



GENEVA SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY
& INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Programme Handbook

Short Term Certificate Course
Academic Year 2018-2019

Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations
www.genevadiplomacy.ch

- Located in the heart of the most diplomatic neighbourhood in the world
- Highly distinguished faculty and small, interactive classes
- Internship & networking possibilities
- Theory & praxis-oriented curriculum

An introduction

The Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations (GSD) is located in the *Domaine de Penthes* at Pregny-Geneva, a very beautiful campus in the heart of the most diplomatic neighborhood on the planet. That neighborhood is home to more than 190 international organizations – governmental and non-governmental. GSD students are regular visitors to one or another of these organizations. And every GSD student carries a card and pass to one of the great libraries of the world in the field of international relations and international law – the United Nations Library.

The mission and commitment of GSD is that its graduates and alumni contribute to improving the state of world society – while building careers for themselves of high value. To this end, the faculty of GSD is second to none: lecturers are either renowned academics or are themselves serving diplomats. A number of ambassadors serving their countries in Geneva are regularly teaching at GSD.

The GSD prepares future world leaders for their roles on the world stage to advance peace and human rights. Based on its core values of Academic & Vocational Excellence, Integrity and Professionalism, GSD provides high quality and praxis-orientated education combined with an commitment to student support and promotes a philosophy rooted in the School's motto '*serviando gubernare*' – that to govern is to serve.

The MIR 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 Specialized 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.

Programme aims

The aims of the programme are:

- 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 the STCC programme at GSD. As the language of instruction is English, you need to submit a *proof of your language proficiency*.

Candidates should also have reached a minimum English proficiency level equivalent to an overall IELTS¹ test score of 6. This should include a minimum score of 6 in both the Writing and Reading components of the IELTS test, or TOEFL¹² minimum score of 550.

Prospective students may be dispensed from written proof of English language test if they have:

- 1) Attended an international school where the language of instruction was English.
- 2) Their mother tongue is English.
- 3) Passed the admissions interview (in person or facilitated via IT media) resulting in a satisfactory command of the English language by the admissions department.
- 4) Passed the compulsory motivational essay as part of the application process written in English.

Graduation requirements

The STCC programme does not require candidates to take exams, and therefore will not result in European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credit points. After completion of the course, the candidate will receive an official Certificate of Completion.

¹ IELTS : International English Testing Service examination, administered by the British Council.

¹² TOEFL CBT or PBT (not IBT) : Test of English as a Foreign Language, administered by the Educational Testing Service, Rosedale Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08541, USA.

Curriculum content

The GSD curriculum is based on three pillars: International Relations, International Law and International Economics, forming the *core* of the curriculum. Moreover, a number of courses on *specific matters* of international relations (e.g. migration, international trade, humanitarian law, global health, international security, etc.), as well as *diplomatic skills workshops* (Leadership, Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette, Humanitarian Diplomacy, etc.) are offered as a part of the curriculum. Please note that STCC students can only choose between the core courses to audit during their semester at GSD. If a candidate is interested in participating in other courses, as extra to their 3 courses, they should ask the Academic Office for the possibilities. A participation fee per extra course will be charged (fee will depend on the type of course).

All courses are tailored to provide fundamental competencies and transferable skills, which shall allow future diplomats, international civil servants, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, states' decision-makers, experts and other specialists to develop high levels of proficiency for efficient fulfilment of their daily tasks.

In addition to [GSD's renowned faculty](#), serving Ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic neighbourhood, representatives from the International Organisations as well as high-level experts on cutting edge issues are regularly invited to share their invaluable knowledge and experience with the students.

To provide a forum for meeting such experts, a [Seminar Series: Emerging Issues and Persistent Challenges](#) is organized by GSD on a bi-weekly basis, and is a part of the MIR curriculum.

All courses are developed and delivered in accordance with the highest academic standards. The courses are taught through the variety of methodological approaches: *concept learning, debates, brainstorming, case studies, role games, exposure to real world situations, as well as workshops, multi-stakeholder simulations, conferences, seminars, round-table discussions*, to name just a few.

GSD curriculum of the MIR Programme offers the following core courses:

1. World Politics: Trends and Transformations
2. Diplomatic Negotiations: Policy, Practice, Procedures
3. International Managerial Economics
4. Core Concepts of International Law
5. Research Design and Methodology

CORE COURSES

1. WORLD POLITICS: TRENDS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

This course intends to help students build their ability to think rationally and systemically when they interpret international political phenomena.

The course offers an advanced introduction to the key topics of the IR genesis, historical evolution and modern transformations with the emphasis on its historical and cultural roots. In this module, we will go over various IR “worldviews” and discuss what are the logical short-comings of each approach and how we can improve our understanding the real modern world.

We will track the political, cultural, religious, economic, and social factors affecting relations between state, societies and individuals from early Agrarian era to present time. In examining these questions, we will consider a variety of sources revealing inherent interaction between “International Relations” and “Political Theory” including classical and contemporary accounts, historical monographs and interpretive essays.

The course is divided into *two core blocks*:

- The birth and formation of IR;**
- Modern international system transformations.**

This course has been designed to provide students with a historical overview and contextual appraisal of the origins, evolution and modern transformations of International Relations.

In this journey the students will learn:

- to frame the evolution of the international system in the major historical events that served as milestones of its formation;**
- to explain and evaluate various theories of international relations by comparing their assumptions, arguments, and evidence;**
- to apply theories, concepts about human and social behaviour to real world international politics;**

to enable students to:

- analyse and interpret the current issues and situations of global agenda in a multi-disciplinary and systemic way;**
- understand and explain main social, political and economic determinants of international relations and how they relate to the global policy agenda;**

- identify and examine policies, strategies, and influences of global actors;
- explain the impacts of cultural differences on international affairs;
- carry out analytical research on the current international relations problems;

2. DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS: POLICY, PRACTICE, PROCEDURES

This course aims to identify and critically assess the variables in diplomatic negotiations, develop sound negotiation policies, advance an understanding of various diplomatic negotiations practices and procedures needed for solving conflicts, transactional and interpersonal differences and taking into account the various rules, traditions and expectations. The course provides students with the necessary knowledge to build consensus, reach agreements, execute effective dispute resolutions and improve competence to manage professional relationships and effectively participate in diplomatic negotiations. The course offers an insight on international, intercultural and multicultural negotiations to the students aspiring to evolve in an international, intercultural and multicultural world.

The course is designed to enable students to analyse the impact of key diplomatic negotiation factors such as: specific issues in question, various policies to follow, different positions and interests of the stakeholders, their relationships, timing, environment and dynamics of the group. The students cultivate and practice various policies, practices and procedures to effectively manage different situations that frequently arise in diplomatic negotiations. The course empowers students to apply written and oral communication practices for problem solving and influencing and persuading procedures for a given situation. The course emphasises on the development of appropriate resolution policies and the use of strategic planning and reporting process for successfully conducting diplomatic negotiations.

Module aims

- Understand policies, practices and procedures in diplomatic negotiations.
- Establish strategies to enhance communication and understanding between the stakeholders.
- Perform efficiently in multilateral conferences and diplomatic negotiations.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

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.



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