



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DEMS)  
Academic Regulations of the Master's Degree Program in International Relations/Relazioni  
Internazionali**

**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 29<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

**Approved by the Department Council on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

**Degree Class: LM-52**

**Mode of instruction: Traditional (on-campus)**

**Language of instruction: English**

**Teaching location: Palermo**

**ARTICLE 1**

**Purpose of the Regulations**

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 these Regulations:

- a) "School" refers to the structure which, under the current Statute, if established, coordinates and streamlines the educational activities of the degree programs assigned to it by the Departments;
- a-bis) "Department" refers to the structure responsible for the degree programs that promotes, in accordance with the Statute, the scientific activities of its faculty and ensures the educational activities under its purview;
- b) "General Autonomy Regulation" refers to the regulation concerning the academic autonomy of universities, pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 270 of October 22, 2004, and subsequent amendments;
- c) "University Teaching Regulation" refers to the regulation issued by the University in accordance with the above decree, with Rectoral Decree No. 3299-2025 dated March 20, 2025;
- d) "Master's Degree Program" refers to the program in International Relations (class LM-52);
- e) "Degree" refers to the Master's Degree in International Relations;
- f) "Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors" are groupings of academic disciplines defined in Ministerial Decree No. 639/2024 of May 2, 2024, and its subsequent amendments;
- g) "Disciplinary area" refers to a set of closely related scientific-disciplinary sectors as defined by ministerial decrees;
- h) "University Credit (CFU)" is the unit measuring the student's workload, including individual study, needed to acquire knowledge and skills in the educational activities specified in the Program's Curriculum;
- i) "Learning objectives" are the knowledge, skills, and competences that define the graduate's



cultural and professional profile and that the degree program aims to deliver;  
j) "Curriculum Regulations" refers to the set of rules governing the curriculum of the Degree Program;  
k) "Educational activity" refers to any activity organized or approved by the University to ensure the student's academic and professional training, including lectures, seminars, practical or laboratory exercises, small group activities, tutoring, career guidance, internships, projects, theses, and independent or self-guided study;  
l) "Curriculum" refers to the specific set of academic and extracurricular activities defined in the Degree Program Regulations that lead to the achievement of the corresponding qualification.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **Structure and Specific Learning Objectives of the Degree Program**

The program aims to provide students with advanced knowledge in the analysis of international, multilevel, and global political processes and policies, as well as specialized language skills essential for communicating in qualified international work environments, in addition to the B2 English proficiency required for admission. Within this common framework, specific objectives vary depending on the selected curriculum.

For the "International Studies" curriculum, the learning objectives are:

- Understanding complex decision-making processes
- Acquiring the ability to identify and select relevant sources and data for analyzing global political, legal, and economic processes
- Acquiring data analysis skills related to global political, legal, and economic processes
- Acquiring the ability to use at least two foreign languages in written and oral form

For the "International Trade" curriculum, the specific learning objectives are:

- Acquiring legal and economic tools related to international trade
- Gaining advanced knowledge in evaluating, planning, and implementing foreign direct investments
- Developing skills in analyzing political and security risks associated with investments and international trade

To achieve these objectives, students in the first year will acquire historical, political, economic, and legal knowledge necessary to understand and analyze the global context. In the second year, students in the "International Studies" curriculum will deepen their understanding, focusing on human rights protection and regulatory strategies adopted by public administrations in response to global challenges, and may choose to enhance their language skills further. In the "International Trade" curriculum, students will strengthen business and legal skills (with focus on international taxation and commercial law), and undertake an internship with public or private organizations involved in economic globalization.

The program culminates in the preparation and defense of an original written thesis, supervised by a faculty advisor and possibly co-supervised by an external expert from the internship institution.

Career Opportunities

Profile: Official at International Organizations or Development Cooperation Sector (e.g., NGO Manager)

Functions:

- Managing complex, multi-actor decision-making processes in international settings
- Analyzing complex processes and national/international public policies, and constructing scenarios for decision-making
- Country risk analysis focusing on political and security dimensions
- Strategy formulation under uncertainty and complexity
- Collecting and analyzing data related to global political processes
- Fundraising and network building



**Skills:**

- Coordination of national and international cooperation entities
- Management of multi-actor, multilevel structures for global public policy
- Leadership in international development cooperation programs

**Employment**

sectors:

Intergovernmental international organizations, NGOs involved in international activities, national/international public entities and associations. Graduates also have access to second-level master's programs, specialization courses, and PhD programs nationally and internationally.

Profile: Researcher, Political/Economic Analyst (Think Tanks), Journalist (with professional qualification)

**Functions and Skills:**

- Researching political/social aspects for organizations or entities
- Analyzing global and multilevel governance processes
- Gathering and analyzing data on global political processes
- Providing consultancy services; working as journalist or think tank researcher

**Employment**

sectors:

National and international news outlets, think tanks, multinational corporations. Graduates have access to advanced academic paths (masters, PhDs) in political and sociological fields.

Profile: Business Consultant for Global Markets, Multinational Company Officer, Internationalization Specialist

**Functions and Skills:**

- Building and managing complex multi-actor/multilevel networks
- Interacting at a high level with international media and online platforms
- Fundraising and developing new international markets
- Creating partnerships between public/private international actors
- Analyzing complex policy processes and political/security-related country risks

**Employment sectors:**

Multinationals, freight forwarding companies, shipping agents, international logistics, business internationalization consultancies.

Graduates have access to second-level master's programs, specialization courses, and PhD programs nationally and internationally.

For specific course learning objectives, see:

<https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/en/?pagina=pianodistudi>

**ARTICLE 4**

**Admission to the Degree Programme**

The Master's Degree Programme in *International Relations/Relazioni Internazionali* is a free access course.

Direct admission is granted to applicants holding a Bachelor's degree (Laurea Triennale) in the following degree classes or equivalent qualifications obtained in Italy or abroad:

- Political Science and International Relations (L-36) or Class 15 – Political Science and International Relations; or equivalent old-system degrees (pre-D.M. 509/1999) in Political Science and International Relations;
- Legal Services Science (L-14) or Class 2 – Legal Services Science;
- Modern Languages and Cultures (L-11);



- Social Sciences for Cooperation, Development and Peace (L-37), or Class 35 – Social Sciences for Cooperation, Development and Peace;
- Administration and Organization Science (L-16) or Class 19 – Administrative Sciences;
- Communication Science (L-20);
- Social Work (L-39) or Class 6 – Social Work Sciences;
- Sociology (L-40) or Class 36 – Sociological Sciences;
- Industrial/Management Engineering (L-9);
- Business Administration (L-18);
- Economics (L-33) or Class 17 – Economics and Business Management;
- History (L-42) or Class 38 – Historical Sciences;
- Class 31 – Legal Sciences or the Master's Degree Class LM-1 – Law.

In addition, a minimum English language proficiency level of B2 (as per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR) is required for admission.

Personal preparation is assessed based on the final Bachelor's degree grade:

- For Italian students, a minimum of 90/110;
- For international students, at least 80% of the maximum possible grade.

Applicants with lower scores must attend an interview with a designated committee or complete a questionnaire assessing individual preparation and motivation. The procedures will be published and are intended to assess the candidate's maturity, critical thinking, language proficiency, and other relevant skills.

In all cases, B2 English proficiency is a mandatory prerequisite for admission. Students from Italian Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Relations, Modern Languages and Literatures, Languages and Translation, and Economics may demonstrate the required English level by having passed a 6 CFU English language exam during their undergraduate studies.

EU students with equivalent degrees may prove English proficiency by having passed an English exam during their degree or with a statement from an English language professor from their university.

Non-EU students with equivalent degrees may prove English proficiency similarly, through a passed exam or a professor's statement.

Students (EU and non-EU) who have completed degree programmes taught in English or who are native English speakers (or have studied in English-speaking countries) are exempt from further language certification requirements.

In all other cases, EU and non-EU students may self-certify their English proficiency.

## **ARTICLE 5 Academic Calendar**

The academic year starts on October 1st and ends on September 30th of the following year. Specific information regarding teaching activities for the Programme is published annually in the academic calendar approved by the Department and available on both the Department's and Programme's websites:

<https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/en/index.html>

This is done in accordance with the University's official academic calendar.



## ARTICLE 6

### Types of Teaching Activities Adopted

Teaching activities are primarily conducted through lectures, exercises (in-class, laboratory, and field-based), and seminars.

Other activities may include:

- student consultations and tutoring,
- orientation sessions,
- technical visits,
- in-progress and final assessments,
- thesis work,
- internships,
- participation in conferences and study trips,
- participation in international mobility programmes (e.g., Erasmus).

Additional teaching methods may be adopted if they contribute to achieving the educational goals of the Programme.

For lectures and labs, the conversion rate is 1 CFU = 7 hours.

## ARTICLE 7

### Other Educational Activities

As outlined in the Degree Programme's curriculum, the 3 CFU "Workshop" course (included in the *STUDIES* curriculum) is awarded based on a pass/fail assessment. Evaluation criteria are established by the Programme Board and communicated to students before the start of teaching activities. The outcome will be expressed as "pass" (*idoneo*) or "fail" (*non idoneo*).

## ARTICLE 8

### Elective Activities

Starting from the first year, students may request the inclusion of elective courses in their study plan, choosing from among courses offered by other degree programmes at the University of Palermo or by other Italian and foreign universities.

Elective and optional course selections must be submitted by students via the Student Portal during the semester-specific timeframes outlined in the University's academic calendar. Instructions are available on the website: <https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/en/index.html>

Approval of elective course requests by the Programme Board (or through a decision by the Programme Coordinator, subject to later ratification) should take place within 30 days of the request. If electives are part of an international mobility or cooperation project, the rules and procedures of that specific programme apply.

The inclusion and recognition of elective activities carried out under cooperation projects must be approved by the competent Programme Board.

## ARTICLE 9

### Recognition of Certified Professional Knowledge and Skills

In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 5, of the University's Teaching Regulations and as outlined in Ministerial Decree (DM) 931 of July 4, 2024, the Teaching Regulations of Degree Programmes may allow for the recognition of certified professional knowledge and skills as university credits (CFU), in line with the current regulations, as well as other knowledge and skills gained through post-



secondary education activities. The maximum number of CFU for such recognitions is determined by the applicable laws. Recognitions are based on the competencies demonstrated by each student and exclude forms of collective recognition. Activities that have already been recognized for the awarding of university credits within Bachelor's Degree programmes cannot be recognized again for Master's Degree credits.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

##### **Prerequisites**

No prerequisites are required.

#### **ARTICLE 11**

##### **Consistency Between CFU and Specific Educational Objectives**

Each lecturer is required to carry out the teaching activities assigned to them, ensuring that the programme aligns with the specific educational objectives of the course as outlined in the table attached to Article 4 of these Regulations. In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 4, of the University's Teaching Regulations, the assignment of credits for each educational activity is made in consideration of the specific objectives of the activity, ensuring consistency with the broader educational goals of the degree programme. In all cases, a sufficient number of credits must be allocated to each educational activity. The decisions mentioned above are subject to the opinion of the Joint Commission (Faculty-Student) established within the Department or School, as per Article 15 of the University's Teaching Regulations.

#### **ARTICLE 12**

##### **Methods of Assessing Progress and Exam Sessions**

Progress assessments consist of oral and written exams, as explicitly outlined in the transparency sheets of each teaching module. These assessments may include intermediate exams (in itinere). Final grades are expressed on a scale of 30, with the minimum passing grade being 18/30, and the maximum grade being 30/30, with the possibility of "laude" (honors). The recording and registration of exam results are done promptly through digital means (App and the Unipa portal) in compliance with the university's specific regulations. In case of a positive result, students may request to reject the grade. Negative evaluations do not result in a grade being assigned. They are noted in the record with a judgment (e.g., withdrawn or failed), but are not included in the student's transcript. Therefore, they do not affect the final average grade and do not prevent access to subsequent exam sessions.

#### **ARTICLE 13**

##### **Teaching Staff of the Degree Programme**

The list of teaching staff for the Degree Programme is available at the following link: <https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/en/?pagina=docenti>

The lecturers responsible for the Degree Programme are indicated in Appendix 1 of these Regulations.

#### **ARTICLE 14**

##### **Organizational Modalities of Educational Activities for Students in Specific Conditions**

A student enrolled in specific conditions may access personalized teaching methods, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation for the recognition of the status of students in specific conditions - D.R. n. 10428/2024 of 11/10/2024.

Students who are unable to dedicate themselves full-time to university studies may choose to





enroll part-time, selecting only the courses to be taken during the academic year. Part-time status is not available to students who are beyond the normal duration of their course.

[Part-time Enrollment Information](#)

For part-time students or those in specific conditions who are unable to meet any attendance requirements, all necessary materials for completing the assessments for each course will be made available. However, the requirement to complete internships or any compulsory placements remains, in accordance with the established guidelines.

**ARTICLE 15**

**Final Exam**

At the end of the two-year period, the student must prepare a final thesis in English (18 CFU), according to the regulations governing the final exam of the Degree Programme.

**ARTICLE 16**

**Awarding the Master's Degree**

The Master's Degree in International Relations/Relazioni Internazionali is awarded upon the acquisition of 120 CFU, regardless of the number of years of enrollment at the university. The final graduation grade is expressed in 110s, with a maximum of 110/110 and the possibility of honors (lode). It is calculated based on the average grades of the exams taken during the degree programme and the evaluation of the final thesis, in accordance with the specific regulations for the final exam of the Degree Programme.

**ARTICLE 17**

**Degree Title**

At the end of the study cycle and after successfully completing the final exam, the student is awarded the title of *Dottore Magistrale* in International Relations/Relazioni Internazionali (class LM-52).

**ARTICLE 18**

**Employment Integration of Graduates and Cross-Disciplinary Skills**

The Degree Programme, in alignment with the guidelines of the university's governing bodies, promotes initiatives aimed at supporting graduates' entry into the workforce. These include the annual Departmental Placement Day and the Recruiting Days organized by the university's Placement Service, with a focus on developing cross-disciplinary skills that enhance employability. The Degree Programme also organizes an annual *Pathway of Excellence* for the most deserving students.

This Pathway consists of a series of workshops and lectures delivered by representatives of institutions, professionals, business operators, and both Italian and international university lecturers. It aims to bring experiential learning into the university classroom and provides students with significant opportunities for networking, which may also be useful for internships or potential job placements. These activities are designed to align with the university's educational programming and strategies for holistic training and transition to the workforce.

**ARTICLE 19**

**Certifications and Diploma Supplement**

In accordance with Article 37 of the University's Teaching Regulations, the student services offices issue certifications, attestations, transcripts, and any other documents related to students' academic records in accordance with current regulations, including through electronic means when applicable. Upon request, the university provides a certificate in Italian and English as a supplement to the degree certificate. This certificate includes, according to models adopted by European countries, the



main information regarding the specific curriculum followed by the student to obtain the degree (Art. 37, paragraph 2 of the University's Teaching Regulations). For other types of certifications not specifically mentioned in this article, refer to Article 38 of the Teaching Regulations, titled "Micro-Credentials and Open Badges."

## **ARTICLE 20 Teacher-Student Joint Commission**

In accordance with Article 15 of the University's Teaching Regulations, each Degree Programme contributes to the activities of the Teacher-Student Joint Commission of the Department in which the Degree Programme is assigned. The Degree Programme participates in the composition of the Teacher-Student Joint Commission of the Department with one faculty member (Professor or Researcher, excluding the Programme Coordinator) and one student representative. The selection modalities for the members are established by specific regulations. The Commission ensures that the teaching activities outlined in the academic regulations, the University's Teaching Regulations, and the academic calendar are respected. In summary, concerning the activities of the Degree Programme and in accordance with the "Guidelines for the University's Quality Assurance System," the Joint Commission performs the following functions:

- a. Ensuring that the teaching activities outlined in the Academic Regulations, this Regulation, and the University's academic calendar are adhered to;
  - b. Giving opinions on the consistency between the credits assigned to training activities and the specific educational objectives set out;
  - c. Implementing process monitoring and proposing corrective actions in relation to the current regulations on self-assessment, evaluation, and accreditation of Degree Programmes;
  - d. Giving opinions on the activation and cancellation of Degree Programmes.
- The Joint Teacher-Student Commission reports any irregularities it finds to the Director of the Department responsible for the Degree Programme, the Programme Coordinator, the Head of the School, and possibly the Rector. To encourage student participation in the management of educational activities and services, suggestions, reports, irregularities, or complaints may be communicated, including anonymously, through an online form.

## **ARTICLE 21 Quality Assurance Management Commission of the Degree Programme**

Within the Degree Programme, a Quality Assurance Management Commission is established. The Commission, appointed by the Degree Programme Council, consists of the Programme Coordinator (who will act as the Commission Coordinator), two faculty members from the Degree Programme, one technical-administrative staff member, and one student representative. The Degree Programme Council appoints the two faculty members based on nominations from the faculty associated with the Degree Programme. The technical-administrative staff member is chosen by the Degree Programme Council, upon proposal by the Coordinator, from those who serve the Degree Programme. The student is selected from among the student representatives on the Degree Programme Council and cannot be the same student who serves on a Teacher-Student Joint Commission. In accordance with the University's Regulations and the "Guidelines for the University's Quality Assurance System," the Quality Assurance Management Commission is responsible for drafting the cyclical review report of the Degree Programme and the SMA (Strategic Management Assessment),





which includes verifying and evaluating interventions aimed at improving the management of the Degree Programme, as well as conducting a thorough review and analysis of the programme's objectives and overall structure.

## **ARTICLE 22 Evaluation of Teaching Activities**

Student feedback is collected online using the "student portal" section of the university website. The survey consists of 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%. The results of the student feedback on teaching, for both courses and individual lecturers, are available on the Degree Programme's website under the "Quality" menu, at the following link: <https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/en/?pagina=valutazione>

## **ARTICLE 23 Tutoring**

The list of teaching tutors and faculty tutors for the Degree Programme is available at the following link:

<https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/en/didactics/tutoring.html>

The faculty tutors for the Degree Programme are listed in Annex 1 of this Regulation. **ARTICLE 24  
Updating and Modification of the Regulation**

The Degree Programme Council ensures periodic revision of this Regulation, within 30 days of the beginning of each academic year, for parts related to annexes. The Regulation is proposed by the Degree Programme Council and approved by the DEMS Department.

Subsequent modifications are approved by the DEMS Department Council. The regulation enters into force immediately and can be modified on the proposal of at least one-fifth of the members of the Degree Programme Council. The approved regulation, along with subsequent modifications and updates, is published on the Department's website and the Degree Programme website, and is sent to the Academic Services and Student Services Area - Educational Programs and Accreditation Department within 30 days of the approval or modification resolution. For all matters not covered by this Regulation, reference is made to the RAD and to the relevant ministerial and university norms.

## **ARTICLE 25 References**

### **Annex 1**

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**Reference Teachers (SUA-CdS):**

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Prof. Carla Monteleone

Prof. Francesco Parisi

Prof. Luca Puddu

Prof. Edoardo Baldaro

**Tutor Teachers (SUA-CdS):**

Prof. Maria Concetta Parlato

**Degree Programme Website:**

<https://www.unipa.it/dipartimenti/dems/cds/internationalrelationsrelazioniinternazionali2139/>

**Resources:**

[University Portal](#)

[Student Guide](#)

[International Students enrolment](#)