INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & AREA STUDIES
BACHELOR OF ARTS

THINK GLOBALLY!
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JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY IN KRAKÓW
Welcome to IRAS!

I am delighted to introduce you to a truly unique degree programme, which offers many benefits to students from around the world. Established in 2013 at the Jagiellonian University, located in the heart of Central Europe, our Bachelor’s programme provides knowledge and expertise in International Relations and Area Studies, two strongly related fields whose importance will continue to grow in today’s world.

I believe that the education and experience you will gain while studying with us will make a vital contribution to your chosen career. IRAS combines knowledge of different disciplines within the social sciences and humanities, with a strong focus on international security and area studies, to help students understand the complexity of today’s world. Our diverse community of students from around the world and academics has created a friendly atmosphere of close and productive relationships between all those involved. So far IRAS has attracted students from over forty-five countries and gained a reputation of being a Bachelor’s programme that offers an exceptionally rich and interesting curriculum in International Relations. Our excellent faculty and facilities offer a stimulating learning environment in which you can explore contemporary international politics and its future, engage with key debates about how politics works in a global age, who are the key actors, what are the significant challenges and prospects for cooperation and conflict. If you would like to learn more about the programme you are most welcome to visit us in Kraków or contact us with any questions.

Professor Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves
Director, BA International Relations & Area Studies
IRAS is a three-year, English taught, interdisciplinary Bachelor’s program that offers an international and comparative perspective on the contemporary global system and different regions of the world. Its aim is to foster critical and creative thinking about complex global problems and to equip students with the analytical tools, language competence, and cross-cultural understanding of the key processes, ideas and actors that shape international relations.

**SOLID GROUNDING**

During the first three semesters you will learn the fundamentals of the key subjects for studying international relations, such as international political economy, international history, theories and methods of IR, globalization, economic and political geography, human rights and international ethics. With this solid foundation you will be ready to choose your preferred specialization, and you will focus on either international security or two regions of the world offered as part of our Area Studies track.

**TRULY INTERNATIONAL**

IRAS has attracted students from over forty-five countries, which has allowed our graduates to master intercultural communication and develop a global or cosmopolitan mindset through interaction in class discussion and outside of the classroom. Exposed to different views and perspectives, our students learn how to value diversity and culturally based approaches to social, political and economic developments.

**EXCELLENCE & CAREER-FOCUS**

Our Faculty of International and Political Studies is home to many specialists, excellent researchers, and practitioners such as former diplomats, experts and politicians. You can learn from all of them. Our degree programme combines intellectual rigour with an applied focus and develops a range of intellectual and practical skills that are relevant across a wide range of career opportunities. Our graduates have found work with a wide range of employers, including non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, banking and accounting services, local and national governments, educational establishments and media and publishing companies. Others have opted to continue studying international relations, or other disciplines, at the MA and PhD levels.

**ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

We care about the quality and learning experience of each student. Our first year tutorials provide an introduction to studying at the Jagiellonian University, help to enhance learning skills and discuss academic and other matters during individual meetings with a tutor. This process is also facilitated by regular contact with second and third year IRAS students acting as mentors and helping their fellow students navigate the programme and their new life in Krakow.

**IRAS specializations**

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

In order to ensure that you are able to master the complex challenges of the post-9/11 world, this specialization module views security from a broad theoretical and historical perspective, placing traditional security concerns in the context of such fields as development, economics, human rights and globalization. It will introduce you to the main concepts and approaches in international security and encourage you to analyse, interpret and evaluate world political events and issues. You will focus on a diverse range of topics including strategy, conflict resolution, foreign policy analysis, intelligence, human security, military technology and regional security.

**AREA STUDIES**

This specialization will provide a solid grounding in politics, history, economic cooperation, culture and society of various regions of the world. You will be able to focus on two regions chosen from: Europe, Russia and its neighbourhood, the Americas, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia-Pacific/ East and South Asia. This module is ideal for those who wish to explore and understand the different regions, their cultures, traditions and international relations in a comparative perspective. It is interdisciplinary and interactive, linking language study with other disciplines such as politics, history, economics, cultural studies and anthropology.
The structure of the IRAS programme

The International Relations discipline is about understanding and tackling global and regional challenges. This degree scheme draws on several subjects, such as politics, history, economics, philosophy, law, geography and area studies, to understand the various dimensions of today’s world and its ongoing transitions.

Students engage in the same set of core courses during the first three semesters of their studies in order to acquire a solid foundation for studying various aspects of International Relations. During the remaining three semesters they focus on their chosen specialization, master a foreign language or spend one semester at a partner university abroad, and write a BA dissertation on a chosen topic.

Students choose two modules to study in semesters 4-6

**MODULE EUROPE**
- History, Memory & the Making of Modern Europe
- European Integration
- Twentieth Century European Thought & Culture
- EU Law & Policy-Making
- Europe & Global Politics since WWII
- Transatlantic Relations since 1945
- The Monetary & Economic Union
- Central & Eastern Europe after 1989

**MODULE THE AMERICAS**
- USA & Canada in the Twentieth Century
- American Government & Politics
- Twentieth Century American Culture
- Latin America in the Twentieth Century
- Introduction to Latin American Cultures & Societies
- International Relations of the Americas
- US Foreign Policy after the End of Cold War
- Economic Cooperation & Integration in the Americas

**MODULE RUSSIA & ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD**
- Modern Russian History
- Russia’s Political System & Domestic Policies
- Russian Culture & Society
- Politics & Society in Central Asia & the Caucasus Since the End of USSR
- Ukraine, Belarus & Moldova
- Economic Transition in Russia & Its Neighbourhood
- Post-Soviet Area in International Relations

**MODULE THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA**
- The Middle East & North Africa in the 20th Century
- The State & Society in the MENA
- Introduction to Arabic Culture
- International Relations in MENA
- Islam, Tradition & Modernity
- Conflict & Terrorism in MENA
- Trajectory of Economic Development of MENA
- Arab Spring & Its Impact on the Arab World

**MODULE ASIA PACIFIC/EAST & SOUTH ASIA**
- East & South Asia in the 20th Century
- Cultures & Societies of East & South Asia
- International Relations in Asia-Pacific
- Regional Integration & Economic Relations in Asia-Pacific
- Security Issues in East & South Asia
- Japan since Meiji
- China in World Politics

**CORE COURSES (SEMESTERS 1-3)**
- International Relations in the 20th Century
- Introduction to Politics & Political Science
- International Political Economy
- Political Philosophy and IR
- Globalization & Global Governance
- International Economic Relations
- Political & Economic Geography
- Theories of International Relations
- Key Issues in Contemporary International Politics
- Domestic & International Law
- Human Rights
- Ethics & International Affairs
- Culture in International Relations
- Foreign language

**SPECIALIZATION INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (SEMESTERS 4-6)**
- War & Conflict
- International Security: Concepts & Approaches
- Human Security
- Global Discourse
- Democracy Promotion
- International Security: Application & Analysis
- Conflict Resolution & Peace Building
- Terrorism & Counterterrorism
- Transatlantic Relations since 1945
- Energy Security
- Military Operations & Technology
- Elective courses
- Foreign language
- Dissertation Seminar

**MODULE SPECIALIZATION AREA STUDIES**

Students choose two modules to study in semesters 4-6
The programme is designed for Polish and international students wishing to develop their knowledge, skills and career tracks within multiple fields of political analysis, strategy, security, economics and culture. If you are fascinated by other cultures and how they are affected by global processes, conflicts and cooperation, if you wish to understand international politics and discover connections between the global and local levels, if you feel at home in an intercultural environment and want to explore new ideas and cultures, and finally if you want to develop your professional skills and gain hands-on experience and knowledge that will advance your future career or your further education, International Relations & Area Studies is the choice for you!

Is this programme for you?

Our student body

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Degree type: Bachelor of Arts
Duration: 3 years
ECTS: 180
Department: Faculty of International and Political Studies
Tuition: 4,000 EUR per annum

KEY FACTS

Extra-curricular opportunities & activities

University education does not happen only in the classroom. There are numerous other opportunities to learn invaluable skills, such as public speaking and creative thinking, outside class.

For example, you can join AIAS – The Association of International and Area Studies and get involved in its activities. AIAS is a self-governing student society registered with our department, established and managed by IRAS students.

AIAS focus is on four major areas:

EDUCATION
Developing academic interests and expanding students’ knowledge of international politics and different regions of the world.

COMMUNICATION
Conferences, public debates, seminars and the Jagiellonian University’s International Model United Nations organized annually by IRAS students, provide an opportunity to communicate with others, present and learn how to raise awareness in relation to key global and local challenges.

DIVERSITY
AIAS has created a community of students and scholars and universal minds who share ideas and experience.

INSPIRATION
The goal of AIAS is to spark interest and encourage each member’s development through debates, movie nights, study trips, academic publications and workshops.
ANASTASIYA KORNITSKA, UKRAINE

As an Alumna of the IRAS class of 2017, I have gone on to pursue a technical MSc degree in Cyber Security at Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Tartu (double degree). The experience and knowledge gained during the IRAS BA programme helped to achieve this. At the Jagiellonian University, my main academic interests were in counter-terrorism, war studies, energy security and cyber-security. Consequently I wrote a BA thesis on Cyber-security laws and legislation. During my MSc studies I soon got my first job in the cyber-security field. In 2019, I wrote my MSc thesis and currently I’m employed as a cyber-security consultant at a leading IT security company in Sweden – Secure Link.

MUSAB ALNOUR-IBRAHIM, HUNGARY – ALUMNUS OF THE IRAS CLASS OF 2019

The day I decided to study International Relations at the Jagiellonian University, I considered three main factors: the courses, the professors and my fellow students. I am happy to say that I was not disappointed. The programme offers a variety of subjects ranging from International Economic Relations to Energy Security, as well as the high quality of the language courses offered. This is coupled with the professors who not only received their education from different parts of the world, but are also esteemed scholars in their fields with unique insights. And last but not least, the IRAS programme is certainly a miniature global village. The student environment gives you a rare opportunity to learn better than any book can inform you about other cultures and perspectives. Moreover, Kraków is a great city to explore the past and look for the future. It was a great honour to be a student of the university once attended by Nicolaus Copernicus. The IRAS programme has prepared me well for my further academic steps – an MA degree in security at King’s College London, which I started in 2019.

ARIEL SEPULVEDA DE VASCONCELOS, SENIOR STUDENT - BRAZIL

I was already passionate about Cracow and the University when I found out about the programme. I chose IRAS because of the multicultural and friendly environment. I was always enthusiastic about studying in a programme with the opportunity of meeting people from all over the world. IRAS has allowed me to understand world politics from a different perspective: a key skill for my professional life. During the lectures, everyone is encouraged to share their ideas and opinions, and to think independently, creatively and critically. I study with people who want to make a real impact in the world. At the IRAS programme, I shaped my ability to question the status-quo by gaining knowledge from very talented professors. I found many academic opportunities through IRAS that I will always be grateful and I am sure those will help me on my career path.
CONTACT US!

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