

A hand is shown from the bottom, holding a glowing globe. The globe is surrounded by a network of lines and nodes, suggesting global connectivity. The background is a soft, blue-toned gradient.

# **CURRICULUM FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

ASSOCIATE DEGREE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

---

**2025**

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**



**CURRICULUM FOR  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**2025**

Prepared by:

**SUBJECT EXPERTS**

Different Universities

Facilitated by:

**MUHAMMAD TUFAIL QURESHI**

Deputy Director | Academics Division  
Higher Education Commission, Islamabad

Coordinated, Designed and Edited by:

**ARIF MEHMOOD**

Assistant Director | Academics Division  
Higher Education Commission, Islamabad

# Table of Contents

<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>	<b>VI</b>
<b>GUIDING PRINCIPLES</b>	
Minimum Standards	01
Course Sequence, Titles & Credits	01
Course Learning Outcomes	01
Course Syllabus	01
General Education	02
Requirement of Internship	02
Requirement of Capstone	02
Associate Degree in International Relations	02
General Electives	02
Electives	02
Entry and Exit Provisions at Undergraduate Level	03
<b>BACHELOR OF SCIENCE</b>	
Program Description	06
Standard Nomenclature	06
Program Learning Outcomes	06
Eligibility & Admission Criteria	07
Program Structure	07
Explanation on Offering of Electives	12
Recommended List of Interdisciplinary Courses	13
Degree Award Requirements	13
<b>MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>	
<b>NON-AREA STUDY SPECIALIZATIONS</b>	
Blue Economy	16
Defense and Strategic Studies	16
Diplomacy	17
Emerging Technologies	17

Foreign Policy Analysis	17
Geopolitics	18
Global Governance	18
Global Politics of Environment	18
Human Rights	19
International Development	19
International Law	20
International Political Economy	20
Media and Communication	20
Migration and Refuges Studies	21
Nuclear Studies	21
Peace and Conflict Studies	22
Political Violence and Terrorism	22
Regional Integration	22
Security Studies	23

## AREA STUDY SPECIALIZATIONS

African Studies	23
American Studies	24
China Studies	24
European Studies	24
Far East Asian Studies	25
Middle Eastern Studies	25
Russia, Central Asia, and Caucasian Studies	26
South Asian Studies	26

## MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil)

Program Description	28
Standard Nomenclature	28
Program Learning Outcomes	28
Eligibility & Admission Criteria	29
Program Structure	29
Degree Award Requirements	32

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (BS PROGRAM)**

Academic Writing & Research Methods	34
Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation	34
Foreign Policies of Major Powers	34
Conflict Management & Resolution	34
Defense and Strategic Studies	34
Diplomacy	35
Foreign Policy Analysis	35
Foreign Policy of Pakistan	35
Geo-Political Structure of the World	35
Globalization and International Relations	35
International Political Economy	35
International Law	36
Global Politics of Environment	36
International Relations: 1648–1945	36
International Relations Since 1945	36
Introduction to International Relations	36
Nuclear Studies	36
Regional and International Organizations	37
Regional Connectivity	37
Theories of International Relations	37

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (MPhil Program)**

Research Methodology	37
Theories of International Relations	37

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## DR. ZAFAR NAWAZ JASPAL

(Convener)  
Meritorious Professor, School of Politics  
& International Relations and Dean  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Quaid-i-Azam University  
Islamabad

## DR. ABDUL WADOOD

Professor of International Relations & Dean  
Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities  
Balochistan University of Information  
Technology, Engineering & Management  
Sciences  
Quetta.

## DR. ADAM SAUD

Professor of International Relations &  
Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Social  
Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad

## DR. ARSHI SALEEM HASHMI

Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies &  
Dean, Faculty of Contemporary Studies  
National Defence University, Islamabad

## DR. SYED HUSSAIN SHAHEED SOHERWORDI

Professor and Head  
Department of International Relations  
University of Peshawar, Peshawar

## DR. UZMA SHUJAAT

Professor & Director  
Area Study Centre for Europe  
University of Karachi  
Karachi

## DR. ADIL KHAN

Associate Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Political Science &  
International Relations, Hazara  
University, Mansehra

## DR. MIAN TAHIR ASHRAF

Associate Professor & Chairperson  
Department of International Relations  
Bahauddin Zakariya University  
Multan

## DR. MUHAMMAD SHEHRYAR KHAN

Associate Professor of International  
Relations & Head  
Department of Social Sciences  
Iqra University, Islamabad Campus

## DR. MUKESH KUMAR KHATWANI

Associate Professor & Director  
Area Study Center for East & South East  
Asia  
University of Sindh  
Jamshoro

## DR. SAIMA ASHRAF KAYANI

Associate Professor &  
Chairperson  
Department of International Relations  
Fatima Jinnah Women University  
Rawalpindi

## DR. SARWAT RAUF

Associate Professor of International  
Relations & Head, Department of  
International Relations and Department of  
Peace & Conflict Studies, National  
University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

**DR. AMIR JAN**

Assistant Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Studies, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences Uthal, Balochistan

**DR. MEHMOOD HUSSAIN**

Assistant Professor & Head, Department of International Relations, University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad

**DR. SIDRA AHMED**

Assistant Professor of International Relations, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, DHA Suffa University Karachi

**DR. SYED SHAHAB UDDIN**

Assistant Professor & Head, Department of International Relations, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology Karachi

**MR. MUHAMMAD TUFAIL QURESHI**

(Secretary)

Deputy Director, Academics Division  
Higher Education Commission  
Islamabad

**DR. IFTIKHAR ALI**

Assistant Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Political & International Studies  
Karakoram International University  
Gilgit

**DR. MURAD ALI**

Assistant Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Political Science  
University of Malakand, Chakdara

**DR. SUMMAR IQBAL BABAR**

Assistant Professor, School of Political & International Relations  
Quaid-i-Azam University  
Islamabad

**DR. TAUQEER HUSSAIN SARGANA**

(Co-Convener)

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Politics & International Relations  
International Islamic University  
Islamabad

# Preface

The curriculum serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the teaching-learning process that students must navigate to achieve specific academic objectives. This encompasses clearly defined prior learning requirements, program objectives, scheme of studies, and course learning outcomes. As knowledge rapidly evolves and new fields emerge, it is crucial to continually develop and revise curricula to ensure they remain current, relevant, and impactful.

As mandated by its law through Clause 10-1 (a), (l), (s), and (v), the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has been developing and periodically updating curricula through its National Curriculum Revision Committees (NCRCs). These committees are generally composed of subject matter experts, researchers, and representatives from accreditation bodies, professional councils, and industry stakeholders. In response to the evolving needs, HEC has undertaken the task to develop robust standards for the curricula of degree programs in International Relations at levels 5, 6 and 7 of the National Qualifications Framework. These standards are meticulously structured in accordance with the HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring alignment with both national priorities and international educational standards.

The degree programs in International Relations are designed to equip students with cutting-edge knowledge and practical skills, fostering innovation and research to address the emerging and unique challenges in the field of International Relations. It is hoped that these curricular standards, prescribed by subject experts from across the country, will not only contribute towards meeting the national educational and socio-economic requirements but will also elevate the competency levels of our graduates in the field of International Relations.

With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC aims to equip Pakistani International Relations graduates with a deep understanding of global issues, enabling them to excel in diplomacy, promote Pakistan's interests, and drive positive change locally and globally.

**Dr. Amjad Hussain**

Director General

Academics Division

Higher Education Commission

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## MINIMUM STANDARDS

The curricular standards and guidelines prescribed under this policy are mandatory at minimum level. Universities or the concerned departments may however set higher standards provided that the standards prescribed herein are not reduced or compromised.

## COURSE SEQUENCE, TITLES AND CREDITS

For Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in International Relations, the sequence of courses prescribed under this document is logically arranged and is suggestive only. The offering department may rearrange the sequence and alter the course titles and credits provided that the essence of the courses prescribed in policy remains intact. The department may add more courses as and when required subject to adherence to HEC Policies and approval of university's relevant statutory body.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course learning outcomes (CLOs) are the bare minimum standards of learning that students must achieve upon completing a specific course. These outcomes serve as essential benchmarks, ensuring consistency in the quality of education across institutions. The CLOs prescribed herein represent the minimum level of competency and understanding expected from students. While these standards must not be compromised, departments are encouraged to enhance the rigor of the CLOs by incorporating additional learning outcomes, provided these do not alter the essence of the prescribed standards. In this policy, CLOs are exclusively developed for major field courses within the program. For interdisciplinary courses, departments offering these courses are responsible for developing their CLOs in alignment with their respective disciplines and program requirements. Moreover, CLOs for elective courses are not prescribed here, as these are advanced or specialized courses. The development of CLOs for electives is the responsibility of the respective departments, taking into account the course's advanced nature and relevance to the program. For general education courses as required under the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1., departments may adopt the CLOs prescribed in the HEC-developed model courses.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

This document serves as a comprehensive guideline delineating the course learning outcomes (CLOs) for each course offered in the Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in International Relations as minimum standards. The offering department is mandated to meticulously prepare, modify, and tailor the syllabus of each course, ensuring alignment with the stipulated learning outcomes. It is in this regard imperative that the department utilizes instructional, reference, and reading materials that it deems appropriate to effectively meet the CLOs.

## GENERAL EDUCATION

For Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations, the courses prescribed for General Education component must mandatorily be offered with the same titles and minimum credits as prescribed under HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. The concerned departments may adopt and follow the learning outcomes and study contents developed by HEC for these courses as available on its website. The course of “Academic Writing & Research Methods” is an additional general course, added in the scheme of studies of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations, irrespective of the area of specialization. This course is not a mandatory requirement for the Associate Degree in International Relations.

## REQUIREMENT OF INTERNSHIP

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of three (03) credit hours for Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations. Internship of six (06) to eight (08) weeks (preferably undertaken during semester or summer break) must be graded by a faculty member in collaboration with the supervisor in the field. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work, capstone or project work.

## REQUIREMENT OF CAPSTONE

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of three (03) credit hours for Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations. A capstone project is multifaceted body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. The capstone project must be supervised and graded by a faculty member as per the protocols prescribed by the concerned department. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The eligibility criteria and the first-four semesters of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations as prescribed in this policy guide the admission requirement and the structure of Associate Degree in International Relations. Field experience / internship is not a mandatory requirement for the Associate Degree in International Relations.

## GENERAL ELECTIVES

The scheme of study prescribed for the four-year undergraduate degree in International Relations is based on seven (07) electives. Where the seven (07) courses for electives are adopted from more than one specialization domains, they will be considered as general electives and the degree will be awarded as Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations in its generic form and without any specialization.

## ELECTIVES

- a) In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, the department may offer at least seven (07) electives comprised of 21 credit hours (i.e., minimum of 25 % of the main field of International Relations that is comprised of 78 credit

hours) to meet the criteria of nomenclature with specialization. Where the range of major exceeds beyond seventy-eight (78) credit hours, the number of specialization electives will accordingly be increased.

- b)** Where the electives are adopted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations (with name of specialization) in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015) such as Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations (Strategic Studies) etc.
- c)** Where the electives are adopted from more than one specialization domains, the degree will be awarded as Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations in its generic form and without any specialization.
- d)** Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed in this policy.
- e)** It should however be noted that offering of the degree program with specialization is prescribed in this policy as an option only and not as a mandatory requirement or a binding on the offering department. In view of this, the concerned department may consider to offer the degree program with specialization or not, as per its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

## ENTRY AND EXIT PROVISIONS AT UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

In line with HEC's Under Graduate Education Policy (2023):

### Pathway for Graduates with Associate Degree

- a)** Students having completed Associate Degree in International Relations are allowed admission in the fifth semester of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations without any deficiency course.
- b)** Students having completed Associate Degree in any discipline related to the field of International Relations shall be required to complete deficiency courses through a bridging semester before the fifth semester in admitting university.
- c)** The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in above cases is 2.00/4.00 CGPA in the prior qualification i.e., Associate Degree. The concerned university may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations.

### Pathway for Graduates with Conventional BSc/Equivalent Degree Programs

- a)** Students having completed two-year conventional BSc/equivalent degree programs are allowed admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations in which case, such students shall be required to

complete deficiency courses through a bridging semester before the fifth semester as determined by the admitting university.

- b)** The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 45% cumulative score in the prior qualification i.e., two-year conventional BSc/equivalent degree programs. The concerned university may however set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations.

### **Exiting from Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations with the Associate Degree**

Students enrolled in Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations are allowed to exit the program with the status of an Associate Degree provided that they have completed the requirements of the first-four semesters of the BS degree program as prescribed in this policy and maintained a minimum CGPA of 2.0/4.0. The name of the subject field on the degree shall remain the same in which the student was initially enrolled for the undergraduate/equivalent degree program.

CURRICULUM FOR  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)**  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# BS International Relations

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations program is structured in accordance with the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. to provide students with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of global political, economic, and social dynamics. The program encompasses key areas of International Relations, including diplomacy, international law, foreign policy analysis, globalization, conflict resolution, and regional connectivity, while also offering insights into emerging global challenges such as environmental politics, human rights, and international security. Over eight semesters, the curriculum is designed to foster a progressive development of students' theoretical knowledge, analytical skills, and practical understanding, delivering a balanced and robust educational journey. The program emphasizes the application of knowledge through case studies, simulations, and discussions of real-world events, enabling students to connect theoretical concepts to contemporary global issues. This curriculum is intentionally designed to cultivate critical thinking, effective communication, and problem-solving skills, equipping students to analyze complex global and regional challenges and propose sustainable solutions. Graduates of the BS International Relations program will be well-prepared for diverse career opportunities in fields such as diplomacy, public policy, international development, global governance, media, and academia. They will also be equipped to pursue advanced studies in International Relations and related interdisciplinary areas, both nationally and internationally.

## STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

The scheme of study prescribed for the four-year undergraduate degree in International Relations is based on a total of seven (07) electives. Where the electives are adopted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations (with name of specialization) in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015), and where the seven courses are adopted from more than one specialization domains, the degree will be awarded as Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations in its generic form and without any specialization.

## PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of fundamental and advanced concepts in International Relations and their relevance to contemporary global trends.
- b) Apply theoretical frameworks, analytical tools, and practical knowledge of International Relations to real-world scenarios addressing global and regional issues effectively.

- c) Communicate insights and solutions in International Relations with clarity showcasing the ability to contribute to real-world applications for peace, security, and socioeconomic progress.

## ELIGIBILITY & ADMISSION CRITERIA

Higher Secondary School Certificate (involving 12 years of schooling) or an IBCC equivalent qualification in any group is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations. The concerned university may set minimum eligibility scores and may conduct entry / admission test through its own testing body or an external testing services provider of repute as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and comprises of minimum 131 credit hours (including internship / field experience) spread over eight (08) regular semesters. Universities may offer courses up-to maximum of 144 credit hours provided that the total number of credit hours are reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) without putting undue burden on students.

Minimum Credit Hours	131
General Education Courses	35 credit hours 13 courses as prescribed by HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1; and 1 course as recommended by the NCRC
Discipline Related Courses / Major	78 credit hours (26 courses)
Interdisciplinary / Allied Courses	12 credit hours (4 courses)
Internship	3 credit hours
Capstone Project	3 credit hours
Program Duration	Minimum: 4 Years Maximum: 6 Years (further extendable to another year subject to approval of university's statutory body)

Course Load (per semester)	15-18 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial/ deficiency/ failure/ repetition courses only)
3 Credit Hours (Theory)	3 classes (1 hour each) <b>OR</b> 2 classes (1.5 hour each) <b>OR</b> 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester

Standard scheme of study for the program of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations (irrespective of the area of specialization) is given as under:

SEMESTER I			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Introduction to International Relations	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – I *****	3 (3-0)	Interdisciplinary
3	Quantitative Reasoning – I *	3 (3-0)	General Education
4	Natural Science **	3 (2-1)	General Education
5	Functional English *	3 (3-0)	General Education
6	Applications of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) *	3 (2-1)	General Education
<b>Total Credits (18)</b>			

SEMESTER II			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Geo-Political Structure of the World	3 (3-0)	Major

2	International Relations: 1648–1945	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Regional and International Organizations	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Quantitative Reasoning – II *	3 (3-0)	General Education
5	Expository Writing *	3 (3-0)	General Education
6	Pakistan Studies *	2 (2-0)	General Education
<b>Total Credits (17)</b>			

**SEMESTER III**

S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Theories of International Relations	3 (3-0)	Major
2	International Relations Since 1945	3 (3-0)	Major
3	International Law	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Arts & Humanities ****	2 (2-0)	General Education
5	Islamic Studies * (Religious Edu / Ethics for non-Muslim students)	2 (2-0)	General Education
6	Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan *	2 (2-0)	General Education
<b>Total Credits (15)</b>			

**SEMESTER IV**

S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Globalization and International Relations	3 (3-0)	Major

2	Foreign Policy Analysis	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Foreign Policy of Pakistan	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Social Science ***	2 (2-0)	General Education
5	Civics & Community Engagement *	2 (2-0)	General Education
6	Entrepreneurship *	2 (2-0)	General Education
<b>Total Credits (15)</b>			

### SEMESTER V

S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Diplomacy	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – II *****	3 (3-0)	Interdisciplinary
3	International Political Economy	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Global Politics of Environment	3 (3-0)	Major
5	Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – III *****	3 (3-0)	Interdisciplinary
6	Conflict Management & Resolution	3 (3-0)	Major
<b>Total Credits (18)</b>			

### SEMESTER VI

S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Foreign Policies of Major Powers	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Defense and Strategic Studies	3 (3-0)	Major

3	Elective – I *****	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Elective – II *****	3 (3-0)	Major
5	Academic Writing & Research Methods *****	3 (3-0)	General Education (NCRC Recommended)
<b>Total Credits (15)</b>			

SEMESTER VII			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Regional Connectivity	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Nuclear Studies	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Elective – III *****	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Elective – IV *****	3 (3-0)	Major
5	Interdisciplinary / IDS Course – IV *****	3 (3-0)	Interdisciplinary
<b>Total Credits (15)</b>			

SEMESTER VIII			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Elective – V *****	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Elective – VI *****	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Elective – VII *****	3 (3-0)	Major

5	Capstone Project	3 (3-0)	Capstone
<b>Total Credits (15)</b>			

- \* HEC designed model courses may be used by the university.
- \*\* The university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of “Social Sciences” including but not limited to a course of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology etc.
- \*\*\* The university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of “Natural Sciences” which should have relevance to the purpose of the degree program.
- \*\*\*\* The university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of “Arts & Humanities” including but not limited to a course of regional or international language such as Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish etc. or any other course such as Philosophy, History etc.
- \*\*\*\*\* Students may opt interdisciplinary courses from other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major field of study, as allowed by the admitting department. The list of interdisciplinary courses provided in the policy is a recommended one only, and the offering department may add more courses as and when needed, provided that the same is approved by university’s relevant statutory body. The minimum requirement for interdisciplinary courses for Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations, irrespective of the area of specialization is twelve (12) credit hours, which may be increased, provided that the same is approved by the university’s relevant statutory body.
- \*\*\*\*\* The course of “**Academic Writing & Research Methods**” is a general three credit hours course in addition to courses prescribed for general education component of the Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This course is mandatory for Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relation (with or without specialization), and not for Associate Degree.
- \*\*\*\*\* Read in conjunction with guidance given on “Standard Nomenclature” in this policy, the university / offering department may offer any seven (07) courses within one of the specializations or a mix from more than one specialization as prescribed in this policy as electives, as per its program objectives and available academic and faculty resources.

## EXPLANATION ON OFFERING OF ELECTIVES:

In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, the department may offer at least seven (7) electives comprised of 21 credit hours (i.e. minimum of 25 % of the main field of International Relations that is comprised of 78 credit hours) to meet the criteria of nomenclature with specialization.

## RECOMMENDED LIST OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

Student may opt interdisciplinary courses from the following list where required in the scheme of studies for Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations, or may opt from other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major, provided that the same is allowed by the admitting department. The list provided here is a recommended one only, and the offering department may add more courses as and when needed, provided that the same is approved by the university's relevant statutory body.

- a) Communication Studies
- b) Comparative Politics
- c) Introduction to Anthropology
- d) Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- e) Introduction to Development Studies
- f) Introduction to Economics
- g) Introduction to Gender Studies
- h) Introduction to Geography
- i) Introduction to Philosophy
- j) Introduction to Political Science
- k) Introduction to Psychology
- l) Introduction to Sociology
- m) Public Policy & Governance
- n) Sustainable Development
- o) Technology & Society
- p) World History: Ancient to Modern Times
- q) Introduction to Cultural Studies
- r) Introduction to World Religions
- s) Introduction to Social Work
- t) Introduction to Demography and Population Studies

## DEGREE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of Bachelor of Science (BS) in International Relations:

- a) All courses in the General Education category with titles and credit hours as prescribed in HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. including the course of “Pakistan Studies” must be completed.
- b) Minimum of **131** credit hours as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- c) Capstone / research project of three (03) credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework or internship.

- d)** Internship of three (03) credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework, capstone, research or project work.
- e)** CGPA must not be below 2.00/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may however set higher standard in this regard.
- f)** The minimum duration to complete the degree is eight (08) regular semesters spread over four (04) years. The duration may be extended in extra-ordinary circumstances, subject to approval of the university's relevant statutory body, provided that the total duration to complete the undergraduate degree program does not go beyond the maximum duration prescribed in HEC semester guidelines. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)**  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (NQF LEVEL 6 QUALIFICATIONS) NON-AREA STUDY SPECIALIZATIONS

Below are the recommended lists of courses within the given specialization. The concerned department may offer any seven (07) courses from the following lists (within a specific specialization) or any other course relevant to the given specialization, as per the availability of academic resources:

### 1: BLUE ECONOMY

- a) Blue Economy and Geopolitics
- b) Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Economies
- c) Deep-Sea Mining: Opportunities and Challenges
- d) Fisheries Policy and Economic Development
- e) Governance of Marine Protected Areas
- f) International Maritime Law and Governance
- g) Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Policy
- h) Marine Energy and Renewable Resources
- i) Maritime Logistics and Global Shipping Networks
- j) Maritime Security and Piracy Studies
- k) Ocean Acidification and Policy Responses
- l) Oceanic Trade and Global Supply Chains
- m) Role of Ports in Regional Development
- n) Small Island Economies and Development Strategies
- o) Sustainable Marine Resource Management

### 2: DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

- a) Arms Procurement and Defense Industry Management
- b) Artificial Intelligence in Modern Defense Systems
- c) Asymmetric Warfare and Counterinsurgency
- d) Civil-Military Relations in Democratic States
- e) Comparative Defense Policies of Major Powers
- f) Counterterrorism Strategies and Policies
- g) Cyber Defense and Information Warfare
- h) Defense Economics and Budgeting
- i) Ethics in Warfare and Military Conduct
- j) History of Modern Warfare
- k) Intelligence Operations and National Security
- l) Maritime Security and Naval Strategy
- m) Military Alliances and Regional Security Complexes
- n) Military Strategy and Grand Tactics
- o) Space Security and Satellite Warfare

### 3: DIPLOMACY

- a) Case Studies in Diplomatic Crises
- b) Conflict Mediation and Peace Agreements
- c) Crisis Diplomacy and Conflict Management
- d) Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power Strategies
- e) Digital Diplomacy and Cyber Negotiations
- f) Diplomacy of Emerging Powers (e.g., BRICS nations)
- g) Diplomatic Protocol and Consular Practices
- h) Economic Statecraft and Trade Negotiations
- i) Energy Diplomacy and Resource Politics
- j) Multilateral Diplomacy and Global Governance
- k) Negotiation Techniques in International Relations
- l) Public Diplomacy in the Age of Social Media
- m) The Role of International Diplomats and Envoys
- n) The Role of the United Nations in Diplomacy
- o) Track II Diplomacy and Informal Negotiations

### 4: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

- a) Artificial Intelligence in Global Politics
- b) Autonomous Weapons and Global Security
- c) Big Data Analytics in International Relations
- d) Biotechnologies and International Regulations
- e) Blockchain Technology in International Trade
- f) Cyber Diplomacy and International Norms
- g) Cyber Warfare and Global Security Dynamics
- h) Digital Currencies and Global Financial Systems
- i) Emerging Technologies and National Security Strategies
- j) Ethics and Governance of AI in International Relations
- k) Internet Governance and Cyber Sovereignty
- l) Role of Social Media in Global Politics
- m) Smart Borders and Surveillance Technologies
- n) Space Technologies and International Competition
- o) Technology and Human Rights in the Digital Age

### 5: FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS

- a) Alliance Building and Coalition Formation
- b) Case Studies in Successful and Failed Foreign Policies
- c) Comparative Foreign Policies of Major Powers
- d) Decision-Making Processes in Foreign Policy Formulation
- e) Economic Tools of Foreign Policy (Sanctions, Aid, Trade)
- f) Foreign Policy in the Age of Multipolarity
- g) Foreign Policy of Developing Nations
- h) Media and its Influence on Foreign Policy Decisions
- i) Regional Foreign Policy Dynamics in South Asia

- j)** Role of Leadership in Shaping Foreign Policy
- k)** The Foreign Policy of the European Union
- l)** The Impact of Public Opinion on Foreign Policy
- m)** The Role of Domestic Politics in Foreign Policy
- n)** The Role of Ideology and National Identity in Foreign Policy
- o)** The Role of Think Tanks in Foreign Policy Formulation

## 6: GEOPOLITICS

- a)** Case Studies in Geopolitical Conflicts
- b)** Cyber Geopolitics and Digital Sovereignty
- c)** Emerging Powers and Their Strategic Objectives
- d)** Energy Geopolitics and Resource Wars
- e)** Geography of Power and Global Competition
- f)** Geopolitical Rivalries in the Indo-Pacific Region
- g)** Geopolitics of Maritime Trade Routes and Chokepoints
- h)** Geopolitics of the Arctic and Polar Regions
- i)** Great Power Rivalry in the Post-Cold War Era
- j)** Regional Geopolitics of South Asia and the Middle East
- k)** Territorial Disputes and Border Politics
- l)** The Geopolitical Dimensions of Climate Change
- m)** The Geopolitical Impact of Belt and Road Initiative
- n)** Theories of Geopolitics: Classical and Contemporary Approaches
- o)** Urban Geopolitics: Cities as Strategic Zones

## 7: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

- a)** Accountability and Transparency in International Organizations
- b)** Global Governance and Public Health Crises
- c)** Global Governance of Climate Change and Sustainability
- d)** Governance of Cybersecurity and Internet Freedom
- e)** Governance of International Financial Institutions
- f)** Governance of Technology and Artificial Intelligence
- g)** International Migration Governance and Policy
- h)** Multilateralism in the 21st Century
- i)** Power Dynamics in Global Governance Institutions
- j)** Reforming International Governance Structures
- k)** Regional Governance Mechanisms: Case Studies
- l)** The Evolution of Governance in International Trade
- m)** The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Global Governance
- n)** The Role of the United Nations in Global Crisis Management
- o)** Theories of Global Governance

## 8: GLOBAL POLITICS OF ENVIRONMENT

- a)** Biodiversity Politics and Conservation Policies
- b)** Climate Diplomacy and Global Sustainability Effort

- c) Climate Justice and International Equity
- d) Environmental Disasters and Global Security
- e) Environmental Refugees and Migration Politics
- f) Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture
- g) International Environmental Agreements and Protocols
- h) Oceans Governance and Marine Biodiversity Conservation
- i) Renewable Energy Policies in Global Contexts
- j) Resource Scarcity and Environmental Conflict
- k) The Global Politics of Waste Management
- l) The Political Economy of Carbon Markets
- m) The Politics of Water Security and Transboundary Rivers
- n) The Role of Non-State Actors in Environmental Advocacy
- o) Urbanization and the Global Environmental Agenda

## 9: HUMAN RIGHTS

- a) Business and Human Rights: Corporate Responsibility
- b) Child Rights and the Role of International Organizations
- c) Climate Justice as a Human Rights Issue
- d) Cultural Relativism and Universalism in Human Rights
- e) Digital Rights and Privacy in the Information Age
- f) Genocide Studies and the Responsibility to Protect
- g) Human Rights in the Context of Armed Conflict
- h) Human Rights Violations and Accountability Mechanisms
- i) International Human Rights Law and Enforcement Mechanisms
- j) Minority Rights in Multicultural Societies
- k) Refugee Rights and Migration Policies
- l) The Role of NGOs in Human Rights Advocacy
- m) The Role of the United Nations in Human Rights Protection
- n) Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconciliation
- o) Women's Rights in International Law and Politics

## 10: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- a) Climate-Resilient Development and Adaptation Strategies
- b) Development and Trade Policies of Emerging Economies
- c) Development Ethics and Cultural Sensitivities
- d) Education for Development: Policies and Practices
- e) Foreign Aid: Effectiveness and Controversies
- f) Gender and Development in Global Contexts
- g) Global Health and Development Policies
- h) Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development
- i) Poverty Alleviation Policies and Global Best Practices
- j) Sustainable Development Goals and Global Strategies
- k) Technology and Innovation in International Development
- l) The Political Economy of International Development

- m)** The Role of International Financial Institutions in Development
- n)** The Role of Regional Organizations in Promoting Development
- o)** Urbanization and Development Challenges in the Global South

## 11: INTERNATIONAL LAW

- a)** Advanced Topics in International Criminal Law
- b)** Comparative International Environmental Law
- c)** Counter-Terrorism and International Legal Norms
- d)** Extraterritorial Application of Human Rights Law
- e)** Intellectual Property Law in International Relations
- f)** International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution
- g)** International Law and Cyber Warfare
- h)** International Law and the Protection of Indigenous Peoples
- i)** Law of State Responsibility
- j)** Law of the Sea and Maritime Disputes
- k)** Legal Frameworks of the United Nations
- l)** Legal Perspectives on Humanitarian Intervention
- m)** Sovereignty and International Law in the 21st Century
- n)** The Role of International Courts and Tribunals
- o)** Treaty Law and Diplomacy

## 12: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

- a)** Case Studies in Global Economic Disputes
- b)** Comparative Political Economies of Developing Nations
- c)** Cryptocurrency and the Future of Global Finance
- d)** Economic Sanctions and International Power Politics
- e)** Financial Crises and Global Economic Governance
- f)** Global Supply Chains and Political Economy
- g)** International Labor Movements and Economic Policy
- h)** Political Economy of Natural Resource Management
- i)** The Impact of Multinational Corporations on State Sovereignty
- j)** The Political Economy of Development Aid
- k)** The Political Economy of Globalization
- l)** The Politics of International Trade Agreements
- m)** The Role of BRICS in the Global Economy
- n)** The Role of Economic Policies in Regional Integration
- o)** Trade Wars and Their Global Implications

## 13: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

- a)** Case Studies in Media Campaigns and Politics
- b)** Communication Strategies for Conflict Resolution
- c)** Fake News and Disinformation in Global Politics
- d)** Globalization and Media Networks
- e)** Impact of New Media on International Relations
- f)** International Media Law and Policy

- g)** Journalism Ethics in International Conflicts
- h)** Media and Human Rights Advocacy
- i)** Media as a Tool of Soft Power
- j)** Media Representations of Global Crises
- k)** Media, War, and Peacebuilding
- l)** Propaganda and Political Communication
- m)** Role of Film and Visual Media in Global Narratives
- n)** Strategic Communication in Diplomacy
- o)** The Role of Social Media in Shaping Public Opinion

## 14: MIGRATION AND REFUGES STUDIES

- a)** Asylum Systems and Humanitarian Assistance
- b)** Climate-Induced Displacement and Migration
- c)** Diasporas and Transnational Communities
- d)** Economic Impacts of Migration
- e)** Gender and Migration Studies
- f)** Global Patterns and Trends in Migration
- g)** Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery
- h)** Integration Policies for Refugees and Migrants
- i)** Migration Narratives and Media Representation
- j)** Migration Policy and Border Governance
- k)** Migration, Security, and Policy Challenges
- l)** Refugee Camps and Crisis Management
- m)** Refugee Rights and International Law
- n)** The Role of International Organizations in Refugee Management
- o)** Urbanization and Migrant Communities

## 15: NUCLEAR STUDIES

- a)** Arms Control Mechanisms and Verification Challenges
- b)** Case Studies in Nuclear Crises
- c)** Civil-Military Relations in Nuclear States
- d)** Emerging Technologies and the Future of Nuclear Security
- e)** International Atomic Energy Agency: Roles and Challenges
- f)** Nuclear Deterrence and Strategic Stability
- g)** Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation Treaties
- h)** Nuclear Weapons and International Law
- i)** Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- j)** Regional Nuclear Rivalries and Their Impacts
- k)** Tactical Nuclear Weapons and Battlefield Implications
- l)** The Ethics of Nuclear Weapons and Their Use
- m)** The History of the Nuclear Age
- n)** The Politics of Nuclear Disarmament
- o)** The Role of Nuclear Weapons in National Security Strategies

## 16: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

- a) Community-Based Conflict Resolution
- b) Conflict Analysis and Mapping
- c) Cultural Dimensions of Peacebuilding
- d) Economic Dimensions of Peacebuilding
- e) Environmental Conflicts and Peacebuilding
- f) Gender and Conflict
- g) Humanitarian Intervention and Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
- h) International Organizations and Peacekeeping
- i) Peace Processes and Negotiation Strategies
- j) Post-Conflict Reconstruction and State-Building
- k) Religion and Conflict Resolution
- l) The Politics of Ceasefires and Peace Agreements
- m) The Role of Media in Peace and Conflict
- n) Theories of Peace and Conflict
- o) Transitional Justice and Reconciliation

## 17: POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM

- a) Case Studies in Global Terrorism
- b) Causes and Dynamics of Terrorism
- c) Counterterrorism Policies and Strategies
- d) Cyber Terrorism and Digital Security
- e) Insurgencies and Counterinsurgency Strategies
- f) Media and Political Violence
- g) Non-State Actors in Political Violence
- h) Political Violence in Civil Conflicts
- i) Radicalization and Deradicalization Processes
- j) Religion and Political Extremism
- k) Role of International Organizations in Combating Terrorism
- l) State Violence and Human Rights
- m) Suicide Terrorism: Motivations and Tactics
- n) Terrorism Financing and Economic Impacts
- o) Theories of Political Violence

## 18: REGIONAL INTEGRATION

- a) Case Studies in Regional Integration (EU, ASEAN, AU)
- b) Cross-Border Conflict and Integration Policies
- c) Cultural Dimensions of Regional Integration
- d) Geopolitics of Regional Energy Cooperation
- e) Migration and Labor Policies in Regional Integration
- f) Political Challenges to Regional Cooperation
- g) Regional Connectivity and Infrastructure Development
- h) Regional Economic Integration and Trade Agreements
- i) Regional Integration in South Asia: Challenges and Prospects

- j)** Regionalism vs. Globalization: Comparative Analysis
- k)** Role of Regional Courts in Conflict Resolution
- l)** Role of Regional Integration in Sustainable Development
- m)** Role of Regional Organizations in Global Governance
- n)** Security Cooperation in Regional Frameworks
- o)** Theories and Models of Regional Integration

## 19: SECURITY STUDIES

- a)** Asymmetric and Hybrid Warfare
- b)** Critical Infrastructure Protection in the Digital Age
- c)** Cybersecurity in International Relations
- d)** Emerging Technologies and Global Security Challenges
- e)** Environmental Security and Resource Conflicts
- f)** International Terrorism and Counterterrorism Strategies
- g)** Maritime Security and Piracy in International Waters
- h)** Military Alliances and Collective Security
- i)** Non-Traditional Security Threats: Pandemics and Climate Change
- j)** Post-Conflict Security Sector Reform
- k)** Private Military Companies and Security Outsourcing
- l)** Space Security and the Militarization of Outer Space
- m)** The Politics of Intelligence and Espionage
- n)** Transnational Crime and Global Governance
- o)** Weapons of Mass Destruction: Proliferation and Control

## AREA STUDY SPECIALIZATIONS

Below are the recommended lists of courses within the given specialization. The concerned department may offer any seven (07) courses from the following lists (within a specific specialization) or any other course relevant to the given specialization, as per the availability of academic resources:

### 1: AFRICAN STUDIES

- a)** African Diaspora and Global Influence
- b)** African Economic Development: Challenges and Opportunities
- c)** African Literature and Political Narratives
- d)** Case Studies in African Foreign Policies
- e)** China-Africa Relations: Geopolitical and Economic Perspectives
- f)** Colonial Legacies and Modern African States
- g)** Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sub-Saharan Africa
- h)** Contemporary Political Systems in Africa
- i)** Ethnic Conflicts and Identity Politics in Africa
- j)** Human Rights and Governance in Africa
- k)** Natural Resources and Environmental Politics in Africa
- l)** Post-Colonial State-Building in Africa

- m) Public Health and Pandemic Responses in Africa
- n) The Politics of African Regional Organizations (e.g., AU, ECOWAS)
- o) Urbanization and Social Change in African Cities

## 2: AMERICAN STUDIES

- a) America's Role in Global Security Alliances (e.g., NATO)
- b) American Exceptionalism: Myth or Reality?
- c) Case Studies in U.S. Interventions Abroad
- d) Climate Policy and Environmental Movements in the U.S.
- e) Immigration and Identity in U.S. Society
- f) Media and Politics in American Society
- g) Populism and Polarization in American Politics
- h) Race, Ethnicity, and Civil Rights Movements in the U.S.
- i) The Political Economy of the United States
- j) The Role of Religion in U.S. Politics
- k) The U.S. Constitution and Political System
- l) U.S. Foreign Policy: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
- m) U.S. Leadership in International Organizations
- n) U.S. Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean
- o) U.S.-China Relations: Competition and Cooperation

## 3: CHINA STUDIES

- a) China's Foreign Policy and Global Strategy
- b) China's Military Modernization and Regional Security
- c) China's Political System and Governance Model
- d) China's Role in Global Trade and Investment
- e) China's Role in Regional Organizations (e.g., SCO, ASEAN+)
- f) China's Soft Power Strategy in Global Affairs
- g) China-Africa Relations: Development or Dependency?
- h) China-U.S. Relations in the 21st Century
- i) Digital Governance and Surveillance in China
- j) Economic Reforms and Growth in Modern China
- k) Energy Politics and Environmental Policies in China
- l) Historical Perspectives on Modern Chinese Diplomacy
- m) Human Rights and Social Policies in China
- n) Taiwan and Hong Kong: Political and Strategic Dynamics
- o) The Belt and Road Initiative: Global Implications

## 4: EUROPEAN STUDIES

- a) Brexit and Its Implications for Europe
- b) Case Studies in European Diplomacy
- c) Cultural Diversity and Integration in Europe
- d) Eastern Europe and Post-Soviet Transitions
- e) EU's Foreign Policy and Relations with the Global South

- f) Europe and Climate Change: Policies and Challenges
- g) Europe’s Energy Security and Relations with Russia
- h) Europe’s Role in Global Security and Defense
- i) European Colonial Legacies in Global Politics
- j) European Union Governance and Policy-Making
- k) Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe
- l) Migration and Refugee Policies in Europe
- m) Rise of Populism and Nationalism in Europe
- n) The Eurozone Crisis and Economic Integration
- o) The Role of Germany and France in EU Leadership

## 5: FAR EAST ASIAN STUDIES

- a) ASEAN’s Role in Regional Stability
- b) Case Studies in Regional Cooperation in East Asia
- c) Cultural Diplomacy in Japan, Korea, and China
- d) Historical Legacies and Nationalism in East Asia
- e) Japan’s Post-War Foreign Policy
- f) Maritime Security in the Pacific Rim
- g) North Korea’s Foreign Policy and Regional Security
- h) Political Systems and Governance in East Asian States
- i) South Korea’s Economic Miracle and Global Influence
- j) Taiwan’s Strategic Importance in Asia
- k) The Geopolitics of the South China Sea
- l) The Impact of Western Influence on East Asia
- m) The Role of Technology and Innovation in East Asia
- n) Trade and Investment in the Far East: Challenges and Opportunities
- o) Urbanization and Social Transformation in East Asia

## 6: MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

- a) Arab-Israeli Conflict: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
- b) Geopolitics of the Persian Gulf
- c) Governance and Political Systems in the Middle East
- d) Human Rights and Civil Society Movements in the Middle East
- e) Middle Eastern Media and Cultural Dynamics
- f) Peace Processes and Conflict Resolution in the Middle East
- g) Refugee Crises in the Middle East: Causes and Impacts
- h) Regional Organizations in the Middle East (e.g., GCC, Arab League)
- i) Sectarianism and Identity Politics in the Middle East
- j) The Arab Spring and Its Aftermath
- k) The Politics of Oil in the Middle East
- l) The Role of Religion in Middle Eastern Politics
- m) U.S. and Russian Policies in the Middle East
- n) Water Security and Environmental Challenges in the Middle East
- o) Women’s Rights and Gender Policies in the Middle East

## 7: RUSSIA, CENTRAL ASIA, AND CAUCASIAN STUDIES

- a) Case Studies in Conflict Resolution in Central Asia
- b) Central Asia's Connectivity with China's Belt and Road Initiative
- c) Economic Integration in the Eurasian Region
- d) Energy Politics in Russia and Central Asia
- e) Ethnic Conflicts and Identity Politics in the Caucasus
- f) Historical Legacies of the Soviet Union
- g) Human Rights and Civil Society in Russia and the Caucasus
- h) Islam and Politics in Central Asia
- i) Post-Soviet Transitions in Central Asia
- j) Regional Security Dynamics in the Caucasus
- k) Russia's Role in Global Power Rivalries
- l) Russian Foreign Policy and Global Influence
- m) Russian Media and Propaganda Strategies
- n) Russian-American Relations in the 21st Century
- o) Water Resource Management in Central Asia

## 8: SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

- a) Afghanistan and Regional Security in South Asia
- b) Case Studies in Foreign Policy of South Asian States
- c) China's Influence in South Asia
- d) Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in South Asia
- e) Ethnic Diversity and Political Systems in South Asia
- f) Gender and Governance in South Asia
- g) Human Rights and Development in South Asia
- h) India-Pakistan Relations: Historical and Contemporary Dynamics
- i) Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Challenges and Prospects
- j) Religious Movements and Their Impact on South Asian Politics
- k) The Geopolitics of River Basins in South Asia
- l) The Impact of Colonial Legacies in South Asia
- m) The Political Economy of South Asia
- n) The Role of SAARC in Regional Integration
- o) Urbanization and Social Change in South Asia

**CURRICULUM FOR  
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY  
(MPhil)  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

# MPhil INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in International Relations is structured in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 and is designed to provide students with a rigorous and in-depth understanding of advanced theories, concepts, and methodologies in the field of International Relations. The program will equip students with the analytical skills and research expertise necessary to critically examine and address complex global and regional challenges, bridging theoretical frameworks with practical applications. The program spans four semesters, combining core courses with a selection of advanced electives that facilitate specialization in various subfields of International Relations. Students will engage in independent research, culminating in a thesis, which enables them to contribute original insights to the academic and policy discourse. The research component is supported by advanced training in research methods, enabling students to design and conduct robust studies using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Throughout the program, students will enhance their ability to critically evaluate scholarly literature, apply theoretical frameworks to real-world scenarios, and produce research-driven solutions to global issues. They will also develop strong communication skills, enabling them to effectively present and disseminate their findings to both academic and policy-oriented audiences. The ultimate goal of the program is to prepare graduates for successful careers in academia, think tanks, policy-making institutions, international organizations, media, and other fields requiring expertise in International Relations.

## STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

To ensure uniformity, the standard nomenclature for all NQF level 7 qualifications in the field of International Relations shall be Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in International Relations.

## PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in International Relations, the graduates will be able to:

- a)** Demonstrate advanced knowledge of theories, concepts, and methodologies in International Relations, integrating interdisciplinary approaches to analyze and address complex regional and global issues..
- b)** Apply advanced analytical tools and research methodologies to critically evaluate international political, environmental, security and socio-economic dynamics, contributing innovative solutions to contemporary global challenges.
- c)** Conduct independent, original research in International Relations, critically engaging with scholarly literature and employing advanced research methods to generate insights that contribute to the academic and policy discourse.

- d) Effectively communicate complex ideas, research findings, and policy recommendations in International Relations, both orally and in writing, to diverse audiences, demonstrating clarity, coherence, and academic rigor.

## ELIGIBILITY & ADMISSION CRITERIA

- a) An undergraduate degree (involving 16 years of education) in International Relations or any of its fields / specializations is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in International Relations.
- b) Candidates having Interdisciplinary Qualifications (involving 16 years education) in a field other than International Relations are also allowed for admission to the program as per the criteria specified in HEC's Graduate Education Policy (GEP) 2023.
- c) The admitting university, in addition to the basic eligibility, is further required to conduct a rigorous admission test as an eligibility condition for admission to the program, with a passing score of 50% (OR) accept the GRE/HAT General/equivalent tests, with a passing score of 50%.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The NQF level 7 qualification in International Relations is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Graduate Education Policy (GEP) 2023. Standard structure of the program, as recommended by the NCRC in International Relation, is as under:

Credit Hours	Minimum 30
Course Work	Minimum 24 credit hours (8 courses)
Research Work / Thesis	Minimum 06 credit hours
Program Duration	<p>Degree shall be awarded by the universities after completion of 2 years or four (04) regular semesters. Maximum duration for award of the degree is four (04) years or eight (08) regular semesters, save exceptions mentioned below:</p> <p><b>Note:</b> In case a student is unable to secure an MS/MPhil within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of MS/MPhil degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons.</p>

Semester Duration	16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination)
Course Load (per semester)	09-12 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial/deficiency/failure/repetition courses only)
3 Credit Hours (Theory)	3 classes (1 hour each) <b>OR</b> 2 classes (1.5 hour each) <b>OR</b> 1 class (3 hours)
1 Credit Hours (Lab / Field Work)	1 credit hour in laboratory or practical work would require lab / field contact of three hours per week throughout the semester.

The standard scheme of studies for NQF level 7 qualification in International Relations is given below:

SEMESTER I			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Theories of International Relations *	3 (3-0)	Core
2	Research Methodology *	3 (3-0)	Core
3	Elective – I **	3 (3-0)	Elective
4	Elective – II **	3 (3-0)	Elective
Total Credits (12)			

SEMESTER II			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Elective – III **	3 (3-0)	Elective

1	Elective – IV **	3 (3-0)	Elective
2	Elective – V **	3 (3-0)	Elective
3	Elective – VI **	3 (3-0)	Elective
Total Credits (12)			

### SEMESTER III

S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Thesis ***	6	Research
Total Credits (6)			

### SEMESTER IV

S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Thesis ***	Conti.	Research

\* These are core mandatory courses for the program, irrespective of the area of specialization.

\*\* The university / offering department may offer any advanced course in the field of International Relations as an elective, where required as per available academic and faculty resources.

\*\*\* In line with HEC's Graduate Education Policy (GEP) 2023, in a case a degree is offered with research work, the university shall develop a policy regarding thesis defense and evaluation through its statutory body.

The above structure of the MPhil degree in International Relations is recommended by the NCRC (International Relations). While offering the MPhil (IR) program, the universities are required to comply with the guidelines and minimum requirements to award MS/MPhil/equivalent degrees (level 7), as prescribed in HEC's Graduate Education Policy (GEP)- 2023.

## DEGREE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements are prescribed by the NCRC (IR) for award of NQF level 7 qualification in International Relations:

- a)** Minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours including six (06) credit hours for core courses and eighteen (18) credit hours for electives as prescribed in this policy must be completed.
- b)** In addition to coursework of twenty-four (24) credit hours, research work / thesis of minimum six (06) credit hours must also be completed individually as partial fulfilment of the degree program. The credits for research work / thesis may be increased beyond six (06) credit hours provided that the same is approved by the university's statutory bodies.
- c)** CGPA must not be below 2.50/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may however set higher standard in this regard.
- d)** The minimum duration required to complete the degree is 4 regular semesters which may be extended up to maximum of eight 8 regular semesters. Summer / winter semester is not considered as a regular semester.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**(BS and MPhil)**

Arranged in Alphabetical Order

# Course Learning Outcomes (BS Program)

## Arranged in Alphabetical Order

### a) Academic Writing & Research Methods

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of research design, methodology, and methods as applied in social sciences, particularly in International Relations.
- Develop coherent and well-structured academic writings, including essays, reports, and research proposals, following academic conventions.
- Apply basic research skills, including data collection, analysis, and proper citation practices, to produce academically sound work.

### b) Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain key concepts and historical developments in arms control and disarmament.
- Analyze the effectiveness of treaties and agreements aimed at reducing armaments.
- Evaluate contemporary challenges to global arms control and non-proliferation initiatives.

### c) Foreign Policies of Major Powers

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the foreign policies of major powers.
- Examine the factors influencing these policies, including domestic and international dynamics.
- Assess the impact of these policies on regional & global stability.

### d) Conflict Management & Resolution

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key principles and strategies for managing and resolving conflicts.
- Apply conflict resolution techniques such as mediation, negotiation, reconciliation etc.
- Analyze peace processes and their outcomes.

### e) Defense and Strategic Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand fundamental concepts of defense and strategic studies.
- Analyze the role of military strategies in achieving national security objectives.
- Assess the impact of evolving global security dynamics on defense policies.

## f) Diplomacy

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the fundamental principles and practices of diplomacy.
- Analyze the role of diplomacy in international relations and conflict resolution.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the tools and techniques used by diplomats.
- Apply negotiation and mediation skills in simulated international scenarios.

## g) Foreign Policy Analysis

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key decision-making models and frameworks for analyzing foreign policy choices.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy decisions.
- Apply these frameworks to assess the foreign policies of various states.

## h) Foreign Policy of Pakistan

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the historical evolution of Pakistan's foreign policy.
- Analyze the factors shaping Pakistan's foreign relations, including internal and external determinants.
- Evaluate the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's foreign policy.

## i) Geo-Political Structure of the World

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the geographical and political factors shaping global power dynamics.
- Analyze the role of geography in influencing international relations.
- Assess contemporary geopolitical challenges and their implications for global stability.

## j) Globalization and International Relations

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the key dimensions of globalization and their impact on international relations.
- Analyze the interplay between globalization and state sovereignty.
- Evaluate the challenges and opportunities globalization presents for international cooperation.

## k) International Political Economy

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the various perspectives and approaches of international political economy.
- Analyze the role of trade, investment, and financial institutions in shaping global politics and economic policies.
- Evaluate the role of international financial regimes.

## l) International Law

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the foundational principles and sources of international law.
- Analyze the role of international legal frameworks in resolving disputes.
- Evaluate the challenges of enforcing international law in a globalized world.

## m) Global Politics of Environment

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key environmental issues and debates influencing international politics.
- Analyze the role of international agreements and organizations in addressing climate challenges.
- Evaluate the political and economic dimensions of global environmental governance.

## n) International Relations: 1648–1945

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the major developments in International Relations from the Peace of Westphalia to World War II.
- Analyze the role of colonialism, industrialization, and the world wars in shaping global politics.
- Evaluate the emergence of key international institutions during this period.

## o) International Relations Since 1945

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the evolution of international relations in the post-World War II era.
- Analyze the impact of the Cold War, globalization, and regionalism on global politics.
- Evaluate the changing roles of major powers and international organizations.

## p) Introduction to International Relations

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand foundational concepts and theories of international relations.
- Analyze the role of states and non-state actors in global politics.
- Assess the impact of contemporary challenges on the international system.

## q) Nuclear Studies

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the fundamental principles of nuclear science and the historical evolution of nuclear weapons and energy.
- Analyze the implications of nuclear proliferation and disarmament on global security and stability.
- Evaluate international frameworks, treaties, and institutions governing nuclear weapons and energy, including their challenges and effectiveness.

### r) Regional and International Organizations

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the roles and functions of regional and international organizations.
- Analyze the impact of organizations on global governance.
- Evaluate the challenges faced by organizations in addressing global issues.

### s) Regional Connectivity

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the key components and objectives of regional connectivity initiatives.
- Analyze the economic and geopolitical implications of economic corridors for Pakistan and the region.
- Evaluate the role of regional connectivity in fostering international cooperation.

### t) Theories of International Relations

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the major theories of International Relations.
- Apply theories to analyze global politics.
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of theoretical frameworks in understanding International Relations.

## Course Learning Outcomes (MPhil Program)

### a) Research Methodology

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop comprehensive research designs, utilizing advanced qualitative and quantitative methodologies suitable for research in International Relations.
- Apply critical analytical tools to evaluate and interpret complex social science data.
- Formulate independent research proposals, integrating advanced research techniques and ethical considerations.

### b) Theories of International Relations

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze classical, modern, and contemporary theories of International Relations.
- Apply theoretical frameworks to assess global and regional political phenomena.
- Evaluate the relevance and limitations of existing theories in addressing contemporary international challenges.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of global governance mechanisms in addressing contemporary international challenges.

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**  
**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**