

## MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

### **1. Background**

The Faculty of Arts has, across its various departments, extensive research and teaching expertise in the field of International Studies, spanning specific disciplinary (eg political, historical etc), area-based (eg Asia, Europe etc) and conceptual/theoretical (eg gender studies, cultural studies, ethnicity etc) approaches. The Master of International Studies (MIS) will provide an opportunity to promote and to draw upon this expertise within the Faculty. The MIS will provide a cross-Faculty and cross-disciplinary degree, with its core and elective subjects taught by a range of departments within the Faculty, and co-ordinated by the Australian Centre (a Faculty Centre, with experience both in cross-disciplinary research/teaching, and in International Studies). The course has been developed in lengthy consultation with all participating departments within the Faculty of Arts.

Market research (both domestic and international) has indicated that discipline-based existing MA offerings do not meet the needs of an identified group of students seeking a cross-disciplinary and broadly based program in International Studies. Moreover, there is potential for the Faculty to increase enrolments in appropriate subjects now offered within existing specialized MA degrees by offering these as electives within the MIS. The MIS will thus attract a new cohort of students to the Faculty, as well as positioning the Faculty as an international leader in the field of International Studies. It will also incorporate a range of pedagogical strategies that highlight the cross-disciplinary integrity of the MIS, and are responsive to the needs of the student cohort.

The new Master of International Studies will put the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne at the forefront of research and teaching in this expanding field.

The domestic and international student cohort for the MIS will be those seeking a cross-disciplinary and flexible degree which would lead to employment in such fields as diplomacy, international journalism, policy-making, research and advisory positions in government agencies, ministerial advising, international consultancies, private enterprise, tourism, NGO's and international organizations. The MIS will also meet the needs of students interested in mid-career change, and students with a general intellectual interest in the issues and topics that are most challenging our world in the twenty-first century. It will be particularly attractive to international students from the US, Singapore, Japan and some parts of Europe; students funded by AusAid; and also to those seeking or already in diplomatic positions from around the world.

Staff teaching in the MIS are leading experts in their respective academic areas, including the course co-ordinator, Associate Professor Glenda Sluga who is internationally recognized for her work on nationalism, gender and international organizations.

The MIS has emerged as the result of substantial consultation and research over the past two years by Associate Professor Kate Darian-Smith and Associate Professor Glenda Sluga at the Australian Centre, and others within the Faculty, particularly in reference to comparative programs at Group of 8, Universitas 21 and other 'benchmarking' institutions (eg MIT, and a range of top-ranking US institutions in particular). The Faculty has also undertaken market research in the US, Japan and Singapore (extensive consultation), and other international catchment regions, as well as within Australia, in developing this new program.

It is envisaged that once the MIS has commenced that formal links are established with comparable programs, especially with Universitas 21 partners (eg Birmingham), to ensure that best practice is maintained at international levels.

The resulting structure and content of the MIS reflects current and cutting-edge theoretical and thematic approaches to International Studies, and enables the departments to highlight their own disciplinary expertise. While it is anticipated that the majority of students who undertake the MIS are interested in a coursework-only degree, the inclusion of an optional thesis in the MIS structure will create a pathway for those students who wish to progress to a research-only postgraduate degree, further strengthening our RHD performance in line with University expectations.

## **2. Entry Requirements**

*For the 200 credit point program*

- an undergraduate degree in a cognate discipline with at least H2B (70%) in the major, or equivalent.

*For the 150 credit point program*

- an undergraduate degree in a cognate discipline with at least H2B (70%) in the major, or equivalent and at least one year of documented, relevant professional work experience; or
- a Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations with at least a H2B (70%) average, or equivalent

*For the 100 credit point program*

- an honours degree in a relevant discipline with at least H2B (70%) in the major, or equivalent or;
- a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations with at least a H2B (70%) average, or equivalent.

## **3. Course Structure**

The MIS structure consists of two CORE subjects (a total of 25 pts) that must be taken by students enrolled in the 200/150/100 pt program, except for students entering the MIS with a University of Melbourne Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma in International Studies which has required them to complete those same cores. Eligible students are required to undertake these CORE subjects in the first two semesters of their study in the degree.

The remainder of the degree is comprised of elective subjects, which are arranged in three cross-disciplinary recommended streams. With the approval of the Course Co-ordinator, in special circumstances up to 25 points of other subjects not on the Elective list that are taught in the Faculty of Arts, or in other Faculties, that are offered at the appropriate level may be taken.

### **200 Point Program (2 years)**

First 100 points:

- 2 core subjects comprising 25 points
- Elective subjects available at 400 level comprising 75 points

Second 100 points:

- Elective subjects available at 500 level comprising 100 points

### **150 Point Program (1.5 years)**

First 50 points:

- 2 core subjects comprising 25 pts
- Elective subjects available at 400 level comprising 25 points

Further 100 points:

- Elective subjects available at 500 level comprising 100 points

150 Point Program (1.5 years) for students entering the MIS with a University of Melbourne  
Postgraduate Certificate in International Studies

- Elective subjects available at 400 level comprising up to 50 points
- Elective subjects available at 500 level comprising at least 100 points

100 Point Program (1 year)

- 2 core subjects comprising 25 points
- Elective subjects available at 500 level comprising 75 points

100 Point Program (1 year) for students entering the MIS with a University of Melbourne  
Postgraduate Diploma in International Studies

- Elective subjects available at 500 level comprising 100 points

Core Subjects are:

102-507	Themes in International Studies
102-508	Theories in International Studies

The course will be available full-time and part-time.

**4. EFTSU and Budgetary Consequences**

The MIS will not lead to any transfer of EFTSU from existing MA courses in the Faculty; the aim is to attract a yet uncatered for student cohort. As the MIS draws upon existing subjects within the Faculty for its elective component, the impact on additional teaching costs within departments is minimal. The two core subjects are taught as 'ensemble' subjects with a number of departments teaching, and there will be an internal transfer of EFTSU for these proportional to teaching.

The course will be available to Australian and international fee-paying students.