



GENEVA SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY  
& INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE



DOCTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DIR)

# Programme Handbook

Doctor of International Relations (DIR)

Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations  
[www.genevadiplomacy.ch](http://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 '*serviendo governo*' – that to govern is to serve.

The doctorate at The Geneva School of Diplomacy is a prestigious, well-rounded program that offers a unique and exciting intellectual environment for the in-depth and interdisciplinary study of International Relations and Diplomacy.

GSD brings together academic excellence through meticulous independent research, and real world applicability. We confer doctoral degrees on the basis of two distinct modalities:

- Doctor of International Relations by Research (Dissertation of 80,000 – 100.000 words)
- Doctor of International Relations by Dossier



## **Entry Requirements**

A BA degree and a MA in a subject appropriate to the Programme. Equivalent overseas qualifications are acceptable.

## **Admission: DIR by Research and by Dossier**

Rolling admission.

**Credits Required:** 240 ECTS. (Only DIR by Research).

## **Duration DIR by Research:**

- 3 years full time

## **Doctor of International Relations (DIR) by Dossier**

The candidate submits to GSD a dossier presenting a minimum of 8 scholarly papers published by the most representative international journals or a book published by a top publishing house. A commission formed by GSD and external examiners will be created to assess each particular case. Only outstanding work will be considered. Applicants are expected to be leading authorities in the field of study concerned.

## **Doctor of International Relations (DIR) by Research**

The GSD-DIR research programme offers a unique and exciting intellectual environment for the in-depth and interdisciplinary study of International Relations and Diplomacy.

The programme has already attracted high skilled and experienced students from across the world, among others; Afghanistan, Bahrain, France, Hungary, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Pakistan, Russia and USA. Students have developed and are carrying out research in areas as diverse as traditional and new security issues, diplomacy, political economy, human rights, geo-politics, post-colonial studies. Doctoral students are expected to contribute to the GSD research profile by being affiliated as research fellows to the Globecraft® Institute.

## **Study Environment**

GSD post-graduate students work closely with their assigned supervisor. GSD supervisors work intensively to develop at the highest level the potential of each candidate, both from methodological and theoretical points of view.



## Programme content DIR by Research

You will have to make in total 9 Compulsory Visits to GSD.

Residential option of the DIR Programme includes regular attendance of the IR courses over 2 or 4 Semesters at GSD.

### NOTICE

GSD is temporarily accepting virtual meetings due to COVID. However, visits whether in-person or virtual are based on the understanding between the student and their respective thesis advisors.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Year: 4 Compulsory Visits to GSD**

- Register as DIR student (Doctor of International Relations).
- After 1 month: 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting with research advisor at GSD.
- After 6 months: 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting & 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report and follow-up meeting with supervisor at GSD.
- After 9 months: 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting with research advisor and submission of 5'000 word peer review journal paper at GSD.
- After 11 months: 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting with research advisor and submission of draft introduction and 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of thesis.
- After 12 months: Upon approval of upgrading process, candidates will be upgraded to the status of Doctoral Candidate.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Year: 3 Compulsory Visits to GSD**

- After 6 months: 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting and submission of 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report to advisor at GSD.
- After 9 months: 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting with research advisor and submission of 2<sup>nd</sup> 5'000 word peer review journal paper.
- After 12 months: 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting and submission of 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report to research advisor at GSD.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Year: 2 Compulsory Visits to GSD**

- After 6 months: 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting and submission of 4<sup>th</sup> Progress Report to research advisor at GSD.
- After 12 months: Submission of thesis and Defence.

## **The Academic Standards**



- Both the Advisor and the Candidate make sure that the work submitted to GSD meets the highest academic standards and, more specifically, the DIR Thesis Handbook, available on [GSD CRM](#).

***Upon termination of the DIR Programme, the Candidate:***

- have demonstrated a systematic understanding of a field of International Relations and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with International Relations;
- have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process or research with scholarly integrity;
- have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national and international refereed publication;
- is capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- can communicate with his/her peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about his/her research of expertise;
- can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society.



## Programme content DIR by Dossier

### Description

The DIR by Dossier is awarded by GSD to leading authorities in the field of study concerned. This prestigious doctorate degree recognises scholarly work of high distinction, impact and originality.

### How to Apply

#### Documents

- Interested applicants are requested to complete the GSD form for Preliminary Approval.
- A statement of 1.000 words where the candidate explains and justifies why she/he meets all the requirements for the Award of the GSD DIR by Dossier.
- A collection of 8 scholarly papers published in top international journals or a solely authored book published by a prestigious publishing house or university press (published a maximum of 3 years in advance to the year of the application).
- Updated CV.

### Procedure

- Applications should be sent electronically or by surface mail to GSD Academic Office at [academic-office@genevadiplomacy.com](mailto:academic-office@genevadiplomacy.com).
- An *Ad Hoc* commission (GSD and external faculty) will be created to evaluate the applications on an individual basis.
- Applicants will be required to pay 5,000 CHF in two instalments. For further details on payment instalments please consult the GSD Tuition Policy available on the [GSD website](#).
- The process may take between 3 and 6 months.
- Successful candidates will be named Honorary Research Fellows of the Globecraft® Institute.



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### **Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations**

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