

## **Master of International Relations**

The majority of the students complete the program within six trimesters. The MIR sequencing follows the intakes. Students may start at any trimester. Autumn (September) is the main intake, with Winter (January) and Spring (as the secondary intakes for the MIR).

The three components of the program:

### **Core Subjects**

## **Research Methods and Design**

This subject is designed to provide you with an introduction to how research is conducted in international relations as well as in political science and the social sciences more widely. We will examine how research projects are designed, how data can be gathered and generated, a number of the specific research methods used and, finally, some of the broader ontological, epistemological, and methodological issues researchers in these fields wrestle with. By the end of the subject, the goal is to not only make you an 'intelligent consumer' of research using a range of different methods, but to also give you the basics to begin designing your own research projects using both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

## **International Security**

The subject examines how key issues of international security shape the 21st century. It will: introduce students to the way security has been studied in international relations focusing on a range of security studies approaches; examine the causes and consequences of major recent conflicts; and look at issues surrounding the achievement of peace after conflict. Comparative examples are drawn from a wide range of case studies, including from Africa, Europe and the Asia Pacific to illuminate the key topic areas. Cross-cutting topics include the influence of great powers, state-building, the rise of the human security paradigm, the role of women in conflict and post-conflict situations and the respective roles of the UN and other influential international institutions.

## **International Law and Diplomacy**

This subject explores the basic concepts of international law, such as states, sovereignty and treaties, as well as examining how diplomats and representatives of international organisations work within a global rules-based system. The subject provides students with the theoretical tools to understand the evolution of international law as a system, how international instruments are developed, and how such a system can be affected by an absence of a capacity for enforcement. Case studies of diplomacy are used to illustrate how the system of international law is a dynamic area of state and non-state action.

## **Development Studies**

This subject aims to provide students with the key conceptual language to understand and critically analyse debates in global development such as global inequality. It covers the rise of industrial society, the expansion of European states and the way this structured global development, the emergence of the Global South, competing theories of development, and the main actors in development. The subject also surveys the role of the UN in development, as well as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in its effort to balancing environment and the need for development.

## **Theories of International Relations**

This subject is an introduction to theories of international politics with an emphasis of the Middle East. It surveys the major theories of international relations and some of the newer approaches before examining contemporary relations between states, peoples, and non-state actors. Realism, liberalism, Marxism, and social constructivism are viewed in terms of contemporary global politics.

### **Electives**

## **International Environmental Politics**

International Environmental Politics is an invitation to examine environmental issues, such as climate change, sustainable development, the geopolitics of raw materials or the international trade of waste, from a global perspective. These issues, per se transnational, cannot be approached exclusively from the perspective of the states. They involve states and non-state state actors.

## **Internship in International Relations**

Contact School of Humanities Social Sciences and Health for subject description

## **Issues in IR – Geopolitics of the Extended Middle East**

Issues in International Relations offers opportunities for students to engage with leading internationally- based researchers on a particular issue, field, or problem and content will vary on an annual basis.

## **Current Dilemmas in IR – Peace, Conflict and Conflict Resolution**

Current Dilemmas in International Relations offers opportunities for students to engage with leading internationally-based researchers on a particular issue, field, or problem and content will vary on an annual basis.

## **Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

This course examines terrorism as a contemporary phenomenon representing a major threat on the international security agenda. The course will first analyse terrorism as a concept before giving some historical perspective on the emergence and evolution of terrorism.

## **Gender and International Relations**

This course invites students to explore gendered analysis and feminist approaches to international relations so as to become more aware of the gendered dimensions of any international issue.

## **Geopolitics of the Gulf**

This class is a geopolitical analysis of the Gulf region, spanning the area from North Africa to the Indian Ocean and encompassing the Northern neighbouring states of the Gulf and with the UAE at its centre. Although the class's transdisciplinary approach borrows from various disciplines (Political Geography, History, Anthropology, International Relations and International Law, etc.), it will use the methodology of Geopolitics to examine the ways in which tensions crystallise at different levels of analyses (local, regional and transnational). In line with the conventions of European Geopolitics, emphasis will be placed on the geographical framework, demographics and actors' mental constructs (how local populations perceive the tensions of the area in which they live).

### **Research**

## **Research Project, capstone**

The research project is a major piece of work undertaken over the period of one trimester with an academic supervisor, culminating in an 8,000 word research report. The work is expected to include an in-depth analysis of a significant issue, period or actor in international relations.

## **Research Project, thesis**

Writing a thesis is the most traditional way of demonstrating intellectual depth and professional competence at the end of a master's degree program. The thesis needs a clear theoretical framework and the methodological approach may be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed. The topic and scope of the thesis must be agreed with the student's advisor and the subject convenor before the student embarks on the thesis.