



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

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Admission Requirements for Master's Degree Programmes

Master's Degree Programme in INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Art. 1 Admission requirements for the Master's Degree Programme in International Relations - IR

- **Admission prerequisites**

Admission to the Master's Degree Programme in International Relations (code 9084) is conditional on the completion of either a Bachelor's degree, a single-cycle degree or a four-year degree, or another suitable academic qualification obtained abroad.

Applicants must meet both the curricular and linguistic requirements, as well as pass an assessment of their personal competencies and skills.

Curricular requirements

You must hold a Bachelor's degree, single-cycle degree or a four-year degree from an Italian university, or an academic qualification obtained abroad deemed equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in one of the following classes (i.e., disciplinary fields):

L-5 Philosophy, L-6 Geography, L-11 Modern Languages and Cultures, L-12 Language Mediation, L-14 Legal Services, L-16 Administration and Organisation, L-18 Economics and Business Organisation, L-20 Communication, L-33 Economics, L-36 Political Science and International Relations, L-37 Social Sciences for Cooperation, Development and Peace, L-40 Sociology, L-41 Statistics, L-42 History.

For those who have a qualification obtained abroad or a qualification obtained prior to the Italian Ministerial Decree 509/1999, the Commission assesses and verifies the possession of knowledge and skills on the basis of the applicant's previous career and the adequacy of the qualification with respect to the necessary curricular requirements.

Assessment of personal competencies and skills

Admission to the Master's Degree Programme in International Relations is subject to an assessment of the applicant's personal competencies and skills, which is carried out according to the guidelines set out in the "Admission Procedure" section below.

Admission to the Degree Programme is also possible for students who hold a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) belonging to a class other than those listed above, provided they have obtained **at least 32 credits** in one or more of the following scientific-disciplinary sectors (i.e., SSD):

Political and Social Sciences - SPS/01- SPS/02- SPS/03- SPS/04- SPS/05- SPS/06- SPS/07- SPS/11- SPS/13- SPS/14

Economic and Statistical Sciences - SECS-P/01- SECS-P/02- SECS-P/03- SECS-P/07- SECS-P/12- SECS- S/01- SECS-S/03- SECS-S/05

Oriental Languages and Cultures - L- OR/10- L-OR/23- L- OR/01

History and Anthropology - M-STO/03- M-STO/04- M- DEA/01

Legal Sciences - IUS/09- IUS/13- IUS/14- IUS/21

Computer Science - ING-INF/01- ING-INF/05

Applicants must also have adequate English language skills at least at B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

- **Admission procedure**

Restricted access

The Master's Degree Programme in International Relations adopts restricted access set at the local level (pursuant to art. 2 of Italian Law 264/99) depending on the availability of resources.

The number of available places and the selection methods are communicated annually in the relative Call for Applications.

Assessment of the applicant's personal qualification

Admission to the Master's Degree Course is subject to the possession of the curricular and linguistic requirements and to passing an assessment of the student's personal preparation. The assessment is carried out according to the methods and procedures indicated on the Degree Programme's website, based on one or several criteria (e.g., evaluation of qualifications, curriculum studiorum, curriculum vitae, motivations, oral interview, or a written test). These criteria will be determined on an annual basis by the Degree Programme Council and will be notified through the University website.

The Master's Degree Programme in International Relations may appoint a Selection Committee and organise a session specifically for the assessment of international students' personal preparation. This session shall be organised compatibly with the deadlines for the allocation of scholarships and the pre-enrolment procedures.

Assessment of the applicant's English language proficiency

English language proficiency at least at B2 level (CEFR) is required for admission to the Degree Programme and will be assessed by the Selection Committee. The assessment is waived for applicants who currently possess a valid and recognized English language certificate.

Art. 2 Transfer rules between curricula and individual study plans

Individual study plans

Students may choose courses from those available in the course structure diagram, according to the modalities indicated and the terms established by the Department. Both modalities and terms will be made available through the University website.

Individual study plans may be submitted - and transfer between curricula is allowed - within the deadlines determined annually by the Department and made available through the University website.

The Degree Programme Council evaluates the consistency of individual study plans with the degree teaching regulations and the learning outcomes of the programme. It also verifies that the number of exams, course units and credits (ECTS/CFUs) meet the requirements of the official course structure diagram.

Based on the same criteria, the Degree Programme Council also assesses transfer requests between curricula and decides by taking into account both achieved and missing credits.

Art. 3 Modalities for carrying out teaching activities and teaching methods

The teaching plan indicates the teaching activities and their characteristics in terms of hours of frontal

teaching, practical exercises, or internship, as well as the teaching methods. Any further information will be published annually on the University website.

Art. 4 Attendance and prerequisites

Compulsory attendance of the teaching activities is indicated in the teaching plan, along with any necessary prerequisites.

The exact modalities and the verification of compulsory attendance are established annually by the Degree Programme during the presentation of the teaching plan. Students will be notified via the University website before lectures start.

For each course for which attendance is compulsory, students are required to attend at least 70% of the scheduled hours.

Art. 5 Assessment of teaching activities

The enclosed teaching plan indicates whether the student's preparation is assessed through an exam – graded on a 30-point scale (with 30 *cum laude* being the highest grade and 18 being the passing grade) – or a simple pass/fail mark.

The assessment methods (oral, written or practical exam, or any combination of them; individual or group exams) are indicated annually by the Degree Programme Council during the presentation of the teaching plan and notified to the students via the University website before the lectures start.

Art. 6 Teaching activities chosen individually by the student (elective courses)

Students may choose one or more teaching activities among those identified annually by the Degree Programme Council and published on the University website. Students wishing to take a teaching activity different from those identified from the Degree Programme Council must make a formal request to the Degree Programme Council within the terms indicated annually and published on the University website. The Board will assess the coherence of the choice with the student's study programme and motivations.

Art. 7 Criteria for the recognition of credits acquired in Degree Programmes of the same class

Credits acquired in a scientific-disciplinary sector (i.e., SSD, or subject area) are recognised up to the number of credits assigned to the same SSD – which are indicated in the enclosed course structure diagram. Residual credits may be recognised by decision of the Degree Programme Council, with regard to their consistency with the study plan.

Art. 8 Criteria for the recognition of credits acquired in Degree Programmes of different classes, from online universities and international degree programmes

Credits are recognised by the Degree Programme Council, according to the following criteria:

- Analysis of the course contents
- Assessment of the coherence of the SSD and of the contents of the teaching activities in which the student has acquired the credits with the specific learning outcomes of the Degree Programme and with the individual learning activities to be recognised, in any case pursuing the aim of promoting student mobility.

The credits are recognised up to the maximum number of university credits provided for in the enclosed course structure diagram. Residual credits may be recognised by decision of the Degree Programme Council, with regard to their consistency with the study plan.

Art. 9 Criteria for recognition of extra-university competencies and skills

Extra-university competencies and skills are not recognised.

Art. 10 Internship in preparation of the final examination or linked to a training project aiming to develop the student's competencies and skills

At the student's request, the Degree Programme may grant permission to conduct an internship aimed either at preparing the final examination or at conducting a training project to develop the student's competences and skills. The Degree Programme shall act in accordance with the procedures indicated in the General University Regulations concerning internships and international mobility programmes, and in compliance with EU law.

These learning experiences shall not exceed 6 months and shall be completed by the date of graduation. Credits may be awarded:

- as part of those allocated for the final examination, or
- for the internship activities, as indicated in the course structure diagram, or
- for elective activities, which may also consist in doing an internship, or
- for additional activities, whose credits exceed the number required for graduation

Art. 11 Higher training apprenticeship

Students may carry out apprenticeships to integrate their academic education with practical training at companies. The aim of the apprenticeship is to acquire a qualification. Apprenticeships are available to students aged between 18 and 29, who have already acquired a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 80 CFUs/ECTS.

Art. 12 Guidelines regarding the final examination

Characteristics of the Final Examination

The final examination for the award of a Master's Degree consists in writing and defending an original dissertation written in English, based on a topic in line with the programme's objectives, under the supervision of a University professor. The dissertation must demonstrate a correct use of the English language, the student's ability to engage with the existing academic literature on the chosen topic, and to take an individual and well-argued position in this regard.

Final examination procedure

The student is required to graduate in one of the teaching activities included in his/her study plan. A student wishing to graduate in a teaching activity not included in his/her study plan must make a formal request to the Degree Programme Council, which will deliberate on the basis of the justification provided.

Art. 13 Correspondence between the credits assigned to each individual teaching activity and the specific expected learning outcomes

On 01/12/2020 the Joint Teaching Committee expressed its favourable opinion under the terms of article 12 para. 3 of Ministerial Decree no. 270/04.



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