

Education and Examination Regulations 2024-2025

Degree Programme: International Relations / International Relations in Historical Perspective; Conflict Studies and Human Rights

2.1 Requirements for admission to the programmes

1. Consideration for admission to the degree programme **International Relations** requires a Dutch or foreign diploma that demonstrates knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a university Bachelor's degree and that shows its holder has the following specific knowledge, understanding, and skills:
 - a. demonstrated understanding of the current state of empirical, historical, and theoretical knowledge of international relations, and/or more specifically of armed conflicts and their relations to human rights issues at both inter-state and intra-state levels;
 - b. competence in working with qualitative research methods, demonstrated either through course work or through having conducted historical or contemporary evidence-based research for a BA thesis relevant to the field of international relations in general, and/or conflict studies and human rights in particular.
 - c. demonstrated proof of the following scholarly and academic skills:
 - a. the skill to formulate clearly articulated, focused, and feasible research questions;
 - b. the ability to present a line of logical argumentation, either in writing or verbally;
 - c. the ability to write down one's organized thoughts in a clear and structured way, fluently in the English language;
 - d. the ability to support arguments with empirical evidence, such as from historical documents, or from social-scientific data, or any triangulated combinations;
 - e. where relevant, the ability to make sense of one's arguments and empirical evidence through theoretical ideas and concepts, in either a case-specific or comparative manner.
2. The following conditions for consideration for admission apply to the various programmes.

Programme Conflict Studies and Human Rights:

Consideration for admission into the programmes Conflict Studies and Human Rights requires:

- subject knowledge of and insight in the fields of Conflict Studies and Human Rights to be demonstrated by at least 30 EC in relevant coursework;
- knowledge of research methods relevant to the field of Conflict Studies;
- the ability to present a feasible and relevant preliminary research idea for your Master's thesis;
- skills pertaining to critical, analytical, and structured essay-writing skills in English;
- excellent scholarly abilities demonstrated by an academic track record of high grades;
- practical and/or professional experience in conflict zones, or in the field of conflict resolution and peace building, or demonstrable interest in this field of study.

Programme International Relations in Historical Perspective:

Consideration for admission to the programme International Relations in Historical Perspective requires:

- knowledge of the history of international relations during the 19th, 20th and 21st century and acquaintance with complex theories in the field of international relations;
- knowledge of research methods in the field of history, and contemporary history;
- academic and analytic skills: the ability to design, carry out, and report both in writing and orally on historical research in the field on international relations.

3. Students will be selected on the basis of an assessment of the following core competencies:
 - a. motivation and talent (also on the basis of GPA and student progress monitoring);
 - b. level of required knowledge and the mastery of methods and techniques used in the subject area;
 - c. general high level of professional and intellectual ability;
 - d. a good command of English.

4. There is a fixed quota for admission to the programmes. The maximum number of students to be admitted to the programme Conflict Studies and Human Rights is 60. The maximum number of students to be admitted to the programme International Relations in Historical Perspective is 60. The admissions committee referred to in Article 2.3 will rank the applications received using the criteria set out in the second paragraph and will accept applications for admission by their ranking.

Clause 3.1 – Aim of the programmes

1. The learning objective for the student is to gain specialised knowledge, skills, and understanding of the field of International Relations; specifically, 'International Relations in Historical Perspective' and 'Conflict Studies and Human Rights.'
2. The aim, therefore, is to equip students with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for careers as analyst and policy advisors, particularly in governmental and non-governmental organisations that deal with international issues.
3. The programmes also prepare students to conduct further research in the field of International Relations, specifically 'International Relations in Historical Perspective' and 'Conflict Studies and Human Rights'.

International Relations in Historical Perspective

The graduate:

- Will have gained in-depth knowledge of the history and theory of international relations, including insight in the modern world and state system as well as specialized topics related to the subject areas Global and Imperial Relations, Europe and the World, and Conflict and Security;
- Will have gained skills in the field of International Relations in Historical Perspective and will be able to conduct independent research by identifying, formulating and analysing a research problem, synthesizing the generated knowledge based on original source materials and relevant scholarly literature, and reflecting critically on the historiography in order to contribute new knowledge to the discipline;
- Will have gained skills to design, conduct and present independent research in the field of International Relations in Historical perspective in a manner that is consistent with the norms and standards of the discipline;
- Will be able to present knowledge and insights in a coherent and convincing manner to an audience of specialists and non-specialists alike by written, visual and oral communication means and to actively participate in group work and discussions in an international and diverse group;
- Will be able to apply the skills and knowledge at an academic level and/or in a professional setting within the labour market or to pursue another academic study at (Research) Master's or PhD level.

Conflict Studies and Human Rights

The graduate:

- Will have gained in-depth knowledge of the field of Conflict Studies and Human Rights, including (a) a capacity to critically evaluate current theoretical approaches to analyse violent and protracted conflict, and the different types of interventions and policies that aim to manage or resolve these conflicts; (b) knowledge of human rights and their relevance and interaction with the political and practical context of societies facing these conflicts;
- Will have gained a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in the field of Conflict Studies and Human Rights;
- Will have gained skills to analyse situations of violent and protracted conflict, can use and critically reflect on different analytical techniques and methodologies, and can make sound judgements of the quality of the analysis made in academic texts, newspapers and reports;
- Has gained specialised and competent knowledge of a subject area within the field of Conflict Studies and Human Rights through self-directed learning and specialisation;
- Will be able to present knowledge and insights in a coherent and convincing manner to an audience of specialists and non-specialists alike by written, visual and oral communication means and to actively participate in group work and discussions in an international and

- diverse group;
- Will have gained skills to design, conduct and present independent research in the field of Conflict Studies and Human Rights in a manner that is consistent with the established norms and standards of the academic field;
- Will be able to apply the skills and knowledge at an academic level and/or in a professional setting within the labour market or to pursue another academic study at (Research) Master’s or PhD level, and can act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

Clause 3.2 – Attendance mode

These are both fulltime programmes.

Clause 3.3 – Language in which the programme is taught

The programme is taught in English: 100% of the courses for the degree programme are taught in English. Appendix 3 provides the reasoning behind the programme’ language policy.

3.6.1 – Components of the study programme

International Relations in Historical Perspective

Practice Track

Core curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	20 EC
Electives	Courses	Compulsory choice	10 EC
Practical component	Internship	Compulsory	15 EC
Research project	Thesis	Compulsory	15 EC

Research Track

Core curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	20 EC
Electives	Courses	Compulsory choice	10 EC
Research project	Research tutorial thesis	Compulsory	30 EC

An individual trajectory in periods 3 and 4 (special internships, courses followed at another university), strengthening the master programme’s profile, may be submitted for approval to the master coordinator and the examination board.

Applied Research Track (Preparing students for applied research in the field of IR)

Core curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	20 EC
Electives	Courses	Compulsory choice	10 EC
Applied research lab	Research project	Compulsory	15 EC
Research project	Thesis	Compulsory	15 EC

Conflict Studies and Human Rights

Practice Track: Internship

Core curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	30 EC
Practical component	Internship	Compulsory	15 EC
Research project	Thesis	Compulsory	15 EC

Research Track: Fieldwork

Core curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	30 EC
Practical component	Fieldwork	Compulsory	15 EC
Research project	Thesis	Compulsory	15 EC

Research Track: Research Lab

Core curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	30 EC
Practical component	Research lab	Compulsory	15 EC
Research project	Thesis	Compulsory	15 EC

Clause 4.6 – Evaluation of quality of the education

1. The Director of Education is responsible for monitoring the quality of the courses and teaching. To this end the Director of Education will ensure that quality assurance involves evaluating courses and an evaluation at curriculum level. In ensuring the quality of courses the Director of Education will draw on the advice and suggestions for improvement of the curriculum committees on promoting and safeguarding the quality of the course.
2. The courses and teaching in the degree programme will be evaluated using one or more of the following means:
 - a. course evaluation: at the end of the course, the participating students are asked to evaluate the course through the digital survey system;
 - b. evaluation at curriculum level: through curriculum dialogues (in Dutch *onderwijsgesprekken*)
 - c. by means of the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquête – NSE*) the students will be asked for their opinion on all aspects of the courses, teaching and the facilities.
3. Students who have participated in courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities will be informed of the results of the course evaluations.

Appendix 1 - Curriculum Programme: International Relations in Historical Perspective

Core curriculum (20 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16010	The Modern World and the States System: Comparing Historical and IR Theories	5	1
GKMV16011	International Relations in Practice	5	1
GKMV16012	Research seminar in International Relations in Historical Perspective	10	1-2

Electives (10 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV18004	Ges-Case-studies in Security and Conflict	5	2
GKMV18005	Ges-Case-studies in Europe and the World	5	2
GKMV20002	Ges-Case-studies in Global and Imperial Relations	5	2

Practice Track

Practical component (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16016	Internship MA Programme International Relations in Historical Perspective	15	Year

Research project (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16017	Thesis MA Programme International Relations in Historical Perspective	15	Year

Research Track

Research (30 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16018	Research Tutorial MA International Relations in Historical Perspective	10	3
GKMV16019	Research Thesis MA International Relations in Historical Perspective	20	Year

Applied Research Track

Practical component (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV19001	Applied research lab	15	Year

Research project (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16017	Thesis MA Programme International Relations in Historical Perspective	15	Year

Appendix 1 – Curriculum Programme: Conflict Studies and Human Rights

Core curriculum (30 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16020	Theories of Violent Conflict	5	1
GKMV22006	Peace, Security and Politics	5	1
GKMV22007	Data in Conflict	5	1
GKMV16023	The Conflict-Human Rights Nexus	5	2
GKMV22008	Preparing Research Project	5	2
GKMV22009	Contemporary Conflict Themes	5	2

Practice Track

Practical component (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16026	Internship MA Conflict Studies and Human Rights	15	3

Research project (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16028	Thesis writing MA Conflict Studies and Human Rights	15	Year

Fieldwork Track

Practical component (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16027	Fieldwork Research Project	15	3

Research project (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16028	Thesis writing MA Conflict Studies and Human Rights	15	Year

Research Track

Practical component (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV22010	Research Lab	15	3

Research project (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
GKMV16028	Thesis writing MA Conflict Studies and Human Rights	15	Year

Appendix 2 – Transitional Provisions MA International Relations 2024-2025

There are no transitional provisions for students who started before 2022-2023. These students should contact the study advisor if they have questions about their study programme.

Students who started in the academic years 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 need to complete the education programme as described in the EER-attachment for their academic year. If certain components of the programme are not offered in the current academic year 2024-2025, the following transitional provisions will apply.

The new compulsory courses are equivalent to the old courses (see below), unless stated otherwise. If a student has completed the old course, the new equivalent course can't be taken as well.

Students who still need to complete one or more electives, should choose from the courses offered in 2024-2025. They should make sure to choose a course that does not have a major overlap with already completed courses. Courses with too much overlap are indicated in the tables below. If two courses are labelled equivalent, only one of them can count toward the student's study programme.

It is possible to make the transition from the exam programme of an earlier cohort to the programme of the current academic year (2024-2025). If the student chooses to do so, they must comply to all regulations of the exam programme of the current academic year and must request approval from the Board of Examiners. Please contact your study advisor if you are considering this.

International Relations in Historical Perspective

Transitional provisions for students who started in 2022-2023 (cohort 2022) or 2023-2024 (cohort 2023) [Exam Programme IR-IBEM-16]

This exam programme is unaltered.

Conflict Studies and Human Rights

Transitional provisions for students who started in 2022-2023 (cohort 2022) or 2023-2024 (cohort 2023) [Exam Programme IR-CONM-16]

This exam programme is unaltered.

Appendix 3 (art. 3.3) - Language Policy

International Relations in Historical Perspective

International Relations is an internationally orientated field of study. Our program prepares students for a career in the world of international politics. It is therefore mandatory that students acquire strong reading, writing and presentation skills in English. English is the dominant language used in academic publishing on the field of International Relations. Consequently, all the assigned literature and primary sources are in English and all our courses are taught in English. Moreover, the English language is the lingua franca in the world of international politics and business. Our students need to be comfortable using the English language to professionally operate in internationally orientated positions. To prepare them for these positions, our students complete internships at organisations that operate in an international setting, such as ministries, embassies, international organisations and NGO's for which a good command of the English language is typically required. In addition, our program offers an international learning environment with students and staff from abroad, which in itself helps prepare students for a career in an international setting.

Conflict Studies and Human Rights

The MA Conflict Studies and Human Rights program is taught in English for several reasons. Firstly, English is the language of choice given the international character and orientation of the program. A diverse and international classroom increases the ability to study (inter)national violent conflict from multiple perspectives, which is key in our program. Teaching in English makes it easier for students from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds to communicate and collaborate effectively. Secondly, Conflict Studies and Human Rights is an international field of research, and English has become its lingua franca. The program involves reading primary and secondary texts from all over the world and discussion of them takes place in English. This promotes a common language and facilitates effective communication and collaboration among students and faculty members. Thirdly, the program prepares students for an international career, either inside or outside of academia. Acquiring excellent skills in academic English is, therefore, an integral part of the program. This is necessary to enable students to compete effectively in the international job market and communicate their research findings effectively to a global audience.

In conclusion, teaching the MA Conflict Studies and Human Rights program in English is a strategic decision that supports the program's international character and orientation, prepares students for an international career, and provides an international learning environment.