

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

Original version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 June 2023, Issue 45, No. 538

Curriculum for the
Continuing Education Master's Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.)
at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
at the University of Innsbruck

Table of contents

- §1 Qualification profile
- §2 Scope and duration
- §3 Structure
- §4 Realisation
- §5 Admission
- §6 Types of courses
- §7 Language
- §8 Compulsory and elective modules
- §9 Master's Thesis
- §10 Examination regulations
- §11 Diploma
- §12 Academic degree
- §13 Coming into force

§1 Qualification profile

- (1) The Continuing Education Master's Programme in Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) serves to provide further education on actors, structures and processes of international relations in general, in-depth further education on the nature and effects of progressive digitalisation on these actors, structures and processes in particular, as well as the application-oriented teaching of knowledge in the analysis of digital data and the use of digital information and communication technologies.
- (2) Graduates
 - have advanced knowledge of the political, economic and legal dimensions of international relations in general and of the nature and impact of advancing digitalisation in these dimensions in particular.
 - have skills in the use of digital technologies to obtain, process and evaluate data.
 - have skills in the use of digital information and communication technologies.
 - are able to raise and discuss ethical issues of the digitalisation of international relations and the use of digital data and methods in political and scientific practice.
 - are able to use the knowledge and skills they have acquired to devise methodologically sound problem-solving strategies, whether in the academic study of digitalisation in international relations or in practical applications in diplomacy, public administration, the private sector, the media or civil society.
 - are able to transfer the knowledge and skills they have acquired to solving new problems/tasks that may only become relevant in the future. This means that they can classify and analyse new challenges and opportunities on the basis of their knowledge in order to develop solutions independently.
- (3) Access to professions
 - The Continuing Education Master's Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) qualifies graduates for employment in the public sector (ministries, parliaments, diplomatic service, international organisations), the private sector (companies with a transnational orientation) and the civil society sector (media, non-governmental organisations).
 - The Continuing Education Master's Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) qualifies for a continuing Doctoral or PhD study programme.

§2 Scope and duration

The Continuing Education Master's Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) has a duration of four semesters and covers 120 ECTS-Credits. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

§3 Structure

- (1) The continuing education master's programme consists of six compulsory modules and four elective modules.
- (2) The compulsory module are:

Module Name	h	ECTS-Credits
Core Module 1: Contemporary and Historical International Affairs - Fundamentals	8	16
Core Module 2: Contemporary and Historical International Affairs – Advanced	8	16
Advanced Module 1: Patterns of Digitalisation in International Affairs	10	20
Tools Module	10	20
Preparation of the Master's Thesis	2	1.5
Master's Thesis Defence	-	2.5

- (3) The elective modules are:

Modules	h	ECTS-Credits
Advanced Module 2: Big Data	4	8
Advanced Module 3: Texts and Networks	4	8
Advanced Module 4: Communication and Campaigning	4	8
Advanced Module 5: Experiments and Visualisations	4	8

§4 Realisation

- (1) In accordance with the cooperation agreement of 14 January 2022, the continuing education master's programme shall be conducted by the University of Innsbruck (LFUI) in cooperation with the Vienna School of International Studies ("Diplomatic Academy" abbr. DA).
- (2) The courses shall take place at the Vienna School of International Studies, the University of Innsbruck as well as independently of the location (by means of electronic communication).

§5 Admission

- (1) The admission to the Continuing Education Master's Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) requires the completion of the degree programmes covering a minimum of 180 ECTS-Credits (ISCED Level 6) at a recognised post-secondary educational institution. Moreover, excellent skills in English are a requirement for being admitted. In particular, one of the following certificates is recognised:
 - The language of tuition of the study programme passed was English.
 - CPE
 - IELTS-test (minimum rating 7)
 - TOEFL-test (minimum result of the paper-based test 627 points, of the computer-based test 263 points of the internet-based test 106 points).
- (2) The scientific management of the University of Innsbruck and the Vienna School of International Studies shall decide on the admission to the Continuing Education Master's Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) in agreement and after consultation in the joint committee according to the professional suitability of the participants. Information on the application modalities and the selection procedure will be published on the websites of the University of Innsbruck and the Vienna School of International Studies.

- (3) Persons who have been admitted to the continuing education master's programme and have paid the course fee shall be admitted as continuing education students by the Rectorate of the University of Innsbruck.

§6 Types of courses

- (1) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
1. **Lectures with practical elements** (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. The maximum number of participants: 30
 2. **Seminars** (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 30

§7 Language

The language of tuition of the continuing education master's programme is English.

§8 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules covering altogether 76 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Core Module 1: Contemporary and Historical International Affairs - Fundamentals	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	VU Scope and Methods of Political Science Introduction to the basics of political theory, comparative politics as well as EU studies and international affairs; overview of research designs and methods of research in political science	2	4	DA
b.	VU Basics of International Economics Introduction to the basic concepts of economics; overview of microeconomics and macroeconomics; discussion of international trade and finance	2	4	DA
c.	VU International Law Overview of the nature and structure of international law; discussion of the principles of international law; examination of statehood, jurisdiction and immunities; analysis of topics and sources of international law	2	4	DA
d.	VU International History Introduction to international history since the Atlantic Revolutions of the late 18th century to the end of the Cold War; examination of the connections between national and international politics	2	4	DA
	Total	8	16	
	Learning Outcomes: Students will be familiar with central concepts, theories and debates in the academic discussion of the political, economic, technological, historical and legal dimensions of international relations. They can analytically grasp the interaction of these dimensions and draw on this knowledge to explain continuity and change in historical and contemporary international relations.			
	Prerequisites: none			

2.	Core Module 2: Contemporary and Historical International Affairs - Advanced	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	VU International Relations and Diplomacy Analysis of challenges and changes in contemporary international affairs; examination of different areas as well as actors in diplomacy; discussion of theoretical approaches to international relations and diplomacy	2	4	DA
b.	VU International Economics and Globalisation Analysis of the globalisation of trade and finance; discussion of tendencies of de-globalisation; overview of the consequences of open goods and financial markets	2	4	DA
c.	VU EU Law Study of the most important legal aspects of the development and current state of European integration; examination of essential institutional aspects, sources of law and relationship to the law of the member states	2	4	DA
d.	VU International History of Science and Technology Introduction to the history of ideas and scientific progress; examination of socio-economic processes through which technological innovation is achieved and how this innovation shapes international relations.	2	4	DA
	Total	8	16	
	Learning Outcomes: Students are familiar with central concepts, theories and debates in the in-depth study of international relations, diplomacy, international political economy, European law and international history of science and technology. They can resort to this knowledge to explain continuity and change in historical and contemporary international relations.			
	Prerequisites: none			

3.	Advanced Module 1: Patterns of Digitalisation in International Affairs	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	SE Digital International Economics Introduction to the main concepts and characteristics of the digital economy; study of digital markets; analysis of advances in automation and their impact on macroeconomic outcomes; discussion on the importance of artificial intelligence and blockchains for the international economy	2	4	DA
b.	SE Digital Diplomacy Discussion of the evolution of diplomatic practices towards digital diplomacy; imparting of characteristics of digital diplomacy and analysis of scenarios for further developments and fields of application of digital diplomacy (e.g. digital diplomacy and power, digital diplomacy in bilateral and multilateral negotiations)	2	4	DA
c.	SE Digitalisation and International Security Discussion of the impact of digital technologies on traditional problem areas of international security policy (e.g. nuclear deterrence and strategic stability) as well as new problem areas arising from the development and use of digital technologies in the field of (inter)national security (e.g. autonomous weapon systems and their control)	2	4	LFUI
d.	SE Digitalisation and International Law	2	4	DA

	Imparting of the historical development of legal informatics; examining how digitalisation is changing the regulatory environment; discussing regional initiatives to establish a digital single market; examining legal issues and digital currencies; legal analysis of data protection, data security and intellectual property.			
e.	SE Digital Ethics Discussion of applied political theory; normative engagement with digital technologies in areas of international diplomacy, especially arms control, international political economy and development; discussion of scenarios for the evolution of "agency", including "hybrid agency".	2	4	DA
	Total	10	20	
	Learning Outcomes: Students can characterise and critically reflect on the nature and impact of digitalisation in different dimensions of international relations. In particular, they understand what opportunities and challenges arise from advancing digitalisation in the areas of economics, security, diplomacy and law. They also have an awareness of ethical issues of digitalisation and are able to weigh up different ethical arguments.			
	Prerequisites: none			

4.	Tools Module	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	VU Research Designs and Methods for Digital Data In-depth study of the field of formulating and implementing research strategies with a focus on research on and with digital data and big data; examination of the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative methods as well as mixed-methods-designs; learning ways for collecting different forms of digital data, storing and maintaining such data and statistical and visual methods to describe such data; presentation of the basics of various methods of statistical description and inference based on digital data, but also the methodology of a case study or qualitative text analysis; raising the awareness for ethical problems in the collection and evaluation of digital data.	2	4	LFUI
b.	VU Statistics and Programming I Introduction to the theoretical and statistical foundations of quantitative, empirical research and research designs; overview from research question to measurement and data collection to deductive test of causal relationships; introduction to data analysis; introduction to interpretation and graphical representation as well as practical application of the learned content in RStudio.	2	4	LFUI
c.	VU Statistics and Programming II In-depth study of the theoretical and statistical foundations of quantitative, empirical research with a focus on inferential statistics; discussion and application of advanced methods of statistical modelling to analyse different types of data; advanced study of RStudio and Python	2	4	LFUI
d.	VU Reproducible Science Introduction to the basic principles of "open science" and to the concepts and tools to make data analyses transparent and	2	4	LFUI

	reproducible; in particular, teaching the use of tools such as RStudio, Markdown, version control systems (GITs) and containers.			
e.	SE Writing Skills Improving scientific working skills (formulation of research questions, critical reflection on the state of scientific debate, micro and macro levels of arguments); overview of the content requirements of different types of texts; introduction to the use of LaTeX for creating texts.	2	4	LFUI
	Total	10	20	

	Learning Outcomes: Students can formulate social science research questions and develop research designs to address these questions. They are familiar with the most common (open-source) software for generating, processing, analysing and visualising data and have mastered basic procedures of descriptive and inferential statistics. Students are able to write scientific papers, research reports and documentation.
	Prerequisites: none

5.	Master's Thesis Preparation	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
	Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of an outline and description of the content as well as agreement on the work processes and the study progress; planning of an appropriate time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis	-	1.5	LFUI & DA
	Total	-	1.5	
	Learning Outcomes: Under the guidance of a supervisor, students are able to identify a problem related to science, application or practice in the field of digitalisation of international relations. They can design strategies for dealing with this problem and critically reflect on them together with a supervisor and other students.			
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory modules 1-4			

6.	Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
	Final oral defence of the Master's Thesis before an examination board	-	2.5	LFUI & DA
	Total	-	2.5	
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to critically reflect and publicly defend the Master's Thesis in the overall context of the master's programme.			
	Prerequisites: positive evaluation of all other compulsory modules, elective modules and the Master's Thesis			

- (2) From the following four elective modules, three modules covering a total of 24 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Advanced Module 2: Big Data	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	VU Data Mining Introduction to concepts and techniques for identifying patterns in large data sets; presentation of the most common methods and discussion of application examples	2	4	LFUI
b.	VU Machine Learning Introduction to symbolic and non-symbolic modes of machine learning; overview of machine learning approaches, including supervised, unsupervised and semi-supervised learning	2	4	DA
	Total	4	8	
	Learning Outcomes: Students master advanced methods and techniques of generating, processing and analysing large amounts of digital data ("big data"). They are able to check the applicability of these methods and techniques for different problems and to balance their advantages and disadvantages.			
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory modules 1, 2 and 4			

2.	Advanced Module 3: Texts and Networks	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	VU Text Analysis Introduction to the theoretical and technological background of quantitative text analysis; teaching practical skills in the management, manipulation and analysis of text data in RStudio; discussion of examples of quantitative text analysis in different research areas	2	4	LFUI
b.	VU Network Analysis Introduction to the basic principles and handling of relational data, especially dealing with nodes and edges, the structures of networks and the position of actors in networks, network metrics and communities; presentation and application of exploratory and inferential analysis of networks	2	4	LFUI
	Total	4	8	
	Learning Outcomes: Students master advanced methods and techniques of generating, processing and analysing text and network data. They are able to check the applicability of these methods and techniques for different problems and to balance their advantages and disadvantages.			
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory modules 1, 2 and 4			

3.	Advanced Module 4: Communication and Campaigning	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructor
a.	VU Political Communication Introduction to central concepts, theories and methods of political communication; discussion of the role of traditional and new media in the political communication of state and non-state actors; analysis of examples of political communication at national and international level	2	4	LFUI
b.	VU Digital Campaigning Introduction to the ecosystem of digital communication platforms and their possible applications in the field of political communication; introduction to planning and implementing campaigns in the digital space; imparting of basic skills in the target group-oriented preparation and dissemination of information via digital platforms; imparting of procedures for checking the efficiency and effectiveness of digital campaigns	2	4	LFUI
	Total	4	8	
	Learning Outcomes: Students master theoretical approaches and methods of research on (international) political communication. They can orient themselves in the ecosystem of digital information and communication technologies and know the functional logics of these technologies. They are able to prepare information in a target group-oriented way, to disseminate it via different technologies and to check the impact of this information.			
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory modules 1, 2 and 4			

4.	Advanced Module 5: Experiments and Visualisations	h	ECTS-Credits	Instructors
a.	VU Digital Experiments In-depth study of the field of experimental methods and the teaching of causal relationships with a focus on the numerous possibilities of conducting experiments in the digital space (e.g. experimental manipulations embedded in social media or online survey experiments); discussion of the question of how causal relationships can be researched in social science and communication of the importance of theory building and research designs; presentation and application of experimental research designs.	2	4	LFUI
b.	VU Interactive Visualisation Introduction to the basic principles of visualisation; teaching the range of different visualisation possibilities based on the "grammar of graphics" and "ggplot2"; imparting of skills in creating interactive graphics with RStudio and publishing them (e.g. in the context of dashboards).	2	4	LFUI
	Total	4	8	
Learning Outcomes: The students know different designs of experimental research. They are able to reflect on the applicability and results of these designs in the digital space. Students master the basic principles and technologies for (interactive) visualisation of data.				
Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory modules 1, 2 and 4				

§ 9 Master's Thesis

- (1) A Master's Thesis covering 20 ECTS-Credits is to be written.
- (2) The Master's Thesis is a written paper on an issue related to science, practice or technology:
 - A science reference is the examination of the nature and impact of digitalisation in international affairs.
 - A practical reference is the examination of possible applications of digital technologies in the practice of international relations.
 - A technology reference is the engagement with the technological infrastructure (software packages, apps or similar) of science or practice.
- (3) The Master's Thesis serves to demonstrate the ability to work on a topic related to science, practice or technology in a scientifically justifiable manner in terms of form and content. The topic of the Master's Thesis must be dealt with in connection with relevant theoretical and methodological discussions.
- (4) The completed Master's Thesis must be submitted to the Director of Studies in electronic form. It must include a sworn declaration confirming that the rules of good scientific practice have been followed. At the request of the assessors, the Master's Thesis must also be submitted in written form in addition to the electronic form.

§10 Examination regulations

- (1) Each module is completed by the positive evaluation of the individual courses by means of course examinations.
- (2) In the case of courses with continuous performance evaluation, the performance is assessed based on at least two written and/or practical contributions of the participants.
- (3) The course lecturers have to inform the students about the objectives, the contents and the methods used in their courses as well as about the contents, the methods and the evaluation criteria of the course exams in a suitable fashion before the beginning of the semester.
- (4) The performance of the Compulsory Module “Master’s Thesis Preparation” is evaluated by the supervisor on the basis of a synopsis. Positive evaluation reads “participated with success”, negative evaluation “participated without success”.
- (5) The performance of the final module “Master’s Thesis Defence” shall take the form of an oral examination before an examination board consisting of three persons.

§11 Final diploma

After successful completion, the graduates of the Continuous Education Master’s Programme in Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) are issued a notification by the University of Innsbruck as well as a joint degree certificate by the University of Innsbruck and the Vienna School of International Studies.

§12 Academic degree

The graduates of the Continuing Education Master’s Programme Digital International Affairs (D.I.A.) are awarded the academic degree of „Master of Science (Continuing Education)“, abbreviated as “MSc (CE)“.

§13 Coming into force

The curriculum shall enter into force on the first day of the month following its publication in the official university bulletin.

For the curriculum committee:
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Uta Rußmann

For the senate:
Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Walter Obwexer