

**Postgraduate  
doctoral study**



University of Zadar



Libertas International University

Joint Doctoral  
programme  
**INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**  
**Guide**

Zadar, 2018

**Joint Doctoral programme  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
Guide**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The joint postgraduate doctoral programme of *International Relations* resulted from a continued cooperation between University of Zadar and Libertas International University in Zagreb, which has been in effect for a number of years through the joint graduate study programme of *International Relations and Diplomacy*.

The focus on international relations has been assessed reasonable by both institutions due to the need to promote human rights, economic and ecological issues, politics and history, as well as the status of small and big countries in the globalisation processes, schooling and education, terrorism, wars and violence, along with other threats to humanity and human dignity. This is why the doctoral programme of *International Relations* is an interdisciplinary programme with expectations of scientific achievements that will provide theoretical and practical contributions of national and international significance.

In accordance with contemporary educational, teaching and studying standards, the doctoral students will assume an active research role during the study programme, develop critical theoretical approach and thinking, gain the ability to provide scientific arguments, understand and effectively implement research methodology, as well as use written and oral scientific discourse. They will acquire professional scientific ethics, especially ethical scientific interpretation.

Since the quality of a doctoral programme presumes a clear organisation and studying standards, the universities bring forth a joint Guide on the study programme organisation, enrolment conditions, studying methods, rights and obligations of teachers, associates, part-time associates, doctoral students and mentors, and on the elaboration and defence of the doctoral dissertation on this doctoral programme.

Doctoral programme director

Damir Mladić

## II. STUDY PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND OUTCOMES

The objectives of the joint postgraduate doctoral programme of International Relations are to incite the development of an interdisciplinary approach to international relations, provide new knowledge in the field of international relations and ensure the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct successful and responsible scientific research.

International relations consist of a range of complex phenomena that would hardly be understood without an interdisciplinary approach. Contemporary issues, from reconstruction of societies that have endured conflicts and the creation of markets in emerging economies, to the analysis of terrorist threats and promotion of human rights, exceed the limits of a single discipline. The common denominator of all contemporary challenges lies in the multitude of relationships among history, politics, economy, social relations, culture and education, which need to be comprehended in order to face them effectively. These changes have caused the need for deeper and broader understanding of international relations. The doctoral programme of *International Relations* will provide the doctoral students with knowledge, competencies and practical skills necessary to achieve an academic career or a career requiring an in-depth knowledge of international relations.

The postgraduate doctoral programme of *International Relations* has been conceptualised with the objective to educate highly qualified research scientists in the field of international relations, who exhibit knowledge and skills necessary to deal with the complexities of the modern international environment. The doctoral students will acquire analytic tools of international relations, international business and diplomacy, essential to comprehensively understand global challenges.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The doctoral programme of *International Relations* is based on the principles of:

- ▶ quality of research and scientific approach
- ▶ professional and research ethics
- ▶ observance of human rights
- ▶ flexibility

These principles are the preconditions to achieve further tendencies of both higher education institutions, which comprise a creation of a network of higher education institutions, scientific institutions, diplomatic missions and economic entities abroad, aimed at interconnecting scientific potentials within the European scientific research environment.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

The doctoral students are educated for scientific and scientific-teaching work in the fields of social sciences and interdisciplinary social sciences with emphasis on researching global and international phenomena from a political, social, diplomatic, ethical, legal, organisational and corporate aspect.

Upon completion of the doctoral programme, and elaboration and defence of the doctoral dissertation the doctoral students will be able to:

- ▶ interpret and critically contemplate theories of international relations and diplomacy
- ▶ compare and critically interpret issues in the field of international relations, diplomacy and international business
- ▶ list the most significant research in the fields of international relations, diplomacy and international business
- ▶ adequately use categoric research concepts in the fields of international relations, diplomacy and international business
- ▶ postulate, formulate, explain and operationalise issues in the fields of international relations, diplomacy and international business
- ▶ demonstrate the ability to conceptualise, design, implement and adapt the process of scientific research
- ▶ demonstrate the ability to collect and process data relevant for scientific research in the area of social sciences
- ▶ formulate a scientific hypothesis and use methods of proving and disproving scientific hypotheses in the field of international relations
- ▶ autonomously and independently research issues of international relations in the broadest sense and publish original research results
- ▶ participate in scientific research team work and conceptualise new scientific-research projects in the fields of international relations, diplomacy and international business
- ▶ critically analyse, evaluate and synthesize new and complex research ideas on international phenomena
- ▶ apply fundamental indicators related to diplomacy trends
- ▶ apply knowledge in foreign affairs to suggest strategies in specific situations
- ▶ demonstrate the ability to communicate and negotiate on a diplomatic level
- ▶ apply knowledge in the area of diplomatic skills in development of a country
- ▶ interpret and critically contemplate the globalisation phenomenon from a political, ethical, economic and social aspect
- ▶ analyse the political and social significance of international and national security

- ▶ connect global trends with the situation in Croatia and predict new trends in diplomacy, international relations and international business
- ▶ use logic, theories, concepts and functions of existing international institutions and international organisations
- ▶ critically and theoretically contemplate the dynamic role of international institutions in international politics and its consequences on countries and citizens
- ▶ connect and synthesize knowledge in various approaches to international and global phenomena
- ▶ identify ethical issues in the fields of international relations, diplomacy and international business, and apply ethical contemplation and argumentation
- ▶ publish scientific papers in accordance with scientific and professional standards
- ▶ disseminate scientific knowledge and use scientific arguments to communicate with colleagues, the broader scientific community and wider social environment in their disciplines of international relations, diplomacy and international business

The doctoral students are encouraged to participate in mobility and to choose a mentor from a cooperating institution. Likewise, through personal recommendations of heads of study courses, the doctoral students are able to visit other higher education institutions, diplomatic missions, as well as foreign companies and institutions.

### III. STUDY PROGRAMME ORGANISATION

The postgraduate doctoral programme of *International Relations* is a joint programme of Libertas International University in Zagreb and University of Zadar. The bearer of the study programme is the University of Zadar, and the co-deliverer is Libertas International University in Zagreb.

The Council of the doctoral programme of *International Relations* coordinates the functioning of the programme as regards the teaching, scientific and procedural activities of teachers, mentors (co-mentors) and doctoral students. The Office for Postgraduate Studies of the University of Zadar performs administrative and organisational tasks related to the anticipated procedures and delivery of the programme. The document *Overview of the Procedures and Expert Bodies Authorised for Decision Making*<sup>1</sup> describes the procedure of decision making, as well as the authority of specific bodies in making decisions related to the study programme.

<sup>1</sup> University in Zadar. Office for Postgraduate Studies. *Overview of the Procedures and Expert Bodies Authorised for Decision Making* [http://www.unizd.hr/Portals/0/sluzba\\_pds/PDS\\_procedure\\_ENG\\_3.pdf](http://www.unizd.hr/Portals/0/sluzba_pds/PDS_procedure_ENG_3.pdf)



## IV. DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

### DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The doctoral programme of *International Relations* is a programme structured in semesters, i.e. years of study. The programme lasts for three years or six semesters. Upon successful completion of the programme doctoral students obtain an academic degree of *Doctor of Science*, with the full title of *Doctor of Social Sciences, field of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*.

Due to the complexity of the phenomenon of international relations with an interdisciplinary approach, the doctoral students are expected to be familiar with various fields in the area of social sciences. This is why the first year of study comprises core introductory courses aimed at familiarising doctoral students with the fields of social sciences that they are not acquainted with. It consists of eight courses, four in each semester.

The second year of study focuses on research seminars, when the doctoral students have a free choice of research topics and mentors, in accordance with their own research interests. Since it is an interdisciplinary study programme, the students have the opportunity to choose from elective topics and are directed towards their own field of interest, and are enabled for research and writing scientific papers. Furthermore, the doctoral students are expected to present two of their seminar papers on joint doctoral conferences, whereby they are provided with the opportunity to present their scientific research to other doctoral students and professors.

The third year is focused on the elaboration of the doctoral dissertation under the guidance of a mentor (co-mentor).

Doctoral students' obligations through years of study	ECTS
<b>First year of study</b> Teaching and learning activities – with theoretical and research approach – introductory lectures	60
<b>Second year of study</b> Scientific and research activity – group dynamics among teachers and doctoral students; gaining independence in scientific and research activity; research methodology; doctoral conferences; communication with potential mentors; writing and presenting research seminar papers; writing and publishing scientific papers; elaboration and defence of the topic (synopsis) of the dissertation..	60
<b>Third year of study</b> Mentoring activity – research and elaboration of the dissertation; presenting at conferences, participation in symposiums, seminars, workshops and round tables.	60

## DURATION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The duration of the doctoral programme ensures an optimal studying time to each doctoral student, regulated by the studying agreement upon the enrolment in the programme. This means that from enrolment to the completion of the study programme the deliverer of the programme ensures its duration at least two years after the stipulated completion of the programme. The study programme is enrolled full time (doctoral students in academic institutions and scientific institutes) or part time (all other candidates, employed or unemployed). If a doctoral student does not complete the study programme within the period of six years (full-time students), or eight years (part-time students), they lose the doctoral student status. The continuation or completion of the doctoral programme is regulated by the Ordinance on Postgraduate Study Programmes of the University of Zadar.

## V. STUDYING PROGRESS AND CONDITIONS FOR ADVANCEMENT TO A HIGHER YEAR

The postgraduate doctoral programme of International Relations lasts for at least three years and ends with the defence of doctoral dissertation. The programme is structured in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and is permanently coordinated with it. For each year of study, the doctoral student is required to achieve 60 ECTS credits, i.e. a minimum of 180 ECTS credits upon completion of the programme. ECTS credits are obtained by passing core exams, positively assessed seminar papers and participations in doctoral conferences, as well as by completing obligations during elaboration and defence of the synopsis and the elaboration and defence of the doctoral dissertation. The study courses and obligations are allocated through semesters as follows:

### *Studying progress and doctoral students' obligations – 1<sup>st</sup> year of study*

1 <sup>st</sup> semester		ECTS
	Lectures in core courses:	
	1. International Relations	8
	2. Research Methodology	6
	3. Diplomacy	8
	4. Globalisation	8
	Presentations of fields of interest by part of teachers as potential mentors; provision of possible research topics and areas that doctoral students can choose as their field of work.	

### Conditions for advancement into 2<sup>nd</sup> semester:

- ▶ attendance in all course lectures of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester

2 <sup>nd</sup> semester		ECTS
	Lectures in core courses: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic Diplomacy</li> <li>2. International Security</li> <li>3. International Business</li> <li>4. International Institutions</li> </ol>	8 8 8 6
	Presentations of fields of interest by part of teachers as potential mentors; provision of possible research topics and areas that doctoral students can choose as their field of work.	
	Doctoral students choose their mentor and field of research in accordance with their scientific preferences.	
<b>Conditions for advancement into 3<sup>rd</sup> semester:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ attendance in all course lectures of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester</li> <li>▶ at least two exams passed from 1<sup>st</sup> semester courses</li> </ul>		

### *Studying progress and doctoral students' obligations – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study*

3 <sup>rd</sup> semester		ECTS
	Doctoral students are required to write two research seminars on a chosen topic (Seminar 1 and Seminar 2) under the guidance of selected mentors. In one semester, the student needs to choose two different mentors for each seminar paper. A mentor assesses the seminar papers formatively with „obligation completed“.	30
	The end of semester marks a doctoral conference No.1 at which the doctoral student presents one of the two research seminar papers (Seminar 1 and Seminar 2) that they have done during the semester under the guidance of a mentor.	
	Applying for and approval of mentor for elaboration of the dissertation and approximate topic of dissertation (depending on the topic, a co-mentor may be appointed to the doctoral student)	
<b>Conditions for advancement into 4<sup>th</sup> semester:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ all course exams passed from the 1<sup>st</sup> semester</li> <li>▶ at least two course exams passed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester</li> <li>▶ positively assessed at least one research seminar paper from the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester</li> <li>▶ approved mentor and approximate dissertation topic</li> </ul>		

<b>4<sup>th</sup> semester</b>	<p>The doctoral student is required to write two research seminar papers on a chosen topic (Seminar 3 and Seminar 4) under the guidance of selected mentors. In one semester, the student needs to choose two different mentors for each seminar paper. A mentor assesses the seminar papers formatively with „obligation completed“.</p> <p>The end of semester marks a doctoral conference No. 2 at which the doctoral student presents one of the two research seminar papers (Seminar 3 and Seminar 4) that they have done during the semester under the guidance of a mentor.</p> <p>Elaboration of the dissertation synopsis through counselling with the mentor. The synopsis integrates theoretical concepts and research strategies with research methods and provides framework of the draft of the dissertation.</p> <p>Defence of the dissertation synopsis (defence of topic).</p>	<b>ECTS</b> 30
<p><b>Conditions for advancement into 5<sup>th</sup> semester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ all course exams from 1<sup>st</sup> semester passed</li> <li>▶ positively assessed two research seminar papers from 2<sup>nd</sup> year</li> <li>▶ participation in at least one doctoral conference</li> <li>▶ successful defence of dissertation synopsis</li> </ul>		

### *Studying progress and doctoral students' obligations – 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study*

<b>5<sup>th</sup> semester</b>	<p>Working with the mentor (research and elaboration of the dissertation).</p> <p>Consulting with teachers of the doctoral programme, if necessary.</p>	<b>ECTS</b> 30
<p><b>Conditions for advancement into 6<sup>th</sup> semester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ positively assessed all four seminar papers</li> <li>▶ participation in two doctoral conferences</li> <li>▶ mentor's signature evidencing the student's completion of obligations related to elaboration of dissertation and participation in consultations with the mentor (and co-mentor)</li> </ul>		

6 <sup>th</sup> semester	<p>Working with the mentor.</p> <p>From the start of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester till the end of the Doctoral programme:</p> <p>Elaboration of the final draft of the dissertation;</p> <p>Certification by mentor's signature that the doctoral dissertation is ready to be submitted to the Committee that reviews the dissertation.</p> <p>Mentor's signature verifying the completion of semester's obligations.</p>	<p>ECTS</p> <p>30</p>
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Besides passing core course exams, research activities related to seminar papers and elaboration of dissertation synopsis, defence of the synopsis and elaboration of the dissertation during years 2 and 3 of the study programme, doctoral students are continuously encouraged to publish scientific papers in relevant journals, participate in scientific conferences, as well as other extracurricular activities valued by the Doctoral Programme Council, which assigns credits distributed to the four semesters of year 2 and 3 of the study programme.

In assigning credits for extracurricular activities the following is taken into consideration: publication or review of scientific and professional papers, conference communication paper, scientific and professional monographs, editing or translation of scientific and professional papers, active participation in scientific gatherings and summer schools, active participation in domestic and international (competitive) scientific-research and professional projects, teaching at higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia or abroad, performing administrative or professional work within higher education or scientific institutions that direct doctoral students toward a career of university professors or researchers.

The crediting of extracurricular activities does not affect the conditions set in the agreement between the doctoral student and the higher education institution.

The decision on recognising extracurricular activities of the doctoral student is brought by the Doctoral Programme Council, to which the doctoral student has submitted the request for recognition of credits. In making a decision the Council consults with the doctoral student's teachers and mentor.

The acceleration of the progress of studying is possible in the way that extracurricular activities are recognised as obligatory studying obligations. The following obligations are exempt from recognition with the purpose of acceleration: core courses, application for and approval of mentor and approximate dissertation topic, elaboration and defence of synopsis, consultations and work with the mentor on the elaboration of the dissertation.

Upon enrolment in the study programme, previously acquired competences and/or ECTS credits achieved at a postgraduate study programme (outside or within the Bologna process) may be recognised. The Doctoral Programme Council decides on the recognition of ECTS credits and the semester for which enrolment is approved.

## VI. TEACHING PROCESS

The programme is delivered mainly in the Croatian language, but it can also be in English. The advancement of doctoral students is administratively recorded through semesters (grading of students' success, recording the completion of their obligations, verification and enrolment). The teaching and learning activities are performed at the premises of Libertas University in Zagreb. The teaching process is implemented through various aspects and educational methods, with the use of adequate teaching tools.

Along with eight core courses (making up one third of the total of ECTS credits), the focus of the study programme is on an intensive individual and mentoring work. During the doctoral programme, the doctoral students are included in the scientific and research activities, work on research seminar papers and scientific papers, as well as presenting at doctoral conferences and symposiums. The participants in the teaching process are heads of study courses, course associates, part-time associates, mentors and co-mentors.

The defence of the synopsis and of the doctoral dissertation is organised in the premises of Libertas International University in Zagreb.

### RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

A doctoral student is required to participate in the teaching and learning process and complete their obligations within the specified timeframe and deadlines during the course of the teaching process. A doctoral student is required to complete the study programme within the longest time frame of six years (full-time students) or eight years (part-time students) from the date of enrolment in the doctoral programme of *International Relations*.

Doctoral students inform the Doctoral Programme Council on any issues that may prevent, hinder or cause problems in their participation in the teaching and studying process at the doctoral programme. In justified cases (such as health problems), a doctoral student may request abeyance. Abeyance is approved by the Committee for considering abeyance requests, and a year of abeyance is not included in the total time of the duration of the study programme. If a doctoral student terminates the study programme (does not advance in a higher semester), they can reactivate their status after the termination by enrolling in a semester they have not completed, but the time of termination is included in the total duration of the study programme.

A doctoral student has the right to freely express their opinion on the doctoral programme and suggest improvements of the programme.

## COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE

In accordance with the regulations of the Ordinance on Postgraduate Study Programmes, a doctoral student should select a mentor whose scientific activity guarantees their ability to monitor the doctoral student in their research activities. Such competencies of a mentor are evidenced in their scientific activities so far, as well as published papers and other publications in the preferred field of the doctoral dissertation. A mentor assists the doctoral student in the elaboration of the synopsis of the doctoral dissertation and the elaboration of the doctoral dissertation and monitors and directs the doctoral student's research. In specific cases, depending on the topic and considering the interdisciplinary aspects, a co-mentor may be appointed to work with the doctoral student. A co-mentor is suggested by the mentor in agreement with the student. Together with the mentor, a co-mentor assists the doctoral student in the preparation of the topic and elaboration of the doctoral dissertation, monitors the student's research activities and directs the student in the elaboration of the dissertation. A mentor (co-mentor) can be a teacher appointed a scientific teaching grade: senior research fellow – full professor, senior research fellow tenured – full professor tenured and professor emeritus, senior research fellow – associate professor and research fellow – assistant professor. Appointment of mentors and co-mentors is proposed by the Doctoral Programme Council, and the proposal is discussed by the Council of Postgraduate Studies, which submits the proposal to the Senate of the University of Zadar that makes a decision and appoints a mentor (co-mentor).

## VII. DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

A doctoral dissertation is an original and independent scientific paper of the doctoral student, which, with its research methodology, problem and level of scientific contribution is appropriate for establishing a doctoral student's ability to act as an independent research scientist. The doctoral dissertation is regularly written and defended in the Croatian language, but it can also be written and defended in one of the global languages.

The proposal of the doctoral dissertation topic, i.e. the synopsis of the doctoral dissertation is elaborated during the third semester and completed and defended in the fourth semester of the doctoral programme.

In order to submit the dissertation to obtain the academic degree of Doctor of Science, a doctoral student is required to successfully defend the doctoral dissertation synopsis, obtain at least 180 ECTS credits and acquire their mentor's (co-mentor's) consent to submit the doctoral dissertation for assessment. Prior to the consent, the mentor, co-mentor or a teacher engaged in the doctoral programme check the originality of the paper in the plagiarism detection system, and the mentor decides wheth-

er the paper is ready to be assessed. After a positive assessment from the appointed committee and the acceptance of the assessment by the Doctoral Programme Council, the Professional Council for Social Sciences and the Senate of the University of Zadar, a public defence of the dissertation is organised.

The procedure of doctoral dissertation assessment, as well as the conditions for and methods of dissertation defence are conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures in effect for all doctoral programmes at the University of Zadar. The doctoral programme is completed by a successful defence of the doctoral dissertation, whereby the doctoral student obtains the academic degree of Doctor of Science.

Upon successful defence of the dissertation, it is once again checked in the plagiarism detection system and archived in the checking system database. The mentor verifies the certification of originality and gives consent for archiving the dissertation in the National Digital Repository (Dabar). The corresponding forms for consent and submission of the dissertation are available in Croatian and English languages on the webpage of the Office for Postgraduate Studies of the University of Zadar.

## VIII. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MONITORING

Libertas International University and University of Zadar are led by common academic values and cooperate with the aim of developing interinstitutional quality culture of the Doctoral programme. Both institutions implement quality assurance procedures at the joint study programme, in accordance with the measures and procedures of quality assurance at both institutions. The quality and success of the implementation of the study programme and mentorship are monitored through student evaluations conducted annually. The quality and success of the process enabling advancement of doctoral students and ensuring scientific and research activities are monitored through doctoral students' participation in research seminars, public defence of dissertation topics and extracurricular activities of the doctoral students. Furthermore, there are periodical Doctoral programme self-evaluations, conducted partially in relation to specific segments or fully related to the entire programme.

The results of the above-mentioned activities for quality enhancements are used for prospective amendments of the syllabi, delivery of the study programme or process enhancements during the course of the study programme.



## IX. CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA FOR ENROLMENT

### APPLICATION FOR THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The joint postgraduate doctoral programme of *International Relations* can be applied to by students who:

- a) completed a university graduate study programme in the field of social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, technical and other sciences with a grade point average of at least 3.5; applicants with a lower GPA are required to submit two recommendation letters by university professors;
- b) are Masters of Science in the field of social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, technical and other sciences with a grade point average of at least 3.5; applicants with a lower GPA are required to submit two recommendation letters by university professors;
- c) have proficient English language skills (evidenced upon submitting their application or during an interview with the applicant).

### RIGHT TO ENROL

The right to enrol in the doctoral programme is acquired by those applicants who meet the conditions listed in the enrolment tender and who meet the enrolment quota in accordance with the classification list. The fundamental criteria for the selection of candidates are: meeting the formal conditions listed in the tender; previous study programme and grade point average; previous scientific and professional activities. The obligatory interview with the applicants assesses the justification of the proposed topic of doctoral research and establishes the availability of mentors. Besides, the interview can be conducted to check the applicants' English language skills, motivation as well as their communication skills.

## CONTACT

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