



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Achieving International Excellence

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Master of International Relations



Political Science and International Relations at The University of Western Australia offers a Master of International Relations by coursework. The newly developed postgraduate units comprising the course are taught by experienced specialists in the field, including multiple winners of recent Excellence in University Teaching Awards. The Department has been ranked in the top two in Australia and the top thirty in the world for research relative to department size.

The course will equip students with relevant theoretical and historical knowledge and is particularly oriented towards understanding developments, outlooks, relationships and possibilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Who is the course designed for?

The course is designed both for those purely interested in acquiring a better understanding of global governance and politics and for those seeking a qualification to enhance their career prospects. It will be relevant to people interested in working in businesses and government agencies with international linkages, agencies involved in regional or global governance, or international non-government organisations. Depending on the pathway chosen, it may also provide a means of qualifying for entry to higher degree research programs such as the PhD.



Assessing the Asia Pacific's strategic outlook from an Indian Ocean perspective is becoming both fashionable and necessary. As the 2009 Australian Defence White Paper said *'The Indian Ocean will have greater strategic significance in the period to 2030...(it) will join the Pacific Ocean in terms of its centrality to our maritime strategy and defence planning'*. The new Master of International Relations at UWA will permit students to engage with these issues at one of Australia's oldest universities, **which has always had an intense focus on this crucial region.**" – Professor Kim Beazley AC, former Australian Defence Minister and Ambassador-designate to the United States of America.

How will completing this course help my career prospects?

Completing further study beyond a Bachelor degree will enhance your ability to compete for employment and advancement. The Master of International Relations provides students with a qualification relevant to professional employment in a range of business, government and non-government organisations in Australia and overseas. The course provides students with an advanced understanding of the field of international relations, including its concepts, theoretical perspectives and debates. It develops students' capacities to collect and interpret information; to analyse arguments, policies and developments; and to construct cogent verbal and written arguments on international relations subjects. It also gives students an appreciation of the ways in which knowledge of international relations is utilized, including in professional employment.

What is the course structure?

This is a three semester full time or five year (maximum) part time course, available to domestic and international students, with intakes at both the beginning and mid year. A student must complete 72 points of study with a passing grade in each of six units from the following list:

- **The International Political System:**

- Evolution and Contemporary Issues (12 pts)**

The unit reviews the historical development of the international system from various Western and non-Western perspectives. It investigates the extent to which a norm of sovereign independence and non-intervention has defined this system, and whether the norm is now fundamentally challenged. Particular attention is paid to the implications of the end of the Cold War and of a range of contemporary challenges in world politics.

- **International Relations in the Asia-Pacific Region (12 pts)**

The unit reviews the historical evolution of relations in the Asia-Pacific (East Asia, South Asia and the South Pacific), before devoting attention to the contemporary foreign policies of states, such as China, Japan, India, the USA and Australia, which are influential in the affairs of this region. Regional organisations, human security issues, and Australia's changing relations with the region are among the topics expected to be investigated.

- **Problems of International Security (12 pts)**

The unit analyses contemporary international problems affecting the security of individuals, communities and states and the means available to resolve them. Relevant subject matter includes key institutions and actors involved in global and regional security; perspectives on issues such as nuclear weapons, terrorism, and humanitarian intervention; and contemporary conflict situations and their prospects for resolution. Topics may differ from year to year depending on staff input.

- **States and International Political Economy (12 pts)**

States exist in an international system of political, military and economic interdependence. The unit investigates this political-economic system, its key institutions (World Bank, World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund) and its consequences for political stability and economic growth. Topics are expected to include the capacity of institutions to assist less developed countries and to deal with resource scarcity, climate change and environmental degradation.

- **Theory and Method in International Relations (12 pts)**

The unit explores the role of theory and method in research in international relations. Students are introduced to a number of major contending theories and approaches in the field and their application in major contributions to the international relations' literature. Further, commonly used research methods are examined and several methodological issues are discussed. Students taking this unit may have an opportunity to apply knowledge gained to the design of their own research project.

- **Identities in Global Politics:**

- Nationalism, Ethnicity and Religion (12 pts)**

The unit examines competing identities in global politics, with a focus on nationalism and ethnicity in various regions and on Islam as a global religion. Relevant subject matter includes the competing identity claims of nationalism and cosmopolitanism, forms of contemporary nationalism, nationalist rivalry and ethnic conflicts in Asia, and the role of Islam in contemporary international politics. The attention given to different parts of the unit may vary from year to year.

An alternative pathway is provided for students who achieve a distinction average (70% or better) in their first 48 points of coursework and who wish to undertake a major research project in place of further coursework. A student following this pathway must complete 72 points of study with a passing grade in each unit or dissertation component in accordance with the following program:

- a) 48 points of units from the units listed above.
- b) 15,000 word dissertation (24 points) completed in the final semester of the course.

Admission requirements

Applicants for the Master of International Relations must normally hold a three year Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification in the social sciences or humanities from an approved tertiary institution, with a distinction (70% or better) average or equivalent in the major sequence. Applicants with an average of 65% or better in the major may be admitted if they have at least one year of relevant work experience (i.e. employment with a significant international relations dimension or a significant research component). Examples of relevant experience are employment by the Department of Defence, or preparation of reports or briefing papers for an MP, a minister or a public sector agency.

Applicants may also be admitted on the basis of completion of either the Graduate Certificate in International Relations or the Graduate Diploma in International Relations with an average mark of 65%.

Credit

Students who have completed the requirements for the Graduate Certificate in International Relations, with an average mark of 65%, receive 24 points of credit towards the Master of International Relations.

Students who have successfully completed the requirements for the Graduate Diploma in International Relations, with an average mark of 65%, receive 48 points of credit towards the Master of International Relations.

The Faculty may grant credit towards the course units up to a total value of 24 points in the case of students who have completed a relevant honours degree as recognised by the Faculty.

Graduate Certificate in International Relations

The Graduate Certificate in International Relations is intended for those who wish to undertake further study so that they can proceed to a Graduate Diploma and possibly also a Master's degree, or who wish to obtain advanced qualifications in the field of international relations. The course is designed both for those purely interested in acquiring a better understanding of global governance and politics and for those seeking a qualification to enhance their career prospects.

Applicants for the Graduate Certificate require a three year Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification in any discipline from an approved tertiary institution, with a distinction (70% or better) average or equivalent, in any major. Applicants with an average of 65% or better in the major may be admitted if they have at least one year of relevant work experience (i.e. employment with a significant international relations dimension or a significant research component).

Students are introduced to the academic field of international relations, including some key concepts, theoretical perspectives and debates in the field. Students also acquire knowledge about some major real world developments in international relations, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

This is a one semester full time or two year (maximum) part time course in which a student must complete 24 points of study with a passing grade.





Graduate Diploma in International Relations

The Graduate Diploma is intended for those who already hold a degree but who wish to undertake further study so that they can proceed to a Master's degree, or who wish to obtain advanced qualifications in the field of international relations. The course is designed both for those purely interested in acquiring a better understanding of global governance and politics and for those seeking a qualification to enhance their career prospects.

Applicants for the Graduate Diploma require a three year Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification in any discipline from an approved tertiary institution, with a distinction (70% or better) average or equivalent, in any major. Applicants with an average of 65% or better in the major may be admitted if they have at least one year of relevant work experience (i.e. employment with a significant international relations dimension or a significant research component).

The Graduate Diploma in International Relations provides students with an understanding of the academic field of international relations, including a number of its central concepts, theoretical perspectives and debates. Students also acquire knowledge of a range of major real world developments in international relations, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

This is a two semester full time or four year (maximum) part time course in which a student must complete 48 points of study with a passing grade.

The Core Teaching Team

Winthrop Professor Mark Beeson has teaching and research interests in international political economy and international relations of the Asia-Pacific region. He is particularly interested in the development of regional institutions and the intersection of economic, political and strategic forces that shape them.

Associate Professor Chen Jie teaches international relations in East Asia. He has a major research interest in foreign policies and transnational civil society in East Asia in general, and China and Taiwan in particular.

Winthrop Professor Alex Coram teaches choice theory, game theory and international political economy. He has research interests in social choice theory, game theory, optimization theory and formal modeling and has recently worked on problems of cooperation and conflict over resources.

Associate Professor Roderic Pitty has teaching and research interests in international order and justice, with particular reference to the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Australia and comparable societies. He also has research interests in contemporary and historical Australian foreign policy, and global citizenship.

Professor Samina Yasmeen teaches strategy and diplomacy, and Islam and world politics. Her research interests include the domestic and foreign policies of the states of South Asia, confidence building in international relations, women and citizenship, and the place of Islam in the international system. She is Director of the UWA Centre for Muslim States and Societies.

How do I apply?

Please contact the Discipline of Political Science and International Relations to discuss your interest in the courses and to receive any advice you may require:

Tel: +61 8 6488 2086

Email: political.science@uwa.edu.au

Application forms are available by following the links from the website www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgrad

For further information regarding the units and admission requirements please refer to the website:

www.politicalscience.arts.uwa.edu.au

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