

## Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	<a href="#">MA/Applied Human Rights</a> ; <a href="#">MA/Conflict, Governance, and Development</a> ; <a href="#">MA/International Political Economy</a> ; <a href="#">MA/International Relations</a> ; <a href="#">MA/Political Theory</a> ; <a href="#">MA/Public Administration and Public Policy</a> ; <a href="#">MPA/Public Administration</a> , <a href="#">MPA/Public Administration (International Development)</a> ; <a href="#">MA/Public Policy (Mundus MAPP)</a>
--------------	--

### Summary of Overall Plans

Now is an extraordinary time to be joining the Department of Politics, University of York. Questions about the role of government and the relationship between individual liberty and the collective good confront us on a daily basis. Should we expect a period of crisis to be followed by radical change, or a return to the old order? How can international conflict be avoided? What principles of justice and equality should we seek to protect? We look forward to welcoming you to the Department at the [Start of Term](#), and helping you to develop the skills and knowledge to address such vitally-important issues.

With this in mind, we are writing to let you know our plans for delivering teaching and assessment through 2020-21.

We plan to deliver a high volume of seminar sessions face-to-face throughout 2020-21.

All degree programmes have 'core' modules that must be taken by all members of the programme cohort. Our plan is that, on each programme, there will be at least one core module on which seminars will be entirely classroom based.

Where a programme has two core modules, we plan for all associated seminars to be delivered entirely through classroom-based sessions (the only exception we envisage to this rule are the rare cases in which lecturers are unable to deliver face-to-face teaching on a core module because of their requirement to '[shield](#)'). We have prioritised the delivery of core modules through classroom-based delivery in order to support your engagement with the material that is most closely linked to your chosen area of study.

On remaining modules, our plan is for alternate seminar sessions to be delivered through classroom teaching; one week your seminar session will be face-to-face, and the following week the session will be delivered online. Again, the only exception we envisage to this rule are the rare cases in which lecturers are unable to deliver face-to-face teaching on a module because of their requirement to shield. In these rare cases, a module may be delivered fully-online.

Where a module includes a weekly lecture, our plan is for these sessions to be delivered online. This means that, rather than attending a lecture theatre with all members of your cohort for a timetabled session, you will be able to access a

pre-recorded lecture at a time of your choosing. Lecturers are currently working to create these new resources, which will cover the required material in an effective and accessible format.

We anticipate that some students will be unable to take part in face-to-face teaching during 2020-21. We have made provision to ensure that, where this is the case, all seminar sessions (as well as all lecture materials, accompanying learning resources, and assessments) will be available online.

### Programme Structures

On most MA degree programmes, we do not plan to make changes to the structure of your programme. We have planned to make the following changes only:

MA/Applied Human Rights: We plan to replace the Autumn Term Placement (ordinarily undertaken with a partner human rights organisation in South Africa and York) with a Virtual Placement with partner human rights organisations. The Virtual Placement will allow for equivalent skills and experiences to be gained through remote interaction.

MPA and MPA (International Development): The core module [Managing Public Finance](#) will be replaced by [Public Finance](#), which covers substantively equivalent content. Ordinarily Public Finance is delivered in an online format. We hope to be able to add classroom-based seminar sessions for 2020-21.

### Further changes or information of note

Again, given our efforts to ensure continuity in our teaching and assessment, we have no further changes or information of note to report.