English Language Study Programmes

Institute of Political Studies
Faculty of Social Sciences
Charles University in Prague

Geopolitical Studies (GPS)

Programme Duration: 2 years
Language of Instruction: English
Academic Supervisor: Dr. Michael Romancov
Programme Coordinator: Dr. Martin Riegl martin.riegl@fsv.cuni.cz
Admission Administration: admissions@fsv.cuni.cz

Why study Geopolitics?

Resource Wars, Identity Conflicts, Disinformation, Geostrategic Rivalries, Global Power Shift and increasing number of non-state actors, among others make it difficult to analyse contemporary international relations.

Why study Geoeconomics?

Currency Wars, Economic Diplomacy, Competitive Intelligence, Economic Warfare, Indirect Strategies and State Capitalism are among the various factors impacting increasingly contemporary power rivalries.

Why choose this programme?

Highly focused on employability – outside speakers will provide networking opportunities. The programme includes discussions with experts outside the academy. The class offers an advanced grounding in geopolitics and security while allowing you to specialize in issues and themes of interest to you. There is a strong emphasis on skills development especially communication.
"At some point of life I have realized that modern political structures (sub-national, national, international) depended fundamentally on geographic space. So I enrolled in Charles University's GPS program. At the beginning I did not know exactly what to focus on, so I appreciated great variety of issues, regions, and time periods covered in compulsory and elective classes. The multidisciplinary nature of the curriculum also allowed me to learn the basics of disciplines that are closely related to geopolitics – economics, regionalism, international relations, area-specific and security studies, history and sociology. Consulting ideas with programme instructors and other members of IPS made me stop being afraid of posing difficult questions and inspired me to acquire practical capabilities in geopolitical analysis at the International Centre for Geopolitical Studies (Geneva). Geopolitics is now my scientific specialization...Thanks to GPS program!"

**Mgr. Irina Valko**

former student of the Geopolitical Studies programme

"My experience from the studies of the GPS programme are mostly positive. Thanks to the availability of experts on the most of the world regions, I was able to receive important and interesting information about ongoing processes all over the globe while receiving theoretical background which aided me with proper tools to analyse any given situation from the geopolitical perspective. Another advantage of the programme is in its location on the Charles University, which as a huge institution provides possibility to find an expert opinion on any specialized topic any student would need to help with even outside the Institute of Political Studies. I must recommend this degree to anyone interested in the world around and in knowing how space matters."

**Mgr. Bohumil Doboš**

former student of the Geopolitical Studies programme

"The decision to come to Prague, Czech republic, to do a Masters in Geopolitical studies for me did not come lightly. My inherent interest in political geography, coupled with a family link to political affairs in one of the most tumultuous geopolitical regions at the end of the twentieth century—the Balkans,made the choice of Charles University a top pick for me. The width of the offered courses ranging from the analysis of theoretical approaches of the international political system to the particulars of certain crisis regions on the global map, the strong emphasis on personal and group research gave me the freedom to pursue my own line of work on the study of nationalism, while at the same time receiving a huge breadth of examples from the global system to compare and analyze. Today I find myself applying to work for the UN, with strong theoretical background to lean on, as well as a confidence that arises from my previous studies at FSS CU."

**Mgr. Damjan Malbašič**

former student of the Geopolitical Studies programme

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**Admission requirements**

- Bachelors degree
- English language proficiency (both written and oral)
Applicants to the GPS Programme may come from a variety of undergraduate backgrounds. It is not necessary to have studied political science, international relations or geopolitics. Admission may be granted also to students whose previous studies were in the humanities, economy, law or even technical or natural sciences. Although a background in political science and related sub-disciplines is not formally required for admission, it is an advantage for GPS applicants to have an aptitude for political science.

All students must have a good command of the English language in order to successfully complete all the course requirements, including the ability to discuss specialised topics. Our tutors will not be concerned only with what students know but they will also care about the clarity of their thinking, the capacity of explaining ideas in the public, how well you are able to work in teams and to absorb or expand new knowledge in the social sciences. They will seek evidence of students’ interest in social and political issues and their ability to discuss them critically. If you like reading Foreign Affairs of watt Fareed Zakaria GPS or BBC HARDtalk, you are a prospective programme applicant. If you have not tried yet, please do so and test your aptitude to the social phenomena of this study.

Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the GPS programme is 3 000 EUR per semester, which can be reduced in the closing stages of the study to 300 EUR. Tuition covers the costs of studying at Charles University, sitting examinations and participating in international student exchanges. There are also scholarships and bursary funding available.

Curriculum of GPS programme (valid for 2016/2017)

- Geopolitics and Geostrategy
- Geography and Politics in Europe
- The Sovereign State and Quasi-States
- Political Risk Analysis
- EU-China Relations
- Theories of International Relations
- Geopolitics of Asia
- Geopolitics of Latin America
- Geopolitics of the Middle East
The traditional Master's degree (Mgr., Czech equivalent to M.A.) is awarded to those students who have acquired at least 120 credits in the GPS programme, defended their Master Thesis and successfully passed the final State Examinations from political geography, political science and other social disciplines.

Please find more information at Geopolitical Studies website. There are also information available in Russian and Chinese.