PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION		Newcastle University

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	MA
4	**Programme Title**	European Union Studies
5	**UCAS/Programme Code**	4029
6	**Programme Accreditation**	N/A
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	N/A
8	**FHEQ Level**	Level 7
9	**Date written/revised**	April 2011

10	**Programme Aims**

1   to offer a research environment in which students can learn about the European Union from knowledgeable staff, their own study, and interaction with other students
2   to provide students with an advanced knowledge and understanding of the politics, institutions, law and policies of the European Union
3   to develop students' skills in undertaking and completing self-designed research papers and dissertations
4   to produce graduates who, if suitably qualified, will be capable of embarking upon research degrees in European Union studies
5   to produce graduates capable of successfully pursuing careers in the European Union, government agencies, business, the media and other areas where an advanced knowledge and understanding of the European Union is needed or desirable
6   to meet the needs of stakeholders
7   to provide a programme which meets the FHEQ at Masters level 7

11	**Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. European integration; public policy in the EU; the EU as an international actor; social science methods and methodologies; international and regional studies politics topics; independent learning; cooperative group work; individual presentations skills

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:
A1   have an advanced knowledge and understanding of the contemporary European Union
A2   have knowledge of the more important approaches and methods in social science research and of the techniques required to carry out advanced research
A3   have a foundation of specialist knowledge and research skills from which they can embark upon careers with significant European and international dimensions or pursue a postgraduate research degree in European Union studies
A4   have the theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to successfully complete an MA dissertation

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding is seminars (A1-A4). Throughout the MA programme students are strongly encouraged to engage in independent reading for which they are given extensive support and guidance on reading materials and their appropriate use. Students are strongly supported by staff in their completion of self-designed research projects.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding are primarily assessed by unseen 3 hour examinations and research projects both of which are designed to assess theoretical and conceptual understanding and the capacity of students to relate knowledge through case studies and other empirically focused projects (A1-A4).

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
B1   Synthesise information from a variety of primary and secondary sources
B2   Analyse, evaluate and interpret the principal source materials for European Union studies
B3   Plan, conduct and communicate original research through examinations and research papers
B4   Understand the theoretical basis of European Union studies research

Teaching and Learning Methods

Cognitive skills are developed through seminars (B1-B2), research projects (B2-B3, B4) and supervision of research projects and dissertations (B3). Students are encouraged to develop cognitive skills through analysis of case studies (B1), independent reading and designing research projects (B2-B4).

Assessment Strategy

Intellectual skills are examined through unseen written exams, research papers and the MA dissertation (B1-B4).

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
C1   Critically evaluate key arguments in European Union studies
C2   Critically evaluate the most important texts and themes in European Union studies
C3   Present a reasoned and informed position both in writing and in spoken presentations
C4   Identify, locate, and retrieve appropriate paper and electronic materials relevant to European Union studies

Teaching and Learning Methods

Critical skills are developed through independent reading and encouraging active participation individually and in groups in seminar settings (C1-C3). Formal spoken presentations (C3) and written research projects (C1-C4) are informed by appropriate materials in European Union studies some of which references are provided to students and others of which students have to locate.

Assessment Strategy

Practical skills are assessed through research projects and unseen written examinations (C1-C4).

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
D1   Take responsibility for his/her own learning and personal professional development
D2   Manage time and prioritise tasks by working to deadlines
D3   Communicate effectively to others when working in seminar group settings
D4   Make effective use of appropriate electronic resources including journals and the internet and undertake effective word processing

Teaching and Learning Methods

Student self learning and time and task management is encouraged in weekly seminars and one on one research supervision sessions (D1-D2). Communication is practiced in weekly seminars (D3). Students are directed to appropriate journals and provided information concerning appropriate internet usage (D4).

Assessment Strategy

Self learning is assessed in the context of the timely submission of research projects and completion of unseen examinations (D1-D2). Effective use of electronic resources is

assessed in the context of their analysis and correct presentation in research projects and unseen examinations (D4).

12	Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

One year full time or two years part time.
180 credits (120 coursework, 60 dissertation)
120 credits compulsory (3 x 20 credit modules and 1 x 60 credit dissertation), 60 optional credits

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

Rigorous compulsory training in Integration in Europe and Public Policy in the European Union
Rigorous compulsory research training in Theories and Approaches to the Study of Politics: Power and Democracy

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/

13	Criteria for admission

Entry qualifications
Normally at least a lower second class honours degree (2:2) or its equivalent.

Admissions policy/selection tools
Academic references
Candidate's personal statement

Non-standard Entry Requirements
Relevant professional experience and/or qualifications may be taken into account in the absence of a satisfactory first degree.

Additional Requirements

Level of English Language capability
As set by HASS faculty but usually no less than IELTS 6.5 overall (or TOEFL equivalent)

14	Support for Student Learning

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at: *http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/*

Induction
During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.

Study skills support
Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects. See also facilities provided by the Robinson library:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/teaching/stan/

Academic support

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral support
All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. Details of the personal tutor system can be found at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/tutor In addition the University offers a range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team, the Mature Student Support Officer, and a Childcare Support Officer, see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/financial-support/childcare/
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support

Support for students with disabilities
The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies. For further details see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/disability-support/

Learning resources
The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities, see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language test in the Language Centre. Where appropriate, in-sessional language training can be provided. The Language Centre houses a range of resources for learning other languages which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange. See http://www.ncl.ac.uk/langcen/

15	Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Module reviews
All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the School Teaching and Learning Committee and at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

Programme reviews
The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

External Examiner reports
External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

Student evaluations
All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback
Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms
The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process, see
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal_subject_review/index.php

Accreditation reports

Additional mechanisms

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16   Regulation of assessment

Pass mark
The pass mark is 50 (Postgraduate programmes)

Course requirements
Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/) and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/documents/MastersRegs0809.pdf). Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40 is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes		Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes	
<50	Fail	<50	Fail
50-59	Pass	50 or above	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit		
70 or above	Pass with Distinction		

Role of the External Examiner
An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:
      See and approve examination papers
      Moderate examination and coursework marking
      Attend the Board of Examiners
      Report to the University on the standards of the programme

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In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/)

The School Brochure (contact gps-postgraduate-enquiries@ncl.ac.uk)

The University Regulations (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/university/docs)

The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected

to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Intended Learning Outcome	Module codes (Comp/Core in Bold)
A1	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
A2	**POL8041 POL8044**
A3	**POL8003 POL8012** POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 **POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
A4	**POL8003 POL8012 POL8041**
B1	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
B2	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
B3	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
B4	**POL8003 POL8012 POL8041**
C1	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
C2	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
C3	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
C4	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
D1	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053

D2	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
D3	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053
D4	**POL8003 POL8041 POL8099** NCL8007 POL8005 POL8006 POL8018 POL8020 POL8029 POL8035 POL8037 POL8038 POL8039 POL8040 POL8043 POL8044 POL8046 POL8048 POL8051 POL8052 POL8053