FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (TER)

Part B - Master's degree programme in: International Relations
ISAT 60734

Master's tracks
- **International Security**
- **Geopolitics & Connectivity**
- **International Political Economy**
- **European Politics in a Global Perspective**
- **East Asian Studies**
- **International Relations and International Organization**

for academic year 2025-2026

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability

These Regulations comprise two parts – Part A and Part B. This degree programme-specific Part B accompanies Part A, which contains general provisions which apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessments of the Master's degree programmes provided by the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**. Part B contains degree programme-specific provisions which apply to the Master degree programme in **International Relations (ISAT 60734)**.

Section 2 Admission

Article 2.1 – Entry requirements

1. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that indicates that they have knowledge and understanding of and subject-specific skills in international relations, in particular theories and methods of International Relations, at academic Bachelor's level shall be admitted to the degree programme.
2. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor's degree programme in International Relations and International Organization of the University of Groningen or from another Dutch university, and holders from the Bachelor's degree programme European Languages and Cultures (profile Politics and Society) who started the programme from 1 September 2016 or later, are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Article 2.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.
3. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor's degree programme International Relations and International Law (IRIL) from University College Groningen are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Article 2.1.1, and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis, if they have completed the following set of courses:
   - International Relations Theories (and Practice) (5 ECTS)
   - International Politics (5 ECTS)
   - Statistics 1 (5 ECTS)
   - Two of the following three qualitative methods courses: Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis (5 ECTS); Interpretive Methods (5 ECTS); Advanced Argumentation and Critical Thinking (5 ECTS)[1]
4. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor's degree programme in
   - American Studies,
   - Communication and Information Studies,
   - European Languages and Cultures (profiles Culture & Literature and Language & Society Politics and Society),
   - History,
   - Media Studies,
   - Middle Eastern Studies, or
   - Minorities and Multilingualism

   of the University of Groningen with a faculty minor International Relations are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in article 2.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.
5. Holders of a degree other than the Bachelor's degrees stated in Article 2.1.2 must submit a request for admission to the Master's degree in International Relations to the Admissions Board. The Board may decide to decline the request due to an insufficiently internationally orientated Bachelor's degree, or to admit the applicant to (parts of the) pre-master programme.
6. The Admissions Board is responsible for assessing whether students without a Bachelor's degree are admissible on the basis of sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a Bachelor's degree.

Article 2.2 – Language requirement for foreign certificates

1. Students who are in the process of being admitted (or have been admitted) to a degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be asked by the Admissions Board – before registration – to pass an English language test, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the

[1] From 2024, University College Groningen discontinued its specialization in International Relations and International Law. This provision, therefore, only relates to students who have graduated in this specialization in 2024 or earlier.

Admissions Board.
2. The English language proficiency requirement will be met by passing an examination in English at the level of the Dutch VWO final exam (mark 6 or higher), or by passing the internet-based TOEFL test with a score of at least 90 (with a minimum of 21 for all items), IELTS Academic Module with a minimum score of 6.5 (with a minimum score of 6.0 for all items), or a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre, at least C1 CEFR with B2 for no more than two components.

Article 2.3 – Admission to Master's tracks

In addition to the provisions of Article 2.1, the following admission requirements apply to the various Master's tracks in this degree programme:

1. Students who have successfully completed a Bachelor's degree similar to that in IRIO and have sufficient knowledge of the theories and methods of International Relations and of how to conduct social-scientific research may be granted direct admission to the Master's tracks in International Relations in the same way as students with a Bachelor's degree certificate in IRIO after assessment by the Admissions Board.
2. Students who have a Bachelor's degree certificate with an international profile and/or knowledge of social sciences, for example Political Sciences, American Studies, History, European/International Law or International Economics, but who lack knowledge of the theories and methods of International Relations or of how to conduct social-scientific research may be admitted to the Pre-Master's bridging programme by the Admissions Board. The Admissions Board may decide to shorten the Pre-Master's bridging programme for candidates who have already successfully completed one or more of these components.

Section 3 Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 – Student workload

1. The degree programme has a student workload of 60 ECTS.
2. The student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.2 – Learning outcomes of the degree programme

Dublin Descriptors	A Master's graduate has…

Knowledge and understanding 1. Students have demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that typically associated with Bachelor's level, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context.	1.1 Advanced knowledge and understanding of key concepts and concept structures in the study of international political phenomena at an advanced level 1.2 Advanced knowledge and understanding of the theories, models and approaches in the analysis of international relations and the role of international organizations and other actors 1.3 Specialized knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to take a position in, the major debates in one of the specialization tracks of the degree programme: - track International Security: the latest developments in the field of international security studies, theory and methodology of social-scientific analysis of political actors in terms of mutual threats, vulnerabilities, as well as methods to translate social-scientific security analysis into security policy; - track Geopolitics & Connectivity: The complexity and functioning of sovereignty, territory, order and space globally and internationally, with connectivity as an active resultant of the relationship between space and power, taking place in current and past political contexts through localisation, territorialisation, strategisation and logisticisation of space; - track International Political Economy: the complexity and functioning of interwoven markets

	and their consequences for states and societies in terms of steering and influence, paying attention from an institutional perspective to the dynamics of the three pillars of market, state and society, in particular processes of institutional convergence as a result of increasing globalization; - track European Politics in a Global Perspective: the phenomenon of European collaboration and integration in past and present, its implications to the citizens of Europe and the rest of the world, as well as the functioning of the multi-layered administration and decision-making forces within the European Union and in the work of transnational and transgovernmental groups (including interest groups); - track East Asian Studies: backgrounds to and meaning of the contemporary international relations of East Asia - especially, but not exclusively, of China, Japan and Korea - in which national and international administrative and political, social and economic developments, are approached from a regional, global and historical perspective; - track International Relations & International Organization: backgrounds to and meaning of global changes in various fields, such as defence, administration, politics and economics, the changing relationship between international, regional and national politics, and the changing role of various non-state actors therein.
Applying knowledge and understanding 2. Students can apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.	2.1 Mastery of the methods and techniques of academic research specific to the specialization 2.2 Ability to independently design, implement and reproduce theoretical or socially relevant research into international-political developments and phenomena, and to apply this in new or unknown situations 2.3 Ability to analyse the various aspects of an academic problem and their mutual relationships
Making judgements 3. Students have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on ethical, intercultural and social responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.	3.1 Ability to deal systematically and creatively with complex issues and to form grounded judgements, bearing in mind ethical, intercultural and social responsibilities 3.2 Ability to judge academic research in the field of international relations adequately, independently, critically and logically 3.3 A critical and open scholarly attitude
Communication 4. Students can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.	4.1 Ability to report on research in an academically sound way both orally and in written form 4.2 Ability to present opinions clearly to an international audience of both colleagues and non-specialists
Learning skills 5. Students have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.	5.1 The ability to independently integrate new knowledge and understanding from the field of IR into existing expertise in an effort to continuous learning.

	5.2 Ability to read and comprehend English at a level such that an academic debate in that language can be followed 5.3 Ability to understand the international labour market, to conduct work of academic quality in a specialized professional environment and to contribute constructively to collective efforts in a structured group 5.4 Ability to plan and implement activities independently, to learn effectively, to organize the time available and to keep deadlines 5.5 Ability to effectively and efficiently use IT as a study tool.

See Assessment plan for the Matrix of realized learning outcomes / course units in the degree programme.

Article 3.3 - Language of instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in English.
2. The thesis/final assignment shall be written in English unless the supervisors and the student jointly agree to use a different language that all involved understand and are proficient in.

Article 3.4 – Master's tracks

The degree programme has the following Master's tracks:

No.	Master's track
1	International Security
2	Geopolitics & Connectivity
3	International Political Economy
4	European Politics in a Global Perspective
5	East Asian Studies
6	International Relations and International Organization (IRIO)[1]

[1] Students **who registered for the Master's track in IRIO before 1 September 2016** can specialize in Central and Eastern European Studies (MOES: *Midden- en Oost-Europese Studies*). The structure of the MOES track is the same as that of the Master's track in IRIO, with the proviso that both research seminars must have a MOES label (if preferred, one of the two research models may be followed in the MOES track within the History Today specialization). The placement and thesis must have a clear MOES component, to be assessed by the supervising lecturer.

Transition regulations European Integration

a. As of September 2020, the Master's track European Integration was renamed to European Politics in a Global Perspective. Students who registered for the Master's track European Integration before 1 September 2020 are subject to the following transition regulations: The academic year 2020-2021 was a transition year during which research seminars are labelled both for European Integration and European Politics in a Global Perspective, as well as the other Ma IR tracks.
b. European Integration students who have not completed the module Capita European Integration by September 2020 are offered access to the Capita European Politics in a Global Perspective.
c. Students of the track European Integration could graduate in their track (and thus receive a Master diploma in International Relations – European Integration) until the end of the academic year 2020-2021, i.e. 31 August 2021. After this, any remaining former students of European Integration will be re-enrolled for European Politics in a Global Perspective.

Article 3.5 – Content of the curriculum

1. The degree programme comprises the following course units with their student workloads:

Master's tracks: IS, G&C, IPE, EPGP, EAS and IRIO

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations	5
2	Capita[1]	5
3	Research Seminar	10
3	Research Seminar[2]	10
4	MA Placement[3] *or* Professionalisation Elective *or* Study Period in East Asia[4]	10
5	MA Thesis	20

[1] Students follow a Capita within their track.
[2] Students can choose to replace one of these research seminars with one or more alternative course units that provide a deepening of the content. The student's choice is subject to prior approval by the Board of Examiners. Students follow at least one research seminar within their track.
[3] Students with a non-Dutch Bachelor's degree who registered for the degree programme before 1 September 2018 may follow an extra research seminar instead of the placement.
[4] Students who follow the Master track East Asian Studies can request to follow a study period in East Asia instead of the placement. The student's request is subject to approval by the Board of Examiners.

All course units can be followed either in the first or the second semester. A number of subject-specific research seminars and several professionalisation electives will be offered every semester.

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.

SECTION 4 Tests and examinations of the degree programme

Article 4.1 – Compulsory order

The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:

No.	Course unit	No.	After passing course unit
4	MA placement in IR *or* Professionalisation elective	3	IR Research Seminar*
5	MA thesis in IR	1	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations
		3	IR Research Seminar**

* Only one IR Research Seminar is required.
** Only one IR Research Seminar within the student's track is required.

SECTION 5 Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, following recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
3. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of students.
4. In addition, an amendment may not influence any other decision concerning a student taken by the Board of Examiners under these Regulations to the disadvantage of students.

Article 5.2 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 5.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 5.3 – Date of commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 17 October 2025.
These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 17 October 2025 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee.

Appendices:
Appendix 1: Assessment Plan