

PROGRAMME

Masters of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy



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Background

Distinguished by its interdisciplinary approach, this programme amalgamates insights from diverse domains such as Business, International Relations, Economics, Diplomacy, and Public Policy. Through an exhaustive curriculum, we endeavor to furnish students with a comprehensive understanding of International Relations and diplomacy on a global scale. Delving into pivotal subjects such as global inequality, environmental policy, international finance, economics, and diplomacy, our programme is a testament to our commitment to addressing the challenges of the international arena.

With a strong focus on post-graduation employability, students will be equipped with key professional skills such as leadership, negotiation skills, and advanced public speaking skills, accompanied by individualized coaching from UNITAR. At the end of the programme, a limited number of students will have the option to apply for an internship, to be facilitated by UNITAR and Schiller International University, and will receive an accredited Master's Degree from Schiller International University alongside a Fellowship Certificate from UNITAR.

Culminating with a graduation ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, this programme fosters an atmosphere of scholarly rigor and collaborative inquiry, where students are immersed in robust discourse, collaborative endeavors, and experiential learning opportunities, thereby cultivating the essential competencies and skills requisite for success in the arena of international relations. Whether your aspirations are rooted in diplomacy, economy, political science, or business, our programme furnishes you with the requisite tools to delve into the evolving international relations arena.



Programme Catalogue Information

Overview

Campus	Heidelberg, Madrid, Paris, Tampa, Online
Delivery Formats	Residential, Hybrid, 100% Online
Language of Instruction	English
Credential awarded	Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy
Intakes/Start dates	Multiple starts per year, please check with Admissions
Required Credits	<p>36 semester credits.</p> <p>The 36 semester credits in this programme are equivalent to 72 credits in the European Credit Transfer System. Students must successfully complete the 12 courses in this programme; each course is three semester credits.</p>
Duration	<p>12 months/1 year.</p> <p>The average academic school year is 10 months; students take one three credit course per month and complete 30 credits per year. Students who interrupt their studies will require more than 10 months or one year to complete the programme.</p>
Optional Activities	<p>The graduation ceremony, to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, will be preceded by an optional 4-day fellowship programme, in which students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the heart of multilateral diplomacy and Geneva's international organisations. Brief workshops will be accompanied by field visits to various UN agencies headquarters in Geneva, as well as networking events.</p> <p>Following graduation, students will have the opportunity to choose between a practical project or internships in their field of specialization (limited number), which will be supported and facilitated by UNITAR and Schiller International University.</p> <p>Students will have to develop a practical project to put into practice the lessons learned from the programme.</p> <p>Students doing the internship will develop practical projects according to the topics covered in the internship or will develop a practical project related to the content in the programme.</p>



Learning Objectives

Graduates of the Master of Arts degree in International Relations and Diplomacy will be able to:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of several subfields of the discipline.
- Utilize strong research skills.
- Engage in critical analysis of global events and complex issues.
- Apply theories of international relations to address real-world international challenges.
- Demonstrate effective written, oral, and online communication skills.
- Develop the skills necessary for pursuing employment opportunities within the international affairs field.

Required Courses

This programme requires the following coursework:

Core Courses: 36 semester credits

Programme Curriculum

	Code	Name	Credits		
Core Courses	BA 589	Methods of Research and Analysis	3	Schiller	
	IR 501	Diplomacy Workshop: Practical and Historical	3	Schiller	
	IR 505	International Relations & Diplomacy Workshop	3	Schiller	
	IR 511	Current Issues in IR: Theories	3	Schiller	
	IR 538	Media Communication Strategies	3	Schiller	
	IR 542	International Organizations	3	Joint	
	IR 544	Conflict and Peace Strategies	3	Schiller	
	IR 545	International Economic Problems	3	Schiller	
	IR 546	International Law	3	Schiller	
	IR 571	Human Rights	3	Joint	
	IR 581	Advanced Topics in International Business	3	Schiller	
	IR 599	Master's Thesis/ Project	3	Schiller	
	Optional	Fellowship Programme and Graduation Ceremony (Study Visit to Geneva)		0	UNITAR
	Optional	Sustainable Practical Project		0	Joint
Optional	Internship		0	Joint	



Course Descriptions



BA 589 Methods of Research and Analysis (3 semester credits)

Methods of Research and Analysis is a course designed for Master students majoring in International Business, International Relations and Diplomacy, or related fields/ Methods of Research and Analysis is a systemic inquiry that provides information about the underlying assumptions and principles of social sciences research. It aims to provide an introduction to research methodology and a basic framework to critically evaluate social and behavioral sciences research. Students will be introduced to major concepts and methods for generating hypotheses and predictions, as well as designing a multimeasure study. This course offers students experience in applying a wide range of methodological and fieldwork activities involved in an actual piece of research. The main stages in historical, social science, and business research are explored.

Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 501 Diplomacy Workshop: Practical and Historical (3 semester credits)

Diplomacy Workshop: Practical and Historical is a course that concentrates on practical aspects of diplomacy, including policy formulation, representation, reporting, analysis, and persuasion, as well as consular functions, public and political affairs. Accordingly, students will examine the fundamental international treaties that lay the ground and provide a framework for diplomatic relations in the modern "interstate" system. The course will also focus on other aspects of diplomacy in practice, e.g., diplomacy in the cyber age, the release of privileged diplomatic communications and the demand for transparency; violence against diplomats and diplomatic establishments; diplomatic asylum; and diplomacy as a basic, traditional tool of commerce.

Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 505 **International Relations and Diplomacy Workshop** (3 semester credits)

International Relations and Diplomacy Workshop is designed to address special topics in the field of international relations ranging from Global Health or other such transnational issues as Climate Change to Area Studies or Regional Development. The focus and topics will change from semester to semester. Flexibly conceived, the course aims to address issues of particular interest to students as they work toward identifying or developing dissertation topics. Using a workshop format, students are expected to collaborate in developing course activities and requirements to meet established learning outcomes.

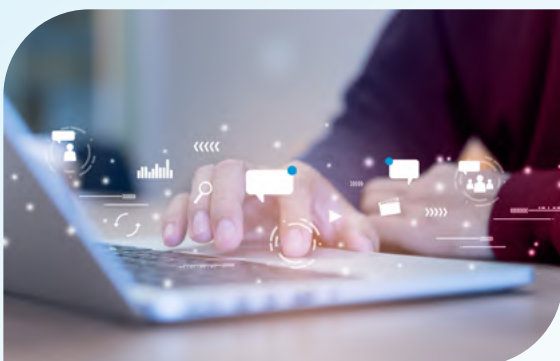
Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 511 **Current Issues in International Relations: Theories** (3 semester credits)

Current Issues in International Relations and Diplomacy: Theories focuses on the application of international relations theory to current issues in the field. Accordingly, topics covered will vary. In addition to revisiting principal paradigms in IR theory, students will be given the opportunity to apply these theories to their particular areas of interest. The course will be conducted as a seminar, and students will be expected to actively engage their colleagues in their research.

Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 538 **Media Communication Strategies** (3 semester credits)

Media Communication Strategies is a course that reviews aspects of media power and media's role in politics, in particular: the relationship between the audience, the media and governments, the political decision-making process in the digital/social media age, virtual democracy, mediatization, principles of media freedom and freedom of expression, as well as media ethics and media justice. The course will also evaluate contemporary journalistic practices, media objectivity, media ownership and new forms of journalism.

Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 542 International Organizations (3 semester credits)

International Organizations is a course that critically examines key theoretical and practical dimensions of international or, more specifically, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) (their origins, development, structure), and the role they play in interstate politics. Arbiters of international cooperation in times of peace and conflict – assuming such myriad responsibilities as the management of economic relations, the promotion of human rights, the prosecution of international crimes and, increasingly, the development of environmental standards – the ways in which such IGOs seek to "institutionalize" cooperation at the interstate or international level will be a main focus of the course. Students will analyze the mandates of such organizations as the United Nations, NATO, the European Union, the African Union, and others.

Responsible by: Joint

Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 544 Conflict and Peace Strategies (3 semester credits)

Conflict and Peace Strategies explores sources of conflict and examines conflict-resolution mechanisms and preventative diplomacy tools such as negotiation, mediation, and peace building. While historical efforts at fostering a culture of conflict resolution will be addressed, the course will focus on peace strategies in the Post-World War II era. War- the use of force- is illegal under international law except in cases of self-defense, or action authorized by the UN Security Council. The UN Charter and subsequent treaty law "universally" condemn offensive military action or acts of aggression. Accordingly, the course will examine international acts of violence – if not above all the growing number of intra-state conflicts and their international spill-over effects -- against the backdrop of international law: whether these acts are unilateral, multilateral (coalition-based), defined as "policing" or humanitarian interventions, or acts perpetrated by non-state actors.

Responsible by: Schiller University

Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 545 International Economic Problems (3 semester credits)

International Economic Problems provides analytical frameworks linked to events in the world economy. The course is designed to stress concepts and their application in an international environment. In this framework, students critically examine theories of trade and globalization, as well as major aspects of finance and currency regimes. Issues such as income distribution, poverty, and standard of living are also explored.

Responsible by: Schiller University

Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 546 International Law (3 semester credits)

International Law provides a broad platform to describe the main elements of Public International Law, including those contestable theories that underpin their political context. It affords students with various insights concerning the formal structure of the international legal system. The main emphasis is on international law as a decentralized legal order. The different features, which the law exhibits, from the centralized arrangements of familiar domestic legal systems will be explored. Discussion points may include, environmental protection, land and maritime disputes, jurisdictional conflicts, investment arbitration, and the newer fields affecting the global harmonization of cybercrime legislations, etc.

Responsible by: Schiller University

Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 571 Human Rights (3 semester credits)

Human Rights: The proposition that "humans" have rights irrespective of their diverse cultural, political, and religious heritage forms the basis of international law as articulated in the United Nations Charter of 1945. This proposition of a jus cogens, or "peremptory norms", from which no derogation is permitted will be analyzed. The United Nations (UN) asserts that human rights are not only "universal and inalienable" but also "interdependent and indivisible". The UN does not recognize a hierarchy of rights – from the basic negative "civil and political" rights, the positive "socio-economic, and cultural" rights to "group" rights and the rights of "future generations." This course will also critically explore these various approaches to the Universalist proposition.

Responsible by: Joint

Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 581 **Advanced Topics in International Business** (3 semester credits)

Advanced Topics in International Business is a course designed to allow a thorough evaluation and analysis on a specific institution or an issue of interest to international business and selected by the instructor. Instruction will focus in depth on the specific subject of current importance, such as the analysis of an institution, issue or conflict relevant to international business at the time of teaching.

Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Graduate standing



IR 599 **Master's Thesis/Project** (3 semester credits)

Master's Thesis/Project is designed to allow postgraduate students to write their research project in the discipline of International Relations and Diplomacy. Conducting a research dissertation (or thesis) is a great opportunity to apply all what students have learnt during their time at Schiller International University, whether in the classroom, during conversations with their peers, or through the various experts they have engaged with, to produce a piece of work that should contribute to the collective understanding of International Relations and Diplomacy. Any successful research dissertation requires arduous work on the part of students, dedication, as well as a commitment to working on a dissertation over a prolonged period of time.

Responsible by: Schiller University
Prerequisite: Student must have completed at least 12 credits



Optional Activities



Fellowship Programme and Graduation Ceremony (Study Visit to Geneva)

Geneva has been hosting intergovernmental organizations since the early 20th century. International conferences take place in the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), in the five United Nations specialized agencies which have their headquarters in the city, in the Geneva headquarters or offices of United Nations bodies, commissions, programs and in other United Nations or non-UN entities.

During the 1-week study visits, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the very heart of diplomacy. Students will have the opportunity to visit different international organizations, the Palais des Nations (United Nations Office at Geneva), and participate in face-to-face training sessions at UNITAR headquarters delivered by practitioners, senior diplomats and members of academia. They will also have the chance to network with diplomats, personnel of permanent missions accredited to the UN, civil servants of international organizations, and civil society representatives.

Attention will be paid to time the study visit around important international meetings in Geneva surrounding international relations and public policy. At the end of their study visit, participants will have a graduation ceremony providing certification to successful graduates in line with UNITAR’s certification policy.

Responsible by: UNITAR



Sustainable Practical Project

The MSc in International Relations offers two options for practical projects for students. Option 1, involves (in groups 4-5) an in-depth case study analysis, policy development exercises, simulation exercises, and policy proposal presentations. Students will gain practical skills in diplomacy, policy development, negotiation, and presentation while contributing to the advancement of global efforts toward achieving the SDGs. Option 2, allows students to collaborate with their employers

to integrate the SDGs into diplomatic practice within their workplaces. Through project selection, diplomatic strategy development, and policy proposal formulation, students will apply their skills and knowledge to real-world scenarios, contributing to the promotion of sustainable development at the international level. Both options provide valuable learning experiences and prepare students for future careers in diplomacy and international relations.

Responsible by: Joint





Internship

Following their graduation, students will have the option of doing a 3-6 month internship in the field of International Relations. Internship placements in this program are directly related to providing learning experiences not available in the classroom setting. Internships proportion career experience and workplace competencies that employers value when hiring new employees. Students will have to announce their interest in participating in the internship placement program

at the beginning of their studies and undergo a selection process. Over the course of their studies, they will received individualized coaching and guidance on their applications. Schiller and UNITAR will facilitate and support students in their applications. While the success of securing a placement remains the student's responsibility, Schiller International University and UNITAR will support and facilitate the student's applications.

Responsible by: Joint

Eligibility Criteria

In order to apply for the programme, candidates must:

- Have, at minimum, a B2 level of English
- Have a Bachelor's Degree in a similar degree, or 3+ years relevant working experience.
- UNITAR is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Qualified women, individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.





**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

