Regulation for the Master's Degree Course in International Relations, Politics & Trade (FULLY ONLINE) - Class LM-52

Academic Year: 2025-26
Approved by resolution of the LM-52 Degree Program Council for the programs in International Relations and International Relations, Politics & Trade (FULLY ONLINE) on April 29th 2025.
Approved by the Department Council on May 13th 2025.
Class: LM-52
Teaching Mode: Fully online
Language of Instruction: English
Teaching Location: PA - Unipa e-learning platform LM-52

ARTICLE 1
Purpose of the Regulation

These Regulations govern the educational and organizational aspects of the Study Program, in accordance with Article 12 of Ministerial Decree of October 22, 2004, No. 270 and its subsequent amendments and integrations, and the University's General Teaching Regulations (Rectoral Decree No. 3299-2025 dated March 20, 2025), while respecting academic freedom and the rights and responsibilities of both faculty and students.
The Regulations were approved by the LM-52 Degree Program Council for the International Relations and International Relations, Politics & Trade (FULLY ONLINE) programs on April 29th 2025. The academic body responsible is the LM-52 Degree Program Council in coordination with the Department of Political Sciences and International Relations (DEMS), which serves as the reference department.

ARTICLE 2
Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following terms are defined as:
a) Department: The reference structure for the degree programs, promoting the scientific activities of its faculty and ensuring the teaching activities for which it is responsible, as per the University's Statute.
b) General Regulations on Autonomy: The regulation containing rules concerning the academic autonomy of universities as per D.M. 23 October 2004, No. 270 and subsequent amendments.
c) University Teaching Regulations: The regulation issued by the University, according to Ministerial Decree 23 October 2004, No. 270 and subsequent amendments, with D.R.3299-2025 of 20.03.2025.
d) Guidelines for Distance Learning Degree Programs: The guidelines issued by the University of Palermo - D. R. No. 6785 of 03.10.2023 (published in the Official University Bulletin No. 3347 of 09/10/2023).
e) Master's Degree Course: The degree program in International Relations, Politics & Trade (FULLY ONLINE).
f) Degree Title: The Master's Degree in International Relations, Politics & Trade (FULLY ONLINE).
g) Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors: The set of disciplines as per DM 639/2024 of 02.05.2024 and subsequent amendments.
h) Disciplinary Area: A group of scientifically and professionally related scientific-disciplinary sectors, defined by Ministerial Decrees.
i) University Credit (CFU): The unit of measurement for the volume of work required from a student to acquire knowledge and skills in the educational activities provided by the degree program.
j) Learning Objectives: The set of knowledge, skills, and competencies that characterize the cultural and professional profile aimed at by the degree program.
k) Teaching Regulations of a Degree Program: The set of rules governing the curricula of the degree program.
l) Educational Activity: Any activity organized or provided by the University to ensure the cultural and professional education of students, including teaching courses, seminars, practical or laboratory exercises, small group activities, tutoring, orientation, internships, projects, theses, and individual and self-directed study activities.
m) Curriculum: The set of educational and extra-university activities specified in the Teaching Regulations of the Degree Program for the attainment of the degree title.

ARTICLE 3
Structure and Specific Learning Objectives of the Degree Program

The Master's Degree program in "International Relations, Politics & Trade" is fully online and delivered in English. The program aims to train professionals specialized in the internationalization processes of businesses.

The program aims to provide students with advanced knowledge of international, multi-level, and global processes and policies, as well as specialized language skills essential for communicating in high-level international work environments, building on the B2 level in English language proficiency. In this regard, a "Business English" course (ANGL-01/C) is included.

The program combines a theoretical broad perspective with a practical approach, using methodologies like case studies and role-plays, fostering discussions, problem-solving, and group projects. The objective is to equip students with cultural tools suitable for operating in international trade and supporting business internationalization.

The program is structured around four main training areas, each with distinct objectives: a. Legal Area: Focus on international contracts law (GIUR-11/A), global trade regulation in the WTO framework and multilateral agreements (GIUR-11/B-GIUR-09/A), public regulation in the global context (GIUR-06/A), transport and international logistics law (GIUR-11/A), customs law (GIUR-08/A), intellectual property protection (GIUR-02/A), and labor law (GIUR-04/A). The objective is to provide students with knowledge about legal tools related to international trade and foreign direct investment.
b. Historical Area: Focus on the history of international trade relations (GSPS-04/B - GSPS-04/C), international economic processes (STEC-01/A), economic history (STEC-01/B), and the dynamics and consequences of decolonization on current markets (HIST-03/A). The objective is to help students identify and select sources and data relevant to analyzing global political, legal, and economic processes from a historical perspective.
c. Political Science Area: Focus on political risk in international trade and foreign direct investment transactions (GSPS-02/A). The objective is to develop students' ability to analyze political and security risks related to international investments and trade transactions.
d. Economic and Managerial Area: Focus on business strategy design and implementation, entrepreneurial initiatives, and investment policies (ECON-06/A), and international supply chain management (IEGE-01/A). The objective is to help students acquire theoretical knowledge and practical tools for supporting business development at the local and international levels, with a focus on sustainability, and evaluating the organizational outcomes of adopted strategies through business process analysis and performance indicators.

The training includes elective activities ("Workshop", 3 CFU) that help students acquire transversal skills and knowledge useful for entering the job market.

The program culminates in the development and discussion of an original thesis under the guidance of a faculty supervisor.

Graduates will be able to continue their academic journey by enrolling in second-level Master's programs or Doctoral research programs.

For the specific learning objectives of each course, refer to: https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationspoliticstradefullyonline2262/en/?pagina=pianodistudi

ARTICLE 4
Admission to the Degree Program

Direct access to the Master's Degree in International Relations, Politics & Trade (FULLY ONLINE) is granted to those who hold a bachelor's degree in the following classes:

Political Science and International Relations (L-36) or equivalent, including 4-year Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Relations.

- Legal Services Science (L-14), or equivalent.
- Modern Languages and Cultures (L-11) or equivalent.
- Social Sciences for Cooperation (L-37) or equivalent.
- Administration and Organization Science (L-16) or equivalent.
- Communication Science (L-20) or equivalent.
- Social Work (L-39) or equivalent.

- Sociology (L-40) or equivalent.
- Industrial/Management Engineering (L-9) or equivalent.
- Economics and Business Administration (L-18) or equivalent.
- Economic Sciences (L-33) or equivalent.
- History (L-42) or equivalent.
- Law (LM-1) or equivalent.

Applicants must also demonstrate a B2 level of English proficiency (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR). The admission process involves evaluating the candidate's undergraduate degree grade (minimum 90/110 for Italian students, or 80% of the maximum grade for international students). If the grade is below this threshold, a personal interview or written questionnaire may be conducted to assess the candidate's academic maturity, critical abilities, and English proficiency.

ARTICLE 5
Academic Calendar

The academic year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of the following year. Specific details regarding the academic activities for the course are indicated in the academic calendar, which is approved annually and published on the Department and Degree Program websites at the following link

ARTICLE 6
Types of Teaching Activities Adopted

The teaching activities are carried out online, on the University's e-learning platform – primarily asynchronously – with the exception of a portion of synchronous activities and any activities related to the Erasmus+ Mobility Program, which are held in person at the host universities. The teaching activities take place within a Learning Environment on the Moodle platform, which is divided into a Video Library, Media Library, Virtual Lab, and Online Tutoring, including video lessons and related slides; educational materials (Learning Objects) related to the video lessons (e.g., handouts, videos, images, diagrams, animations, bibliographical references) that represent in-depth material for each video lesson topic and are collected in an Intelligent Bibliographic System. The teaching activities are usually organized on a semester basis, over a 12-week period, with a time commitment in line with the CFU associated with the courses. They are structured into:
- *Didattica Erogativa (DE)*
- *Didattica Interattiva (DI)*

Self-learning, according to the guidelines outlined by ANVUR and the University of Palermo's guidelines for delivering distance learning courses.

The study plan includes compulsory courses, optional courses, free-choice courses, and workshops https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationspoliticstradefullyonline2262/en/?pagina=pianodistudi

For each course, "e-tivities" are designed and delivered. These are interactive and participatory activities created by the instructor in charge of the course. The e-tivities are available asynchronously (e.g., short essays, case studies, etc.) or synchronously (e.g., a meeting on Microsoft Teams to discuss assigned topics).

The e-tivities calendar is available on a semester basis at the following link

ARTICLE 7
Design and Planning of Teaching Activities

Courses must be planned with segmentation into Teaching Units (TU). Each teaching unit must be structured in modular content, include an index (including hyperlinks), address the topics, and describe the recommended learning process, including the description of the interactive teaching activities planned for that unit.

The teaching units consist of a portion of ET (specifically prepared educational materials, including text

resources and multimedia products) and a portion of IT (interactive tools of both individual and collaborative nature). The interactive teaching components can be used to develop critical thinking in students: workshop interaction, research discussions.

For each course, each CFU corresponds to:
- 5 hours of Erasable Teaching (ET),
- 2 hours of Interactive Teaching (IT), and
- 18 hours of individual study.
    Erasable Teaching (ET)

Each Teaching Unit is divided into 5 sub-units, consisting of:
- a video,
- learning materials (slides, handouts, etc.),
- additional material if needed,
- a self-assessment test/questionnaire, after which the student will have access to the material of the next sub-unit.

The video lessons have an average duration of 15-20 minutes and should not exceed 30 minutes.

Interactive Teaching (IT)
At least 2 e-tivities for courses worth 6 CFU,
At least 3 e-tivities for courses worth 9 CFU,
At least 4 e-tivities for courses worth 12 CFU.

The IT activities may concern the contents of a specific TU or the educational content of 2 or more TUs, based on the choices made by the individual instructor each academic year.
All multimedia teaching materials provided in the Teaching Units (video lessons, handouts, PowerPoint slides of lessons, exercises, etc.) are available on the e-learning platform space dedicated to it: https://elearning.unipa.it/
At the beginning of each academic year, the course instructors complete the transparency form for the course(s) they are in charge of, following the format established by the University. The transparency forms are published on the website, within the study plans, at the following link: https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationspoliticstradefullyonline2262/en/?pagina=pianodistudi ensuring transparency and accessibility for all users. They will include the course syllabus, including the topics to be developed and their structure, in line with the learning objectives of the Study Program. The syllabus will also indicate the recommended bibliography, the teaching methodology (lectures, exercises, seminars, practical or laboratory activities, etc.), the teaching delivery method, and the evaluation methodology. Additionally, the transparency forms will specify the number of hours dedicated to personal study (reading, further research, exam preparation, and other individual or group training activities, supported by tutoring actions).

ARTICLE 8
Student's Free Choice Activities

The student may request to include in their study plan courses chosen from the University of Palermo's Study Program Manifesto, different from their own, or from other Italian and foreign universities, as long as they are offered in distance learning mode and are consistent with the study program's educational objectives.
The request to include Free Choice Activities must be submitted according to the deadlines set by the University's academic calendar for the relevant academic year. The approval of the request by the Program Coordinator must take place, as a rule, within 30 days from the submission. If the student's choice falls within an international mobility or cooperation project, the regulations and procedures for the specific selected university exchange project must apply. The inclusion of free-choice activities within cooperation projects and the recognition of the corresponding CFU will be subject to the decision of the relevant Study Program Board.

ARTICLE 9
Recognition of Certified Professional Knowledge and Skills

Pursuant to Article 11, paragraph 5 of the University's Educational Regulations, and as outlined in DM 931 of July 4, 2024, the Study Program Regulations may provide for the recognition, as university credits, of professional knowledge and skills certified individually under current legislation, as well as other knowledge and skills gained through post-secondary training activities, up to the maximum number of CFU set by the relevant regulations. The recognition is based on the competencies demonstrated by each student and excludes forms of collective recognition. Activities already recognized for awarding university credits in Bachelor's Degree programs cannot be recognized again as university credits in Master's Degree programs.

ARTICLE 10
Prerequisites

The study plan does not include prerequisite courses.

ARTICLE 11
Consistency between CFU and Specific Learning Objectives

Each instructor is required to carry out the activities for the course they have been assigned, with the course syllabus consistent with the specific learning objectives outlined in the table attached to Article 4 of this Regulation.
Pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 4 of the University's Educational Regulations, the determination of credits assigned to each educational activity is made considering the specific learning objectives of the activity, in accordance with the specific learning objectives of the study program. In any case, the number of credits must be consistent with the scope of each educational activity.
The determinations referred to in the previous paragraph are subject to the opinion of the Teachers-Students Joint Committee established at the Department or School, as required by Article 15 of the University's Educational Regulations.

ARTICLE 12
Exams and Progress Checks

Exams for the International Relations, Politics & Trade Program are held in person at the DEMS Department, except in special cases authorized in advance by the University's resolution, following ministerial approval.
Progress checks consist of oral and written exams, as explicitly indicated in the transparency forms for each course, and may include intermediate tests. The final grade is expressed in thirtieths. The minimum passing grade is 18/30, and the maximum grade is 30/30 with honors. The results of the exams are promptly recorded and registered using electronic methods (App and Unipa portal) in compliance with the University's regulations. In case of a positive result, the student may choose to refuse the grade. A negative evaluation is recorded on the exam protocol (e.g., withdrawn or failed), but it does not appear in the student's transcript and does not affect the final grade average or prevent access to subsequent exam sessions.

ARTICLE 13
Program Faculty

The list of faculty members for the Program is available at the following link. The reference instructors for the Program are listed in Annex 1 of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 14
Organizational Methods for Students in Specific Conditions

A student enrolled under specific conditions may access customized teaching methods, in accordance with the University's regulations for recognizing the status of students in specific situations – D.R. n. 10428/2024 of 11/10/2024. Students who cannot fully dedicate themselves to university studies may choose to enroll part-time, selecting only the courses to attend during the academic year. In this case, the student will have access to only the selected courses via the e-learning platform. Part-time enrollment is not available to students who are beyond the standard duration of their course. https://www.unipa.it/target/futuristudenti/immatricolazioni/iscrizione-part-time/index.html.

ARTICLE 15
Final Thesis

At the end of the two-year program, the student is required to prepare the thesis in English (21 CFU), as established by the Program's Final Thesis Regulation.

ARTICLE 16
Conferral of the Master's Degree

Pursuant to Article 35 of the University's Educational Regulations, the Master's Degree in "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, POLITICS & TRADE (FULLY ONLINE)" is awarded with the acquisition of at least 120 CFU, regardless of the number of years of enrollment at the university.
The final Master's Degree grade is expressed in 110/110, with a maximum of 110/110 and honors, and is calculated based on the average grades of the exams taken during the program and the final thesis evaluation, in accordance with the specific regulation for the final thesis of the Program.

ARTICLE 17
Degree Title

At the end of the study cycle and upon successful completion of the final exam, the title of Master of Science in "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, POLITICS & TRADE (FULLY ONLINE)" is awarded, class LM-52.
ARTICLE   18
Graduates' Integration into the Job Market and Cross-cutting Skills
In line with the guidelines of the University's governing bodies, the study program promotes initiatives aimed at supporting the integration of graduates into the workforce. These initiatives include the Department's annual Placement Day and the Recruiting Days organized by the University's Placement Service, with a particular focus on the development of cross-cutting skills that enhance employability. Such skills – including effective communication, critical thinking, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving – are pursued through methods compatible with the online delivery of the program, such as seminars, virtual workshops, guided self-assessment activities, project work, simulations, online workshops, and remote professional orientation tools. These activities are designed in coherence with the educational programming and the University's strategies for holistic training and transition to employment.

ARTICLE 19
Certifications and Diploma Supplement

According to Article 37 of the University's Academic Regulations, the Student Services Office issues certifications, attestations, extracts, and any other documents related to the students' academic career, in compliance with the current regulations and, where appropriate, using electronic methods. The University provides, free of charge, upon request, a certificate in both Italian and English as a supplement to the degree certificate, which includes, in accordance with European standards, the main details about the specific curriculum followed by the student to obtain the degree (Article 37, paragraph 2 of the University's Academic Regulations). For other types of certifications not specifically mentioned in this article, refer to Article 38 of the Academic Regulations "Micro-credentials and Open badges."

ARTICLE 20
Equal Opportunities and Student-Teacher Commission

As per Article 15 of the University's Academic Regulations, each study program contributes to the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission for Students and Faculty within the Department offering the program.
The study program participates in the composition of the Equal Opportunities Commission with one faculty member (Professor or Researcher, excluding the Program Coordinator) and one student member. The selection process for the members is defined by specific regulations.
The Commission ensures that the educational activities provided by the curriculum, the University's Academic Regulations, and the academic calendar are adhered to.
In summary, in relation to the study program activities and in accordance with the guidelines for the University's Quality Assurance System, the Commission performs the following functions:
a. Ensuring the activities provided in the academic curriculum, the present Regulation, and the academic calendar are followed.
b. Providing opinions on the consistency between the credits assigned to educational activities and the specific learning objectives set out.
c. Implementing monitoring of processes and proposing corrective actions in line with the current regulations on self-assessment, evaluation, and accreditation of study programs.
d. Formulating opinions on the activation or cessation of study programs.
The Equal Opportunities Commission reports any irregularities to the Director of the relevant Department, the Program Coordinator, the Dean, and possibly the Rector.
To encourage student participation in the management of educational activities and services, students can communicate suggestions, reports, irregularities, or complaints, including anonymously, through an online form.

ARTICLE 21
Quality Assurance Management Commission for the Study Program

A Quality Assurance Management Commission for the Study Program is established within the study program.
The Commission, appointed by the Study Program Council, is composed of the Program Coordinator, who will serve as the Chair of the Commission, two faculty members of the study program, one administrative staff member, and one student.
The Study Program Council appoints the two faculty members based on the candidacies presented by faculty members associated with the program.
The administrative staff member is chosen by the Study Program Council, based on the Coordinator's proposal, from those who serve the program.
The student is chosen from among the student representatives on the Study Program Council and cannot be the same as the student member of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

In accordance with University Regulations and the "Guidelines for the University's Quality Assurance System," the Quality Assurance Commission is responsible for preparing the periodic review report of the study program and the SMA (Self-Monitoring and Assessment), which involves the verification and evaluation of actions aimed at improving the management of the study program, as well as a thorough analysis of the objectives and the overall structure of the program.

ARTICLE 22
Evaluation of Teaching Activities

The collection of student opinions is conducted online using the "student portal" section of the University website. The survey is carried out with two questionnaires: one for students who have attended more than 50% of the teaching activities and one for students who have attended less than 50% of the teaching activities. The results of the student opinion survey on teaching, both for courses and individual professors, are available on the study program websites under the "Quality" menu at the following link

ARTICLE 23
Updating and Modification of the Regulation

The LM-52 Class Council ensures the periodic review of this Regulation. The Regulation, approved by the Class Council, comes into effect immediately and can be modified upon the proposal of at least one-fifth of its members. The approved regulation and any subsequent amendments or integrations will be published on the Department's website and on the Study Program's website within 30 days of the approval and/or modification decision.

ARTICLE 24
Tutoring

The reference Tutors for the Study Program are:
a. Subject tutors, who perform their activities in the virtual classrooms;
b. Didactic tutors, who provide support, guidance, and monitoring;
c. Technological tutor, who provides technical support.
A complete list of names and their respective CVs is available in the SUA-CdS form.

ARTICLE 25
Updating and Modification of the Regulation

The Study Program Council ensures the periodic revision of this Regulation, within 30 days from the beginning of each academic year, for the parts relating to the attachments. The Regulation is proposed by the Study Program Council and approved by the DEMS Department. Subsequent modifications are approved by the DEMS Department Council. The regulation comes into effect immediately and can be modified upon the proposal of at least one-fifth of the members of the Study Program Council. The approved regulation, along with subsequent modifications and integrations, is published on the Department's website and on the Study Program's website and must be transmitted to the Educational Services and Student Services Area - Department of Educational Programming, Course Accreditations, and Study Program Review within 30 days of the approval and/or modification decision. For anything not covered by this Regulation, reference is made to the RAD and the relevant ministerial and University regulations.

**ARTICLE 26
References**

Attachment 1

Department of Political Science and International Relations
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Prof.ssa Carla Monteleone

Prof. Pier Francesco Asso

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Study Program Website:
https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationspoliticstradefull
yonline2262/

Resources:
Universitaly Portal

Student Guide
International Students enrolment
Unipa E-learning Platform