



الجامعة الوطنية - السودان
National University - Sudan

IRDS - International

Affairs & Diplomacy Diploma



Introduction

The Post-graduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy is a professionally oriented postgraduate program offered by courses over two semesters, it is designed to strengthen students' interdisciplinary understanding of international affairs, diplomacy, global policy debates, international organizations, foreign policy, international law, human rights, and peacebuilding.

The program responds to the need for graduates who can analyse contemporary international challenges and apply practical diplomatic, policy, negotiation, mediation, communication, and research skills in public, international, development, and related sectors.

General objective

The objective of the Post-graduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy is to prepare qualified graduates with the knowledge, analytical capacity, and practical skills required for professional engagement in international affairs and diplomacy.

Specific objectives

The program qualifies candidates to:

- Understand key concepts, theories, and debates in international affairs and diplomacy.
- Analyse international policy issues from global North and global South perspectives.
- Critically examine contemporary international, regional, and national political challenges.
- Apply practical skills in policy analysis, advocacy, negotiation, mediation, communication, and media relations.
- Develop professional readiness for careers in foreign affairs, government, international and nongovernmental organizations, development, business, journalism, and related fields.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the program, the candidate should be able to:

- Link theories of international relations and diplomacy to professional practice.
- Analyze and explain contemporary international phenomena and the interests of key actors.
- Identify historical continuities and changes in international relations and diplomatic practice.
- Understand major global controversies, policy debates, and the logic behind international challenges.
- Apply conceptual and analytical tools to global problems and shifting policy environments.
- Prepare professional reports, presentations, and research-informed policy analysis.

Admission requirements

- Applicant must satisfy the general regulations set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research of the National University-Sudan for registration in postgraduate diploma programs.
- The program is open to applicants from any academic background who meet the approved postgraduate admission requirements.
- Applicants should satisfy the admission requirements for postgraduate studies in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- All eligible candidates should pass the required admission procedures, including an interview and/or entry examination as determined by the University.
- Candidates should demonstrate high English language proficiency and may be required to sit for an English proficiency test.

Study program

Semester One

Code	Course	Credit hours
IRD-511	International Organizations	3
IRD-512	International Economic Relations	3
IRD-513	Modern History of International Politics	3
IRD-514	Theories of International Relations	3
IRD-515	Foundations of Diplomacy	3
Total	-	15

Code	Course	Credit hours
IRD-521	Foreign Policy Analysis	3
IRD-522	Introduction to Social Research Methodology	3
IRD-523	International Law and International Human Rights Law	3
IRD-524	Sudan Foreign Policy	3
IRD-525	Introduction to Peacebuilding Studies	3
Total	-	15

Course Description

International Organizations - IRD-511

This course seeks to give students an understanding of the major theoretical and empirical aspects of the role of international organizations in international politics, including, their impact on the practice of international cooperation and conflict, the maintenance of international peace and security, the management of international economic relations, the promotion of international environmental standards, and various related matters of concern to international society. International organizations to be discussed include the United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations as well as economic, trade regional and Multinational Corporation.

International Economic Relations - IRD-512

This course introduces a broad range of economic concepts, theories, and analytical techniques to prepare the students for understanding the issues of international economics. It focuses on International Economic Relations a branch of economics concerned with how economic & financial transactions take place between nations, and what are the effects of those transactions on the world economy.

More specifically, this course will look at selected trends in contemporary diplomacy, the diplomatic machinery's adaptation to change, and new issues on the diplomatic agenda.

Modern History of International Politics - IRD-513

The period from 1914 to 1945 marks two great wars that significantly shaped the current scene of international politics. The course aims to provide students with the essentials of global politics since 1945, including a brief introduction to the causes and impact of the First and Second World War on world politics.

During this period, new non-state actors have appeared on the world stage, and older ones have occasionally been transformed. New conventions and norms have proliferated. New intergovernmental initiatives and institutions have been established.

This course also examines the causes and consequences of the global Cold War from 1945 until present times. Students will analyse the transformation of the twentieth-century international system characterized by East-West conflict, North-South disparity and South-South cooperation and competition. The course will contextualize present-day international and regional conflicts and cooperation in the recent past, collectively analyse primary source documents, and discuss policy implications.

Theories of International Relations - IRD-514

This course will introduce fundamental concepts in international relations theory and discuss the structure and practice of contemporary international politics. The course will also discuss the critical challenges to the current structure of interstate relations and debate the possible future structures of the international order. The course will apply the theoretical insights to discussions on recent historical and contemporary international relations.

The course covers several mainstream and critical theories that help to explain recurring patterns in international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, constructivism, and feminism. Along with these theories, the course will explore basic concepts used by International Relations scholars, such as the “state,” the “nation,” “anarchy,” and “power.” It will then study the different ways in which to analyse basic problems of international relations—conflict or cooperation—whether by studying the “big picture,” the international system, or the inner workings of the state.

Foundations of Diplomacy - IRD-515

This course introduces students to diplomacy as the engine room of international relations. The course aims to contribute to students’ understanding of diplomacy, i.e., the institutions and processes by which states, and others represent themselves and their interests to one another.

The course analyses the distinction between foreign policy and diplomacy. It delves into the history of diplomacy and considers the accretion of diplomatic norms and laws. It explores traditional (bilateral, political, consular, and head-

quarters), as well as non-traditional diplomacy (multilateral, public, summit, 'networked', etc.).

In this course students will learn about the fundamentals, systems, nature, and development of global diplomacy. Students will explore historic and contemporary diplomatic practices and procedures and will develop a set of skills to analyse diplomatic discourses. Throughout this course they will explore a variety of diplomatic issues that are relevant in today's world. The course is specifically dedicated to diplomacy as a profession and the key characteristics of a good diplomat.

Foreign Policy Analysis - IRD-521

This course covers current issues around foreign policy analysis -- an identifiable subfield within the study of international relations in political science.

The course is designed to investigate why states do what they do in international politics. The course is organized in a basic level of analysis framework that roughly corresponds to the historical development of the study of foreign policy analysis. Attention will be paid to current decision-making approaches to foreign policy. The emphasis in the course is on theories of foreign policy, although students will also be exposed to the substance/content of the foreign policies of various countries.

Introduction to Social Research Methodology - IRD-522

This course offers an overview of research methodology including basic concepts employed in quantitative and qualitative research methods.

The aim of the course is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the role and conduct of quantitative and qualitative methods in research. Students will also be introduced to the ethical research practices that are required for research writing.

The course also equips students with the skills to review and conduct methodologically sound research as a part of their professional work. Students develop the skills to recognize and reflect on the strengths and limitations of

different research methodologies, understand the links between theory and practice, critically assess research, and address ethical and practical issues.

International Law and International Human Rights Law - IRD-523

This course is aimed at providing students with an introductory knowledge of principles of Public International Law—that branch of the law that deals with interactions and relations among states as well as among international and regional institutions.

The topics of the course are designed to provide students with an understanding of the contemporary legal issues that arise from states interactions with one another in the international arena.

The course also covers the role of United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the fundamental principles and nature of the international legal system, and the role and importance of international law in modern human society such human rights and refugee laws.

Attention is given to creating ample awareness among students that whereas political questions may be at the root of state behaviour, this is a legal course, and students must always pay attention to legal principles and not politics.

Sudan Foreign Policy - IRD-524

This course offers an in-depth analysis of Sudan's foreign policy, emphasizing its diplomatic, economic, and strategic interactions with global powers, particularly Russia and China. Students will explore Sudan's historical foreign relations, its current geopolitical positioning, and the implications of its partnerships with Russia and China in the context of regional and international politics.

Introduction to Peacebuilding Studies - IRD-525

This course provides students with an introduction to the complex dimensions of conflict, peace, reconstruction, and reconciliation efforts.

It provides students with knowledge on the foundational analysis of the caus-

es of war and other conflicts and how to arrive to peace.

The course explores the processes that enable actors to define and build peace in areas affected by war and violence, particularly since the end of the Cold War.

The course reviews a range of theories exploring nature and causes of conflict, the deep roots that cause conflict to prevail, cross-generational engagements with ongoing conflict, possibilities for conflict resolution, healing, agonism and the foundations of peace. International case studies will be introduced, and time will be spent reflecting upon some of them.

Human resources and facilities

Teaching staff:

- Professors: 1
- Associate Professors: 3
- Assistant Professors: 8
- Administrative and technical support staff: 6

Facilities:

- Lecture rooms: 3 lecture rooms (with a total capacity of 250 students)
- Computer laboratories: (2 labs with a capacity of 160 students)
- Library: Main University Library.
- E-library / digital resources: Open access to online digital library with 300 databases.
- E-learning platforms.

Diploma duration and credit hours

Two semesters, with a total of 30 credit hours.

Teaching modules

Face-to-face lectures, e-learning classes, seminars, group discussions, student presentations, report writing, field visits, guest speakers, media presentations, and study visits to relevant government departments, international organizations, business institutions, and media institutions where applicable.

Teaching language: English.

Examinations regulations

- The program shall abide by the examination rules and general regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research of the National University-Sudan.
- Students must attend at least 80% of scheduled classes, seminars, and other approved learning activities.
- A student failing any supplementary examination should repeat the course according to university regulations.

Assessment

Continuous assessment 30%

Final examination 70%

Award of the diploma

The Scientific Council of the National University, based on the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, shall award the successful candidate:

Post-graduate Diploma in International Affairs and Diplomacy



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