COURSE SYLLABUS

 U.K Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

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| Global Diplomatic Forum E-learning Course  |  |

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## Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Please familiarise yourself carefully with the Disclaimer and Acknowledgements documents made available on this course’s platform prior to commencing the course for more information about the terms and conditions of use of the Global Diplomatic Forum on-line learning environment and acknowledgement of those organisations and associated experts for their authorisation to use text, audio and visual transcripts, webcasts and photographic imagery.

## Course Presentation

In an increasingly interconnected world, understanding the intricacies of a nation's foreign policy and diplomacy is crucial. For those eager to delve into the realm of international relations, our online course on "Exploring UK Foreign Policy and Diplomacy" is your gateway to a comprehensive understanding of how the United Kingdom engages with the global community.

**Unraveling Historical Threads**

Embark on a journey through time as we unravel the historical foundations of the UK's foreign policy. From the British Empire to the present day, you'll explore the pivotal events that have shaped the nation's approach to international relations. Gain insights into the principles and values that guide decision-making on the global stage.

**Who Shapes the Course of Nations?**

Discover the intricate web of governmental bodies, structures, and non-governmental influences that play a role in shaping UK foreign policy. Learn how think tanks, advocacy groups, and diplomatic agencies contribute to the nation's stance on key issues. Engage with the actors involved in policy formulation and understand the dynamics of decision-making.

**Diplomacy in Action**

Dive into the art and practice of diplomacy. Explore the functions of diplomacy and the tools employed by the UK in its international relations. From treaties to negotiations, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the diplomatic strategies that underpin successful global engagement.

**Key Themes and Contemporary Challenges**

Delve into the critical themes of national security, defense, and economic diplomacy. Analyze how these factors influence the UK's relationships with other nations. Unpack the implications of Brexit on foreign policy and explore the role of cybersecurity and digital diplomacy in the contemporary landscape.

**Global Engagement and Future Trends**

Examine the UK's bilateral and multilateral engagements on the global stage. Discuss emerging trends and challenges that will shape the future of the nation's foreign policy. Consider how the UK can adapt and innovate its strategies in response to the evolving international landscape.

Participants in the online course will gain a deeper understanding of the key aspects of U.K Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, giving them a competitive edge and the necessary foundations for success in both academic and professional pursuits.

Developed and delivered by leading experts who will share their expertise and experiences with participants in an engaging platform, the course follows the latest trends for diplomatic education and aims to train the next generation of diplomatic leaders to succeed in a 21st Century diplomatic environment.

Seize the opportunity to elevate your diplomatic skills with our online course. Navigate the complexities of international relations, understand the art of negotiation, and emerge as a confident and adept diplomatic negotiator. Enroll today and take the first step towards mastering the diplomacy of tomorrow! Your journey into the captivating world of diplomatic negotiations awaits. Sign up now!

## Course Outline and Contents



The format of the online course on Diplomatic Negotiations, consists of a comprehensive set of online modules available to diplomats, professionals, students and trainee diplomats.

The Online Course is a practical course that covers topics focusing on different aspects, stakeholders, channels and practices that constitutes the framework of Diplomatic Negotiations. Through six modules, the online course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the Diplomatic Negotiations

**Module 1 :**

**Introduction to UK Foreign Policy**

**( Week 1)**

* Historical Foundations : Overview of key historical events shaping UK foreign policy.
* Principles and Values : Examination of the guiding principles and values influencing UK foreign policy decisions.

**Module 2 :**

**The Actors in UK Foreign Policy**

**( Week 2)**

* Governmental Bodies and Structures : Analysis of the roles of governmental bodies and structures in the formulation and execution of UK foreign policy.
* Non-Governmental Influences : Exploration of non-governmental actors, such as think tanks and advocacy groups, shaping UK foreign policy.

**Module 3 :**

**Diplomacy in Action**

**( Week 3)**

* Functions of Diplomacy : Understanding the various functions of diplomacy and their applications in the context of UK foreign relations.
* Diplomatic Tools : Examination of diplomatic tools employed by the UK, including treaties, negotiations, and international agreements.

**Module 4:**

**Key Themes in UK Foreign Policy**

**( Week 4)**

* National Security and Defense : Analysis of the UK's national security and defense policies and their impact on foreign relations.
* Economic Diplomacy : Exploration of economic considerations in UK foreign policy, including trade agreements and economic partnerships.
* UK Soft Power and Public Diplomacy

**Module 5 :**

**Regional and Global Engagement**

**(Week 5)**

* Bilateral Relations : Study of the UK's relationships with key nations and regions around the world.
* UK.- US Special Relations
* Multilateral Engagement : Examination of the UK's participation in international organizations and forums.

**Module 6 :**

**Contemporary Challenges and The Future of UK Foreign Policy**

**(Week 6)**

* Brexit and Its Ramifications : Analysis of the implications of Brexit on UK foreign policy and diplomatic relationships.
* Cybersecurity and Digital Diplomacy : Exploration of how the digital age influences diplomatic strategies and challenges.
* Emerging Trends : Examination of potential future trends and challenges in UK foreign policy.
* Adaptation and Innovation : Discussion on how the UK can adapt and innovate its foreign policy strategies in a changing global landscape.

## The Course Outcome

Upon completing an online course on UK Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, participants can expect to achieve a range of outcomes that enhance their knowledge, skills, and perspectives in the field. Here are the key outcomes:

1. Expertise in UK Foreign Policy: Develop a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, guiding principles, and key components of UK foreign policy, enabling participants to analyze and interpret the nation's diplomatic decisions.
2. Diplomatic Competency: Acquire practical skills in diplomacy, including negotiation, communication, and the ability to navigate international relations, preparing participants for roles in diplomacy, international affairs, and related fields.
3. Critical Analysis of Key Issues: Gain the ability to critically analyze and assess key themes in UK foreign policy, such as national security, defense, economic diplomacy, and global challenges, providing a well-rounded perspective on the nation's strategic priorities.
4. Awareness of Contemporary Challenges: Stay informed about current challenges and developments in UK foreign policy, including the impact of events like Brexit, allowing participants to grasp the implications of these issues on global affairs.
5. Policy Evaluation Skills: Develop the skills to evaluate and contribute to the formulation of effective foreign policies, taking into account the geopolitical landscape, international relations theories, and the interests of diverse stakeholders.
6. Effective Communication: Enhance written and verbal communication skills, critical for conveying diplomatic messages, representing national interests, and engaging in international negotiations.
7. Cultural Intelligence: Develop cultural sensitivity and intelligence, allowing participants to navigate diverse cultural contexts with respect and understanding, a crucial aspect of successful diplomatic engagement.
8. Global Perspective: Cultivate a broader global perspective on international relations, enabling participants to appreciate and adapt to different diplomatic approaches, cultures, and geopolitical dynamics.
9. Application of Knowledge: Apply theoretical concepts learned during the course to practical scenarios, engaging in case studies, simulations, and real-world examples to reinforce understanding and problem-solving skills.
10. Adaptability to Change: Equip participants with the ability to adapt to and innovate in response to emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the dynamic field of international relations.
11. Career Advancement: Enhance professional credentials and open doors to career opportunities in areas such as diplomacy, foreign service, government, international organizations, policy analysis, and global business.

## Learning Objectives

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| **Module**  | **Learning objectives** At the end of each module, the participants will be able to:  |
| **Module 1 (week 1)** **Introduction to UK Foreign Policy** | * Have an indepth understanding of key historical events shaping UK foreign policy.
* Examining of the guiding principles and values influencing UK foreign policy decisions.
 |
| **Module 2 (week 2)** **The Actors in UK Foreign Policy** | * Analyse of the roles of governmental bodies and structures in the formulation and execution of UK foreign policy.
* Explore non-governmental actors, such as think tanks and advocacy groups, shaping UK foreign policy.
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| **Module 3 ( week 3)** **Diplomacy in Action** | * Understanding the various functions of diplomacy and their applications in the context of UK foreign relations.
* Examining diplomatic tools employed by the UK, including treaties, negotiations, and international agreements.
 |
| **Module 4 ( week 4)** **Key Themes in UK Foreign Policy** | * Analyse of the UK's national security and defense policies and their impact on foreign relations.
* Explore of economic considerations in UK foreign policy, including trade agreements and economic partnerships.
* Understand UK Soft Power and Public Diplomacy
 |
| **Module 5 ( week 5)** **Regional and Global Engagement** | * Study of the UK's relationships with key nations and regions around the world.
* Understand UK.- US Special Relations
* Examine of the UK's participation in international organizations and forums.
 |
| **Module 6 ( week 6)** **Contemporary Challenges and The Future of UK Foreign Policy** | * Analyse of the implications of Brexit on UK foreign policy and diplomatic relationships.
* Assess of how the digital age influences diplomatic strategies and challenges.
* Examine of potential future trends and challenges in UK foreign policy.
* Discuss on how the UK can adapt and innovate its foreign policy strategies in a changing global landscape.
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## Methodology

The course will be delivered via the [e-Learning platform](https://academy.gdforum.org/) (instructions on using this platform will be emailed to you with course invitation to the platform). This didactic tool will allow the students to view the course contents and thus achieve the course’s learning objectives through a self-paced learning routine supported by various multimedia content (hosted and linked videos and podcasts), optional and required readings, discussion boards, assessments, and a wealth of other materials. Designed to fit the busy schedules of full-time professionals specifically to diplomatic personnel, participants will acquire knowledge through multi-faceted methodology comprising traditional reading materials, external sources of information in form of videos and podcasts, interactive discussion board allowing for communication with other participants and experts alike and webinars with guest lecturers.

**The course content and materials will be available online** (see Course Outline and Contents section for more details). The course is divided into 6 modules

All four modulescontain the same structural elements:

Contents

Learning Objectives

Lesson Material (text, video, documents, and lexicon terms)

Assessment

Discussion Board

## Grading Policy and Course Completion

Students are eligible for a course certificate upon successful course completion. Successful completion requires:

**At least 70% passing grade on EACH of the four module-based assessments** (7 out of 10 questions answered correctly); you may take each assessment **three times** (questions will be randomly drawn from a predefined question bank and therefore the content of assessment will change with each attempt);

**Before moving to the next module**, you should:

**(a)** carefully go through all of the core module texts,

**(b)** take the module-based assessments, and

**(c)** participate in the weekly Discussion Board forums. ( optional)

**(d)** you will be also encouraged to read/view/listen to the optional external links to further develop your knowledge on the given module’s topic (e.g. links to articles, webinars, podcasts or websites and additional documents).

Global Diplomatic Forum's e-learning Committee is responsible for the final decision regarding certificates in consultation with the module leaders (experts). Global Diplomatic Forum reserves the right to award certificates of completion only to those participants who will be deemed “eligible” through the aforementioned pre-requisites. Global Diplomatic Forum urges all participants to take a clear note of the above requirements. Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Global Diplomatic Forum Team.

## Study Planning

Below table provides guidance on which parts of the course are deemed mandatory.

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| **Activity** | **Mandatory** |
| Interactive Course | Yes |
| External Links and Readings | No, though highly recommended |
| Module Assessments | Yes |
| Discussion Forums | Yes |

The distinctive feature of this learning course is that it is an entirely **online based** learning experience. As such it can not only be accessed from any part of the world but also at any point of time (within allocated availability period specified above in the Course Outline and Contents section) thus creating a true self-paced learning environment. Upon start of the course, training materials will be gradually made available to you through Global Diplomatic Forum’s partner portal - FutureLearn. The course contents will also provide links to external web resources such as references, documents and multimedia.

The Global Diplomatic Forum’s team will be at your disposal to provide guidance and help you participate and **contribute actively** to the discussion forums, which are an important learning opportunity of this course. You will also be able to communicate with the course manager who will moderate the discussion board as well as answer module related questions (through both the posts on the Discussion Board and e-mail).

The online training provides numerous **advantages** over traditional learning methods. Particularly it allows for:

* the adjustment of the schedule and pace of your learning according to your specific requirements
* complete freedom in choice of the study location - as long as you are able to access internet connected computer
* expanding your network through engaging in discussion with fellow participants and module leaders
* having lectures with the world’s leading experts

Online courses require more self-discipline and pro-active preparation in order to successfully meet the course’s requirements and learning objectives.

Another important characteristic of the online course that needs to be duly noted is that it is asynchronous. What that effectively means is that the interaction between course participants and module leaders will take place intermittently and may incur a time delay – thus it is imperative to establish a course study routine that suits best individual work schedule, family commitments, internet connection speed, etc.

## Learning Content

The complete set of modules and respective course materials **will be made available instantaneously on the FutureLearn portal. Modules and materials will be released on a weekly basis and will become available to participants regardless of successful completion of previous module and passing the assessment.** Learning materials are organised as follows:

The course matdrial constitutes the core mandatory learning activity. The various module lessons contain main course text as well as links to external websites (e.g. with relevant articles, publications etc.) documentation, videos and podcasts, questions and case studies. All modules have few lectures with the module leader and a guest lecturer. The course and individual module contents have been designed to be accessible and approachable by wide demographic of participants, regardless of their level of knowledge on the topic providing opportunity to both acquire the basics and further elaborate on existing expertise.

## Technical Support

For any technical issue or coordination matter, you may contact the Global Diplomatic Forum Team by sending a message through the FutureLearn platform.

You may also contact us by email. Email support is available 24/7. Given the global scope of the course emails will be answered within 24 hours.

**Global Diplomatic Forum Team**

Jon Rendall and Mr Marcin Dadura

Programme Manager

E-mail: events@gdforum.org

Support hours: 8am to 5pm (GMT)