


College of Arts, Celtic Studies
and Social Sciences

THE SCHOOL OF
HISTORY



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



**MA in International
Relations**

www.ucc.ie/en/cke45/



Join us to explore the past, understand the present, and shape your future.

MA in International Relations

The MA in International Relations is a taught one-year (or two year part-time) programme. It focuses on the challenges faced by peoples and governments during international transformation. That includes conflict, cooperation and peace, as well as power competition and power shifts. The programme includes:

- A comprehensive induction into IR and conflict/peace studies with modules on terrorism, conflict, contemporary issues, international history, foreign policy and theory.
- A judicious combination of the study of the contemporary world with history.
- A deep staff base of international repute specialising in international history and politics for 30 years.
- A work placement option and the possibility to participate in international simulation exercises (NATO, humanitarian operations etc.)
- An opportunity to pursue a dissertation and develop advanced research, analytical and writing skills.

The MA has a proven appeal. It attracts a mix of students from national, cultural and academic backgrounds. It is also available to suitable applicants from non-History or non-Politics backgrounds.

High-calibre graduates progress to gain employment in diverse areas including diplomacy, academia, education, law, government and business.

Dr Mervyn O'Driscoll
mervyn.odriscoll@ucc.ie
Course Coordinator
School of History

“STIMULATING”, “exciting” and “quick” are words commonly used by graduates of this MA. This flagship programme has graduated over 350 since 1999.

Programme Structure

The **MA in International Relations** is a one-year Master's programme with both taught (Part I) and research (Part II) components. The taught and research components of the course have equal weighting in terms of assessment. Parts I and II must be passed separately.

The programme has two main phases: a teaching phase running from September-March and a research phase that begins in September but is concentrated in April-September.

The deadline for submission of the 2000 word research project proposal will be arranged annually,

In the second teaching period students should be in a position to give a detailed presentation on the subject of their research and their findings so far. The second phase of the course is devoted entirely to the preparation of a c.20,000 word dissertation for submission.



The Taught Modules

The taught component of the MA consists of 45 credits as follows:

35 credits of compulsory modules:

HI6092: International Relations Theories and Approaches, 10 credits

HI6026: US Foreign Policy and Contemporary History, 10 credits

HI6035: Foreign Policy and Diplomacy: Case Studies in Crises and Decision-making, 10 credits

HI6056: Issues in World Politics, 5 credits Students also take 10 credits of:

HI6045: War and Peace: the European State System from 1648 to 1990, 10 credits

HI6060: The Politics of Terrorism, 10 credits

HI6063: Work Placement and Portfolio, 10 credits

LW6633: Public International Law, 5 credits &

LW6566: Contemporary issues in Public International Law, 5 credits

GV6115 European Security, 10 credits



Module Descriptions

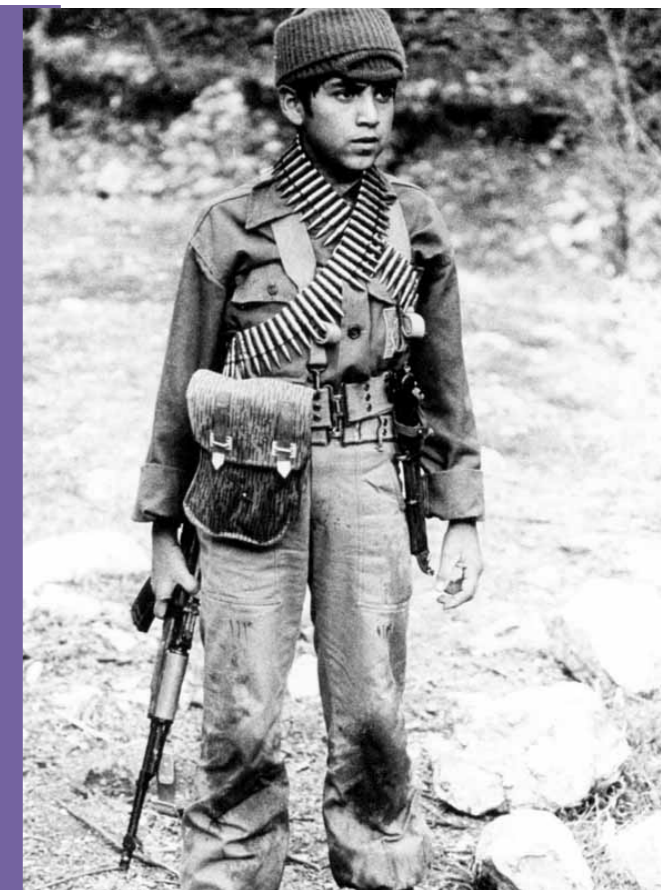
HI6092 International Relations Theories and Approaches (10 credits)

Lecturer: Dr M O'Driscoll.

This module examines major theories of, and controversies surrounding, International Relations. It also introduces historical approaches to assist in the development and evaluation of IR theory.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 4,000 word essay: 150 marks; seminar presentation, including summative report, and participation: 50 marks)

Timetable: Semester 1





HI6045 War and Peace: the European State System from 1648 to 1990 (10 credits)

Lecturer: Dr Detmar Klein & Dr Jerome aan de Wiel

This course explores the development of the European state system from the Thirty Years War to the end of the Cold War. It analyses the origins and resolutions of major European conflicts. Students learn to think conceptually and historically about International Relations.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: In-class test 100 marks (2 hours in duration); Continuous Assessment 100 marks (3,000 word critique/essay).

Timetable: Semester 2



HI6026 US Foreign Policy and Contemporary History (10 credits)

Lecturer: Professor David Ryan

This module examines the history of contemporary US foreign policy. It analyses key issues in the history of US foreign policy during the Cold War and after. It engages with the primary concerns in the superpower relationship, regional alliances, challenges to the United States in the form of nationalism, revolutionary movements, and more recent forms particularly in the Middle East. The module proceeds to investigate a range of contemporary concerns and issues.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 2,000 word conceptual essay: 75 marks; 1 x 4,000 word essay: 100 marks; seminar participation: 25 marks).

Timetable: Semester 1



HI6035 Foreign Policy and Diplomacy: Case Studies in Crises and Decision making (10 credits)

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Mervyn O'Driscoll

This module analyses how governments make and implement foreign policy. It introduces the contributions that history, International Relations and models of foreign policy analysis make to the examination of national foreign policies, decision-making and international crises. Diverse national case studies and international crises are examined using documentary evidence.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 4,000 word essay: 125 marks; document-based exam: 75 marks).

Timetable: Semester 2





HI6063 Work Placement and Portfolio (10 credits)

Module Co-ordinator (acting):

Dr Mervyn O'Driscoll.

Teaching Methods: 140 hr(s)
Placements (Internship, Preparation sessions and self-reflection).

Students will participate a work placement or internship with a minimum of 140 hours of engagement on placement and completing the preparation and assessment components. The placement can be paid or unpaid, or supported by external funding (e.g. Erasmus), and can occur in a variety of relevant campus, local, national or international settings.



HI6056 Issues in World Politics (5 credits)

Lecturer: Dr David Fitzgerald

Teaching Methods: 24 x 1hr(s) Seminars; Directed Study (Associated readings and presentations).

In the first term the seminar will provide a weekly forum for the discussion of major issues and controversies in contemporary world politics. All students will contribute to discussion of selected texts.

In the second term the seminar will be mainly devoted to student presentations on their dissertation research and the exploration of research techniques and strategies.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment 100 marks (class participation: 20 marks; student presentation: 20 marks; 1 x 2,000 word Research Project's Proposal: 60 marks).

Timetable: Semester 1 & 2



HI6060 The Politics of Terrorism (10 credits)

Lecturer: Dr John Borgonovo; Dr David Fitzgerald

This module investigates the historical basis of terrorism. It will analyse the many examples of terrorism in an Irish, European and International context as well as examining the ideological, political and social basis of terrorist action. The module will be examined through a variety of seminars, readings, original documents and multi-media presentations including DVD documentaries.

Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 4,000 word essay - 150 marks; Seminar participation and presentation - 50 marks).

Timetable: Semester 2



The Dissertation

The dissertation may be on any feasible topic within the broad subject area of International Relations, including International History. Preparation to undertake the dissertation commences from arrival on the programme annually.

Preliminary reading, research and discussions with staff commence immediately in light of the centrality of the MA dissertation to the overall MA. 50% of the final grade you will receive for your MA will be determined by your dissertation performance.

The MA taught module loading is lower than that pre-vailing at the BA level for good reason. This enables steady and substantial progress throughout the entire 12 months duration of the programme. Students are advised to approach individual lecturers within four weeks of the start of the academic year with a fixed and developed research idea to discuss feasibility, research timetables, literature etc.

Staff possess ample postgraduate supervisory experience so maintain regular contact with students, but ensure that you always complete the necessary groundwork required before you meet members of staff.

All class members are required to produce a detailed 2,000 word research proposal by December. In the second teaching period students will deliver a presentation on the subject of their research and their findings so far (as part of HI6056 – see above).

Students will be formally allocated an individual supervisor early in the second teaching period. Your supervisor will provide guidance on researching and writing the dissertation. All dissertations will be examined by an external as well as an internal examiner.



Library Resources

Detailed reading lists will be issued for each course by the relevant lecturers. UCC library has a reasonable selection of the general IR literature together with more specific texts on individual states and institutions. A good place to start is section 327 on Q+1 (but note that relevant literature may be found in other sections as well).

Relevant periodicals subscribed to by the library include: Review of International Studies, International Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Security, The International History Review, Strategic Studies, Survival, The World Today, World Politics, Millennium and Irish Studies in International Affairs.

A highly recommended record of world political developments is Keesing's Record of World Events - also available in the library.

The Economist is also a very useful source on current international affairs and carries many valuable supplements on the global economy and other subjects.

Note: An introduction to using UCC library and its resources will be provided as part of the general postgraduate seminar.

A number of very useful databases are subscribed to by the UCC Library.



Official Publications/ Robert Schuman EDC, Law Section, UCC Library

The library's European Documentation Centre is an official repository for EU documents and publications. Associated with it is an Official Publications section which has holdings of the publications of various governments and of international organisations such as the UN, the OECD, the CE and the IBRD. Published collections of American, British, French and Irish foreign policy documents are also predominantly available here.

NOTE: The OPC/EDC has its own and valuable list of official sources.

School of History Administrative Support

Postgraduate matters and general administration are taken care of by Ms Deidre O'Sullivan and Ms Geraldine McAllister in the main history administrative office, Ground Floor, Tyrconnell, UCC.

Email: Deirdre@ucc.ie

Tel: 021 4902755



The Language Centre

UCC's Language Centre offers students introductory, intermediate and advanced courses in a number of European languages. Available also are self-study materials, tapes, videos, instructional booklets - for a variety of foreign languages.

The History/IR Staff

Dr Jerome aan de Wiel specializes in modern Irish and European History, with a wide knowledge of West European languages. J.AandeWiel@ucc.ie

Dr John Borgonovo specializes in modern Irish history, the Irish Revolution and terrorism. But he has wide interests in maritime history, Northern Ireland, and US History. J.Borgonovo@ucc.ie

Dr David Fitzgerald, specialist in American military and foreign policy with a particular interest in counterinsurgency warfare, 'small wars' and relations between the military, culture and society. D.Fitzgerald@ucc.ie

Dr Detmar Klein works on topics relating to 19th & 20th century French and German history, with a special emphasis on Alsace, Franco-German relations and issues of national identity. D.Klein@ucc.ie

Dr Mervyn O'Driscoll (MA co-ordinator) specializes in nuclear history/politics, integration and Irish foreign policy. Interests in small states, Anglo-American relations, 20th century international history, IR theory and strategy. m.odriscoll@ucc.ie

Professor David Ryan, specialist in contemporary history, American history and US foreign policy concentrating on the interventions in the post-Vietnam era, including Central America, Angola, Vietnam, and the Middle East amongst other places. David.ryan@ucc.ie





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Application Information

MA International Relations

Code: MAINTR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the MA in International Relations programme, an applicant will normally possess a Second Class Honours Grade I in a primary honours degree (NFQ, Level 8) or equivalent in a suitable subject. Second Class Honours Grade II may also be considered.

Find out more

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