Hope and Resilience (20 credits)</p>	<p><b>Postgraduate Certificate</b>, awarded on achievement of 60 credits.</p> <p><b>Postgraduate Diploma</b>, awarded on achievement of 120 credits.</p> <p><b>Master's degree</b>, awarded on achievement of 180 credits.</p>

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

## 6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Learning and teaching

The programme will be delivered via 'flexible and distributed learning' (FDL), which is defined by the QAA as education via means that do not require the student to attend specific weekly classes at a specific location, thus, covering terms such as 'blended learning' and 'distance learning'. Learning and teaching processes will be offered through Blackboard™ (Bb), the University's Virtual Learning Environment.

Teaching methods utilised will include online lectures, online classroom-based activities (utilising Blackboard Collaborate), independent learning methods, practical online based sessions (including role-playing and simulation).

- **Online lectures** enable dissemination of knowledge to large numbers of students. They typically provide structure to the topic area in order to facilitate understanding and inspire students to think critically about the issues, promoting further independent learning.
- **Online seminars and discussion boards (BB Collaborate)** will provide a forum in which students can engage with the subject, clarify issues and begin to discuss the subject matter critically drawing on various pre-set activities.

Students will be expected to prepare in advance for each week's topic, and be involved in the learning process, demonstrating their independent learning and critical evaluation skills.

- **Student presentations** will also encourage students to critically examine the application of sociological theory to decision making and/or behaviour. Students are encouraged to work as a group to coordinate presentations to a professional standard.
- **Online Workshop** activities can include the practical use of the statistics software package SPSS, which is used by social scientists for the analysis and presentation of quantitative data. Students will be able to follow along with demonstrations, as well as live screen mirroring exercises wherein they will develop their data analysis and evaluation skills to an advanced level. In addition, other workshops can incorporate simulations, crossexaminations (e.g. vivas), debates etc.

The University has a **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** called 'Blackboard', which is a digitally based platform that offers an abundance of supportive features used by lecturers teaching on this programme. Additional resources beyond lecture and activity materials will be available here in the forms of:

- *Peer support* – facilitated through the use of the discussion board facility
- *Self-assessment* – quizzes
- Notices – maintains communication between lecturer and students between teaching sessions.
- *Resources page* – on-line links to good academic articles of relevance to the module
- *E-Journals* – students registered on Blackboard have the ability to access full-text ejournals that the library subscribes to from anywhere that they have Internet access.

- *Course documents* – such as; lecture handouts, seminar activities, module guides, seminar readings, assessment guidelines, reading list etc.

## Assessment

Summative assessments are designed to test the achievement of the learning outcomes. Some modules include formative assessments. Whilst these do not give marks towards the final module grade, they offer students a valuable learning resource by way of feedback from the tutors, which can offer direction for improved performance on the summative assignments.

A range of summative assessment methods may be employed on this course, including:

- **Time-constrained assignment** will enable the students to demonstrate the breadth of knowledge gained on a module. It will familiarise the students with examination style questions with which they will be confronted, either in the same module or subsequent modules.
- **Poster presentation** will enable the students to demonstrate the skills to present a complex piece of research in a brief, concise and visual format. Students may be required to work independently or in groups to coordinate a presentation to a professional standard.
- **Oral Presentations** will permit students to demonstrate their knowledge through effective communication skills, and to demonstrate sensitivity to contextual and interpersonal factors.
- **Examinations** will allow the students to demonstrate their ability to synthesise a plethora of theoretical, empirical and applied literature in their examination answers. It will examine their capacity for independent thought, and ability to analyse and evaluate the information they are presenting in an original manner. Most examinations are unseen; however, some modules utilise a 'seen' examination, where the questions are released to the students two weeks prior to the examination date. These foster a higher level of analysis and evaluation than is possible in an unseen situation.
- **Essays** will provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate in-depth understanding of a particular aspect of their learning. It will encourage them to engage in conducting a systematic literature review and provide the opportunity for them to demonstrate their capacity to critically analyse, synthesis and evaluate the principles, processes and debates inherent in the material, and to present a rational, coherent, information-based argument.
- **Research Reports** will be required in some modules. It will enable students to demonstrate their ability to: define a research problem, critically review relevant academic literature, formulate relevant hypotheses, operationalise variables and design a study, analyse and interpret the forthcoming data, to discuss the findings in relation to the literature, evaluate the contribution of the study to the knowledge area, and write the report in a formal style.
- **Professional Style Reports** will be required for some modules, allowing students to develop highly useful transferable skills. Examples of these include policy reports, court reports, expert witness reports and risk assessment/management reports, all important aspects of required within day-today working.
- **Reflective Accounts** will incorporate into some modules. Such assessments will ensure students maintain a high level of self-awareness throughout the degree, and

actively engaging in ethical practice throughout, as per the Health and Care Professions Council’s Guidance on Conduct & Ethics for Students. Students will be required to reflect on aspects of their studies including their own position established as part role-playing, simulation exercises or group presentations.

- **Empirical Dissertation** represents a major piece of independent research activity within the field of migration chosen by the student This will involve a number of options including collecting original empirical (quantitative or qualitative) data from participants, or equivalent alternatives such as computational modelling of empirical or secondary data analysis, making use of large data sets, or an extended literature review or a performance (or other creative output). It will be undertaken with support from an academic supervisor and with regular meetings throughout the academic year.

## Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or ‘stage’ of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
Full time (Year 1)	288	1512	
Part time (Year 1)	124	476	
Part time (Year 2)	164	1036	

## 7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes (2023)

## 8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support students to be successful with their studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students’ Union, including the Students’ Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

## 9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. Students will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

## 10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

### Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)			Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)			
	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4
a systematic understanding and critical awareness of topics which are informed by the subject of criminology	x															
a critical awareness of the history of ideas, the cultural context, and the social and political theories that inform and influence the practice of criminology		x		x	x		x			x						
a critical awareness of the intersectionality of power in relation to criminal justice agencies and responses to crime, harm, deviance and victimisation			x							x		x				
an ability to identify appropriate					x			x	x							

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)			Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)			
	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4
methodologies for dealing with complex problems and to design their own research project																
an ability to develop critical discussion and analysis of complex concepts, and work independently and with some originality						X					X		X	X		X
an ability to successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review or systematic case study, informed by wide current understandings in the subject.	X			X				X	X				X			X

### Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)			Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
<b>Level 7</b>																		
Demonstrate a critical awareness of contemporary trends, issues and debates in international migration and human mobility that are salient in current research and/or professional practice.	x			x														
Demonstrate a systematic understanding of causes, modalities and challenges of various types of international migration.		x					x											
Demonstrate a critical awareness of the lived experiences of migrants in society, the social construction of their identities, and their agency.			x								x		x					
Employ established techniques of research and enquiry to analyse						x			x									

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)			Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
issues relating to international migration.																		
Critically evaluate ethical perspectives on issues relating to various types of international migration, migrant incorporation and identities in receiving societies.							X	X										
Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of institutions, rules, processes and actors involved in the governance of international migration at national, supra-national and sub-national levels.				X			X											
Demonstrate a systematic understanding of processes through which policies that govern international migration are formulated, implemented, evaluated and revised, and critical awareness of issues and challenges at				X	X		X											

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)			Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
different stages of these processes.																		
Evaluate migration policies and policy options, showing critical awareness of the range of policy approaches and the norms and values that underpin them, including the impact on the lived experience of migrants.					x			x					x					
Critically evaluate current research on migration policy and governance, and concepts, theories, methods and empirical data used to create and interpret knowledge in this field.		x	x															
Show practical understanding and insight in using scholarly knowledge and methods of enquiry to pose policy solutions to challenges relating to international migration.						x	x			x							x	

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)			Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Critically evaluate existing research on a chosen area of international migration studies, and develop a relevant and considered research question or project focus that builds upon previous research or projects.	x								x						x			
Devise, describe, use, and critically evaluate an appropriate methodology that will inform investigation of the chosen research question or project focus.						x				x							x	
Demonstrate a reflective and reflexive awareness of the research process.							x				x				x			
Effectively communicate (in written, verbal or creative performing arts) the implications and practical applications of their research.												x		x		x		

<sup>i</sup> IOM (2017) *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*. ENG0539. Geneva: International Organization for Migration (IOM). Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-2030-agenda> (Accessed: 25 October 2022).