Masters in Terrorism and Political Violence - Full time programme

Programme Requirements

**Terrorism and Political Violence - MLitt**

IR5901 (30 credits) and IR5902 (30 credits) and
60 credits from Module List: IR5007, IR5033, IR5042, IR5904, IR5921 - IR5923 and
IR5999 (60 credits)

**Compulsory modules:**

**IR5901 Fundamental Issues and Structures of Terrorism**

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<tr>
<th>SCOTCAT Credits:</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>SCQF Level 11</th>
<th>Semester:</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planned timetable:</td>
<td>11.00 am Mon (lecture), 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm and 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm Tue (tutorials)</td>
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This module is designed to present core conceptual issues. These issues will include: Terrorism as a field of study - emergence and evolution; Definitional, conceptual, typological and theoretical issues; History of Terrorism; Ideology, Religion and Terrorism; Terrorist Organisations and Campaigns - stand-alone terrorism and terrorism combined with guerrilla warfare and political party work; Terrorism and Democracy - legal and human rights issues; Terrorism and Repression - counter-insurgency and counter-terror; Terrorism and Domestic and International Conflict - asymmetric warfare and humanitarian issues; Terrorism and Crime - linkage and law enforcement issues; Terrorism and Communication - propaganda and psychological warfare. We will cover three structures in relation to these concepts. Inside terrorist organisations and their support groups: Profiles of the most active terrorist groups - case studies. The structure of the international system and international counter-terrorist measures. Victims of terrorism and their national and transnational support organisations.

**Programme module type:** Compulsory for the Terrorism and Political Violence Postgraduate Programme - full time mode. Optional for International Relations MRes Programme

**Anti-requisite(s):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IR5951</th>
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<td>Required for:</td>
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**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:**

Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture, 1.5-hour tutorial per week + advertised office hours, plus online teaching materials.

**Assessment pattern:**

Coursework = 100%

**Module coordinator:**

Dr P Lehr

**Module teaching staff:**

Various
This module will present appropriate research methods to enable students to critically understand the professional literature, and to lay the foundations to enable students to engage in further research. The broad aim of this module is to provide students with sufficient research skills to identify, read and understand professional literature, and to undertake their own research activities. It will introduce critical elements of research methodology, introduce and develop skills in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, describe and illustrate literature and documentation search and retrieval strategies, and provide an introduction to the role of the intelligence analyst as a practical example.

Programme module type: Compulsory for the Terrorism and Political Violence Postgraduate Programme - full time mode.
Optional for International Relations MRes Programme

Anti-requisite(s): IR5952

Required for: IR5999

Learning and teaching methods and delivery:
Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture and 1.5-hour tutorial per week + advertised office hours plus online material.

Assessment pattern: Coursework = 100%

Module coordinator: Dr J Argomaniz

This module allows students to undertake an in-depth investigation research into issues within or related to the field of Terrorism Studies and to prepare a 15,000-000-word (approximately) dissertation. The dissertation will make use of skills acquired during the Postgraduate Diploma to identify, investigate, analyse and report upon an area of contemporary concern or interest. Supervision of the dissertation will be provided.

Programme module type: Compulsory for Terrorism and Political Violence MLitt Postgraduate Programme.

Pre-requisite(s): IR5901, IR5902 and 60 credits (2 modules) from IR5007, IR5033, IR5042, IR5904, IR5921, IR5922

Learning and teaching methods and delivery: Weekly contact: Individual supervision.

Assessment pattern: Coursework (Dissertation) = 100%

Module coordinator: TBC
### Optional modules:

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<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SCOTCAT Credits</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Planned timetable</th>
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<tr>
<td>IR5007</td>
<td>Terrorism and Liberal Democracy</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed</td>
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This module addresses: conceptual and definitional issues concerning terrorism; the relationship of terrorism to other forms of political violence; the origins, dynamics and development of contemporary terrorism; the efficacy of terrorism as a political weapon; the dilemmas and challenges of liberal democratic state responses to terrorism; and case studies in terrorism and counter-terrorism. The module is convened by specialists from the Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV) and the School of International Relations.

**Programme module type:** Optional for International Political Theory, International Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies and Terrorism and Political Violence Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:**
- Weekly contact: 1 hour lecture, 1.5 hour tutorial per week + advertised office hours
- Assessment pattern: Coursework = 100%
- Module coordinator: Dr N Brooke
- Module teaching staff: Various

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<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
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<th>Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>IR5904</td>
<td>Terrorism and Theories of Collective Action</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.00 noon Mon (lecture), 10.00 am Tue (tutorial)</td>
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Increasingly, terrorism and political violence is coming to be seen in the wider theoretical context of political collective action, social movement theory and 'contentious politics', a process which has been assisted on the one hand by this field's own growing interest in transnational activism, and recently by growing interest in civil resistance as a neglected area in the study of insurgency within the framework of conflict studies and IR. This module will address such issues as: What does it mean to take a 'political collective action' approach to terrorism? Social movement theory and terrorism; Terrorism and high-risk activism: understanding recruitment and mobilisation; Terrorism and the Collective Action Repertoire; New Social Movements, New Terrorism? Terrorism in the Context of Transnational Activism.

**Programme module type:** Optional for the Terrorism and Political Violence Postgraduate Programme - full time mode.

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:**
- Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture, 1.5-hour tutorial per week + advertised office hours.
- Assessment pattern: Coursework = 100%
- Module coordinator: Dr G Ramsay
### IR5921 Fundamentals of Terrorist Violence

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**Planned timetable:** 4.00 pm Mon (lecture), 11.00 am - 12.00 Tue (tutorial)

Motives, Enablers and Implications for State Responses: This module examines how combatants in terrorist groups are able to overcome inhibitions to killing. The nature of these inhibitions is examined, as is the range of circumstances which enables them to be overcome so that lethal violence can be justified, compelling and a source of satisfaction. The module draws not only on terrorism studies but also on scholarship from a wide range of subject areas including war studies, psychology, sociology, theology, anthropology, history and art. The focus is more on individuals' aims, aspirations, and ways of imagining themselves and their actions, rather than organisational and instrumental purposes. Theory will be explored through case studies. Resulting insights are used to adduce principles for state responses to political violence. The module thus builds on the tradition of scholarship at St Andrews that examines how political violence may be effectively countered in ways that are consonant with liberal democracy.

**Programme module type:** Optional for the Terrorism and Political Violence Postgraduate Programme

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture, 1.5-hour tutorial per week + advertised office hours.

**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%

**Module coordinator:** Dr M Currie

**Module teaching staff:** Various

### IR5922 Terrorism after 1945

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**Planned timetable:** 2.00 pm Thu (seminar) and 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm (tutorial) Thu

This module will provide students with an overview of the evolution, characteristics, and decline of terrorist movements and campaigns since 1945 by looking at different forms of terrorism (ethnic, religious, social-revolutionary) as well as the responses that both states and international organisations have developed in order to cope with it. The module will also address state and state-sponsored terrorism and the problems that arise once a state actor is involved in terrorism. Moreover, it will examine why and under what circumstances terrorism and antiterrorism responses have been successful. Finally, students will take part in a simulation of UN antiterrorism negotiations in which they will represent a country, research this country's experience with and stance on terrorism and advance the respective government's key interest regarding a comprehensive UN antiterrorism convention.

**Programme module type:** Optional for Terrorism and Political Violence Postgraduate Programme

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar + advertised office hours

**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100% (including presentation worth 20%)

**Module coordinator:** Dr B Blumenau
**IR5923 State Responses to Terrorism**

**SCOTCAT Credits:** 30  
**SCQF Level 11**  
**Semester:** 2  
**Planned timetable:** 10.00 am - 12.30 pm Thu  

This module takes a multi-faceted approach to studying state responses to terrorism. It addresses the effectiveness and crucially, the ethical implications of particular kinds of counter-terrorism, as well as the wider impact that responding to terrorism has on conflicts, and the relationship between states, terrorists, and society. Topics range from historical to contemporary debates, from domestic examples to international. Students are afforded the opportunity to delve deeper into case studies, exploring responses to terrorism in detail and gaining an appreciation for the role that counter-terrorism has had in shaping conflicts, for better and worse. Through integrated learning and teaching seminars, students will debate and discuss such issues as the security-liberty nexus, the effect that new technology such as drones has had on counter-terrorism, the value of intelligence, and the central importance of respect for civil liberties in defending society from non-state terrorism.

**Programme module type:** Available to students on the MLitt in Terrorism and Political Violence. Limited availability to students on other School of International Relations MLitt pathways.  
**Anti-requisite(s):** IR5903  
**Required for:** IR5999  

**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 2.5-hour teaching and learning seminar (x 11 weeks)  
**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%  
**Module coordinator:** Dr K J McConaghy

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**IR5924 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict**

**SCOTCAT Credits:** 30  
**SCQF Level 11**  
**Semester:** 2  
**Planned timetable:** 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm Tue and 10.00 am - 11.00 am Wed  

The goal of the module is to familiarise students with different approaches that seek to explain how ethnicity and nationhood are created and maintained, how different forms of ethnic conflict and ethnic violence come about, and what possible mechanisms to contain nationalism and ethnic conflict are. The module takes a comparative and historical perspective and employs a variety of theoretical approaches to tackle the issues at hand, including primordial, constructivist, and instrumental approaches to identity, and rational-choice arguments, Marxism, institutionalism, and culturalist approaches to explain ethnic conflict. Thus, the module aims to support students to become more savvy in understanding, appreciating, and critiquing existing works on the topic, skills that in turn should help them to pursue their own research on nationalism and ethnic conflict, if they so choose.

**Programme module type:** Available to students on the MLitt in Terrorism and Political Violence. Limited availability to students on other School of International Relations MLitt pathways.  
**Pre-requisite(s):** IR5901 and (IR5902 or IR5922)  
**Learning and teaching methods and delivery:** Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture and 1-hour seminar (x 11 weeks)  
**Assessment pattern:** Coursework = 100%  
**Module coordinator:** Dr D Muro