

ACADEMIC REGULATION a.y. 2019/2020

Master of Arts in: *Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (MA MIREES)*

Course Class: 52 - International Relations

In accordance with laws and ministerial provisions which regulate teaching autonomy, this regulation disciplines the contents and organizational procedures of the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (Course class 52- International Relations) established in compliance with Ministerial Decree, DM 270/04, at the Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Department of Political Science, Forlì Campus, in cooperation with Vytautas Magnus University at Kaunas and Saint Petersburg State University. At the end of the degree programme, a Second cycle Joint Degree named Master of Arts in "Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe" (MIREES), valid as Laurea Magistrale in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe, LM-52 in Italy, Master of Political Sciences in Lithuania, will be awarded.

The consortium of the partner universities identifies a reference professor who will become member of a body with representative and advisory functions called *International Academic Board (IAB)*.

Art. 1 - Admission Requirements

- **Knowledge requested for admission**

For admission to the Master of Arts in "Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe" it is necessary to have a 3-year First Cycle Degree from an Italian university or an equivalent first cycle degree from a non-Italian University. It also necessary to meet the curricular requirements and the assessment of a suitable personal preparation.

- **Curricular requirements**

Italian qualifications belonging to one of the following disciplinary fields according to the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 270/04:

L-5	Philosophy	L-33	Economics
L-6	Geography	L-36	Political science and international relations
L-10	Humanities	L-37	Peace studies
L-11	Modern languages and civilisations	L-40	Sociology
L-12	Linguistic mediation	L-42	History
L-20	Communication	DS/1	Defence and security

Or:

To have an Italian qualification belonging to a disciplinary field different from those above-listed, with at least 48 CFU obtained in the following Scientific and Disciplinary Sectors (SSD), as specified in the paragraph "Conditions and arrangements for admission".

- Italian academic qualifications belonging to the disciplinary fields established by the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 509/99 which have been assimilated to the disciplinary fields of the DM 270/04, as reported in section A, according to the inter-ministerial Decree of 9 July 2009;
 - Italian academic qualifications awarded before the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 509/99 and non-Italian academic qualifications: a commission appointed for this task will assess the correspondence between the disciplinary field of the candidate's entry qualification and the above-mentioned disciplinary fields established by the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 270/04.
- **Assessment of a suitable personal preparation**

The admission to the degree programme is subject to the assessment of a suitable personal preparation that will be conducted according to the methods and procedure described in the paragraph "Conditions and arrangements for admission".

The knowledge of the English language at a minimum of B2 Level, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages will be also ascertained.

- **Conditions and arrangements for admission**

The degree programme applies an admission procedure with restricted access (ex art. 2, Law 264/99) in accordance with the available resources. The number of available places as well as the conditions and arrangements for the selection are annually notified in the call for applications on the basis of the following principles.

To be admitted to the master's degree it is necessary to hold a 3-year First Cycle Degree from an Italian University or an equivalent first cycle degree from a non-Italian University in one of the following disciplinary fields: L-5 Philosophy, L-6 Geography, L-10 Humanities, L-11 Modern languages and civilisations, L-12 Linguistic mediation, L-20 Communication, L-33 Economics, L-36 Political science and international relations, L-37 Peace studies, L-40 Sociology, L-42 History, DS/1 Defence and security.

In the case of an Italian qualification belonging to a disciplinary field different from those above-listed, it is necessary that candidates have obtained at least 48 CFU in the following Scientific and Disciplinary Sectors (SSD):

SPS/03, SPS/04, SPS/05, SPS/06, SPS/07, SPS/11, SPS/14, SECS-P/01, SECS-P/02, M-STO/02, M-STO/03, M-STO/04, M-GGR/02, IUS/13, IUS/14, L-LIN/19, L-LIN/21.

The disciplinary fields according to the Italian Ministerial Decree DM 509/99 have been assimilated to the disciplinary fields of the DM 270/04 indicated in this article, according to the inter-ministerial Decree of 9 July 2009.

In the case of Italian academic qualifications awarded before the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 509/99 and non-Italian academic qualifications, a commission will be appointed to assess the correspondence between the disciplinary field of the candidate's entry qualification and the disciplinary fields established by the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 270/04 indicated in this article.

The admission to the degree programme is dependent on the assessment of a suitable personal preparation carried out by a joint international Examining Board representing the partner institutions, that will take place in compliance with the terms and conditions indicated in the call for applications, on the basis of a criterion of a combination of criteria (such as the evaluation of the candidates' qualifications, CV, oral interview,

written examination, minimum graduation mark, letter of endorsement, average of the exams passed, academic and non-academic working experiences) that will be established annually by Council of the Degree Programme upon the proposal of the International Academic Board (hereinafter IAB) and published on the University website. The knowledge of the English language at a minimum of B2 Level, according the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, will be also ascertained. English mother-tongue candidates or applicants holding a First-Cycle Degree awarded by an English-speaking university or entirely taught in English are not requested to provide attestations of knowledge of English.

Art. 2 - Provisions governing mobility among Master of Arts' curricula. Individual study plan

Students can choose from courses listed in the Course Study Plan, subject to provisions established in this plan and within deadlines determined each year by the Council of the Degree Programme, confirmed by the Department of Political Sciences and published on the University website.

No individual Course Study Plan nor transferal to different curricula shall be allowed, except in exceptional and motivated circumstances.

Motivated requests, submitted within the deadline annually confirmed by the School and published on the University website, shall be subject to evaluation by the Council of the Degree Programme, after hearing the opinion of the IAB, shall assess motivations and admissibility. If a positive response is given, the Council of the Degree Programme shall deliberate on the proposed individual course study plan and transfer request, taking into account both university credits (CFU) acquired and those to be acquired on the basis of the following criteria:

- consistency with the Master of Art's academic objectives;
- compliance with number of exams, subjects and university credits which shall not be inferior to the corresponding number foreseen in the official Course Study Plan.

First-year students can add a maximum of 6 credits to the courses freely chosen by the students (type D) scheduled in the II year in order to include the learning activities aimed at improving soft skills in their study plan, among those annually offered by the University of Bologna.

Art.3 - Basic Curricular Activity and Teaching Methods

The enclosed teaching plan indicates basic curricular activity and related course hours dedicated to lectures, practical work or internships, as well as teaching methods.

Subsequent information on the above mentioned shall be published in the University web page published annually.

The organization of teaching activities implies the students' acquisition of transversal skills such as public presentations and critical analysis of texts, teamwork, working under stress, individual and group self-organization, adaptability to different environments, development of cooperation skills and crosscultural communication, assessment of variables through an interdisciplinary approach, public social responsibility.

Students are expected to attend their third semester abroad for a period of at least 5 months in one of the partner Universities (or at associate universities on the basis of the indications of the Council of the Degree Programme, after hearing the opinion of the IAB), in order to fulfil the required number of university credits. The period of study abroad is compulsory and includes the attendance of language courses and elective courses in line with the Mirees learning outcomes (that will be annually identified by the partner universities), as well as field works and research activities aimed at preparing the master's thesis. At the end of the third semester the partner universities organize a work-in-progress meeting for the students hosted for

the compulsory mobility where the research methods and outlines will be discussed on the basis of the indications provided by the Council of the Degree Programme. Only the students who will be spending their mobility at associated universities are required to attend the work-in-progress meeting at the Department of Political Sciences of the Forlì Campus.

MIREES mobility is provided by the Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus programmes and by the MIREES Mobility Scheme (MMS, for European countries or students excluded from the Erasmus, by the Erasmus Mundus) or by any other bilateral agreement with the University of Bologna.

Students shall not be allowed to include in their course study plan foreign languages for which they already have proficiency nor any language for which they are a native speaker.

At the request of the student, the Council of the Degree Programme, after consulting the language instructor (who will make sure that the student language knowledge does not reach Level C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) can allow the student to include a foreign language of which s/he has knowledge in his/her study plan.

Art. 4 - Attendance and Propaedeutics

The enclosed teaching plan indicates attendance required at courses as well as propaedeutics governing courses offered.

Systems for controlling attendance, where it is necessary, are established annually by the Council of the Degree Programme at the presentation of the teaching plan and will be communicate to students before commencement in the University website.

Students are required to attend at least 70% of class hours for each course. For courses composed of two modules, students must attend at least 70% of class hours for each module.

Art. 5 - Examinations

The enclosed Teaching Plan foresees examinations for those courses which require a final exam based on either the Italian University grading system, expressed on a scale of 30 points, or on a pass/fail basis.

The results obtained during the third semester are converted into the Italian grading system, upon submission of the transcript of records issued by the partner (or associate) university, according to the conversion table set by the Council of the Degree Programme.

Examinations (either oral, written, or practical or combinations of these, based on either individual or group assessment) shall be carried out as annually established by the course instructors and approved by the Council of the Degree Programme upon presentation of the Teaching schedule, and communicated to students before commencement through the University web page.

Art. 6 Optional courses

Students can choose one or more optional courses among those offered by the partner or associated universities to be attended during the compulsory mobility. The Council of the Degree Programme approves annually the course catalogue.

If students select a course not included the study plan, they shall submit an official request to the Council of the Degree Programme within the deadline established annually and published on the University website. The Council of the Degree Programme shall evaluate whether optional courses independently selected by students are consistent with their study plan.

Art. 7 - Criteria for the recognition of credits acquired in the same category of Course Study

University credits gained are recognized as long as they pertain to the same field of study according to the attached Teaching Programme.

If, after recognition under the provisions of this regulation, unused credits remain, the Council of the Degree Programme may assess each case singularly and recognize remaining credits based on affinity with teaching and cultural activities.

The recognition refers to course units delivered in English.

Art. 8 - Criteria for the recognition of credits acquired in different *Course Study* categories, or in universities awarding on-line degrees or in other international Course Studies

The Council of the Degree Programme shall recognize university credits according to the following criteria:

- evaluation of programme attended
- evaluation of the consistency of the disciplinary sectors and the contents of the programme in which the students have acquired credits with the specific curricular objectives and activities to be recognized, pursuing, however, the principle of student mobility.

Recognition is granted as long as the university credits pertain to the same field of study as the attached Teaching Programme.

If, after recognition under the provisions of this regulation, unused credits remain, the Council of the Degree Programme may assess each case singularly and recognize remaining credits based on affinity with teaching and cultural activities. The recognition is referred to the learning activities taught in English.

Art. 9 - Criteria for the recognition of extracurricular activities and non-academic skills acquired.

The recognition of extracurricular activities and non-academic skills is not foreseen.

Art.10 - Examinations and Proficiency

For each course, students are allowed two exam sessions per academic year: the first session at the end of the course, the second session in September.

The September's session has to be considered solely as an additional exam session for students who have failed the exam in the first session after the course.

Art.11 - Internship

At the student's request, the Council of the Degree Programme – with the positive assessment of the IAB - may allow students to pursue an internship of no more than 6 months aimed at improving the student's learning process according to the procedures established by the General Regulations of the University of Bologna or by international agreements for internship mobility and in compliance with EU rules. These internship experiences must be completed by the graduation date and can assign extra credits in addition to the 120 ECTS needed for graduating.

Art.12 - Master's Thesis

Characteristics of the final examination

The final examination is an individual thesis written in English under the guidance of a supervisor which is presented and defended orally against an international Commission. The subject must be consistent with the MIREES rationale and refer to one of the course units included in the study plan of the degree programme. In the final examination students must demonstrate their full command of the expressive means of the language used; an in-depth knowledge of the international theoretical and empirical literature in argument; analytical skills; critical approach; an autonomous, well-argued understanding of the subject. The final examination can be connected to a project or internship activity.

Arrangement for the final examination

The final examination is a thesis written in English to be defended orally in front of an international commission. The subject must refer to one of the course units included in the study plan of the degree programme.

In the final examination students must demonstrate their full command of the expressive means of the language used; an in-depth knowledge of the international theoretical and empirical literature in argument; analytical skills; ability in organizing evidences and the narrative with order and in a systematic way; critical elaboration of collected data and sources; a solid case-study, fieldwork research and/or comparative approach, and an autonomous, well-argued understanding of the subject.

Students are personally responsible for the content of their thesis, which must be original. Quotations, bibliography, tables must comply with academic standards.

Art.13 - Graduation Session

Two graduation sessions are scheduled, a standard session in September and a supplementary session in March. The latter is reserved to students who are not admitted in the September session or cannot meet this session due to reasons of force majeure. In the latter case, on the basis of the motivations given by the student, the Council of the Degree Programme may request official documentation attesting to the special circumstances.

Art.14 - Consistency between the credits assigned by the learning activities and the specific learning outcomes.

On 30/11/2018, the Faculty-student Joint Committee of the University of Bologna expressed a positive assessment in compliance with the article 12 paragraph 3 of the Italian Ministerial Decree D.M. 270/04.