

### Guidelines for essay component of MA IR application

Applicants must submit a 1,250 word essay as part of the admission process to be considered for admission to the program. The essay must demonstrate a clear affinity with and specific knowledge of International Relations, specifically in the specialisation the applicant is applying for.

Minimally the applicant's essay must:

- clearly answer an original research question.
- provide a reasonable and reasonably well organized argument that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the essay topic.
- critically engage with the additional reading on the MA International Relations website as listed for each specialisation on the entry requirements pages, as well as additional academic literature on the essay topic.
- demonstrate an affinity with International Relations theory.
- demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of social science methods.
- contain no fundamental errors.

Essays that contain any evidence of plagiarism will automatically result in the rejection of the application.

Some further general tips:

- Google 'writing an international relations essay' to get a sense of the advice that qualified scholars can provide.
- Cite key literature (see the literature listed under entry requirements) and use your imagination.
- Ask a member of staff in your own institution to provide you with feedback on your essay.