

MIR

Master of Political Science in International Relations

(English Program)
Revised Curriculum 2025

Faculty of Political Science
Thammasat University

Revised July 2025

Program Information

Master of Political Science in International Relations (MIR)

Contact Information

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Background

The Master of Political Science in International Relations (MIR) Program at Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University was established in 1998 to respond to the growing demand for professionals equipped with a global perspective and expertise in international affairs. It offers an interdisciplinary curriculum designed to enhance students' understanding of political, economic, social, and legal aspects of international relations. The program is conducted in English and caters to both Thai and international students, aiming to prepare graduates for careers in diplomacy, international organizations, academia, and the private sector. In response to globalization and regional integration, the program has continuously evolved—most recently through the 2025 curriculum revision—to ensure relevance and alignment with global standards and academic developments.

Program Overview

The Master of Political Science in International Relations (MIR) Program at Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University is an English-language graduate program designed to cultivate a deep and practical understanding of global affairs. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary learning across politics, economics, international law, and global governance. With a strong international orientation, the MIR Program attracts students from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, fostering a dynamic and globally minded academic community.

The curriculum is structured to provide students with theoretical foundations, analytical tools, and practical skills necessary for effective engagement in international and cross-cultural settings. Courses are taught by experienced faculty and practitioners with expertise in international relations, diplomacy, and regional studies. Students benefit from interactive seminars, research opportunities, and field visits that enhance their academic and professional development.

MIR graduates are well-prepared for careers in foreign service, international organizations, NGOs, multinational corporations, academia, and other global professions. The program also offers double degree options with international partner institutions, further expanding students' academic and career horizons.

Double Degree Program

The Master of Political Science Program in International Relations (MIR) offers an optional Double Degree opportunity for students who wish to expand their academic and international experience. This track allows students to earn a second master's degree from one of MIR's prestigious partner universities abroad, in addition to their degree from Thammasat University.

Students participating in the Double Degree Program complete their first year of study at the MIR Program, followed by a second year at the partner university. To fulfill the requirements of the double degree, students must also complete a Master's Independent Study (IS) under the MIR curriculum.

Currently, the MIR Program offers two double degree options:

1. University of Bristol, United Kingdom

- Partner Schools: School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS) and School for Policy Studies.
- Degrees Awarded:
 - **M.Sc. in International Relations** (SPAIS), or
 - **M.Sc. in Public Policy** (School for Policy Studies)

2. University of Warsaw, Poland

- Degree Awarded: **M.A. in International Relations**

The Double Degree Program is entirely **optional**. Students may choose to complete their entire two-year MIR degree at Thammasat University without participating in this track.

Curriculum of Master Degree Program in International Relations (MIR)

1. Program Plan

The Master of Political Science in International Relations (MIR) program is structured to be completed within 2 years. The curriculum includes both core and elective courses, focusing on essential topics such as International Relations theory, foreign policy analysis, international organizations, and global political economy.

Year 1: Concentrates on foundational courses, including theories of international relations and political science.

Year 2: Provides specialized courses, as well as the opportunity to work on your thesis or an independent study.

2. Registration Conditions

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any field from an accredited institution.

GPA Requirement: There is no minimum GPA requirement for admission.

English Proficiency: Non-native English speakers must submit a valid TOEFL, IELTS, TU-GET test score.

Additional Documents: Applicants must submit a statement of purpose and letters of recommendation.

Admission criteria: Candidates must pass a written entrance exam and interview as part of the selection process.

3. Study Method

The MIR program is tailored for working professionals with a flexible, part-time study format. Classes are held on weekend (Saturday and Sunday) to accommodate work schedules.

4. Learning Environment

The program offers a mix of classroom learning, traditional classroom lecturer, seminars, and research activities, with opportunities for academic exchange programs.

5. Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

The **Master of Political Science Program in International Relations (MIR)** at Thammasat University is committed to developing graduates with a solid foundation in international relations theory, critical thinking, and ethical leadership. Whether through the **thesis track (Plan A)** or the **non-thesis track (Plan B)**, the program equips students to analyze global issues with academic rigor, integrate interdisciplinary knowledge, and engage with real-world international affairs from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

MIR graduates are expected to think systematically, conduct original or applied research, and contribute to policy dialogue and academic discourse at both national and international levels. They will be capable of using technology effectively, communicating with academic integrity, and upholding professional and ethical standards. The program ultimately aims to shape professionals and scholars who can play meaningful roles in diplomacy, international organizations, policy research, and global civil society.

6. Academic Calendar

1 st semester	August – December
2 nd semester	January – May
Summer	June - August

7. Study Plan

The curriculum for the MIR (36) credit hours is distributed as follows:

Plan A: Thesis

No.	Requirements	Total Credit Hours
1	Required Courses (4 courses)	12
2	Elective Courses (4 courses)	12
3	Thesis	12
	Total	36

Plan B: Non-Thesis

No.	Requirements	Total Credit Hours
1	Required Courses (4 courses)	12
2	Elective Courses (6 courses)	18
3	Independent Study (IS)	6
	Total	36

First Year

Thesis Plan		Non-Thesis Plan	
Semester 1	credits	Semester 1	credits
IR610	3	IR610	3
IR620	3	IR620	3
IR680	3	IR680	3
Total	9	Total	9
Semester 2	credits	Semester 2	credits
IR601	3	IR601	3
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
Total	9	Total	9
Summer		Summer	
Thesis/IS proposal submission		Thesis/IS proposal submission	
		Comprehensive Exam	

Second Year

Thesis Plan		Non-Thesis Plan	
Semester 1	credits	Semester 1	credits
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
Elective Course	3	Elective Course	3
IR800 Thesis	3	IR700 Independent Study	3
Thesis Proposal Defense		IS Proposal Defense	
Total	9	Total	9
Semester 2	credits	Semester 2	credits
IR800 Thesis	9	Elective Course	3
		Elective Course	3
Thesis Defense		IR700 Independent Study	3
		IS Defense	
Total	9	Total	9

8. Course Offered

8.1 Pre-requisite Course (non-credit)

IR501 General Knowledge in Political Science and International Relations

8.2 Required Course

IR601 Research Design and Methods in International Relations

IR610 Global Challenges and International Relations Theory

IR620 Foreign Policy Analysis

IR680 Global Political Economy and Globalization

8.3 Elective Course

IR699 Selected Topics in International Relations

Regional Concentration Group

IR637 European and Russia in Global Politics

IR638 ASEAN in Global Politics

IR667 Indo-Pacific in Global Politics

IR694 Latin America in Global Politics

IR695 Contemporary Arab and the Muslim World

Issues Concentration Group

IR624 Seminar on Global Politics of Great Powers

IR631 International Institution and Global Governance

IR635 Seminar on Diplomacy and International Negotiation

IR636 Seminar on International Policy and International Management

IR646 Seminar on International Security and Strategic Studies

IR648 Seminar on Human Rights and International Ethics

IR649 Seminar on International Development

IR684 Seminar on Media and Global Politics

IR686 Seminar on Global Capitalism

IR687 Seminar on Geopolitics

IR692 Seminar on International Relations and Climate Change

IR697 Seminar on International Environment and Disaster Policy and Management

IR698 Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Global Politics

8.4 Research Course

IR700 Independent Study

IR800 Thesis

9. MIR Course Description

IR501 General Knowledge of Political Science

Explore basic concepts, theories and approaches that define political science at present. The contents include major debates over paradigms and values, as well as consideration of methodologies for doing research in the field of political science as one of the social science.

IR502 General Knowledge of International Relations

Explore basic concepts, assumptions, theories, and approaches to International Relations (IR) as well as the political changes in international relations from the ascendancy of states as major actors in international arena in 1648 up to the present in the 21st century

IR601 Research Designs and Methods in International Relations

Study research principles, design and methods, both qualitative and quantitative methods, applied in international relations. Three main objectives are accentuated: first, to enhance the ability to conduct research in IR; second, to explore different research methods and techniques and evaluate strengths and limitations of such methods; and third, to promote careful consideration of various ethical implications in conduction research.

IR610 Global Challenges and International Relations Theory

Focus on fundamental knowledge of contemporary international relations by examining various approaches such as realism, neo-realism, liberalism, neo-liberalism, constructivism as well as alternative approaches. The impact of globalization and global challenges on international processes, conflicts, cooperation, and decision making and on international institutions will also be examined. The analysis will include the concepts of actors, state and non-state, international norms, and behavior.

IR620 Foreign Policy Analysis

Offer a theoretical foundation of foreign policy analysis. The emphasis of the course is to apply various approaches to the study and practice of foreign policy. It presents the process-oriented analysis where the decision-making process will be highlighted to understand how foreign policy is made and how different actors shape and influence the foreign policy making process.

IR624 Seminar on Global Politics of Great Powers

This course studies theories related to power and the hierarchy of state. In addition, it explores the relationship between the major powers in political, economic, and cultural perspectives since the Cold War. Particularly, it examines foreign policy of the United States, the Soviet Union, and China towards one

another and the impacts on other countries. This course also studies the increasing roles of the middle powers in global politics, especially its collaboration and contradiction with the major powers.

IR631 International Institutions and Global Governance

Introduce the study of global governance. The course explores the roles of international institutions and understands how they are engaged in global governance. The course analyses global governance through a number of key formal international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank Group, the World Trade Organization, the International Court of Justice, and International Criminal Court. It also explores a different contemporary issues and challenges of global governance, ranging from the environment, trade, and security.

IR635 Seminar on Diplomacy and International Negotiation

Study principal concepts and the science of negotiation. Following a framework for international negotiation analysis, students will be looking at various case studies of important international negotiations such as those between the United States and the Soviet Union and between Egypt and Israel with the United States as a mediator. The seminar is participatory and interactive in which students will be trained to employ their knowledge and personal experience in role-play simulations.

IR636 Seminar on International Policy and International Management

Study the management of international issues such as international security, conflicts, economic, and other transnational issues. It also studies concepts, theories, structures, and processes of international public policies, which include policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Diplomacy and international negotiation will also be examined.

IR637 European and Russia in Global Politics

Examine politics and international relations of the European Union (EU) and Russia. By employing theoretical framework in IR, the course explores the origin, evolution, and functioning of EU institutions. The EU and Russia as major actors in global politics and their external relations will also be examined.

IR638 ASEAN in Global Politics

Analyze institutions, policies, and processes of ASEAN in both its internal and its external cooperation. The course also examines changes in ASEAN from political, economic, and socio-cultural viewpoints. This course evaluates the success and failure of ASEAN in addressing regional and international issues.

Particular emphasis will be given to how ASEAN responds to extra-regional powers and changing global contexts.

IR646 Seminar on International Security and Strategic Studies

Explore various security concepts such as collective security, collective defense, comprehensive security, and cooperative security. The course will also analyze traditional and non-traditional security issues as well as strategic changes at the global and regional levels, with the focus on Asia. Security arrangements, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and security community, will be discussed as well.

IR648 Seminar on Human Rights and International Ethics

Critically approach the nexus between the discourses of human rights and international ethics from both statist and non-statist perspectives. The former concentrates on the emergence and significance of international human rights norms in relations to state sovereignty and state obligations. The latter focuses on issues that, by and large, require a shift of emphasis from the state to global forces, the peoples, or the "natural" world. These issues include, but not limited to, globalization, gender, the environment, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, migrant workers, and discourse on human security.

IR649 Seminar on International Development

Discuss the multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary nature of development. First, it introduces students to the conceptual and analytical tools crucial to development studies. It then investigates the contemporary political debates in relation to various development themes, which include the question of economic and political liberalization, environmental degradation, poverty reduction, ethnic conflict, and the role of international aid and non-government organizations (NGOs), all these themes will be examined in the light of the international politics of development.

IR667 Indo-Pacific in Global Politics

Study conflict and cooperation among states and non-state actors in Asia, which now has come to include East and Southeast Asia. Covering Political Security, as well as socio-economic issues, particular emphasis will be given to the complex interactions among states amid the influences from external powers.

IR680 Global Political Economy and Globalization

Explore the current international political economy shaped by the interactions related to market forces, information-communication technology and the various nation-states (with limited sovereignty) and their corresponding impacts

on states as well as “non-state” actors (TNC, International Organizations, NGOs, etc.). New rules and agendas for multilateral and international organizations pertaining to public participation, accountability and transparency will be examined as emerging issues – such as transnational crime, the environment, global epidemic and all types of security-related issues, traditional and otherwise, - are posing immediate challenges to existing institutions and norms.

IR684 Seminar on Media and Global Politics

Study and trace the evolving relationship between new media and politics, including the changes in the media landscape, the evolution of convergence, the diffusion of social media and their implications for political environments. Topics also cover media and social movements, new media and political conflicts, the role of the media in campaigns and elections, as well as, its impact on political attitude and behaviors. The course aims to help students to understand the complexity and the variability of information society that effects the political environment, domestically and internationally.

IR686 Seminar on Global Capitalism

The course studies the origins, development and crisis of global capitalism. It explores theories and approaches that make sense of global capitalist systems, such as mercantilism, liberalism, and Marxism. By examining the globalization and neoliberalization of the world, the course also provides a variety of case studies that illustrate how global capitalism transforms different state formations and economic transition as well as their implications. It also analyze key challenges to the contemporary global capitalism, such as state- led capitalism, global supply chain and pandemic crisis.

IR687 Seminar on Geopolitics

The course studies theoretical debates and contemporary issues of geopolitics as well as traditional and critical security studies such as Copenhagen, Aberystwyth and Paris Schools. It also explores how geopolitics influence global order and regional security architecture.

IR692 Seminar on International Relations and Climate Change

In an age of Anthropocene, the planet is facing a climate change, which has posed a complex challenge to human lives, political and ecological systems and international relations. The course aims at understanding this complexity and existential global challenge. It examines why and how states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, social movements and other non-state actors have confronted and cooperated to save the planet. The course then explores the efforts to create an international climate regime, such as International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the 2015 Paris Agreement. It

ends by addressing the extent to which international relations theory can account for climate change and international climate cooperation.

IR694 Latin America in Global Politics

Study the evolution of U.S. – Latin America relations as they gradually change from a “Cold War” frame of mind into what we may refer to as “non-traditional” security threats such as the environment, food security, energy security, transnational crime, etc. The course will also look at how some of the key players in this region i.e., Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Cuba have fared over the years. Issues include Brazil’s economic and technological prowess, Venezuela’s oil diplomacy, Mexican “war on drugs” campaigns and Cuba’s “last dance with socialism,” all of which, produce certain implications both regionally and globally.

IR695 The Middle East and Muslim World in Global Politics

Explore historical background and contemporary complexity of the Muslim World. The course also deals with the geographical setting and the ideological orientation, socio-political structures, and socio-economic problems including its past subjugation and current rejuvenation. Changes in Muslim World since 9/11 will also be examined.

IR697 Seminar on International Environment and Disaster Policy and Management

Focus on the approaches, theories, and principles of environment-disaster policy and management in a context and content of international community which lead to a sustainable development. The study also includes the dynamic change of the global and international collaboration in dealing with the problems of environment and natural disaster. Students will study mechanisms, methods and best practices in solving and managing the crises from contemporary case studies.

IR698 Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Global Politics

“International Studies” combines social sciences and humanities to explore both international and transnational phenomena. It aims to discern the interconnectedness of political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions within the local/global nexus. Contextualized within contemporary landscapes, the following five board topics guide this course: (1) peace and security; (2) transnational and global economic processes; (3) international demography and transnational migration; (4) culture in the age of globalization; (5) international relations and the management of global environment.

IR699 Selected Topics in International Relations

Analyze a particular topic of international relations in depth, which can be theories, world phenomena, or area-specifics issues.

IR700 Independent Study

Offer a directed study to a student or a group of students by one or more faculty members. Student will conduct their independent research and explore a special topic in international relations and studies.

IR800 Thesis

The thesis is the in-depth research on an important issue in international relations/studies under the supervision of a thesis committee, comprising of one principal advisor

Estimated Tuition and Other Fees & Charges**Thai Student**

Semester	Credit Enrolled	Tuition & Fees
Summer	3 (non-credit)	฿27,500
First Year		
Semester 1	9	฿56,210
Semester 2	9	฿49,500
Second Year		
Semester 1	9	฿53,210
Semester 2	9	Thesis ฿43,500
		Non-Thesis ฿47,500

International Student

Semester	Credit Enrolled	Tuition & Fees
Summer	3 (non-credit)	฿41,000
First Year		
Semester 1	9	฿69,710
Semester 2	9	฿63,000
Second Year		
Semester 1	9	฿66,710
Semester 2	9	Thesis ฿57,000
		Non-Thesis ฿61,000

Graduation Requirements

The MIR Program offers two study plans: A **Thesis Plan** (Plan A) and a **Non-Thesis Plan** (Plan B). Students may choose the path that aligns with their academic interests and career objectives. Both plans are designed to cultivate advanced understanding and practical skills in international relations.

Plan A: Thesis Track (Academic-Oriented)

- Completion of **at least 36 credits**, including:
 - 12 credits of required courses
 - 12 credits of elective courses
 - 12 credits of thesis (IR800)
- **Pass the thesis proposal defense and final thesis defense**
- **Present part of the thesis** at an academic conference or publish in an academic platform, as required by the university
- Demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting a valid TOEFL, IELTS, or TU-GET score that meets the required minimum.
 - *Exemption applies to students who submitted a passing score during the admission process*

Plan B: Non-Thesis Track (Professional-Oriented)

- Completion of **at least 36 credits**, including:
 - 12 credits of required courses
 - 18 credits of elective courses
 - 6 credits of Independent Study (IR700)
- **Pass Independent Study proposal defense and final Independent Study defense**
- **Pass a comprehensive examination**
- Demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting a valid TOEFL, IELTS, or TU-GET score that meets the required minimum.
 - *Exemption applies to students who submitted a passing score during the admission process*

Additional Requirements for All Students

- Maintain a **minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00**
- Complete all degree requirements within **8 regular semesters**