

International Relations (MA)

This program is offered by the College of Arts & Sciences. It is available online, at the St. Louis home campus, and at select U.S. and international campuses. Please see the Campus Locations and Offerings section of this catalog for a list of campuses where this program is offered.

Program Description

The master of arts (MA) in international relations enables students to analyze the complexities and processes involved in world politics and international affairs. Coursework provides exposure to the key subfields of the discipline and relevant issues such as globalization, human rights, humanitarian action and economic development. The program can help prepare students to compete for work with a governmental agency, an intergovernmental organization, a nongovernmental organization, or a multinational corporation. This program is also recommended for students planning to pursue a PhD or an academic career at another institution.

The degree requires satisfactory completion of 27 credit hours of the INTL curriculum and 9 credit hours of graduate electives for a total of 36 credit hours.

Webster also offers a Global MA program in international relations. Learn more at the Global MA Program page (external to the catalog).

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this program will be able to:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of several subfields of the international relations discipline.
- Demonstrate strong research skills.
- Critically analyze international events and issues.
- Apply theories of international relations.
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills.

Program Curriculum

The 36 credit hours required for the master of arts (MA) degree in international relations must include the following courses:

- INTL 5000 Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)
- INTL 5100 Research Methods and Perspectives (3 hours)
- INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations (3 hours) or INTL 6250 Thesis* (6 hours) and INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirement* (0 hours)
- Two courses from the Comparative Politics Cluster (6 hours)
- Four courses from the International Politics Cluster (12 hours)
- Additional graduate elective credit hours (9 hours)

*Students taking INTL 6250 Thesis (6 hours) must also register for INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirements (0 hours). INTL 6900 acknowledges successful completion of all thesis requirements including conforming to university and departmental guideline as well as depositing the thesis in the University library.

*Students completing their degree at either the Vienna or Geneva campuses are required to complete INTL 6250 Thesis and INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirements to meet this requirement.

The 54 credit hours required for the master of business administration (MBA) with an emphasis in international relations must include the following courses:

- INTL 5000 Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)
- INTL 5100 Research Methods and Perspectives (3 hours)
- Two courses from the Comparative Politics Cluster (6 hours)

- Four courses from the International Politics Cluster (12 hours)
- INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations (3 hours)

Comparative Politics Cluster (2 courses)

- INTL 5050 Comparative Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5580 Politics of Development (3 hours)
- INTL 5570 Comparative Foreign Policy (3 hours)
- INTL 5600 Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5605 Topics in Comparative Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5625 Middle East Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5635 Western European Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5645 Asian Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5655 African Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5665 South and Central Asian Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5675 Central and Eastern European Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5685 Latin American Area Studies (3 hours)

International Politics Cluster (4 courses)

- INGO 5000 Introduction to International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INTL 5400 International Political Economy (3 hours)
- INTL 5510 Theories of International Relations (3 hours)
- INTL 5530 International Law (3 hours)
- INTL 5535 International Disaster Law (3 hours)
- INTL 5540 International Organizations (3 hours)
- INTL 5545 The United Nations in International Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5550 War and Diplomacy (3 hours)
- INTL 5560 U.S. Foreign Policy (3 hours)
- INTL 5585 Food and Water Security (3 hours)
- INTL 5590 International Security (3 hours)
- INTL 5595 Energy Security (3 hours)
- INTL 5700 Humanitarian Issues in International Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5800 Globalization (3 hours)
- INTL 5860 Issues in International Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5870 International Law and Politics of Outer Space (3 hours)
- INTL 5890 Terrorism in World Politics (3 hours)
- NTSC 5000 Introduction to National Security Studies (3 hours)

International Relations Elective Courses (3 courses)

Any additional courses from the two clusters above, or any of the following:

- INTL 5300 Field Work (3-6 hours)
- INTL 5500 Professional Seminars (1-3 hours)
- INTL 5610 Non-Thesis Readings/Research (3 hours)
- INTL 5900 Advanced Research Methods** (3 hours)
- INTL 6500 Internship (3 hours)
- Any other graduate elective course (3 hours)

Not all of the courses listed above will be available to students at all locations.

If a requisite course is waived, the student must choose an elective course from this major.

**Advanced Research Methods may be substituted for a course in the Comparative cluster or in the International Politics cluster.

The required courses and electives listed in this core may be taken as directed studies, subject to the conditions stated in the Directed Studies section under Academic Policies.

International Relations (MA)

Dual Major Option: International Relations/ International and Nongovernmental Organizations

This program is only available at the Geneva campus.

51 Credit Hours

The dual major in international relations and international and nongovernmental organizations is designed for the student who wishes to seek a single master of arts degree with two majors: international relations and international and nongovernmental relations. Unlike a sequential or dual degree, the student earns a single master's degree but with two concentrations. It is therefore more credit hours than a single-concentration masters (36 credit hours) but still fewer than a sequential degree (60 or 63 credit hours).

Required Courses:

- INTL 5000 Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)
- INGO 5000 Introduction to International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INTL 5100 Research Methods and Perspectives (3 hours)
or INGO 5200 Research Methods and Approaches in International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations (3 hours)
or INGO 6000 Theory and Practice in International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
or INTL 6250 Thesis* (6 hours) and INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirements* (0 hours)
or INGO 6250 Thesis* (6 hours) and INGO 6900 University Thesis Requirement* (0 hours)
- INTL 5540 International Organizations (3 hours)
- INGO 5600 Principles of Negotiations (3 hours)
- INGO 5700 Grant Writing, Fundraising and Development for International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INGO 5900 Project Management for International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)

*Students taking INTL 6250 or INGO 6250 Thesis (6 hours) must also register for INTL 6900 or INGO 6900 University Thesis Requirements (0 hours). INTL 6900 or INGO 6900 acknowledges successful completion of all thesis requirements including conforming to university and departmental guidelines as well as depositing the thesis in the University library.

Elective Courses:

- Skills Cluster from the MA the international and nongovernmental organizations (9 hours)
- Comparative Cluster from the MA in international relations (6 hours)
- International Politics Cluster from the MA in international relations (12 hours)

Dual Major Option: National Security Studies/ International Relations

51 Credit Hours

Upon completion of the 51 credits, a single degree is awarded with two major concentrations. The two programs cannot be awarded separately or sequentially under this arrangement.

Required Courses

- INTL 5000 Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)
- NTSC 5000 Introduction to National Security Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5100 Research Methods and Perspectives (3 hours)

- or NTSC 5100 Research Methods in National Security Studies (3 hours)
- LEGL 5601 Professional Ethics in National Security Law (3 hours)
- INTL 5590 International Security (3 hours)
- INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations (3 hours)
or NTSC 6000 Capstone in National Security Studies (3 hours)
or INTL 6250 Thesis* (6 hours) and INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirement* (0 hours)
or NTSC 6250 Thesis in National Security Studies* (6 hours)
and INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirement* (0 hours)

*Students taking INTL 6250 Thesis or NTSC 6250 Thesis in National Security Studies (6 hours) must also register for INTL 6900 University Thesis Requirement (0 hours). INTL 6900 acknowledges successful completion of all thesis requirements including conforming to university and departmental guidelines, as well as depositing the thesis in the University library. The six credit hours for INTL 6250 or NTSC 6250 are drawn from the 3 hours reserved for the NTSC 6000 capstone and 3 elective credit hours in the program.

Electives

- 3 additional courses (9 hours) from the International and Regional Security Track in the MA in national security studies
- 4 courses (12 hours) from electives in other tracks in the MA in national security studies
- 2 courses (6 hours) from the Comparative Politics Cluster of the MA in international relations
- 2 elective courses (6 hours) in the MA in international relations

Admission

Students who are interested in applying to this degree program should see the Admission Section of this catalog for general requirements.

Send all admissions materials to:

Office of Admission
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Advancement to Candidacy

Students are admitted to their graduate program upon completion of all admission requirements. Students are advanced to candidacy status after successfully completing 12 credit hours of graduate credit, with grades of B- or better. In the MBA program and other specialized programs, courses required as prerequisites to the program do not count toward the 12 credit hours required for advancement.