



Geopolitical Studies (GPS)
Charles University
Student Prospectus

Get hands-on experience, create the world you want to live in

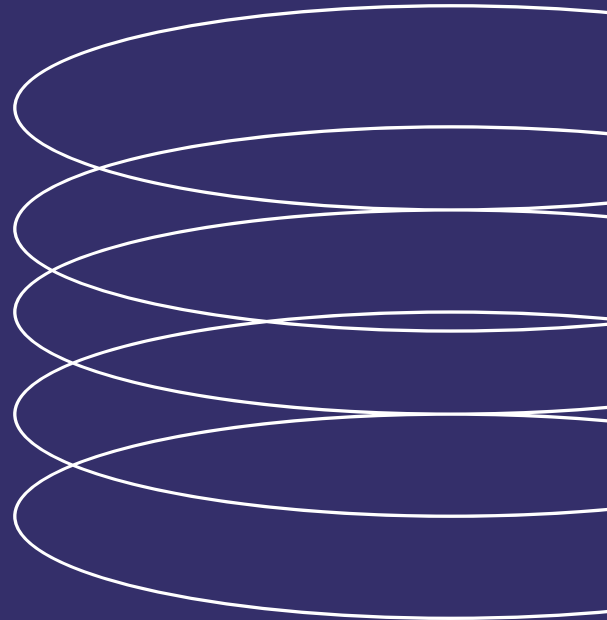


<https://ips.fsv.cuni.cz/>

Why study Geopolitics?

The term "geopolitics" has become widely used in various settings, including on television and in lecture halls. It is now commonly associated with international strategic rivalry, and has become an important concept in modern discourse.

"My Commission will be a geopolitical Commission committed to sustainable policies (Ursula von der Leyen, 2019)."



Study geopolitics in the friendly cosmopolitan environment of Prague

WHY CHARLES UNIVERSITY?

Meet like minded people from around the world and join our prestigious alumni. Enjoy a tailor-made program, with a 95% international student body, and interactive classes.

Live in safety in the heart of Europe where the Czech Republic is consistently ranked in the Top 10 safest countries in the World.

As the essence of geopolitics is the study of interstate conflict with a geographic perspective - there is no better place to study Geopolitics than Prague.

Mission goal: GPS brings together students, academic staff, and external lecturers from every corner of the world to make a difference

- Debate international intervention with students from Kosovo and Serbia, or students who were deployed in Afghanistan or Iraq.
- Discuss world politics with lecturers who have worked across the globe.
- Brainstorm security in Africa with General Eeben Barlow who fought against insurgencies in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Angola.



GPS students have come from over 50 countries



**12 Annual International Geopolitical
Conferences with guests from all over the world**





**Geopolitics is more relevant to world affairs
than ever before**



**Prime Ministers of Germany, the Netherlands, and French president
Macron launched the Institute for Geopolitics on October 7th, 2022 in
Prague to boost the EU's thinking in terms of power, interests, and
identity.**



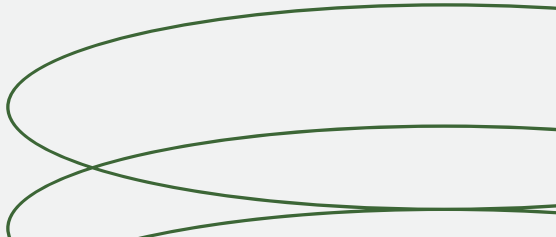
Program overview

GPS is a two-year English-language Master's degree program which combines disciplines of Geography, Geostrategy, Geoeconomics, International Relations, and Politics.

The terms Geopolitics and International Relations (IR) have been used interchangeably. Geopolitics, however, is about much more. Geography dictates the course of events. Geography defines what a nation is or can be (and from which our world leaders have often struggled to break free).

Geopolitics is more relevant than ever. In the age of global uncertainty, war in Ukraine affecting security in Europe, deteriorating stability in Africa and the Middle East, US-China tensions having direct effects on the situation in Asia, and the global security of supply chains being disrupted - geopolitical analysis is of the essence.

The GPS program is focused on understanding how the world works in this age of unprecedented connectivity, downgrading security, and growing geostrategic tensions. Students will learn why geography may be a tyrant but also can be a country's greatest advantage. In GPS you will become skilled at geopolitical and geoeconomic analysis, gain empirical knowledge of regions and countries, develop your analytical, writing, and argumentation skills as well as understanding of cutting-edge theories. Students are taught by leading academic specialists with extensive policy networks and practitioners to understand the geopolitical landscape and events shaping the environment in which states and businesses operate.





Program structure

The program is structured to take advantage of the multidisciplinary nature of the Institute of Political Studies (IPS) and the Faculty of Social Sciences as a whole. Students are encouraged to connect different fields of study and combine a global perspective with attention to detail and local interests.

The GPS curriculum is designed to emphasize two core elements that guarantee the ongoing success of our graduates. Firstly, our students acquire a strong empirical knowledge of world problems. Secondly, they gain practical skills to effectively apply their knowledge and make a difference.

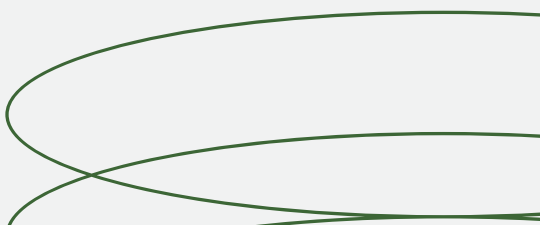
The structure of courses is built on 2 pillars:

GPS emphasizes understanding of long-term effects of power transformation on world politics and a comprehensive analysis on how geopolitical, geoeconomic, demographic trends will re-shape the geopolitical environment and affect world regions in the ongoing shifting global dynamics. Study how great-powers rivalry can lead to regional instability, global-trade conflicts, shifting state alliances, or the changing role of territory and borders. Issues such as the Geopolitics of climate change or the role of non-state actors are essential components of global dynamics. You will learn about strategic competition, what drives states to start wars or engage in intra-state conflicts, and the processes leading to state failure.

I. Geopolitics is a discipline analyzing how the world works (with an emphasis on the role of great powers, their drivers and motivations, development of geopolitics and geostrategy, geopolitics of world regions, theoretical and empirical understanding of war, geopolitical schools of thought, and the role of sovereignty and international recognition in world politics);

In addition to this robust empirical and theoretical knowledge, GPS is a career-focused program emphasizing hands-on experience. Study practically oriented courses such as Political Risk Analysis, Geopolitical Debates, Geopolitics of Defence Industry and Arms Trade, or undertake an Internship at the Ministry of Defence. Throughout the curriculum, interactive lectures and seminars are designed to:

II. Build empirical knowledge, acquire analytical skills and expand expertness over language, writing, and argumentation skills in practically oriented courses. Learn in classes taught by world-renowned guest lecturers and experienced senior policy makers. Acquire unique skills through a wide range of courses and extra-school activities, and additionally build networks necessary for your future career-paths.



Course Structure

Over the duration of the program, students obtain a total of 120 ECTS credits in 3 types of courses:

- I. Compulsory courses (61 ECTS credits) covering essential areas of Geopolitics and including 2 Master's thesis seminars (12 ECTS) and Geopolitical methods designed to help students to write their MA theses.
- II. Elective courses (41 ECTS at least) selected from wide offer of classes covering different fields of Geopolitics.
- III. Optional courses (12 ECTS at maximum) that students can choose according to their area of interest.



Courses on offer include:

- Geopolitics and Geostrategy
- World Regions
- Sovereignty, Unrecognized States
- Political Risk Analysis
- War, Politics and Society
- Theories of International Relations
- Geopolitics of Defence Industry and Arms Trade
- Geopolitics of Climate Change
- Geopolitics of Central Europe
- Geopolitics of Africa
- Geopolitics of Latin America
- Geopolitics of the Middle East
- Geopolitics of Great Powers - China, Russia, & Transatlantic Space
- Violent Non-state Actors
- Astropolitics
- Geopolitical Thought
- Geopolitical Debates and Internship

GPS Graduate Profile

When you graduate, you will join an alumni network that has gone on to work in diplomacy, international organizations, national agencies, international business, or academia.

GPS graduates have pursued successful careers all over the world. Strong empirical knowledge of the world, methodological and theoretical background, and practical skills make them highly valued experts and prepare them to become country risk, intelligence or security analysts, and start a career in diplomacy, foreign affairs, security, trade sector, defence or the defence industry, or join international organizations such as NATO, the European Union, or work in international business, media, or continue a career in academia or think-tanks, and the world of NGO's.

EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENT THESES:

- Geopolitical concepts Conceptualizing Location – One term, many meanings, a lot of problems
- Geopolitical theories: Intermarium concept in contemporary geopolitics
- Geoeconomics: The Effects of US Sanctions in Venezuela
- Geopolitics of regions: The Balkans after 1991 through the prism of geopolitics
- Border studies: Attitudes of border dwellers as indicators of the evolution of geopolitical reality in states – the case of the Czech Republic
- Climate change: The effect of climate change on state security: An analysis of Burkina Faso and Djibouti

In the GPS program you will become skilled at geopolitical and political geographic analysis, gain empirical knowledge of regions and countries, develop your analytical and writing skills as well as understand cutting-edge theories. Our mission goal is to prepare you for your future careers in International Organizations, National Agencies such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Defence, International business, think-tanks, or academia.

Graduate Testimonies

“After completing my studies, I couldn’t imagine a better course or University to have studied my masters. I chose to do geopolitics because of its real world relevance, coming from an engineering background. The course proved to be incredibly useful with the lecturers providing extensive practical expertise and having knowledge on a diverse range of different topics. We also had access to a number of guest lecturers that greatly enhanced the masters experience. Because of my time studying geopolitics at Prague, I now have multiple opportunities as a researcher and analyst as there is a good understanding of the high level of knowledge and skills of Charles University’s alumni. I also had the opportunity to make some very good friends and develop connections that will be invaluable throughout my career, such as meeting my co-host of a geopolitics themed podcast. Lastly, I would like to say that Prague is one of the best cities to live in. I have lived in four countries on three continents and am happy to call Prague my home even after completing the masters program.”

Ronan Wordsworth (Australia)

Analyst at Geopolitical Futures, and a former GPS student



"At first, my main motivation in applying to the GPS program was to live abroad for a while. Of course, ensuring quality education was there as well, but experiencing the world was central. Being an interesting program, from a great university, in a beautiful city, GPS looked like the perfect match for that. During my stay at GPS this motive was fulfilled, but it went beyond this 'objective'. Fast-forward four years, I am a PhD student and research assistant whose area of focus is resting upon the foundations built at the GPS program. Having a rich, detailed and interestingly interwoven program, GPS allowed me to acquire the basics needed to adequately tackle geopolitical issues, while having the opportunity, firstly to identify and then explore in-depth areas I found most interesting. Professors were open to consult, help or provide their advice every step of the way, which did not end when I graduated. Even today, I am still in contact with many of my professors, either to consult or to collaborate, for which I am grateful. Perhaps I could have found another place to experience the world, but I am doubtful that I could have gained this kind of an experience."



Mihajlo Kopanja (Serbia)

Research assistant at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade, Serbia, and a former GPS student



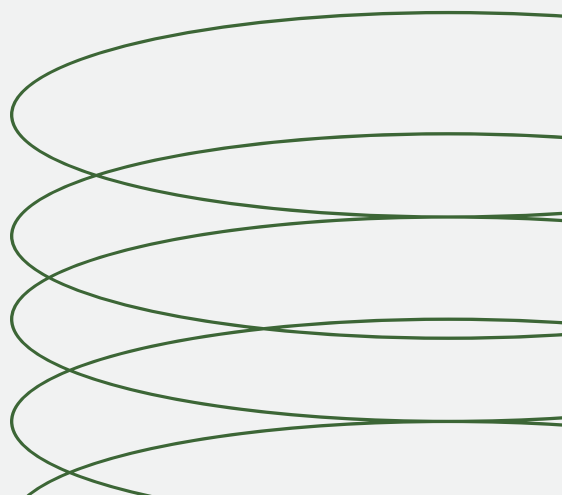
"I am currently the Lead Problem Sourcing Analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense program called "Hacking for Defense". I use the knowledge learned in my GPS studies to not only quickly source problems from our DoD participants, but to then curate that problem down to its root cause. Hacking for Defense® is a university course sponsored by the Department of Defense that teaches students to work with the Defense and Intelligence Communities to rapidly address the nation's emerging threats and security challenges."

Claire Bouchard (USA)
US Department of Defense

"Studying at the GPS program at Charles University in Prague has been a wonderful privilege and I deeply encourage everyone to apply. The proposal to combine geography with political science in the field of geopolitics caught my attention from the beginning and the result is an amazing list of courses, all of which I have enjoyed to the fullest. The program provides a solid theoretical background as well as research methods allowing the student to undertake meaningful geopolitical analysis of the most varied regions and international topics. This is accomplished thanks to professors who always inspire the students to think, propose and debate, skills which are in very much need today. It all takes place in a splendid environment, at a traditional and prestigious university, in one of the most magnificent cities you will find. Four years after my graduation I still look back with joy at those days at GPS program. I recommend it to all those interested in understanding our world today and I look forward to visiting once again, this time as a researcher, on occasion of future seminars and conferences on geopolitics."

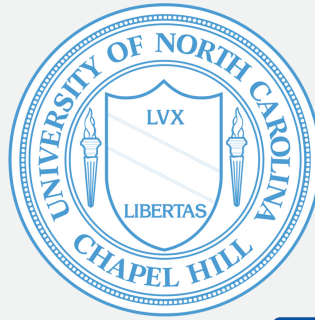
Matías Iglesias (Argentine)

Assistant Professor at the University of Palermo,
Argentina, and a former GPS student



International Cooperation

Spend the second year in Taipei & get a second diploma in East Asian geopolitics, or travel to Africa. The global nature of the GPS provides students a opportunity of a wide selection of international academic exchange programs arranged with renowned universities in the EU, the UK, the United States, Canada, Latin America, Asia, and Australia. There is also an increasing number of academic and research institutions in Africa cooperating with the GPS program. A strong side of the GPS is excellent research and our students are encouraged to get involved in our Geopolitical Studies Research Center and team up with our staff.



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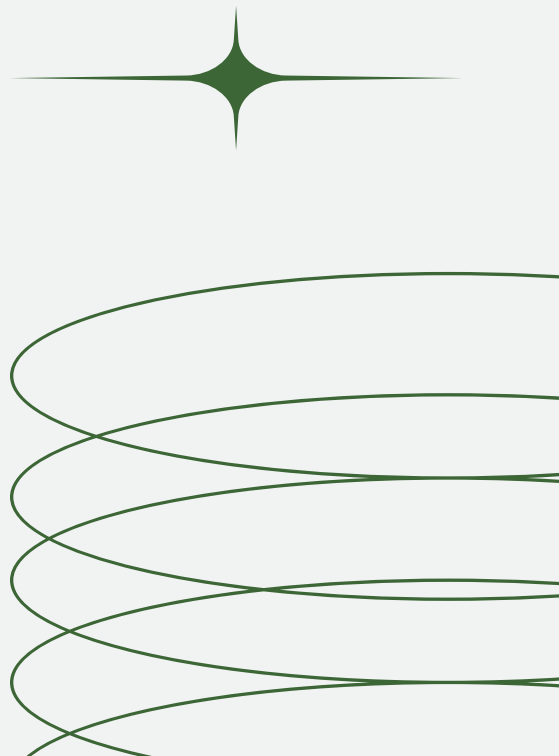
国際大学
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN

國立臺灣大學
National Taiwan University



OUR RESEARCH AREAS INCLUDE:

- Geopolitics, territory, and conflicts
- State sovereignty and international recognition
- Geopolitics of world regions
- Globalization and border
- Geopolitics of Africa
- Russia and China in the Global South
- Violent non-state actors
- Disintegration of political space



Endorsed by Executive Outcomes

Work closely with Executive Outcomes' Chairman, Eeben Barlow. He has served as a Maj Gen in several African armed forces and was the Honorary Consul for an African government. He provides unique insights and understandings from a successful practitioner's view and his hands-on approach has proven highly effective in numerous high and low intensity conflicts across the continent. He is engaged as a political advisor, military strategist and confidant by various African governments. He is the author of four highly-acclaimed books on conflict and war in Africa and is a Research Fellow with the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University where he works with the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) of Stellenbosch University on landward security governance.



“Africa is a diverse and complex continent. If we do not grasp the essence of its contemporary history, we will never understand how to contribute to support the continent along a positive trajectory. If we continue to view the continent through a European lens, we will fail to add value to it. Similarly, if we fail to speak truth to power, we will be complicit in its fragility. As great power competition continues, and several shatter belts appear or are about to show themselves, our understanding becomes even more critical. If we learn from the past, and assess the present, we will be able to offer valid predictions for the future.”

Double Degree Opportunities



Double degree in East Asia Geopolitics

Students have the opportunity to apply for a Double Degree.

This allows them to spend a year in Taipei to enhance their knowledge at the prestigious National Taiwan University.

Students that successfully complete the double degree will receive diplomas from both institutions.



Attend World Class Conferences & Events



Dr. Jeffrey Herbst, President of the American Jewish University speaking at the 2021 Geopolitical Conference

While studying you have the opportunity to:

- Attend the Annual Geopolitical conference with renowned guests from around the World - 2023's topic: **New Cold War in Global Geopolitics**
- Undertake internships with the Ministry of Defence, The Geopolitical Research Centre, or The Geopolitical Pickle podcast.
- Have guest lecturers from specialist fields to give specific insights from practical experience.
- Suggest events to host within the Faculty including formal and informal debates.
- Participate in social activities outside classes where you can meet lecturers in an informal setting to better understand geopolitics

Build your network and find your niche skills



Gen. Eeben Barlow, Founder and Chairman of Executive Outcomes, Republic of South Africa.

The GPS offers students multiple opportunities to build their networks:

- I. You may meet world – renowned scholars such as S. Hansen, A. Heraclides, or S. Pavkovič at our Annual Geopolitical Conference;
- II. Learn from legends such as Eeben Barlow (Executive Outcomes), or Antonia Colibasanu (senior analyst at Geopolitical Futures), policy-makers, or ambassadors;
- III. Learn to write policy papers under auspices of our senior staff at the Geopolitics Research Center;
- IV. Improve your argumentation skills at weekly Geopolitical Debates with foreign experts;
- V. Learn from practitioners in our Internship program;
- VI. Learn from senior students and alumni running the Geopolitical Pickle Podcast project.

Tuition fees and finances

Tuition Fee: 7 000 EUR per year

Reduction or Waiving the Fee: The Faculty of Social Sciences offers a set of scholarships and fee reductions. GPS runs its own merit-based fee reduction scheme, whereby excellent and highly motivated students are eligible for fee reductions.

Details are available at the Faculty website in the Tuition fees section at <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/scholarships-funding-and-fees>.

The Faculty of Social Sciences also administers a Development Scholarship program and a separate general merit-based scholarship, the details of which are available in the Scholarships section of the Faculty website.



Reasons to study geopolitics in prague

1. 🏆 Study at CZ's top-ranking university (#226 Best Global Universities) and one of the oldest Universities in the world
2. 🎓 Learn from world-renowned lecturers, legendary practitioners, decision-makers, and ambassadors in a career – focused program
3. 🐱 Meet new friends in the highly cosmopolitan and friendly environment of students from all continents and join our alumni
4. 🌍 Gain an empirical knowledge of regions and practical skills to become a geopolitical analyst, and a regional or country expert
5. 💰 Benefit from internship placement to be ready for a career in a business environment
6. 🏛️ Understand cutting-edge theories and methods which open the path to academia or think-tanks
7. 🏡 Study in the Czech Republic ranked among the world's top 10 safest countries (Global Peace Index)
8. ✈️ Benefit from extensive international cooperation. Spend the second year in Taipei to get the second diploma in East Asian geopolitics, or travel on exchange to Africa
9. 🌐 Build your network through guest lecturers' courses such as Antonia Colibasanu (senior analyst at Geopolitical Futures), or Eeben Barlow (Executive Outcomes)
10. 🏠 There is no better place to study geopolitics than Prague, voted the most beautiful city in the world (Timeout)
11. 🌐 Team-up with our staff, get involved in our research and policy projects, develop your skills at the annual geopolitical conference, join in geopolitical debates, work with a geopolitical podcast, or undertake many other extra-curricular activities

How does geography influence power relationships in world politics and competition?

Why can Americans afford to ignore geography, but the Polish defence minister can not?

Why are certain locations such as the Suwalki gap, Strait of Malacca, The Focşani Gate, Doklam Plateau, or the Darién Gap essential in strategic geography?

How do geographic barriers isolate India from the rest of Eurasia?.

GEOPOLITICS 101

How does internal geography prevent an intra-continental trade block forming in Africa and South America?

Can the Republic of South Africa become a bridge between Africa and Asia?

Why did Libya implode during the Arab Spring, while Egypt held together?



"There will be more wars...The most important thing of forecasting is the weaknesses of countries not their strengths".

George Friedman Founder of Geopolitical Futures

