



GENEVA SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY
& INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY (MIR)

PROGRAMME HANDBOOK



MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (MIR)

The MA Programme in International Relations provide students with advanced training, by way of coursework and dissertation, in the general methods, scope, theories, and findings in the field of International Relations. It provides a development of an undergraduate specialisation in the field of International Relations; it gives a systematic preparation for original postgraduate research or for a demanding international career; and it constitutes a Programme of training for those who have graduated in other fields and wish to transfer to International Relations.

The Programme is built around the three pillars: International Relations, International Economics, International Law, which are covered by core courses of credit value 6 ECTS. A choice of Selective courses is offered as well each Semester. Students are also offered a Research Methods course and a bi-weekly Seminar Series with invited Guest Speakers, who share their practical experience in the field of diplomacy. Internship is also a mandatory part of the MIR Programme curricula.



MIR PROGRAMME AIMS

- To prepare and develop graduates for a career in departments of government, politics, international relations, journalism and business,
- To develop students' intellectual capabilities of analysis and interpretation, critical evaluation, selection and synthesis, reasoned argument, research and problem solving,
- To provide students with a research-active teaching environment which gives them an appropriate grounding in the study of international relations, including its political, social, and economic aspects,
- To examine how state, non-state and supra-national actors behave and interact through a dynamic appreciation of different levels of analysis,
- To ensure that students acquire a solid understanding of methodologies for the study of international processes,
- To ensure that students acquire a solid knowledge of theories of international relations, the heritage and development of the discipline, its major debates, its inherent nature as an interdisciplinary study, and a critical appreciation of the essentially contested nature of politics in general and international relations in particular,
- To ensure that students acquire an advanced understanding of the relationship between theoretical, methodological, and empirical content of the issue-areas studied,
- To develop students' general research skills and personal skills (transferable skills).



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must hold a Bachelor degree. Whilst we accept applications from all varieties of undergraduate majors, a prior degree in international relations, history, social sciences, etc. will be an ideal preparation to commence your MIR studies at GSD.

As the language of instruction is English, you need to submit a [proof of your language proficiency](#).



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of mandatory **academic coursework and practical work experience** within the [GSD Internship Programme](#) will earn the MIR student 60 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credit points. The remaining 30 ECTS credits points, out of a total of **90 ECTS** required, include a significant independent research project (Master's dissertation).

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Masters

Autumn Semester	ECTS	Spring Semester	ECTS	Cross-term	ECTS	Total
Core: Theory and Practice of International Relations	6	Core: Global Security	6	Thesis	30	
Core: Negotiation Simulation	6	Core: International Managerial Economics	6	Internship	6	
Core: Global Health and International Relations: policies, actors and processes	6	Core: Core concepts of International Law	6	Emerging Issues and Persistent Challenges (6 lectures per semester, incl. 1 paper)	4	
Core: Research Methods (run twice a year, only for new students)	4	Core: Research Methods (run twice a year, only for new students)	0			
Selective: International Migration: Case Studies	6	Selective (to choose only one): Managing International Institutions and NGOs	6			
Selective (to choose only one): Current Issues in International Law	6	Selective (to choose only one): International Trade	6			
28		24			40	92



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

CORE MODULES

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This course aims to introduce the students to the core theories and concepts of international relations. It covers the key theorists of international relations and the concepts that are the substance of theoretical constructions (such as balance of power, anarchy, hegemony, sovereignty, war, cooperation among states, interdependence, the rise of non-state actors, etc.). The course also looks at the practical application of theories and concepts by analyzing current international issues through the prism of different theories and perspectives.

At the same time, the course does not intend to present theories and methodologies of international relations as coherent and well-defined phenomena. It invites students to critically assess and deconstruct the “doctrines” and “ideologies” of international relations. The course critically discusses the framework of the main institutions of modernity, the modern nation-states and capitalism. It includes readings which question the conventional way of conceptualization of modernity and invites students to explore a plurality of forms of political and economic organization.

The course is divided into the following parts:

- The first part critically assesses the positioning of the discipline of international relations within the Western paradigm of modernity
- The second part examines and critically evaluates “the science” of international relations and provides an overview of the “great debates”
- The third part discusses the main theoretical approaches to international relations (realism, neorealism, liberalism, neoliberalism, institutional liberalism, constructivism and critical approaches)
- The last part provides the opportunity to explore how the concepts and theories learned during the course apply to the analysis of current issues in international politics

The course will introduce the students to the fundamental concepts in the field of international relations such as balance of power, anarchy, hegemony, world order, war, peace, cooperation among states, interdependence, world systems, multilateralism, unilateralism, diplomacy, international institutions and treaties, international regimes, and the rise of non-state actors; develop critical thinking and analytical skills through the analysis and deconstruction of fundamental texts in the field of international relations; learn how to apply the main schools of thought in international relations to the analysis of topical issues in international relations ; develop practical skills such as oral and written communication, time management, work with texts and providing and receiving feedback.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS

The course aims at illustration of the roles of International Economics, micro-economics and macro-economics within the domain of the *exogenous*, dynamic, international *external environments* of international businesses.

The course studies Economics within a global managerial perspective. Companies working on the international/global scale need to achieve financial, marketing staffing and structural competitiveness that implies an accurate understanding of International Economics from a managerial point of view.

Examination in detail of the real-world, international economic debate, *Laissez Faire versus Interventionism*, via the application of international economic theories : Smithsonian Model/Free Market, Capitalist economy and Marxist Model/Communist, State, Central Planning are used to demonstrate real-world *mixed economies*; economic rationales for Nationalization and Privatization are used to explain world-wide Privatization, especially *debt-for-equity-swap* programmes within Developing economies.

Economic theories of Micro-Economics, Macro-Economics and International Economics are used to demonstrate and explain the economic *external environment* of international business and *current*, real-world economic trends : greater role of *Laissez Faire* Free Market forces and lower levels of government *Interventionism* within mixed economies; ever-increasing global Privatization within *first-world* O.E.C.D. economies and *debt-for-equity-swap* strategies within more-open economies of *emerging markets*; greater preponderance of *oligopolistic*, dominant multi-product multinational firms within international markets; higher levels of Foreign Direct Investment within global Capital Markets; the consumer *credit revolution* and its effect upon aggregate Consumption and Savings.

CORE CONCEPTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Module pursues an objective to introduce the students to some of the key areas of international law, such as law of international treaties, diplomatic and consular law, international mechanisms of human rights protection.

The choice of these issues was governed by the role, which they play in the international relations and diplomacy. Knowledge of the legal aspects of negotiation, conclusion, implementation and interpretation of international treaties, will allow the future diplomats, international civil servants, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, states' decision-makers, experts and other specialists to develop necessary competences for efficient fulfilment of their professional tasks. Solid knowledge of diplomatic and consular law will allow future specialists in international relations to professionally perform the representative functions for their States working in the embassies, consulates, special missions or Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Expansion of international institutional framework of the human rights protection makes it one of the most active spheres of inter-State relations, which requires profound understanding of the system and procedures of the international human rights organs and institutions, so that to be able to

proficiently participate in this process as a State representative, expert, or an official of an international organization or institution.

RESEARCH METHODS

The intended goal of this course is to explain how to write a dissertation or a thesis. Students will learn how to choose a subject and a clear topic, to write a plan of writing / research, how to elaborate a problem question, a cover page / title page, an introduction, research questions and hypotheses; how to respect a theoretical framework, to develop the main body of their dissertation and to write a conclusion.

Students will also learn to gather documentation, to select it and to evaluate sources. They will be taught how to quote, to insert footnotes, to establish a table of content, to elaborate a bibliography and to prepare the defence / presentation of their thesis.

A particular emphasis will be put upon the respect of the rules of academic writing, the rules of citation, methodology and academic honesty (prevention of frauds and plagiarism).

This course deals with the process of academic writing, writing a dissertation / thesis, existing research methods, the rules and principles of academic writing as well as the structure of a dissertation / thesis.

NEGOTIATIONS SIMULATION

The Course intends to give understanding of the role of negotiations in diplomacy and international relations; to give basic knowledge of negotiating strategies, tactics, technical arrangements of negotiations, negotiating behaviour and skills; to develop practical know-how in formulating positions, making official statements and conducting informal consultations, looking for compromises.

The content of the course shall cover:

- The role negotiations play in international relations and diplomacy;
- How negotiations are usually prepared and what difficulties should be overcome in the course of their preparation;
- The goals of different negotiations;
- Stages negotiations usually pass;
- Qualities necessary for negotiators;
- How negotiators are directed by their respective authorities;
- How negotiating tactics depend on chosen strategy;
- How confidentiality of negotiations correlate with their publicity;
- What role mass media could play to influence negotiations;
- What impediments might arise in the course of negotiations and how they could be overcome;
- What types of compromises exist in negotiating practice;
- What kinds of outcome can be expected as a result of negotiations.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: POLICIES, ACTORS AND PROCESSES

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to global health policies related issues, helping them to understand and critically approach the connections between the process of globalisation, development, health and global governance. At the end of the course students should be familiar with the global health architecture and dynamics, and prepared to analyse in further depth the importance and the challenges of taking health into the context of international and transnational relations in a rapidly changing global scene.

After an introduction about the concepts and relevance of Globalisation, Development and Health and the links between these dimensions, the course will introduce students to the Global Health System, its architecture and governance. The governance, policies and strategies of both public and private (profit and non-profit) global actors, will then be presented, as well as the overall influence in determining changes on health, health systems and people access to health services. Issues of global health and for health governance and their trends will be discussed. The global mechanisms of Development Assistance in Health and global financing mechanism will also be presented. The course concludes with a debate about the future of health related challenges in global governance and international relations.

GLOBAL SECURITY

The module provides an advanced introduction into security studies. While taking mainly a theoretical approach, it also explores how the concept of security has been widened and deepened since the end of the Cold War, and how the traditional agenda of politico-military security reflecting mainly inter-state relations has been enlarged to address the impact of globalization on the nation-state, as well as the role of non-international aspects of security, including new non-military and transnational risks and challenges to security, as well as the role of non-state actors.

The module explores the main theoretical approaches to international security studies, taking into account classic international relations theories alongside more specific theoretical perspectives such as human security, critical security studies, and securitization.

The module is divided into two main blocks. The first block reflects security studies from the perspective of the main international relations theories and discusses corresponding conceptual discourses on international security. Upon completion of this first block, students take an intermediary examination. The second block addresses more specific security studies theories and further illustrates them against the background of emerging issues in international security affairs. During this second block, students finalize their essay outlines and submit their essays with the second last class. During the two final classes of the course, students will present their essays to fellow-students in an inter-active learning setting.

DISSERTATION

This module gives students the opportunity to do research and to produce a substantive piece of [academic writing](#) (80 pages or 20 000 words) on a topic of their choice (agreed with by an advisor and approved by GSD). The module “Research Methods” shall develop students’ skills on how to formulate research questions, on how to compose academic texts, on how to use references, on research methods, on research ‘ethics’, and on presenting papers at academic conferences.

Each dissertation student will have a ‘dissertation advisor’, who will guide the student towards the relevant literature, help with the design of the dissertation project and offer subject specific advice. All dissertations must be written in English. Upon submission of the dissertation, an Adviser is given one month to revise and evaluate the dissertation. Latin denominations are used for evaluation the dissertations.



INTERNSHIP

The Geneva School of Diplomacy (GSD) helps the students tap into the tremendous potential of this city through practical, hands-on trainings that assist them to establish relationships with Geneva-based international organizations. You will leverage the resources of GSD to participate in a wide variety of internship opportunities that complement your studies.

[Internship projects](#) are approved by GSD in order to ensure that they complement the programme and the job aspirations of the student. This guarantees that students make the most of the opportunity to adapt their academic knowledge to professional life in their field of interest, to explore career paths, to acquire relevant hands-on practice, and to make important professional contacts.

Master (MIR) students' internship is equivalent to **6 ECTS**.

GSD ensures that interning students incorporate their internship experience into the academic programme, by assigning them an internship coordinator who guides them in the fulfilment of written and oral requirements:

- [Researching and writing a paper on their internship](#) (10 pages minimum).
- [Internship guidelines](#) document

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The assessment strategy is designed to ensure that the learning outcomes are achieved. Assessment is done through examinations and coursework. Coursework consists of a variety of assessment methods and includes written assignments (essays, case studies, reports, summaries) and oral presentations.

[The grades and descriptors](#) are as follows:

Swiss Grade (CRUS)	English distinctions (CRUS)	GSD Letter equivalent (ECTS)	Ideal distribution of pass grades (ECTS)	Percentage equivalent (GSD)	Latin for dissertations (CRUS/GSD)	US/GPA equivalent (WES)
6	Excellent	A	top 10%	90-100%	summa cum laude	A (4.0)
5 1/2	Very good	B	next 25%	80-89%	insigni cum laude	B+ (3.3)
5	Good	C	next 30%	70-79%	magna cum laude	B (3.0)
4 1/2	Satisfactory	D	next 25%	60-69%	cum laude	C+ (2.3)
4	Pass	E	lowest 10%	50-59%	Rite	C (2.0)
3 ½	Fail, some more work required	FX	[best fail grades]	40-49%		F
3 and below	Fail, much further work required	F	[remaining fail grades]	0-39%		F



Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations

**Château de Penthes
18, Chemin de L'Impératrice
1292 Pregny/Geneva, Switzerland
t. +41 22 300 33 77
f. +41 22 300 33 11**