



FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (TER)

Part B: Master's degree programme in

International Relations

CROHO 60734

for academic year 2026-2027

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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 (CROHO 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:
 - a. International Relations Theories (and Practice) (5 ECTS)
 - b. International Politics (5 ECTS)
 - c. Statistics 1 (5 ECTS)
 - d. 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)
4. Holders of a certificate from the following Bachelor's degree programme 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.
 - a. American Studies,
 - b. Communication and Information Studies,
 - c. European Languages and Cultures (profiles Culture & Literature and Language & Society Politics and Society),
 - d. History,
 - e. Media Studies,
 - f. Middle Eastern Studies, or
 - g. Minorities and Multilingualism
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 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)
- passing the internet-based TOEFL test with a score of at least 90 (with a minimum of 21 for all items). TOEFL tests taken after 21 January 2026 will use TOEFL's new 1-6 scoring system with a minimum overall score of 4.5 (min. 4 in reading and speaking, min. 4.5 in listening and writing)
- IELTS Academic Module with a minimum score of 6.5 (with a minimum score of 6.0 for all items)
- Cambridge: C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency
- Pearson PTE Academic with a minimum score of 66 (with a minimum score of 62 for reading and writing, and 54 for listening and speaking)
- LanguageCert Academic with a minimum score of 70 (with a minimum score of 65 for all items)

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 – LANGUAGE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 Language of instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in English.
2. The language of assessment for the degree programme is in English, subject to article 3.1.3 below.
3. The thesis/final assignment shall be written in English unless the supervisors and the study jointly agree to use a different language that all involved understand and are proficient in.

SECTION 4 – STRUCTURE OF THE MA TRACKS

Article 4.1 MA Track EUROPEAN POLITICS IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- This track consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations	5
2	Capita European Politics in a Global Perspective	5
3	Research Seminar within track	10
4	Research Seminar	10
5	MA Placement	10
	or	
	Professionalisation Elective	
6	MA Thesis	20

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

- 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.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

Article 4.2 MA Track GEOPOLITICS AND CONNECTIVITY

- This track consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
7	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations	5
8	Capita Geopolitics & Connectivity	5
9	Research Seminar within track	10
10	Research Seminar	10
11	MA Placement	10
	or	
	Professionalisation Elective	
12	MA Thesis	20

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

- 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.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

Article 4.3 MA Track INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

- This track consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
13	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations	5
14	Capita International Relations and International Organization	5
15	Research Seminar within track	10
16	Research Seminar	10
17	MA Placement	10
	or	
	Professionalisation Elective	
18	MA Thesis	20

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

- 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.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This

is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

Article 4.4 MA Track INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

- This track consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
19	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations	5
20	Capita International Security	5
21	Research Seminar within track	10
22	Research Seminar	10
23	MA Placement	10
	or	
	Professionalisation Elective	
24	MA Thesis	20

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

- 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.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

Article 4.5 MA Track INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

- This track consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
25	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations	5
26	Capita International Political Economy	5
27	Research Seminar within track	10
28	Research Seminar	10
29	MA Placement	10
	or	
	Professionalisation Elective	
30	MA Thesis	20

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

- 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.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

SECTION 5 – TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 5.1 - 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
5	MA Placement or Professionalisation Elective	4	Research Seminar (any)
6	MA Thesis	1	Advanced Theory and Research Practice in International Relations
		3	Research Seminar within track

SECTION 6 – TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6.1 – Transitional arrangements

East Asian Studies

- As of September 2026, the Master's track East Asian Studies is no longer offered. Students who registered for the Master's track East Asian Studies before 1 September 2026 are subject to the following transition regulations:
- East Asian Studies students who have not completed the module Capita East Asian Studies by September 2026 will be offered one opportunity to retake this module in semester 1 2026-27. After this, the Capita International Relations and International Organization will be offered.
- East Asian Studies students who have not completed a Research Seminar in their track before September 2026 will be able to graduate in this track provided they follow a Research Seminar that covers East Asia. The specific Research Seminars this refers to will be updated every semester and a list will be made available in the online study guide.
- Any request to deviate from these transition regulations is subject to approval of the Board of Examiners.

Article 6.2 – Exchange in East Asia

- A very limited number of spaces are available for an exchange period in East Asia instead of the placement. In 2026-27, only those students registered on the East Asian Studies track will be eligible for this exchange option.

Article 6.3 - Research Seminar Options

- The following courses within Research Seminar 1 & Research Seminar 2 in the Un/Sustainable Societies: Part, Present, and Future track of the MA History are available for students enrolled in the MA International Relations
 - Intermediaries and the Late Colonial State (1850-1942)
 - The Great Imperial War (1931-1960)
 - Why Do Some Organizations Thrive while Others Collapse?
 - Human-Inflicted Disasters in History: Epicentre Eastern Europe

Article 6.4 - Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or subject to the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with – and where necessary subject to the approval of – the Faculty Council, be adopted by the Faculty Board in a separate decision.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or subject to the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with – and where necessary subject to the approval of – the Faculty Council, be adopted by the Faculty Board in a separate decision.
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 6.5 - 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 6.5.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 6.6 - Date of commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2026.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 23 June 2026 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Dublin Descriptors	A Master's graduate has...
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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 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.