

Study regulations for the further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters Degree) long-distance programme at Freie Universität Berlin

Preamble

Based on § 14, section 1, no. 2 of the partial basic regulations of Freie Universität Berlin, dated 27 October 1998 (FU notifications no. 24/1998), the departmental committee for the Politics and Social Sciences department at Freie Universität Berlin approved the following study regulations on 05 April and 17 May 2006 *):

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*) The period of validity for the regulations is limited until 30 September 2008.

§ 1

Area of validity and jurisdiction

- (1) These regulations cover the goals, content and structure of the further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters Degree) long-distance programme on the basis of the examination regulations dated 05 April 2006.
- (2) The department for Politics and Social Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin is responsible for the implementation of the course of study.

§ 2

Admission requirements

The admission requirements and the admission procedure will be regulated by the admission regulations for the further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters Degree) long-distance programme.

§ 3

Description of the course of study

The further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters Degree) long-distance programme has a stronger application focus. It provides comprehensive knowledge regarding the theories and approaches used in international relations, and discusses these in core modules. Topic-related modules enable a thorough analysis of individual problems which arise in the disciplinary field. Within the practical modules, the students also handle concrete, realistic problems in the field of international relations. The course of study is interdisciplinary. Gender and equality issues are included in all fields of study during the programme. The language of instruction is English.

§ 4

Study goals

- (1) The further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters degree) long-distance programme gives students the tools for analysing on a theoretical basis topics and developments in international relations, to interpret them, and to critically reflect on their political, social, cultural and institutional contexts and implications.
- (2) The course of study forms the academic basis for internationally focused activities in the following areas, among others: politics and political consultancy, business and business consultancy, foreign service and international organisations, non-governmental organisations, culture, the media and research and teaching in academic institutions.
- (3) With its wide range of topics covered and its focus on practical application, the further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters degree) long-distance programme aims to qualify students who have gained some initial work experience in different fields for ongoing positions at an international level. The course of study thus offers an orientation basis which alongside the purely academic treatment of different appropriate topics in international relations also creates a clear connection to the practical arena and furthermore enables students to make contact with regional and international networks and specialist groups dealing with international relations, and to themselves become involved in their establishment.

§ 5

Modules, forms of teaching and learning

- (1) The further qualification course for the International Relations (IR) Online (Masters degree) long-distance programme is divided into units (modules) which are defined by content, and which consists of individual learning segments (units). In general, each module is taught online and is introduced or explored in greater depth during face-to-face events (in-house classes). The face-to-face phases use teaching forms such as group work, presentations and discussions.
- (2) During the online long-distance study course, the content is presented using a learning platform. Here, synchronous and asynchronous communication methods

are used between tutors and students. Students work on the content taught in the online segments during self-study periods.

- (3) A learning platform is used to provide support for students, and to enable all those involved to communicate with each other. One person is nominated to be responsible for each module, who is also responsible for the organisation of the examination. The students are supported by one or more tutors, who may also be responsible for the module, and who teach the face-to-face sessions.

§ 6

Structure and organisation of the course of study

- (1) The course of study is divided into the following areas:
 - a) Introduction
 - b) International Relations theories
 - c) Core areas in International Relations
 - d) Specific topics in International Relations
 - e) Practical training

In addition, an internship or project work must be completed.

- (2) The module descriptions in Appendix 1 describe the content and qualification goals, the teaching and learning forms, the study time required, the active participation forms, the standard duration and the frequency of course offers made.
- (3) The sample study progression chart in Appendix 2 illustrates the recommended progression of the course of study.

§ 7

Fields of study

- (1) The “Introduction and Tools” module must be completed, in accordance with § 6, section 1, lit. a.
- (2) For “International Relations theories” in accordance with § 6, section 1, lit. b, the following modules must be completed:
 - International Relations Theory I
 - International Relations Theory II
- (3) For “Core areas in International Relations” in accordance with § 6, section 1, lit. c, the following modules must be completed:
 - Globalisation
 - European Politics
 - International Law
 - International Political Economy
 - Global Risks/International Security

- (4) For “Specific Topics in International Relations” in accordance with § 6, section 1, lit. d, the following modules must be completed:
- Megacities – New States of Governance
 - Migration, Citizenship and Identity
 - Culture and IR
- (5) For “Practical training” in accordance with § 6, section 1, lit. e, the following modules must be completed:
- Intercultural Communication
 - Conflict Management
 - Simulation

§ 8

Internship, project work

- (1) The eight-week internship is designed to give students an insight into the professional areas and areas of activity in the field of International Relations in order to provide a further basis for professional orientation. It is also used to test whether the knowledge gained at this point in time during the course of study meets the practical requirements.
- (2) In order to plan their future career, and to apply what they have learned in practise, it is recommended that students complete an internship. If an internship lasting several weeks is not completed, project work must be written as an alternative. This work must correspond to the internship in terms of its scope and duration.
- (3) The project work encompasses an individual research project submitted in written form. The duration of the research project is eight weeks. The project must comply with academic standards, but also indicate a clear practical connection which is appropriately linked to the knowledge gained to date during the course of study. The topic of the research project must be agreed with the examination committee, and support is provided by a tutor. Students have the right to nominate a tutor of their choice.

§ 9

Entry into effect

These regulations enter into effect on the day following their publication in the notifications (official gazette of Freie Universität Berlin).