

International Studies

The Department of Political Science offers both a major in international studies for Bachelor of Arts students, and a Diploma in Arts (International Studies) for students enrolled in a degree course at the University of Melbourne.

International studies at the University of Melbourne explores issues relating to the shifting dynamics of global politics. International studies investigates major social, political, and cultural issues that dominate the international agenda.

Students undertaking a major in international studies or the concurrent diploma can study the languages, cultures, societies, and politics of other countries, as well as examining relations between them at either the regional or global levels. Students will gain theoretical expertise and practical and empirical knowledge in a range of skills relating to international studies. Students can choose to focus on a range of topics, including traditional and critical international relations, international diplomacy, international security, international political economy, European integration, globalisation, global environmental politics, international gender politics, regionalism, new wars and the future of conflict and cooperation in world politics, and the political transitions in Central and Eastern Europe, in addition to a detailed examination of the workings of individual countries. On completing a course of study in international studies, students will gain specialised knowledge relating to the major social, cultural, and political issues that dominate the international agenda of world politics.

Students who complete a major in international studies or the Diploma in Arts (International Studies) will have a range of exciting higher degree options enabling them to further their knowledge and qualifications. Graduates from the programs will be attractive prospective employees in the public and private sectors including international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Requirements for a major

A major in international studies consists of nine 12.5-point subjects selected from the list of subjects offered within the Diploma in Arts (International Studies) totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects (25 points); and
- seven second/third-year subjects (87.5 points).

Diploma in Arts (International Studies)

The Diploma in Arts (International Studies) is only available to students who are currently enrolled in a degree course at the University of Melbourne. It consists of a three-year sequence of study, and adds one year to the duration of your degree.

Students must complete 25 points of first-year subjects and 75 points of second/third-year subjects selected from the lists below. Alternatively, students who have completed appropriate background studies at first year may complete 100 points of second/third-year subjects from the list below.

	Sem.
First-year subjects	
166-108 Modern Political Ideologies & Movements (p.2)	1
166-110 Europe: Identities and Citizenship (p.2)	1
166-123 The World is an Amazing Place (p.3)	N/A
166-103 Global Politics (p.1)	2
Second/third-year subjects	
121-015 Development and the Third World (p.3)	2
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (p.4)	2
121-028 Sustainable Development (p.4)	2
131-025 Empire, Race and Human Rights: 1800-2000 (p.6)	N/A
131-038 Gender and Development (p.7)	1
131-217 Modern Southeast Asia (p.13)	2
131-225 Terrorism in Modern Conflict (p.14)	1
166-014 Asia Pacific International Politics (p.4)	N/A
166-017 West European Politics (p.4)	N/A
166-021 International Relations and its Others (p.4)	2
166-023 Issues in American Foreign Policy (p.5)	2
166-024 International Gender Politics (p.5)	2
166-025 Conflict & Corruption in Western Europe (p.5)	N/A
166-027 Australia in the World Political Economy (p.5)	N/A
166-029 World Politics in Transition (p.5)	1
166-030 Transitions in Central & Eastern Europe (p.5)	N/A
166-035 Australian Foreign Relations (p.6)	1
166-045 Postcolonial Maps & Narratives (p.7)	N/A
166-212 Global Environmental Politics (p.7)	2
166-216 Terrorism: Shifting Paradigms (p.4)	2
166-217 Gender and Politics in Southeast Asia (p.8)	N/A

Second/third-year subjects	Sem.
166-218 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (p.8)	2
Students may select additional subjects with the approval of the program coordinator.	

Third/fourth-year subject	Sem.
121-433 China Field Class (p.6)	2

For more information

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First-year subject

166-103 Global Politics

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Robyn Eckersley

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces students to the study of international politics, and provides a foundation for the department's 'international' offerings at second and third year. It deals with issues such as human rights, the environment, North-South relations, inter-civilisational relationships, gender politics, war, terrorism, nationalism, the role of the United Nations, humanitarian intervention amid ethnic conflict and the global political economy. The issue topics will be used to introduce and demonstrate the relevance of the conceptual frameworks of liberalism, realism, neoliberal institutionalism, critical theory, feminism, constructivism, and postcolonialism.

Assessment: Essay and examination work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

