

The School of Law, Social Sciences and Diplomacy

International Relations and Diplomacy Master's Degree Program

Curriculum	
Name of the program	
International Relations and Diplomacy	
Level of study	
Master's Level	
Qualification to be Conferred	
Master of International Relations	
Head of the Program / Coordinator	
Tea Amniashvili - Head Gizo Chelidze - Coordinator	
The detailed information on the qualification, scientific and academic activity of the head / coordinator of the program is provided in the documents attached to the program description.	
Volume of the Program	
The Master's program in international relations and diplomacy consists of 120 ECTS credit points. Based on the individual schedule of a student, the number of credits per annum can be more or less than 60, but no more than 75. The program is divided into three components: study, practical and research, as well as the free component. The study component is the compilation of study elements that are aimed at field-specific professionalization of a student, and at his/her preparation for carrying out practical assignments. A student accumulates 85-95 credits in the study component (the volume of the indicated credits depends on student's accomplishment of a practical component, which comprises 10 credits). Out of these credits, 58 credits are accumulated from mandatory study courses, and 27-37 credits may be accumulated from the elective study courses of – foreign languages; regional studies (Russia and Post-Soviet Region; Europe, Near East and Arab World, the Americas). The credits may be also accumulated by a student from a study component at the School of Law, Social Sciences and Diplomacy or from any other equal-level academic program at Georgian American University; or through any accredited equal-level academic programs of other higher education institutions of Georgia; or through equivalent	

academic programs at foreign universities, if the accumulated credits are approved in compliance with the Georgian legislature. Exactly for this reason, the program accommodates 15 credit points from free components. However, it is recommended that a student should accumulate 15 credits from one regional group of courses in order to deepen the knowledge in one specific region.

In practical component a student accumulates 10 credits:

- At those state institutions that announce vacancies of student internships;
- At those institutions that the University and the School of Law, Social Sciences and Diplomacy have signed the memoranda of cooperation.

The practical component is mandatory for those students who are not employed in their field of specialization.

A student accumulates 25 credit points in the research component.

The detailed information on the research component is given in the Master's Degree Program Statement approved by the School Council.

Language of Instruction

Georgian (with English language components).

Aim of the Program

- **The main aim of the Master's Program is to prepare highly qualified and professionalized staff in the field of International Relations equipped with the theoretical and practical knowledge suitable for the Master's level study ready to meet the modern requirements of the public, non-governmental or private sector labor market nationally or internationally.**

Accordingly, the program aims:

- to equip a student with deep and systematic knowledge in the peculiarities of conducting international relations;
- to impart to a student the professional knowledge of the world processes related to political, economic, trade, security or defense issues in national, international, regional and global contexts;
- to enable a student to master the skills of critical analysis and qualified evaluation of international processes, events, major tendencies and challenges;
- to teach a student theoretical and practical aspects of international relations; the idiosyncrasies of relations between the world political actors; the structure and functions of major international institutions and platforms; the modern mechanisms and tools of conducting international politics from global and regional standpoints;
- to help a student master the research skills by applying modern methods and technologies and be prepared for further scholarly research;
- to assist a student in mastering the practical skills to establish proper communication with the colleagues on professional and academic levels, and to conduct effective and result-oriented diplomatic negotiations on an international level;

- to enable a course-graduate to freely and independently define his/her own profile in the field of international relations or related spheres, be it in public, private or non-governmental sectors.

The program is differentiated according to the international, regional and subregional aspects and incorporates the elements of relations characteristic of public, non-governmental and private sectors. The program is enriched with such related courses that enhance the practical and academic values of the program in terms of the preparation of highly qualified personnel.

Prerequisites for admission to the program

A person holding a Bachelor's degree or equivalent academic degree / qualification, has the right to be enrolled on a Master's degree program. A person will be admitted to the program based on the results of the Unified Master's Examinations, on the results of the internal university testing in a foreign language (English) and on an interview in the field of specialization.

As a proof of foreign language competence, an applicant to the Master's degree program has to take a B2 level test in the English language.

A person holding a relevant-level language proficiency certificate or has completed English-medium first level degree academic educational program, is exempt from English language testing.

Assumed number of students

50

Spheres of employment

A Master of International Relations is duly prepared to conduct practical activities in the sphere of international and foreign relations and to further pursue scholarly work.

Results of the study

After completing the Master's degree program of international relations and diplomacy, a graduate:

1. possesses deep and systematic knowledge of the theories of international relations, the main tendencies of modern security agenda, and of international energy policy and energy security among others;
2. describes the research methods of political science; the decision-making process in international organizations; the main methods and tools of conducting international negotiations; the main features of foreign policy, and Georgian foreign policy among others;
3. realizes and critically considers the current processes, events and main challenges through international, regional and global policy prism;
4. Implementing the relevant theoretical concepts and practical knowledge accumulated within the framework of the study program, professionally analyzes and evaluates the topical events, specific problems or challenges of modern international relations and world politics; elaborates the innovative and original ways of their solutions;

5. Through collecting, collating and critically analyzing the voluminous, complex, and oftentimes incomplete, information, formulates foreign-policy positions, conclusions, elaborates decision projects; using the methods of strategic planning, prioritizes and organizes the issues; defines far-reaching political goals; sets concrete problems; formulates activities and sub-activities and ways of their effective realization;
6. Adhering to ethical standards, presents the results of his/her research and validated conclusions to academic and professional societies and non-specialists, in written and oral form, in native and foreign languages; conducts debates coherently, clearly and convincingly; conducts negotiations; engages in discussions; presents and defends his/her opinions, considering and respecting others' viewpoints;
7. Adhering to the principles of academic honesty and implementing the cutting-edge methods and approaches, conducts research process independently;
8. manages complex, unpredictable or multidisciplinary study and/or working environment; and freely adapts using new strategic approaches. Bears high level of autonomy and accountability; can take on responsibility for others' activities and for their further professional development;
9. Through the analysis of the information acquired within the course framework, independently defines the needs of further study; using the received theoretical knowledge and practical work, deepens the knowledge; and freely adapts to new professional environment;
10. Adheres to diplomatic, ethical and academic norms during professional activity; values and respects the opinions of partners and colleagues.

The methods used to achieve the study results

☒ lecture ☒ seminar (team work) ☒ practical work ☒ applying electronic resources in the teaching process ☒ electronic teaching ☒ Master's thesis, etc.

Deriving from the specific nature of a concrete study course of the program, the following activities of study-learning methods are used in the study process, which are described in the syllabi of the relevant study courses:

- induction, deduction, analysis;
- working on a book;
- written work;
- verbal explanation;
- demonstration;
- Case study;
- Problem Based Learning (PBL);
- Brain storming;
- IBD;
- role and situation plays;
- collaborative work;
- Discussion/debates;
- Independent study (preparing an essay, paper, project, presentation), etc.

Contingent upon the goals of a specific study course, a professor may use one or several methods or any other method. The teaching – learning methods of a concrete study course are described in the relevant syllabi.

Assessment system

The accumulation of credits in the relevant study component by a student involves his/her active participation in the study process and is based on the principle of continuous assessment of the acquired knowledge. The evaluation of the level of the achieved study results is carried out in accordance with the assessment system approved by the order # 3 of January 5, 2007, of “The Rule of Conducting Assessment of Higher Education Programs with Credits” issued by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.

The evaluation of the achieved level of study results comprises the following assessment forms – midterm and final assessments the sum of which makes up the final assessment – 100 points.

The assessment forms are made up of the assessment component(s) that define the ways of evaluating a student’s knowledge/realization and / or skills and /or autonomy/responsibility (oral/written test, oral/written quiz, practical/theoretical work, home task and others). The assessment component comprises assessment methods (test, essay, presentation and others). The assessment method is measured by the assessment criteria.

Each form and component of assessment is allotted a certain share out of the total of 100 points, which is reflected in a relevant syllabus.

Each form of assessment has a minimum competence threshold – minimum 25 points for midterm assessment, and minimum 16 points for final assessment.

A minimum competence threshold may also be defined for assessment component(s), which will be described in detail in a study course syllabus.

Using solely one form of assessment is not allowed for granting a student a credit. A student is granted a credit in the case of earning a positive evaluation.

The assessment system of the study component of the program:

Five types of positive assessment:

- (A) Excellent _ 91-100 points of assessment;
- (B) Very good _ 81-90 points out of maximum assessment;
- (C) Good _ 71-80 points out of maximum assessment;
- (D) Satisfactory _ 61-70 points out of maximum assessment;
- (E) Sufficient _ 51-60 points out of maximum assessment.

Two types of negative assessment:

- (FX) Didn’t pass _ 41-50 points out of maximum assessment, which means that a student needs to work more and is granted the right to re-take an exam once after additional independent work;
- (F) Fail _ 40 points and less out of maximum assessment, which means that the work done by a student is insufficient and he/she needs to re-take the course.

In case of receiving the assessment of FX, an additional exam is set within 5 calendar days after the announcement of the results of the final exam.

Master's thesis is assessed with the assessment system of the study course.

For establishing the final rating of a student and stimulating him/her, a cumulative grade is calculated (a cumulative grade is calculated at the end of each semester). The cumulative grade is calculated in the following way: the points accumulated by a student in a certain subject are multiplied by the credit points allotted to that subject, and thereafter, the total number is divided by the credit points accumulated by the student.

The resources to be attained for the implementation of the program

Material resources:

- The space as defined by legislation (study and supplementary);
- The auditoria equipped with relevant inventory, conference halls, work spaces for the academic personnel, work spaces for the administrative staff;
- The system for continuous provision of electricity;
- Wet points;
- Natural illumination;
- Heating facilities;
- Fire extinguishing mechanisms and inventory;
- Evacuation plan;
- Medical facilities; medical service center;
- University security services and mechanisms of for keeping order;
- Sufficient number of computers and access to the Internet;
- The library equipped with the relevant study manuals and with the modern information-communication technologies;

Human resources:

Academic staff selected according to Georgian legislature and considering their qualifications.

- Practitioners possessing relevant qualifications and individuals holding academic degree are invited to the University as researchers and teachers

Appendix 1: the study plan of the program; the map of results; the map of aims and results.