United States International University-Africa
Education to take you places

Master of Arts in International Relations

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For over 40 years, United States International University Africa has offered quality education to students from all over the world, with over 60 nationalities currently represented in our student population. USIU-Africa commenced offering the first International Relations program in Kenya in 1977.

Dual Accreditation

All USIU-Africa programs have been approved by the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Accrediting Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), thereby ensuring the highest standards have been met in Kenya and the United States respectively.

Master of Arts in International Relations

Master of Arts (M.A.) in International Relations enables students to analyze the complexities and processes involved in world politics and international affairs. Coursework provides exposure to the key subfields of the discipline and relevant issues such as globalization, human rights, humanitarian action, conflicts, foreign policy and economic development.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Explain and analyze advanced concepts and theories in International Relations.

2. Use International Relations theories to conduct empirical research in International Relations.

3. Employ appropriate methods of analysis and research, both quantitative and qualitative, to provide sophisticated analyses and clear, logical arguments relating to important questions about International Relations.

4. Demonstrate ability to formulate and articulate constructive policies.

5. Devise effective problem-solving intervention strategies and programs for dealing with national and international situations.

6. Thinking critically and analytically about international problems and events, and synthesize concepts, information and experiences from different disciplines relevant to international affairs.

7. Critically evaluate issues in International Relations within the context of a global, multi-cultural and complex interconnected world.

Pre-Requisite Courses

Students without a background in IR / Political Science must take the following prerequisites before they begin the core courses; they will be required to take a total of 51 units:

IRL 2000 Foundations of International Relations
IRL 4020 International Law
IRL 6002 Foundations of International Politics

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 42 UNITS

CORE COURSES 21 UNITS

IRL 6000 Research Methods in International Relations
IRL 6005 Advanced International Relations Theory
IRL 6200 International Organizations
IRL 6890 Specialized Seminar
MOD 6050 Project Management and Fund-Raising
IRL 6901 Thesis I
IRL 6902 Thesis II

CONCENTRATIONS/ELECTIVES 21 UNITS

(NOTE: Students can select a concentration from any of the three options below or a combination of various electives.

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Compulsory

IRL 6055 Theories of Development & Underdevelopment
IRL 6030 Issues of Development & Conflicts
IRL 6230 International Financial Systems
IRL 6235 Advanced International Political Economy
IRL 6240 Post-coloniality in Africa
IRL 6035 Politics and Patterns of Cooperation and Conflict

Choose one elective:

IRL 6705 Field Research
IRL 6710 Internship

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Compulsory

IRL 6010 Theories of Peace & Conflict
IRL 6015 Conflict Resolution
IRL 6030 Issues of Development & Conflicts

Choose three electives:

IRL 6215 International Humanitarian Law
IRL 6245 Disarmament & Human Rights
IRL 6035 Politics and Patterns of Cooperation and Conflict
IRL 6025 Conflict, Security & Development

Choose one elective:

IRL 6705 Field Research
IRL 6710 Internship

DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY

Compulsory

IRL 6020 Techniques of International Diplomacy
IRL 6095 Inter-Cultural Communications
IRL 6260 Foreign Policy Analysis
IRL 6255 Africa / US Relations
IRL 6285 The Foreign Policy of Kenya
IRL 6250 Africa in International Affairs

Choose one elective:

IRL 6705 Field Research
IRL 6710 Internship

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

This degree program prepares students for careers in:

- Foreign Service
- Diplomacy
- Government Posts
- International Business
- International Organizations
- Private or Non-governmental organizations

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