

MA Peace, Conflict and Development Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/peace-conflict-and-development/>

Academic Year:	2025/26
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Target award:	Degree of Master of Arts [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]
Interim awards:	Postgraduate Diploma [FHEQ Level 7]; Postgraduate Certificate [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	September and January
Programme duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time; with internship or placement, 15 months full-time or 27 months part-time

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme monitoring and review processes. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Introduction

The MA in Peace, Conflict and Development will equip students with advanced understanding and skills for work for example in national and local government; global governance institutions; research institutes; international, national and local development agencies; environmental advocacy and policy work; private sector strategy and governance for sustainability; and NGOs.

Students will

- critically develop advanced knowledge and understanding of the inter-relationships between peace, conflict, development, security, and governance in developing, fragile, transitional and/or conflict affected regions and countries.
- critically examine the range of international policy and programming approaches developed to engage with these inter-relationships.
- achieve an advanced understanding of contemporary research, policy and practice on peace-conflict-security-development nexus issues.

Research since the late 1990s has shown that inter-relationships between peace, conflict and development are much more complex and important than many previously realised. For example, development processes and programmes can increase as well as decrease risks of violence and conflict. Poverty alleviation often depends on improvements in security and access to justice, and vice versa. These inter-relationships have become a major area for international, national and local policy and practitioner communities concerned with fragile or insecure regions, countries and localities across the world. These key themes are important across many sectors including sustainable development,

conflict-prevention and peacebuilding; post-conflict recovery; humanitarian aid, environmental protection; natural resource management and good governance.

Why Bradford?

The MA Peace, Conflict and Development is offered by the internationally recognised Division of Peace Studies and International Development, drawing on over 40 years of experience as a leading centre of peace and development research. Indeed, the Division made major contributions to international understanding and policy development relating to the nexus between peace, conflict, security, development and governance. Our teaching is thus highly informed by both research and practice.

Students further benefit from studying at a major international centre for research and engagement with policy and practitioner communities working in the areas of peace, Conflict and Development, providing many opportunities for interested students to participate or observe regular workshops, international conferences, research seminars, and engagements in or near Bradford with relevant NGOs, community organisations, governmental and international agencies, and with UK and other foreign and development agencies and police, military or justice services.

Peace Studies and International Development is a dynamic learning community within a diverse and active Faculty and wider University. We typically arrange numerous events and opportunities beyond the taught modules, fostering engagement with academic, policy and practitioner communities. These include invited speakers, seminars, workshops, activities and conferences, both off and on-campus.

Please note that off-campus learning activities may involve an extra cost, and that during the Covid pandemic some of our usual opportunities may not be available.

Programme Overview

One core focus is on developing understanding and lessons from experience of peace, conflict and development issues relating to (mis-)management and governance of natural resources (such as land, water, forests, coasts, minerals) in developing, fragile or conflict-affected regions. The programme takes a distinctive approach to study, with an emphasis on exploring the connections and relationships between different issues. This integrative, interdisciplinary approach is particularly appropriate and important for understanding the complexities of many contemporary issues concerning "Peace", "Conflict" and "Development". The programme enables students to learn skills for advanced conflict research and analysis; develop advanced understanding of the contexts and conditions of violent conflict at different scales; and investigate the contemporary state of the theoretical and policy literature focused on the nexus between conflict, security and development and associated issues of sustainability and governance – particularly in fragile or conflict affected settings.

The academic modules for the Peace, Conflict and Development MA include a range of innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, to enable students to actively engage with the key concepts and syllabus and to develop not only their academic knowledge and understanding but also their skills and experience for the worlds of policy, practice and employment. Every student will participate in at least two intensive laboratory

workshops or ‘immersion days’ on key cross-cutting thematic issues and these are incorporated into the core modules for the programme.

There are opportunities to take specialist pathways, including thematic specialisms such as those indicated above, and also specialising in selected regions (e.g., Africa, Middle East), with opportunities for selected study visits. This includes the Africa Study Visit to a country recovering from conflict (which can be taken as an assessed element of the programme) or other further voluntary study visits – in the past we have organised trips to Northern Ireland, Hiroshima or to major locations of International Organisations, such as The Hague or Brussels as well as London. Students have also taken part in local field trips (for example, studying climate adaptation measures in communities affected by flooding), and can choose to participate in an extended 'crisis response game'.

Please note that there may be an extra charge to students participating in some of these activities, but there may also be scholarship funding available on application to help with the costs, and that during the Covid pandemic some of our usual opportunities may not be available.

The programme culminates with research and preparation of a substantial Dissertation project on a subject of their choice (relating to the Programme’s aims and learning objectives). This involves project research and analysis, and preparation of a Dissertation of up to 15,000 words. This is a major opportunity for students not only to research and prepare a substantial scholarly analysis of a specialist area in which they are particularly interested, but also to demonstrate an advanced understanding of relevant policy and practitioner agendas and debates to help them to use this Masters degree to pursue careers in their preferred areas.

This programme runs both full-time and part-time with intakes in the Autumn (September, Semester 1) and Spring (January, Semester 2):

September Full-time Intake	January Full-time Intake
Semester 1 Modules	Pre-enrolment
Winter Holiday Period	Winter Holiday Period
Semester 2 Modules & Dissertation Preparation	Semester 2 Modules
Summer Holiday Period & Dissertation	Summer Holiday Period
Dissertation Submission (September)	Semester 1 Modules & Dissertation Preparation
Graduation (Winter)	Dissertation
Studies completed	Graduation (Summer)

A part time route for this Programme, both with or without internship, is available on application. The Division has an excellent track record of integrating part-time students into this and its other programmes. Part-time students are able to join with programme activities of interest to them, and to discuss their learning trajectory with the academic programme team at key points, and when requested.

Work Placement Opportunity

There is an option to select an internship or placement opportunity which extends your programme duration by 3 months. Students may transfer to the placement route any time

up to the middle of Semester 2 (specific deadline dates are provided in the Programme Handbook each year). The 15-month option (full-time) or 27-month option (part-time) provides students with further opportunities for developing professional experience and practical skills during their Masters programme by undertaking a voluntary placement or internship in a relevant organisation for a period of up to three months. This internship or placement normally starts shortly after the end of Semester 2.

After an internship is completed, students return to the University to proceed with researching and preparing their Masters dissertation, with the same requirements and academic supervision as for students on the shorter programme, except that the dissertation submission date is extended by approximately three months (actual submission dates are specified annually in the Programme Handbook) as appropriate for a longer programme.

All of the Masters programme routes provide excellent opportunities for engaging with the spheres of policy and practice as well as with academic studies. However, the 3-month placement options provide further enhanced opportunities for integrating practitioner community engagement (such as internship experience) with their academic studies. This element of the programme is student-centred and student-led, and thus the initiative for identifying and applying for internships is driven by the students. The academic staff in the programme team can facilitate and support such searches for suitable placements with leads and suggestions, help with the writing of applications, and provide supporting letters of reference. They provide customised preparatory training before students who choose the placement route, and mentoring support as useful during the period of the placement or internship.

Students who transfer to the 15-month/27-month programme **may be charged an additional tuition fee**, reflecting this additional support. Please see the **Placement and Study Abroad** section for more details.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to enable students to develop an advanced knowledge and understanding of peace, conflict and development issues and their inter-relationships and to become informed and skilful analysts and practitioners who:

- conduct effective analysis and research into the interrelationships between various dimensions of peace, conflict and development, in a range of contexts and settings.
- Analyse and design ethical and constructive responses to particular peace, conflict and development problems and situations, with awareness of the potential and limitations of different strategies and policies.
- select and employ relevant strategies and techniques for constructive engagement with issues of peace, conflict and development, and their inter-relationships.
- reflect critically on their own practice and on international "best practice" with reference to critical academic and practitioner perspectives on the theory and practice of peacebuilding and development, supporting continuous professional development in peace and development related roles.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 award of **Postgraduate Certificate**, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish and critically evaluate key threshold concepts, theories and approaches in the social sciences and humanities pertaining to peace, conflict and development.
2. Apply relevant concepts, theories and approaches to recent and contemporary challenges of inter-relationships between peace, conflict, governance, security, environment and sustainable development, in a reflexive and reflective manner.
3. Identify and critically assess the ideas, practices & conditions that influence long-term initiatives to address legacies of violent social conflict and build sustainable peace.
4. Make a detailed, rigorous and original critique of current research and scholarship at the forefront of the discipline in the specialist area of the nexus between peace, conflict, security and development focusing on key characteristics and complexity of inter-relationships between key concepts, and with particular attention to fragile or conflict affected contexts.
5. Identify, design and apply appropriate research methods and strategies for specific purposes and applications demonstrating a comprehensive, critical and reflective understanding of relevant techniques in the field.
6. Apply, at an advanced critical level, selected methodologies that are widely used by policy and practitioner communities.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 award of **Postgraduate Diploma** students will additionally be able to:

7. Synthesise complex information from a range of sources and on a range of issues related to peace, conflict, security and development, and particularly to their complex interrelationships, in order to develop new theoretical approaches and practical solutions.
8. Develop a critical, ethical and reflective approach to implementing practice or policy-based interventions and understanding and assessing their applications in different cultural, geographic and socio-economic contexts.
9. Apply originality and creative problem-solving in dealing with complex problems of peace, conflict, security and development, and their interactions in fragile and conflict affected contexts, in order to generate new approaches and insights with practical applications in the real world.
10. Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays, research-based reports, reflective pieces, and presentations, showing awareness of the different demands they place on the author and diverse potential audiences.
11. Use initiative in self-directed learning, identify challenging and original objects of inquiry, and construct arguments that challenge existing knowledge paradigms.

12. Confidently use critical, reflective methods to support deep learning in relation to collaborative experiences.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 award of **Degree of Master**, students will additionally be able to:

13. Design and carry out, with appropriate ethical approval, an original and self-directed research project presented in a dissertation, including a comprehensive and critical literature review.
14. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in completion of an advanced, original and self-directed dissertation project, using critical reflective communication to deepen understanding of the learning process, with appropriate documentation.
15. Recognise and be able to reflect critically on one's own positionality, values and epistemological orientation in one's own academic work.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Throughout the programme, students will be actively engaged in a diverse range of online and offline learning activities designed to develop their capacities for thoughtful analysis and reflective practice. These will include individual and group tasks that require students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world dynamics and scenarios. As such, the emphasis in timetabled online and campus-based teaching sessions will often be on active, problem-based learning activities, with students undertaking reading and other preparatory work beforehand. This 'flipped classroom' approach maximises opportunities for discussion and feedback, whilst using selected inputs – such as short lectures, readings, or videos – to both frame and deepen the learning experience.

The learning and teaching strategy for this programme emphasises the acquisition of academic skills, familiarity with contemporary policy and professional competencies related to peace and development work. The strategy provides a wide range of teaching and learning methods and opportunities in and across modules, including lectures and directed study, but also discussion of in-class and pre-class student research findings; simulations, presentations and other methods of communicating arguments - within groups and to whole class audiences. A range of innovative approaches to teaching and learning are incorporated throughout the programme, enabling active study and analyses of important contemporary issues relating to peace, conflict and development and their inter-relationships, so that learning about theories develops closely with understandings about the application to real problems.

There will be an emphasis on practice, feedback and reflection throughout the programme. Students will have opportunities to develop their own interests throughout the programme, e.g., via case studies chosen for study and assessment and the design and execution of their final capstone project.

In addition to student learning within modules, personal academic tutors will support individual students' academic development, helping them to analyse their learning needs, develop appropriate learning strategies and reflect on their progress.

Employability and professionalism capabilities and attributes are developed through group and pair work, in and out of class, and experience with oral, written and other audio-visual presentations. In some modules, these skills are given a sharp focus, and self-reflection on skill development is an explicit learning outcome for the module.

Extensive optionality is provided within some modules, where students are supported to select their own projects, case-studies and topics within the overall syllabus. The dissertation project is also chosen (within the overall scope of Peace, Conflict and Development), designed and undertaken by each student, under academic supervision. Furthermore, during the first and second semesters of the programme, students will undertake at least two intensive laboratory workshops or 'immersion days' on key cross-cutting thematic issues including on: the roles and significance of gender; and the skills of using conflict analysis methods and conflict sensitivity guidelines for assessing and ensuring conflict sensitivity in fragile and conflict affected areas; These are incorporated into the core modules for the programme.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy for this programme is based on principles of rigour, constructive alignment, diversity and inclusion. It employs a well-developed range of formative and summative assessments tasks which are designed to help students to develop and demonstrate their understandings and skills as set out in the learning outcomes for each module and for the Programme overall.

Summative assessment tasks are designed to help students develop and demonstrate their skills as set out in the learning outcomes for the programme overall and for specific modules. Formative tasks throughout the programme provide the opportunity to practice and develop skills and to receive interim feedback, building up towards summative assessment.

While all of our assessment tasks will be designed with the aim of promoting an inclusive and accessible curriculum for all, we will, in co-ordination with the Disability Service, work with any individual students who might have additional access requirements to find solutions appropriate to their needs.

Curriculum

The curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure coherence and progression through the programme of study.

Semester 1 (September)

The first semester provides an advanced understanding in two core areas. First, skills for advanced conflict research and analysis enable students to develop advanced understanding of the contexts and conditions of violent conflict at different scales. Second, an investigation of the contemporary state of the theoretical and policy literature focused on the nexus between conflict, security and development and associated issues of sustainability and governance – particularly in fragile or conflict affected settings.

The provision of an option allows further specialisation in relation to a number of key areas, including dynamics of politics and security in Africa; contemporary security challenges; sustainable development, development theory, international relations,

governance for development, designing and assessing conflict intervention, project planning and design, and economic growth and development.

Students in Semester 1 will study Applied Conflict Research; Security & Development in Fragile and Conflict Affected Areas; and select a 20-credit option module from the following list:

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
PES7036-B	Applied Conflict Research	Core	20	Sem 1	7
PES7048-B	Security & Development in Fragile & Conflict Affected Areas	Core	20	Sem 1	7
PES7035-B	African Politics and Security Dynamics	Option	20	Sem 1	7
DEV7026-B	Critical Perspective on Sustainable Development	Option	20	Sem 1	7
DEV7003-B	Issues in Development Theory	Option	20	Sem 1	7
DEV7037-B	Policy Analysis of Governance for Development	Option	20	Sem 1	7
PES7051-B	Studying Peace in a Changing World	Option	20	Sem 1	7
PES7064-B	Theories and Practices of Conflict Transformation	Option	20	Sem 1	7
PES7065-B	Social-Ecological Systems and Crises	Option	20	Sem1	7

The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

Semester 2 (January)

Semester 2 offers opportunities to deepen knowledge of particular contexts, themes or policies relating to peace, conflict and development and their inter-relationships, building directly on the previous core modules. One core focus is on developing understanding and lessons from experience of peace, conflict and development issues relating to (mis-)management and governance of natural resources (such as land, water, forests, coasts, minerals) in developing, fragile or conflict-affected regions.

In addition, students can then develop their knowledge by choosing two options from a range of modules. For example, specialist regional understanding can be developed through engagement with either the module on Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics or the Africa Study Visit. Thematic knowledge may be developed through study of gender, conflict and development; natural resource governance; environment, trafficking and crime – transnational issues and international governance; political violence and terrorism; or urban challenges and sustainable cities, while familiarity with skills and competencies associated with contemporary policy paradigms may be gained through participation in the modules Assessing Development Practices, Needs and Outcomes, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding; or Creative Practice in Conflict Engagement and Peacebuilding.

The provision of an option allows further specialisation in relation to a number of key areas, including dynamics of politics and security in Africa; contemporary security challenges; sustainable development, development theory, international relations, governance for development, designing and assessing conflict intervention, project planning and design, and economic growth and development.

Students will study Natural Resource Governance in Semester 2, which also provides the opportunity for students to design their own pathway via their choice of a further two 20-credit optional modules:

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credit	Study period	FHEQ Level
PES7045-B	Natural Resource Governance	Core	20	Sem 2	7
PES7034-B	Africa Study Visit	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7063-B	Creative Practice in Conflict Engagement and Peacebuilding	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7062-B	Environment, trafficking and crime: transnational issues and International Governance	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7041-B	Gender, Conflict and Development	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7043-B	Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7046-B	Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7052-B	Sustainable Cities	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7053-B	Terrorism and Political Violence	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7069-B	Politics, Security and Development in South Asia	Option	20	Sem 2	7

The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

Dissertation

The programme culminates with a substantial Dissertation project on a subject chosen by each student (relevant to the Programme's aims and learning objectives). This involves project research and analysis and the preparation of a Dissertation of up to 15,000 words. This is a major opportunity for students not only to research and prepare a substantial scholarly analysis of a specialist area in which they are particularly interested, but also to demonstrate an advanced understanding of relevant policy and practitioner agendas and debates to help them to use this Masters degree to pursue careers in their preferred areas.

The preparation and submission period for the Dissertation will vary depending on the student's route (academic or internship) and mode of study (full-time or part-time).

Full-time students will prepare begin to prepare their dissertation in semester 3 and submit in the autumn/winter. Students who undertake the part-time route will commence the dissertation process and submit their dissertation in the second year of study.

All students will be supported in their dissertation work by an academic supervisor.

Module Code	Module Title	Selection	Credits	Programme Started	Study Period	Level
PES7040-E	Dissertation	Core	60	September	Full Year	FHEQ 7
PES7040-E	Dissertation	Core	60	January	NS Academic Year	FHEQ 7

Placement and Study Abroad

The Professional Experience is a work experience element of the programme. This normally takes the form of an internship in another organisation and can be either undertaken in the UK or abroad. Students normally use their placement period and experience to inform and shape their dissertation.

Planning for the placement/internship starts several months in advance usually in the first semester itself. The Division will provide information sessions. The process may involve several steps including:

- Identifying and searching for voluntary placement/internship opportunities.
- Preparing applications, covering letters, supporting letters of reference.
- Contacting relevant organisations, arranging for and agreeing specifics such as location, domain of work, start and end dates, focal point, terms of reference of placement and what the student is expected to do and the days and hours.
- Sorting out financial planning issues, visas, travel risk assessments and permissions.
- Discussing with the relevant contact person in the host organisation about aims and reviewing arrangement.

Students are required to complete a form detailing their proposed activities and obtain permission from the Division before they are able to go on placement/internship. Many organisations also offer virtual placements or virtual internships and in the context of Covid19 and such health risks, these may be a more feasible option.

Those who start the programme in January are expected to start the placement/ internship shortly after the end of Semester 2, that is to undertake it during the summer period (semester 3). Those on the Part Time route are able to do this (on application) after they complete the 120 credits of taught programme.

Students on the Rotary route

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
PES7023-Z	Professional Experience (Rotary Peace Fellows Applied Field Experience)	Core	0	Sem 3	7

All other students

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
PES7056-Z	Voluntary placement/ internship	Core	0	Sem 3	7

Upon completing the period of placement/internship, students should come back on the programme and submit a completion report summarising key learning points before they can formally continue work on their dissertation. For those choosing the 15-month Full Time option or a Part Time route (on application) including voluntary placement/internship, the degree of master will be awarded on successful completion of a voluntary placement or internship of up to three months.

Other Study Abroad

Students are welcome to explore available opportunities for a Study Abroad Semester that may be viable for them via our International Opportunities team.

A Study Abroad Semester can be available **ONLY** if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme during Semester 1 **OR** Semester 2.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange.

The semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme Leader and the Director of Studies in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Programme Leader and Director of Programmes.

If the student fails a module abroad, the student must immediately inform the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator and explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host institution.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the student's final degree. Our International Opportunities team can advise students about the available funding to support their study or work experience abroad.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Semester, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students.

Please note: Some exchange institutions are only available to undergraduate or postgraduate students. Any potential overseas exchange is dependent on student eligibility, student finance, and the appropriate modules required to fulfil the requirements of the programme being available at either institution.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website (<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/media-v8/ageo/regulations/Regulation-9-Postgraduate-Taught-Assessment-Continuation-and-Award-1.0b.pdf>) for postgraduate courses (Regulation 9).

Achievable Awards

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Certificate in Peace, Conflict and Development** if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Diploma in Peace, Conflict and Development** if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the degree award of **Master of Arts in Peace, Conflict and Development** if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Admission Requirements

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

Academic Admission Requirements

The standard entry requirements for this postgraduate programme are that all applicants have at least a Bachelor's degree with honours classified as lower second-class (2:2, or equivalent). Relevant professional or voluntary activities would be desirable as the course will draw on your experience and the experiences of your fellow students.

Language Competency

As the programme is taught in English, all applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent. For international students, the standard postgraduate English language requirements for the University apply and these are listed at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/>.

Access and Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, or with significant personal and professional experience.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and

recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/>

Minor Modification Schedule

1. May 2023: Annual changes for 2023 academic year
2. May 2024: Annual review; updates to optional modules and electives.
3. July 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulation.