

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BAHons specialising in International Relations (01240405)

Department Political Sciences

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 120

NQF level 08

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor's degree in International Relations
or
a relevant bachelor's degree
2. A weighted average of at least 70% in International Relations (or equivalent) at final-year level

Additional requirements

In certain cases additional modules may be required.

Other programme-specific information

In collaboration with the programme manager and with the approval of the head of department, students can select one elective module from another discipline.

Only certain modules are presented annually. Please consult the department in this regard.

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

Elective modules*

Select 3 modules of which 2 must be IPL modules from:**

Note:

*In collaboration with the programme manager and with the approval of the head of department, students can select one elective module from another discipline.

**Only certain modules are presented annually. Please consult the department in this regard.

Core modules

International relations theory 752 (IPL 752)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	08
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 study of empirical and normative theories of international relations, with specific reference to the contemporary development and state of the art thereof. The emphasis is on the extent to which it represents mainstream or non-mainstream thought and it moves away from the contending paradigms and perspectives that presently characterise the discipline. In-depth analyses are also made of specific partial theories, and of the contribution of selected theorists and their works.

Research report: International relations 770 (IPL 770)

Module credits	40.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The student in a specialised field of international relations, is written under the guidance of a supervisor. This is preceded by an introduction to advanced political research in the discipline with the inclusion of appropriate research methodology, research ethics, and the planning and documentation of research.

Elective modules

International political economy 751 (IPL 751)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	08
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

Contemporary political and economic trends that impact on the political economy of the developing world are studied. The focus is in particular on the influence of international financial institutions and regimes on the political economy of the developing world, and on the responses of developing countries.

Foreign policy 753 (IPL 753)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	08
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

This advanced module makes an in-depth study of the most important theoretical issues in the analysis of foreign policy. It deals with the development of foreign policy theory, the concept “foreign policy” and the related issues of the role of the state and the agency-structure debate. It also makes an in-depth study of a variety of approaches to the study of foreign policy and in so doing attempts to prepare the student for a possible master’s dissertation on a topic related to the study of foreign policy.

Security and strategic studies 754 (IPL 754)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	08
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 advanced study is made of the theory and practice of critical security studies, with the inclusion of emerging and new security issues. This also involves a comparative analysis of the security policy, strategy and doctrine of selected states; the approaches to and institutionalisation of multilateral security cooperation in the major regions of the world; as well as peace support operations initiated by international organisations. At the strategic level, attention is given to contemporary strategy of military action and deterrence strategy.

African and regional politics 751 (PTO 751)

Module credits 20.00

NQF Level 08

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 focuses on African political systems, the position and role of Africa in the international system and aspects of regionalism and regionalisation. An analysis and evaluation is made of the major issues, challenges, trends and transformations concerning the domestic politics and the regional and international relations of African states, including pan-Africanism.

Peace, conflict and mediation 752 (PTO 752)

Module credits 20.00

NQF Level 08

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 theory and practice of peace missions and political conflict with specific reference to the classification, causes, development, conduct, management and outcomes of political conflict. Particular emphasis is placed on the different facets of peace missions and political conflict management such as conflict avoidance, prevention, settlement and resolution, as well as the process of bargaining, negotiation and (third party) mediation. An analysis will be made of selected case studies with specific reference to mediation in violent conflicts in Africa.

Comparative regional studies 755 (PTO 755)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	08
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 systematic comparative study of political phenomena on a regional, continental or global basis using comparative methodologies. This will enable the analysis of political practice and the considerable variations across regions, continents and in the world. The growing importance of global influences and interdependence between regions and local politics require the development of specific knowledge and skills by students to explore the reasons for the variations and to develop possible responses to these.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.