

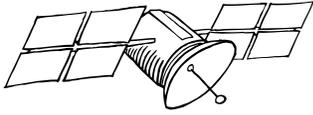


FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
CHARLES UNIVERSITY
STUDENT PROSPECTUS 2020

INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





OVERVIEW

Master in International Relations, MAIN, is a two-year English-language Master's degree programme that provides students with **the knowledge and analytical skills to understand the international context of politics, economy, and security**. Tensions among major powers, such as the United States, China, the European Union and its members, or Russia, are on the rise. At the same time, the world is growing ever more inter-connected. Major political decisions, influencing our everyday lives, are made not only by individual states, but increasingly also internationally and by regional as well as global institutions. Our programme helps students **understand how international and European politics work and what challenges states, business, NGOs as well as individuals face in the globalized world**. Within an inter-disciplinary

framework, students learn about the key points of contestation in world politics, major transnational issues such as the climate change, but also about the functioning of the European Union and of the key global institutions. They study how international conflicts can be productively transformed into cooperation. In addition to providing students with a robust background in international and European politics, the programme puts an emphasis on the development of students' analytical capabilities and critical thinking. Thanks to the broad scope of competences students acquire during their studies, our graduates become highly valued experts in national administrations and diplomacy, European and international institutions, but also businesses, NGOs, media, and in academia.

THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN 2020

We understand that especially international students may be concerned about their study under the circumstances imposed on us by the Covid-19 pandemic. Charles University has taken a vigorous approach in meeting the challenge and MAIN transferred all its courses to online environment within a week in March 2020. If it so happens that some sorts of pandemic-related emergency measures need to be taken later in 2020 or anytime in the future, we are ready! Students are not missing their lectures, they continue with their seminar discussions and, of course, they will take their exams and get their credits.

If new students' arrivals in Prague are delayed due to the pandemic situation in autumn 2020, MAIN will be able to accommodate individual circumstances with the means of online learning.

PROGRAMME CURRICULUM

The study curriculum is composed of **common compulsory modules** in the first year of study and of **individual specialization** and master thesis research in the second year. In the course of the programme, students obtain in total 120 ECTS credits. These can be acquired from three types of courses:

- Eight compulsory modules (Module #1–#8; 75 ECTS credits), covering all the core areas of International Relations, with an interdisciplinary reach to International Law and International Economics. In Modules #1, #2, #5 and #6 students also chose a specialization seminar in addition to taking the core compulsory lecture course.
- Elective courses from the field on International Relations (33-45 ECTS credits).
- Elective courses outside of IR (up to 12 ECTS credits).

Throughout the curriculum, we put emphasis on **two cornerstones of our graduates' success**. First, our students build a solid substantive knowledge of the problems of contemporary international politics. The curriculum covers especially the following areas:

- **International Relations** as a discipline investigating the behaviour of states in world politics, with a focus on great powers, and the nature of the international system.
- **International Economics and Security**, as the two key issue areas of international life.
- **European Union** as the most profound project of inter-state integration in the world history.
- **International Organizations and International Law** as the key instruments of the management of global affairs.

Second, throughout the curriculum, students acquire specific, tangible skills relevant for their future professional careers:

- **Empirical analytical skills.** Our students undergo robust introductory training in both qualitative and quantitative analytical skills.
- **Critical thinking.** The ability to think outside of the box is essential in the environment in which constant adaptation is the need.
- **Languages and transferable skills.** The success of our graduates depends not only on their hard analytical skills and their knowledge of international politics, but also on their writing, presentation, and communication skills.

SEMESTER 1 (AUTUMN/WINTER 2020)

In the first semester, students attend modules concerning the nature of the international system in general – modules on the theories of international relations, the introduction to international economic relations, and the introduction to conflict studies.



MODULE#1: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The course introduces students into the traditions of international thought. It starts with the evolution of the discipline of IR, traced by means of presenting its “great debates”. Following this, ontological and epistemological problems in IR research are examined. Finally, the course surveys a variety of

individual theoretical traditions and streams. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students chose one of four seminars listed in the table below. These enable them to delve in depth into a specific approach to international politics.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Theories of International Relations (lecture course)	Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova, Dr. Ondrej Ditrych	7
Liberalism in International Relations	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4
Feminism in International Relations	Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova	4
Marxism in International Relations	Dr. Vit Stritecky	4
Continental Philosophy and IR	Dr. Ondrej Ditrych	4



MODULE#2: CONFLICT STUDIES

The course focuses on two broad topics – on the concept of security, and on armed conflicts, taking into account their origins, evolution, and key issues in the ongoing academic debates. In addition to taking

the common lecture course, students choose one from a range of seminars that cover specific key topics of international security in the 21st century.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Conflict Studies (lecture course)	Dr. Tomas Karasek	7
Global Terrorism	Dr. Radana Makariusova	4
Critical Perspectives on Violence	Dr. Ondrej Ditrych	4
Approaches to Modern Conflict	Zachary Kramer	4



MODULE#3: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

In this course, students examine the relationship between international economics and international politics. How do the economic relations among states and non-state actors impact on international politics? And how do political concerns of states impact on

the flows of goods, services, and finance across the globe? We discuss the relationship between market exchange and political institutions, and cover such topics as international trade, finance, media, and development.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
International Economic Relations	Dr. Michal Parizek	7



MODULE#4: QUANTITATIVE METHODS

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to political research methods, and specifically to their quantitative branch. Students learn how to collect or produce quantitative political data and how to use

them to address practical and/or theoretical political problems. The course also introduces students to the statistical software package R and to MS Excel.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Researching International Politics: Quantitative Methods	Dr. Michal Parizek	6

Some students decide to take also one or more electives already in the first semester. Electives available for academic year 2020/2021 are listed in section Semesters 3 & 4.

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING/SUMMER 2021)

In the second semester, we build on the basis developed in the first semester with a block of courses dealing with regional and global institutions and international problem-solving. Specifically, students attend courses that cover the evolution of the European integration process and contemporary European politics, as well as international organizations and international law.



MODULE#5: EUROPEAN UNION

The course provides an analytical framework for the study of the process of unification of Europe since its beginning in 1940s' up to present. It introduces the main theoretical approaches to the analysis, the institutional setting and legislative process as

well as the main areas of cooperation in historical perspective. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students choose one seminar that enables them to deepen their knowledge of the European integration process.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
European Union – Evolution of the Community (lecture course)	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas, Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova, Dr. Irah Kucerova	7
EU Institutions and Decision-making	Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova	4
Interinstitutional Relations: European vs. Domestic Institutions	Dr. Viera Knutelska	4



MODULE#6: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The course provides a complex introduction to the study of international institutions – international organizations (IOs) and international regimes. It offers an overview of the theoretical reflections of international institutions and explores the internal political system of an IO. It also deals with international institutions functioning in the most significant areas

of international relations – security, economic affairs and development, and environment and human rights. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students choose from an offer of seminars that enable them to discuss in detail specific aspects of institutionalized international cooperation.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
International Organization (lecture course)	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	7
International Institutions – Governing Global Economy	Dr. Michal Parizek	4
Global Governance	Dr. Radana Makariusova	4
NGOs in International Relations	Dr. Viera Knutelska	4
Problems of Global Cooperation: Causes and Solutions	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4



MODULE#7: INTERNATIONAL LAW

The course provides an introduction to the international law system, both generally and to its specific concepts. It is focused on general issues, such as sources and subjects of international law, state responsibility and relationship between international

and municipal law. The second part of the course is dedicated to human rights protection. Students study cases of international law and engage in discussions about relevant topics.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
International Law	Dr. Milan Lipovsky	9



MODULE#8: QUALITATIVE METHODS

The course aims at introducing the fundamentals of research strategies and methodologies traditionally applied in international relations. The emphasis is put on the students' ability to formulate a research design providing the basis for their diploma research. The course has two components. During the first

weeks of the semester students attend introductory lectures focusing on research design and foundations of methodological processes.

During the final weeks of the semester students attend two longer seminars focusing on specific qualitative research techniques.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Researching International Politics: Qualitative Methods	Dr. Tomas Karasek, Dr. Jakub Tesar, Dr. Vit Stritecky	6

Students who feel the need to devote more time to some of the classes from Modules 1–8 can also decide to postpone some of these classes to their second year. This option is commonly chosen by students with bachelor background outside of social sciences.

On the other hand, some students already in the second semester decide to take some electives, in addition to the compulsory modules. Electives available for academic year 2020/2021 are listed in section Semesters 3 & 4. Students of MAIN are also automatically granted 3 ECTS credits for the course English for Political Science II.

SEMESTER 3 & 4 (AUTUMN/WINTER 2021, SPRING/SUMMER 2022)

During the second year, **students choose from a broad range of elective courses** that deepen their understanding of the individual areas of international and European politics. These courses are offered by the Department of International Relations and by other Departments and Institutes of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The programme offers various **thematic specializations**, but thanks to a cutting-edge research carried out by our faculty, we offer a particularly broad and unique expertise in fields of European studies, International Organizations and the current global order.

Throughout the second year, **students work on their master theses**, under the individual supervision of one of our faculty. In addition, during the second year students are welcome to spend one or both semesters at one of our **numerous partner universities across Europe and over the world**. Part of students pursues the **Double Degree** track offered in cooperation with University of Konstanz (see below for more details). At the end of the second year, students defend their

master thesis and take the final, so-called 'state' exam. It is composed of compulsory oral exams in International Relations and in European Studies, and of a choice from specializations in International Organizations, International Law, or International Economic Relations.

ELECTIVES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/20221

The list is always finalized before the start of the academic year, so the final offer is almost certain to be somewhat broader.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Academic English I	Pamela Cotte	3
Academic English II	Panela Cotte	3
Baltic Regional Cooperation and Russia	Dr. Iivi Zajedova	6
Contemporary International Relations in East Asia	Dr. Michal Kolmas	6
Crisis Games	Dr. Tomas Kucera, Dr. Michal Smetana, Dr. Michal Parizek	6
Data management and data analysis in R for Social Scientists	Dr. Kamil Klosek	6
Diplomacy of the European Union	Dr. Erik Pajtinka	6
European Policies of Visegrad Countries	Dr. Viera Knutelska	6
European Public Space: Interest Representation and Public Debate	Dr. Viera Knutelska	6
Geopolitics of Great Powers: Russia	Dr. Magdalena Bastar Leichtova	6
German European Policy	Dr. Martin Jerabek	6
Internal Security of the EU	Dr. Radko Hokovsky	6
International Negotiations	Dr. Michal Parizek	6
International Security: up to two elective courses from the offer the Department of Security Studies	Members of the Department of Security Studies	up to 12
Politics of Nuclear (Non-)Proliferation	Dr. Michal Smetana	6
Professional Internship A	Guaranteed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	6
Professional Internship B	Guaranteed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4

As indicated in the table, students can choose up to two courses from those offered by the Department of Security Studies as electives.¹

Students are entitled and encouraged to obtain up to 12 additional credits also from courses offered by other Departments at the Faculty and University, depending on their specific interests. Furthermore, every year, our Department offers guest courses taught by professors coming from leading European and global universities and research centres. In the last several

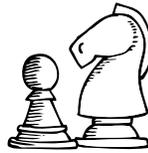
years, these included such globally renowned scholars as **Prof. Kenneth Abbott** (Arizona State University), **Prof. Tapio Raunio** (University of Tampere), Prof. Gerald Schneider (University of Konstanz), or **Prof. Robert Jervis**, one of the most influential scholars in International Relations of several last decades (Columbia University, New York). We continue to strive for inviting top young as well as established academics to give courses at our Department.

1 <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/masters-degrees/master-international-security-studies-miss/detailed-information>

JOIN US IN EXPLORING THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – ALSO OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM!

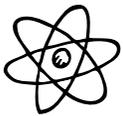
Not all training needs to take place in classrooms. One obvious example is students' internships. Our students intern with various organizations, from think-tanks and research centres, to public offices and embassies, to private companies, multinationals, or media and non-profits. While our Institute has a network of internship partners, students are encouraged to seek internship opportunities they deem fit for their interests, and they can receive credits for the training they thus obtain.

Other than that, it is sometimes good to get out of classrooms even within the 'formal' courses. Here are two such cases, one from Politics of Nuclear (Non-) Proliferation, and one from Crisis Games.



CRISIS GAMES

Crisis Games is an intensive course that helps students feel what it is like to be in the shoes of diplomats and politicians who decide the course of events in world politics. Students of this course are assigned with the task of resolving a major international crisis. This course takes place during a weekend event in the scenery of beautiful Czech mountains.



POLITICS OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

Nuclear technology is of enormous importance in both military and civilian matters. Here students of our programme visit a training nuclear reactor in a facility of the Czech Technical University.



DOUBLE DEGREE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ

We are proud that MAIN offers a Double Master's Degree option in cooperation with the University of Konstanz, one of the top German political science and public administration departments. In addition to obtaining the MA in International Relations from

Charles University, the students of the Double Degree option obtain degree from the prestigious Konstanz MA in Politics and Public Administration. Applicants for the double degree programme are selected, based on merit, after the first semester of their studies.

YEAR 1: CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Semester 1	ECTS	Semester 2	ECTS
Theories of International Relations (& one of the selected seminars)	11	European Union – Evolution of the Community (& one of the selected seminars)	11
Conflict Studies (& one of the selected seminars)	11	International Organization (& one of the selected seminars)	11
International Economic Relations	7	International Law	9
Researching International Politics: Quantitative Methods	6	Researching International Politics: Qualitative Methods	6

YEAR 2: UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ

Semester 3	ECTS	Semester 4	ECTS
Research Design I	9	Colloquium	4
International Relations and European Integration	7	Master thesis	
Seminar in International Relations and European Integration	7		
Seminar in other area (International Administration and Conflict Management, Comparative Politics and Policy Analysis, or Management and Public Administration)	7		

TUITION FEES AND FINANCES

The full tuition fee for the programme is **6000 EUR per academic year**.

The programme operates an own **merit-based fee reduction scheme**, whereby excellent and highly motivated students are eligible for **fee reductions of 2000 EUR per year** and for the very best performing students for **reductions of 4000 EUR per year**. Details are available at the Faculty website in the Tuition fees section at <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/tuition-fees>.

GET IN TOUCH!

We know that deciding on where to pursue one's Master's programme is often not easy. We are happy to help you with your decision on whether MAIN – our Charles University Master in International Relations – is the best choice for you.

For any questions or concerns related to academic matters, please do get in touch with the admissions coordinator of the programme, and also one of the lecturers, Dr. Michal Parizek.

His e-mail address is: michal.parizek@fsv.cuni.cz. For all organizational and administrative matters,

The Faculty of Social Sciences also administers the Development Scholarship Programme, the details of which are available at <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/scholarships-and-funding>.

Please note that the fees cover only the cost of instruction and examinations, and that students are responsible for paying their own living expenses (food, lodging, etc.). The living costs in Prague are generally considered affordable compared to many West European capitals.

please contact our International office. The full contact is available at their website (<https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/contact-us/international-office>), but the best way is to simply send your inquiry to the main contact address for applicants.

The e-mail address is admissions@fsv.cuni.cz.

We will be happy to help you with your questions or concerns and we will be excited to welcome our new cohort of MAIN students in Prague in fall 2020!