
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2019

MA Diplomatic Studies (Coursework) (01250409)

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

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Admission requirements

- An honours degree in Political Sciences or directly related fields (or a related university degree with sufficient relevant work experience in the diplomatic field with the approval of Senate).
- An average of 65% is required in this degree for admission to this programme.
- Prospective students may be required to submit an admissions essay or to sit for an examination or to do additional work/modules to enable them to reach the desired level of study.
- An acceptable level of proficiency in English is required.

Other programme-specific information

Three core modules have to be taken during the first semester of study.

Students may, with the approval of the HOD, take two core modules in Semester 1 and one core module in Semester 2.

Students may, with the approval of the programme manager, replace at most one core module with PTO 871 Mediation in African conflicts or an appropriate module of the same credit value from another discipline.

This programme is not presented through telematic or distance education.

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Diplomatic practice 872 (DIP 872)

Module credits	30.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

An introduction and advanced analysis is provided of global diplomatic practice, one of the most important institutionalised activities within the international system. The focus is predominantly state-centric, although the growing impact of non-state entities on the form and substance of diplomacy is accommodated. Aspects such as the evolution, modes, styles, legal framework and institutions of diplomacy are investigated, as well as the specific roles and functions of diplomats and emerging areas of diplomatic specialisation. An African perspective on all of the above is prioritised, and in this regard specific emphasis is placed on mediation - a diplomatic mode and specialisation that is crucial within the context of African diplomatic practice.

Diplomacy and international studies 876 (DIP 876)

Module credits	30.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The holistic nature and interdisciplinary scope of diplomacy, as an institution, practice and area of academic study and research, are introduced and contextualised within the broad framework of international studies, incorporating aspects of international relations, international law and international political economy. Subsequently, the focus shifts to the theoretical and practical relationship between international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy. Accordingly, South Africa's diplomacy, at a global and regional level, is critically analysed using the comparative method amongst others.

Diplomatic theory 877 (DIP 877)

Module credits	30.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Political Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

An introduction to and analysis of diplomatic theory, defined as systematic reflection on diplomatic ideas, activities and issues. Such reflection has historical, conceptual and normative elements that by nature pertain to diplomatic practice as empirical referent. This involves the critical examination of key assumptions on diplomacy. On the one hand, since diplomatic ideas inevitably reflect broader international relations theories and since the modern diplomat should have some understanding of the latter, attention is given to these. On the other hand, on a capita selecta basis, attention is paid to theoretical perspectives on issues that appear on the global diplomatic agenda.

Methodology of diplomatic studies 878 (DIP 878)

Module credits 30.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Political Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Using appropriate methodological approaches and research methods, aspects of the diplomatic theory and diplomatic practice modules are applied to specific diplomatic case studies and issues of international and transnational importance. In addition to the emphasis of methodology and selected research methods, attention is also paid to the development, structure and writing of research reports in the field of diplomatic studies. The outcome of this module is an approved research proposal on a diplomatic theme for the mini-dissertation, that also complies with ethical guidelines.

Mini-dissertation: Diplomatic studies 895 (DIP 895)

Module credits 60.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Political Sciences

Period of presentation Year

Module content

A mini-dissertation based on independent research done by the student in the broad field of diplomacy, is written under the guidance of a supervisor.

Mediation in African conflicts 871 (PTO 871)

Module credits 30.00

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The module aims to develop an advanced understanding of the key academic and policy debates regarding international mediation; to explore both the theory and the practice of mediation; and to develop strategising skills for peacemaking. The focus is on mediation undertaken by the United Nations, the African Union and sub-regional bodies in major conflicts in Africa.

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.