

MIR

Master of Political Science in International Relations

(English Program)

Revised Curriculum 2022

Faculty of Political Science
Thammasat University

Revised August 2023

Program Information

Master of Political Science in International Relations (MIR)

Contact Information

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PROGRAM NAME

Master of Political Science Program in International Relations
(English Program)

DEGREE NAME

Full Name: Master of Political Science (International Relations)
Abbr. Name: M. Pol. Sc. (International Relations)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE

Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

RATIONALE

International Relations (IR) is a trans-disciplinary discipline that makes sense of global politics with conceptual and theoretical frameworks. IR explores the intersection of international affairs, foreign policy, global political economy, security and cross-cultural multiplicity. We study key international actors, such as states, international institutions, non-state actors and individuals as well as key challenging transnational issues, such as human rights, climate change, disaster and environment. IR is directly related to diplomatic practices and the policy world. We engage with how and in what ways diplomacy and foreign policy are performed on the international stage.

A great transformation of global politics in the 21st Century is driven by power transition, disruptive technology and new challenges, and thereby the study of IR is a useful toolkit for thinking and acting in these changing configurations of power dynamics. The students will be equipped with a variety of theoretical perspectives and

analytical skills in order to understand world affairs and be resilient in the changing global and regional order.

The MIR Program is guided by four main questions:

1. How and why do international actors, state as well as non-state shape and determine basic international structures and patterns?
2. How do international structures and transnational forces influence outcomes, actions and the distribution of basic values in the world society?
3. How have international power relations and globalizing forces/issues affect the Asia Pacific region?
4. How have global changes challenge Southeast Asia and Thailand?

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO)

- PLO1 A Deep knowledge and understanding of international relations both academically and practically.
- PLO2 The ability to analyze data using knowledge of international relations and develop a systematic working plan.
- PLO3 The ability to apply knowledge in international relations to problem solving and to comprehend the changing situations of different countries in the global society.
- PLO4 The ability to communicate and exchange ideas in academics term.
- PLO5 The ability to analyze problems systematically and logically based on academic principles.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Overview

The academic year operates on a semester basis, comprising two semesters and a summer session. The first semester spans from August to December, the second semester from January to May, and the summer session from June to July. The intake capacity for the program is limited to approximately 25 individuals.

Application Period

Applications are accepted during January - February.

Admission Requirements

Prospective candidates who meet the necessary qualifications receive invitations from the Admission Committee to participate in the entrance examination administered by the Faculty of Political Science. This examination involves both a written test and an interview, both conducted in English. All applicants are mandated to undertake an English proficiency test, choosing from the following options, each requiring a minimum qualifying score for acceptance:

- a) Thammasat University Graduate English Test (TU-GET): Score of 550 or higher
- b) IELTS: Minimum score of 6.5
- c) TOEFL: Scores of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-based)

Test results must remain valid within 2 years from the date of application.

For individuals who are residing outside the country, the specifics of the admission process will be communicated annually by the MIR committee.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Master of Political Science in International Relations requires a minimum of 36 credits, structured as follows:

1. Required courses (12 credits)
2. Elective course
 - 2.1 Four courses (12 credits) for the Thesis Plan
 - 2.2 Six course (18 credits) for the Non-Thesis Plan
3. Thesis (12 credits) or Independent Study (6 credits)

Students have the option of selecting between two study plans:

Plan A Thesis involves the composition of a master's thesis.

Plan B Non-Thesis involves the creation of an independent study paper along with the completion of a written comprehensive examination.

PLAN A – THESIS			PLAN B – NON-THESIS		
Required courses:	12	credits	Required courses:	12	credits
Elective courses:	12	credits	Elective courses:	18	credits
Thesis:	12	credits	Independent Studies:	6	credits
			Written comprehensive exam		
Total	36	credits	Total:	36	credits

Plan A (Thesis)

a) Students become eligible to enroll in thesis writing after completing a minimum of 2 regular semesters of study or accumulating at least 12 credits, while maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. The thesis must be composed in English.

b) Proficiency in English is established by meeting ONE of three criteria: either through TU-GET, TOEFL, or IELTS scores. These requirements must be fulfilled in a timely manner, aligning with thesis defense submission deadlines.

c) The thesis committee is composed of a minimum of three members. This committee includes a thesis advisor and one member from the Faculty of Political Science at Thammasat University, along with another member from an external institution. The committee's constituents must hold a Ph.D. or an Associate Professorship in a relevant research area.

d) The thesis, or at least a segment thereof, should be accepted for publication in an academic journal or presented at an academic conference with associated proceedings.

Plan B (Non-Thesis)

a) Students are eligible to register for independent study writing after completing a minimum of 2 regular semesters of study or amassing at least 12 credits, while maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. The independent study must be composed in English.

b) Students become eligible to register for the written comprehensive examination after successfully finishing the required courses and accruing a minimum of 15 credits, while maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.

c) The defense of the independent study (IR701-702) is administered and evaluated by the IR700 advisor and a single committee member. This oral examination assesses the student's understanding of their independent study paper.

d) Proficiency in English is established by meeting ONE of three criteria: either through TU-GET, TOEFL, or IELTS scores. These requirements must be fulfilled in a timely manner, aligning with the application deadlines for the written comprehensive examination or the independent study defense.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

In order to qualify for graduation, students must have successfully completed all courses with an overall minimum GPA of 3.00.

For Plan A:

- Achievement of a grade of S (Satisfactory) in the thesis research course.
- Acceptance of the thesis, or a substantial portion thereof, for publication in an academic journal or presentation at an academic conference with associated proceedings.

For Plan B:

- Achievement of a grade of S (Satisfactory) in both Independent Study courses (IR 701 and IR 702).
- Successful passing grade of P (Pass) in the written comprehensive examination.

GRADING SCALE

In all courses, final grades are assigned as A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, or F, each with corresponding numerical equivalents:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
Point	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.00	0.00

Grades for the comprehensive examination and non-credit courses are designated as either P (Pass) or N (Fail). Meanwhile, the evaluation for the thesis and Independent Study encompasses grades such as S (Satisfactory), SP (Satisfactory Progress), NP (No Progress), or U (Unsatisfactory).

COURSES OFFERED

1. Pre-requisite Course (non-credit)

- IR501 General Knowledge in Political Science
- IR502 General Knowledge in International Relation

2. Required Course

- IR601 Research Design and Methods in International Relations
- IR610 Global Challenges and International Relations Theory
- IR630 International Institution and Global Governance
- IR680 Global Political Economy and Globalization

3. Elective Course

- IR699 Selected Topics in International Relations

Regional Concentration Group

- IR637 European and Russia in Global Politics
- IR638 ASEAN in Global Politics
- IR667 Indo-Pacific in Global Politics
- IR694 Latin America in Global Politics
- IR695 Contemporary Arab and the Muslim World

Issues Concentration Group

- IR624 Seminar on Global Politics of Great Powers
- IR625 Foreign Policy Analysis
- IR635 Seminar on Diplomacy and International Negotiation
- IR636 Seminar on International Policy and International Management
- IR646 Seminar on International Security and Strategic Studies
- IR648 Seminar on Human Rights and International Ethics
- IR649 Seminar on International Development
- IR684 Seminar on Media and Global Politics
- IR686 Seminar on Global Capitalism
- IR687 Seminar on Geopolitics

- IR692 Seminar on International Relations and Climate Change
 IR697 Seminar on International Environment and Disaster Policy and Management
 IR698 Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Global Politics

4. Research Course

- IR701 Independent Study 1
 IR702 Independent Study 2
 IR800 Thesis

STUDY PLAN

Prerequisite (Non-credit)

- For new students who have never studied political science and/or international relations
 - IR501 General Knowledge of Political Science
 - IR502 General Knowledge of International Relations

First Year

Thesis Plan		Non-Thesis Plan	
Semester 1	credits	Semester 1	credits
IR610	3	IR610	3
IR630	3	IR630	3
IR680	3	IR680	3
Total	9	Total	9
Semester 2	credits	Semester 2	credits
IR601	3	IR601	3
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
Total	9	Total	9
Summer		Summer	
Thesis/IS proposal submission		Thesis/IS proposal submission	
		Comprehensive Exam	

Second Year

Thesis Plan		Non-Thesis Plan	
Semester 1	credits	Semester 1	credits
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
IR800 Thesis	3	IR701 Independent Study 1	3
Thesis Proposal Defense		IS Proposal Defense	
Total	9	Total	9
Semester 2	credits	Semester 2	credits
IR800 Thesis	9	Elective Course	3
		Elective Course	3
Thesis Defense		IR702 Independent Study 2	3
		IS Defense	
Total	9	Total	9

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**IR501 General Knowledge of Political Science**

Explore basic concepts, theories and approaches that define political science at present. The contents include major debates over paradigms and values, as well as consideration of methodologies for doing research in the field of political science as one of the social sciences.

IR502 General Knowledge of International Relations

Explore basic concepts, assumptions, theories, and approaches to International Relations (IR) as well as the political changes in international relations from the ascendancy of states as major actors in international arena in 1648 up to the present in the 21st century.

IR601 Research Designs and Methods in International Relations

Study research principles, design and methods, both qualitative and quantitative methods, applied in international relations. Three main objectives are accentuated: first, to enhance the ability to conduct research in IR; second, to explore different research methods and techniques and evaluate strengths and limitations of such methods; and third, to promote careful consideration of various ethical implications in conduction research.

IR610 Global Challenges and International Relations Theory

Focus on fundamental knowledge of contemporary international relations by examining various approaches such as realism, neo-realism, liberalism, neo-liberalism, constructivism as well as alternative approaches. The impact of globalization and

global challenges on international processes, conflicts, cooperation, and decision making and on international institutions will also be examined. The analysis will include the concepts of actors, state and non-state, international norms, and behavior.

IR624 Seminar on Global Politics of Great Powers

This course studies theories related to power and the hierarchy of state. In addition, it explores the relationship between the major powers in political, economic, and cultural perspectives since the Cold War. Particularly, it examines foreign policy of the United States, the Soviet Union, and China towards one another and the impacts on other countries. This course also studies the increasing roles of the middle powers in global politics, especially its collaboration and contradiction with the major powers.

IR625 Foreign Policy Analysis

Offer a theoretical foundation of foreign policy analysis. The emphasis of the course is to apply various approaches to the study and practice of foreign policy. It presents the process-oriented analysis where the decision-making process will be highlighted to understand how foreign policy is made and how different actors shape and influence the foreign policy making process.

IR630 International Institutions and Global Governance

Introduce the study of global governance. The course explores the roles of international institutions and understands how they are engaged in global governance. The course analyses global governance through a number of key formal international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank Group, the World Trade Organization, the International Court of Justice, and International Criminal Court. It also explores a different contemporary issues and challenges of global governance, ranging from the environment, trade, and security.

IR635 Seminar on Diplomacy and International Negotiation

Study principal concepts and the science of negotiation. Following a framework for international negotiation analysis, students will be looking at various case studies of important international negotiations such as those between the United States and the Soviet Union and between Egypt and Israel with the United States as a mediator. The seminar is participatory and interactive in which students will be trained to employ their knowledge and personal experience in role-play simulations.

IR636 Seminar on International Policy and International Management

Study the management of international issues such as international security, conflicts, economic, and other transnational issues. It also studies concepts, theories, structures, and processes of international public policies, which include policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Diplomacy and international negotiation will also be examined.

IR637 European and Russia in Global Politics

Examine politics and international relations of the European Union (EU) and Russia. By employing theoretical framework in IR, the course explores the origin, evolution, and functioning of EU institutions. The EU and Russia as major actors in global politics and their external relations will also be examined.

IR638 ASEAN in Global Politics

Analyze institutions, policies, and processes of ASEAN in both its internal and its external cooperation. The course also examines changes in ASEAN from political, economic, and socio-cultural viewpoints. This course evaluates the success and failure of ASEAN in addressing regional and international issues. Particular emphasis will be given to how ASEAN responds to extra-regional powers and changing global contexts.

IR646 Seminar on International Security and Strategic Studies

Explore various security concepts such as collective security, collective defense, comprehensive security, and cooperative security. The course will also analyze traditional and non-traditional security issues as well as strategic changes at the global and regional levels, with the focus on Asia. Security arrangements, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and security community, will be discussed as well.

IR648 Seminar on Human Rights and International Ethics

Critically approach the nexus between the discourses of human rights and international ethics from both statist and non-statist perspectives. The former concentrates on the emergence and significance of international human rights norms in relations to state sovereignty and state obligations. The latter focuses on issues that, by and large, require a shift of emphasis from the state to global forces, the peoples, or the "natural" world. These issues include, but not limited to, globalization, gender, the environment, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, migrant workers, and discourse on human security.

IR649 Seminar on International Development

Discuss the multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary nature of development. First, it introduces students to the conceptual and analytical tools crucial to development studies. It then investigates the contemporary political debates in relation to various development themes, which include the question of economic and political liberalization, environmental degradation, poverty reduction, ethnic conflict, and the role of international aid and non-government organizations (NGOs), all these themes will be examined in the light of the international politics of development.

IR667 Indo-Pacific in Global Politics

Study conflict and cooperation among states and non-state actors in Asia, which now has come to include East and Southeast Asia. Covering Political Security, as well as

socio-economic issues, particular emphasis will be given to the complex interactions among states amid the influences from external powers.

IR680 Global Political Economy and Globalization

Explore the current international political economy shaped by the interactions related to market forces, information-communication technology and the various nation-states (with limited sovereignty) and their corresponding impacts on states as well as "non-state" actors (TNC, International Organizations, NGOs, etc.). New rules and agendas for multilateral and international organizations pertaining to public participation, accountability and transparency will be examined as emerging issues – such as transnational crime, the environment, global epidemic and all types of security-related issues, traditional and otherwise, - are posing immediate challenges to existing institutions and norms.

IR684 Seminar on Media and Global Politics

Study and trace the evolving relationship between new media and politics, including the changes in the media landscape, the evolution of convergence, the diffusion of social media and their implications for political environments. Topics also cover media and social movements, new media and political conflicts, the role of the media in campaigns and elections, as well as, its impact on political attitude and behaviors. The course aims to help students to understand the complexity and the variability of information society that effects the political environment, domestically and internationally.

IR686 Seminar on Global Capitalism

The course studies the origins, development and crisis of global capitalism. It explores theories and approaches that make sense of global capitalist systems, such as mercantilism, liberalism, and Marxism. By examining the globalization and neoliberalization of the world, the course also provides a variety of case studies that illustrate how global capitalism transforms different state formations and economic transition as well as their implications. It also analyze key challenges to the contemporary global capitalism, such as state-led capitalism, global supply chain and pandemic crisis.

IR687 Seminar on Geopolitics

The course studies theoretical debates and contemporary issues of geopolitics as well as traditional and critical security studies such as Copenhagen, Aberystwyth and Paris Schools. It also explores how geopolitics influence global order and regional security architecture.

IR692 Seminar on International Relations and Climate Change

In an age of Anthropocene, the planet is facing a climate change, which has posed a complex challenge to human lives, political and ecological systems and international relations. The course aims to understand this complexity and existential global challenge. It examines why and how states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, social movements and other non-state actors have confronted and cooperated to save the planet. The course then explores the efforts to create an international climate regime, such as the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the 2015 Paris Agreement. It ends by addressing the extent to which international relations theory can account for climate change and international climate cooperation.

IR694 Latin America in Global Politics

Study the evolution of U.S. – Latin America relations as they gradually change from a “Cold War” frame of mind into what we may refer to as “non-traditional” security threats such as the environment, food security, energy security, transnational crime, etc. The course will also look at how some of the key players in this region i.e., Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Cuba have fared over the years. Issues include Brazil’s economic and technological prowess, Venezuela’s oil diplomacy, Mexican “war on drugs” campaigns and Cuba’s “last dance with socialism,” all of which, produce certain implications both regionally and globally.

IR695 The Middle East and Muslim World in Global Politics

Explore historical background and contemporary complexity of the Muslim World. The course also deals with the geographical setting and the ideological orientation, socio-political structures, and socio-economic problems including its past subjugation and current rejuvenation. Changes in Muslim World since 9/11 will also be examined.

IR697 Seminar on International Environment and Disaster Policy and Management

Focus on the approaches, theories, and principles of environment-disaster policy and management in a context and content of international community which lead to a sustainable development. The study also includes the dynamic change of the global and international collaboration in dealing with the problems of environment and natural disaster. Students will study mechanisms, methods and best practices in solving and managing the crises from contemporary case studies.

IR698 Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Global Politics

“International Studies” combines social sciences and humanities to explore both international and transnational phenomena. It aims to discern the interconnectedness of political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions within the local/global nexus. Contextualized within contemporary landscapes, the following five

board topics guide this course: (1) peace and security; (2) transnational and global economic processes; (3) international demography and transnational migration; (4) culture in the age of globalization; (5) international relations and the management of global environment.

IR699 Selected Topics in International Relations

Analyze a particular topic of international relations in depth, which can be theories, world phenomena, or area-specifics issues.

IR701 Independent Study 1

Offer a directed study to a student or a group of students by one or more faculty members. Students will conduct their independent research and explore a special topic in international relations and studies.

IR702 Independent Study 2

Offer a directed study to a student or a group of students by one or more faculty members. Students will conduct their independent research and explore a special topic in international relations and studies.

IR800 Thesis

The thesis is the in- depth research on an important issue in international relations/studies under the supervision of a thesis committee, comprising of one principal advisor.

TU GRADUATE STUDIES REGULATIONS (2561 B.E.)

It is the students' responsibility to be informed about and adhere to the regulations outlined in the TU Graduate Studies Regulations. The detailed document can be accessed at <https://www.reg.tu.ac.th/th/Picture/AttFile/f52db1c6-1adc-41b9-bcb8-9f277472aa3b>.