



الجامعة الوطنية - السودان
National University - Sudan

**IRDS-Master
International
Relations
Diplomacy**



Introduction

The M.Sc. in International Relations and Diplomacy is an advanced postgraduate program that combines academic education in international relations and political science with practical training in diplomacy, negotiation, policy analysis, and international cooperation.

The program responds to the growing need for graduates who can understand and engage with contemporary global challenges in politics, security, economics, governance, development, and diplomacy, it prepares candidates to analyze international and transnational issues involving both state and non-state actors and to contribute professionally in governmental, international, media, development, and related sectors.

General objective

Prepare qualified graduates with advanced knowledge, analytical capacity, research competence, and diplomatic skills required for professional and academic engagement in international relations and diplomacy.

Specific objectives

The program qualifies candidates to:

- Acquire advanced understanding of major theories, concepts, and debates in international relations and diplomacy.
- Link international relations theory to the history, institutions, and practice of diplomacy.
- Analyze contemporary international, regional, and national policy issues using multidisciplinary perspectives.
- Develop practical skills in negotiation, diplomatic communication, policy analysis, advocacy, and presentation.
- Conduct independent research and produce clear, coherent, and evidence-based academic and professional work.
- Prepare for professional careers in foreign affairs, government, international and non-governmental organizations, media, development, and related fields.

Expected learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate critical understanding of key issues in world affairs, diplomacy, and international relations.
- Apply analytical skills and critical thinking to real-life cases in international diplomacy and global politics.
- Operate confidently in bilateral and multilateral diplomatic and professional environments.
- Understand the complexity of contemporary diplomatic issues and international cooperation.
- Develop consolidated knowledge of the key principles and theories of international relations.
- Conduct independent research, analyze evidence, and present findings clearly and professionally.
- Develop expertise that supports academic progression and professional advancement in international affairs and diplomacy.

Admission requirements

- Applicant must satisfy the regulations set by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- Applicant must satisfy the general regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the National University-Sudan for registration for a master's degree.
- Eligible candidates include holders of a B.Sc. (Honours) with grade Good / Second Class Division One or the approved equivalent CGPA.
- Eligible candidates may include holders of a B.Sc. (Honours) with grade Pass / Third Class in addition to at least one qualifying semester of 12 credit hours, according to University regulations.
- Eligible candidates may include holders of a B.Sc. (General) in addition to a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy with grade at least Good.
- All eligible candidates should pass the required admission procedures, including an interview and/or entry examination as determined by the University.

Study program

Semester One

Code	Course	Credit hours
IRD-611	Theories of International Relations	3
IRD-612	Advanced Diplomacy	3
IRD-613	Contemporary Geopolitics and Identity in International Relations	3
IRD-614	Research Methodology	3
IRD-615	Foreign Policy Analysis	3
Total		15

Semester Two

Code	Course	Credit hours
IRD-621	Theories of Conflicts and Peacebuilding	3
IRD-622	International Law	3
IRD-623	Diplomacy and International Development	3
IRD-624	Contemporary International Issues	3
IRD-625*	Media and International Relations	3
Total		15

Semester Three

Code	Course	Credit hours
IRD-631	Dissertation	6
Total		6

Course Descriptions

IRD-611 Theories of International Relations

This course offers a broad introduction to international relations and assumes no prior knowledge, it is structured to provide a balance between empirical applications and theoretical underpinnings.

The course covers several mainstream and critical theories that help to explain recurring patterns in international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.

Along with these theories, the course will explore basic concepts such as the “state,” the “nation,” “anarchy,” and “power.” Students will then study the different ways in which to analyze basic problems of international relations—conflict or cooperation—whether by studying the “big picture,” the international system, or the inner workings of the state.

IRD-612 Advanced Diplomacy

This course aims to contribute to students’ understanding of diplomacy as the institutions and processes by which states, and others represent themselves and their interests to one another.

The course analyzes 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 headquarters), as well as non-traditional (multilateral, publica, summit, ‘networked’, etc.) diplomacy. We address thinkers and theories of diplomacy.

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.

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

analyze 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. The course will be taught by internationally recognized research scholars and senior career diplomats and policymakers. This course also aims to introduce students to the various types of Multilateral Diplomacy, such as The Diplomacy of International Conferences and The Diplomacy of International Organizations.

IRD-613 Contemporary Geopolitics and Identity in International Relations

This course offers an in-depth exploration of how geography and power intersect in shaping the global political landscape. The course introduces geopolitics as a critical tool for analyzing the distribution of power across space and identifying who holds decision-making authority in international affairs.

Students will examine the dynamic relationship between power and place, with attention to historical legacies such as colonialism, the formation of global orders, the role of physical and political borders, resource extraction, and contested sovereignties. The course traces the evolution of geopolitical structures from the rise of the nation-state to present-day territorial disputes and political movements.

In addition, the course provides a critical framework for understanding the geopolitical dimensions of globalization. It investigates how globalization transforms political geographies while highlighting enduring geopolitical patterns that persist despite the pressures of global integration.

IRD-614 Research Methodology

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.

This course also includes a significant methodological component, aimed at introducing students to the process of designing an original research project.

The course 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.

IRD-615 Foreign Policy Analysis

This course delves into the theoretical frameworks and practical methodologies used to analyze foreign policy decisions. Emphasizing a multi-level approach, the course examines how domestic, regional, and international factors influence a state's foreign policy. Special attention is given to Sudan's foreign policy, with a focus on its evolving relations with Russia and China, providing students with a nuanced understanding of contemporary diplomatic dynamics.

IRD-621 Theories of Conflicts and Peace Building

The course explores the concepts of peace, security, and conflict, focusing on contemporary issues and problems since the end of the Cold War. It examines traditional, state-centered topics i.e., interstate, and intrastate war, as well as the 'new security agenda' involving issues like terrorism, organized crime, environmental security, global health security and population trends.

Students will gain knowledge of international security and its role in contemporary International Relations through analysis of conceptual factors and case studies.

In addition, students will develop critical thinking skills, communication skills and analytical skills, including being able to formulate lucid, concise, and rigorous accounts of international security affairs

IRD-622 International Law

International Law is essentially the law which governs the relationship between nation-states, although the subjects of international law now also extend to individuals, international organizations, and other actors. This course introduces students to both the substance and process aspects of international law.

To that end, the course places particular emphasis on the decision-making mechanisms by which international law is developed and carried out, the institutions that serve as deciders, and the legal regimes that take shape as a result.

The course will also consider both traditional international law doctrines and contemporary pressures on them. We will begin with the sources of international law and participants in the international system. We will next consider how the system addresses problems related to global interdependence and integration (e.g., environment, economic integration and trade, human rights, crime, climate change, oceans, etc.), and will finally turn to challenges to the international legal order.

IRD-623 Diplomacy and International Development

The course aims to develop relevant knowledge and practical skills in development issues in an international context. The course explores the roles, complexities, opportunities, and constraints of development in areas such as poverty reduction, social development, health, and education. A central theme of the course is to understand what we have learned over the past decades from experience in the field of development work.

A key aim of the course is also to give students exposure to important ongoing

debates in international development and their historical context. The class will provide an overview of some of the major contemporary analytical and policy debates regarding the politics of development.

The course also focuses significant attention on “bright spots” in development— where specific interventions have made real and meaningful contributions.

IRD-624 Contemporary International Issues

The media almost daily reports on current global issues including humanitarian disasters arising someplace in the world.

This course examines contemporary burning issues in world politics including war, genocide, human security, the environment, and global economic inequality.

The course will monitor and assess attempts within the international system to manage international conflicts and the challenges posed by economic globalization and the environment.

The course will also help students to become actively engaged in the study program.

This course adopts a blended learning approach to encourage and facilitate diversity of learning activities and diversity in assessment. It consists of weekly classes and seminars plus additional online learning activities. Seminars are highly interactive and may include small-group activities, pair-work, and guest speakers/ participants.

IRD-615* Media and International Relations

The course is focused on providing general knowledge and understanding of current media system and particularly its role within international relations, foreign policy, and modern diplomacy.

The objective of this course is to introduce students to how the media cover as well as influence international relations. For studying the processes and functions of media in the international arena, students will need to develop an understanding of the practice and impact of communication (for example, news coverage) on policy making, political trends and movements, and the rise of terrorism.

The course also focuses on analyzing how the battlefield of international relations has shifted from geopolitics to ideological suasion with modern media playing a crucial role in construction of perceptions and image-making.

Human resources and facilities

Teaching staff:

- Professors: 1
- Associate Professors: 3
- Assistant Professors: 11
- Administrative and technical support staff: 8

Facilities:

- Lecture rooms: 3 lecture halls with total capacity for 250 students.
- Computer laboratories: 2 labs with capacity for 160 students
- Library: Main University library with 200 seating capacity
- E-library / digital resources: Open access to online digital library with 300 databases.
- E-learning platform.

Duration of the program

Three semesters, with a total of 36 credit hours: 30 credit hours of taught courses and 6 credit hours for the dissertation.

Teaching modules

Face-to-face lectures, e-learning classes, seminars, group discussions, student presentations, report writing, case studies, guest speakers, media presentations, independent reading, research assignments, and dissertation supervision.

Teaching language

English.

Examinations regulations

- The program shall abide by the examination rules and general regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies 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.
- Dissertation submission and examination shall follow the regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Assessment

Continuous assessment 30%

Final examination 70%

Award of the degree

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:

M.Sc. International Relations and Diplomacy



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