

**Undergraduate Studies
in
International Relations
Student Guidebook**

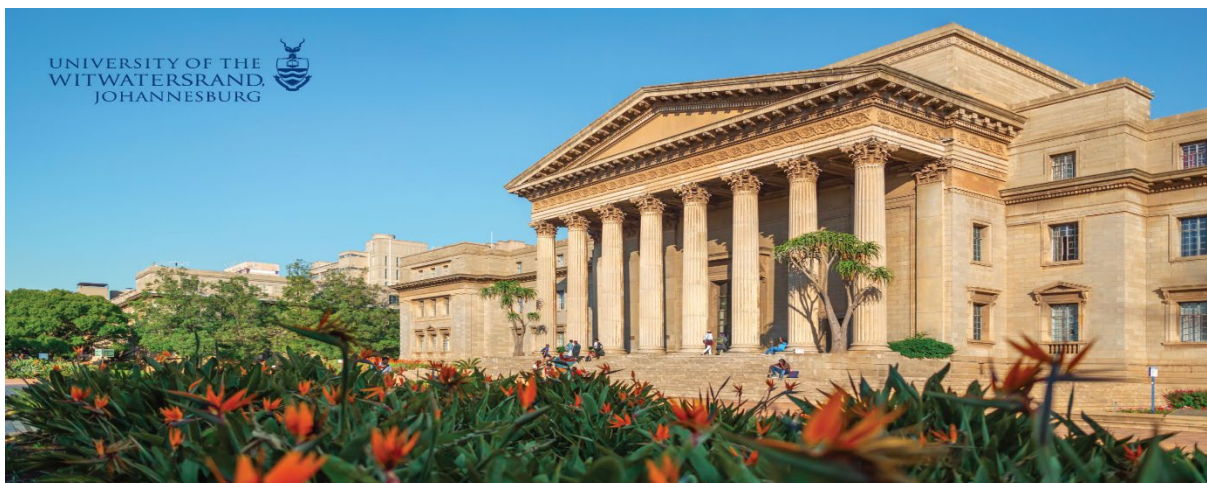
2024

General Overview of the Discipline of International Relations (IR)

In essence International Relations studies that abstract notion of the 'international system' and examines the interactions that takes place here between various actors (for example, state, international organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations) and their environment as they engage in the activities of conducting international relations. The discipline has numerous sub-fields that studies among other, foreign policy analysis, security studies, international law, international organization, international political economy, environmental issue as well as different global regions.

What makes International Relations at Wits unique

- Wits is the only university in Africa where International Relations is an independent discipline and not combined with Political Studies.
- Consequently, a focal point of our curriculum and research has been the international relations of Africa. Adding knowledges from the Global South to the study of international relations a further priority. However, we do not advocate the exclusion of Western ideas and theories in achieving this objective. Rather we seek to create a curriculum where the value of knowledge is not determined by its origin but by its capacity to elucidate that which we study.
- IR is a core member of the multidisciplinary, trans-faculty Wits E-Science MA programme.
- IR academics have been recipients of large research grants from prestigious donors/funding organizations. Academics feature frequently on the programmes of various international conferences and their work appears in renowned publications.
- IR's engagement with international relations is not limited to teaching and research with academics contributing to debates in local and international media as well as participating in the activities or initiatives of national and international non-governmental organizations.
- Through the Wits International Office our students have participated in international exchange programs where they have spent a semester studying at a foreign university.
- We endeavour to expose our students to the practicalities of international politics by hosting numerous events each year where they can engage with people who work in the field of international relations at both state and non-state institutions. We also create opportunities for students to interact with academics and students studying International Relations at other local and international universities.



Potential Careers

- Diplomat
- Working for Local, Provincial or National government as an international relations analyst
- Working for an international organization, humanitarian organizations or non-governmental organizations
- Working for a regional organization
- International Relations Analyst for local and international businesses
- International political economy analyst
- International law expert
- Media – political/international relations reporter
- Research consultant on an IR speciality
- Working for an international relations research institute
- International public health
- Security analyst or working in the security sector.
- Election monitoring/observation
- Data analyst (requires an MA in our E-Science programme)

International Relations - Undergraduate Programme

- Within a BA degree, a student can choose to **major in International Relations** where students will take the course over a three-year period being introduced to the numerous sub-fields of the discipline as well as the implications these interactions have in our daily lives. International Relations offers a progression of units over three years.
- While our undergraduate courses cover the numerous concepts and practices that define the field of IR, special emphasis is given to the need for new ideas and approaches for dealing with emerging post-apartheid and post-Cold War concerns such as intrastate conflict, refugees, migration, climate change, transnational organised crime, South-South cooperation, transnational civil society movements – including indigenous social movements, race, gender, post-colonialism and the impact of technological advancements on the conduct of international relations.
- Students who are considering an undergraduate major and a possible career in international relations must ensure that they complete all units up to and including the 4 third-year courses.
- Students interested in IR but who do not necessarily want to major in the discipline are welcome to register to take IR for a semester, or an entire year or more. Additionally, students from other Faculties are also welcome to register to take one or two semesters of IR depending on the rules of their Faculty.



Entrance Criteria

We have no mark requirements for matric subjects nor do we have to have studies specific subjects to take IR. International Relations draws on history, geography, economics, politics, law, sociology, psychology, media studies, public health, and philosophy its study of the world. Consequently, IR can never be accused of being boring or irrelevant. As this is not a subject taught at school, our first-year programme focuses on teaching students the basics of our discipline.

Languages

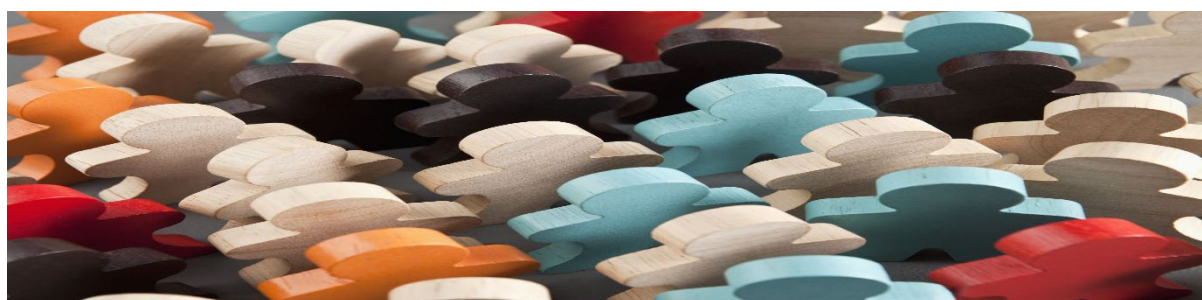
We strongly recommend that students wishing to pursue a career in International Relations develop a proficiency in one or more languages aside from English. The language

that you choose should be informed by where you see yourself ultimately working. The United Nations produces documents in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English. Working in the Asian-Pacific region would require Mandarin, Hindi and Japanese. The languages of BRICS are currently Russian, Portuguese, Hindi, and Mandarin. If students want to work at a local political level, then proficiency in at least 3 of South Africa's recognised languages is essential.

At Wits students can choose to study many of the above languages. As we recommend that students take a language at least until second-year level, those wishing to pursue a European language able to apply for an exemption from the compulsory South African language requirement at first-year level. Please email both the head of IR as well as the European language you wish to study. You can click on the following link to investigate the wide range of languages Wits has to offer: <https://www.wits.ac.za/sllm/>

Other courses that complement IR

All the other courses within the School of Social Sciences relate well to the study of international relations. Economics, law, history, geography, sociology, psychology, media studies, public health, and philosophy are all good subjects to combine with IR for those wanting to pursue a career in international relations.



Being an international relations student

While university can be an enormous amount of fun both intellectually and socially, it can also be daunting. Every year we introduce you to new and often more complex knowledge and require a greater degree of sophistication in how you interact with it. Our curriculum and all the courses contained therein are designed to help students master the fundamental knowledge and accompanying academic skills that they demand in a coherent, structured, and incremental way. Lectures, tutorials, prescribed literature, and media as well as course assessments all function to assist students in their learning. Thus, we encourage students to be active participants in their learning of IR by keeping up with their lecture and tutorial attendance, the assigned weekly preparation material, and exercises as well as course assessments. If you encounter difficulties with any aspect of the course, arrange to consult your lecturer or tutor as soon as possible so that they can assist you. Nevertheless, it is the amount of hours that you are prepared to devote to the study of IR that will ultimately determine the level of expertise and ability that you will develop. Although academics can facilitate or entice students to establish good learning practices to some degree, it is up to the individual student to do the work required.



IR beyond the classroom

As international relations happen daily, new material to investigate is arriving almost continuously making the study of IR so dynamic. IR runs an annual seminar series aimed at the discussion of important contemporary events that have global implications. These seminars are open to all students interested in IR beyond the classroom environment. Topics, times, and venues are advertised to all IR students well in advance.

Registering for International Relations courses

The Faculty of Humanities oversees the registration of all undergraduate students. Faculty administrators are available during the registration period to assist students experiencing any problems with the process. IR can only assist students with academic problems related directly to their enrolment in IR.

Amendments to registration

A student who needs to change their details after registration may do so using a Graduate Studies Amendment Form. Changes to a student's name or address as well as substantive changes relating to courses for which the student is registered for (i.e., cancelling or changing the course you have registered for) are all made using the yellow Amendment Form, which is available either at the graduate Faculty office or can be downloaded from: <https://www.wits.ac.za/humanities/faculty-services/undergraduate-services/>

Person details may be updated online via the student portal. See the following link:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/students/>



What is the deadline for amendments to course registration?

All students may amend their registration any time during the first two weeks of each semester. After this student may not swop courses but are still allowed to de-register. However, fees for that course may still be incurred.

All requested amendments to registration must be applied for on the appropriate form, obtainable electronically or in hardcopy from the Faculty Office.

What is the deadline to cancel a course or degree?

The deadlines for the cancellation of registration and the cancellation of modules are set out in the fees booklet <https://www.wits.ac.za/study-at-wits/student-fees/> This booklet will outline the financial penalties that you may incur depending on when you cancel. Please contact the Faculty Office for appropriate procedures.

What happens if I do not cancel a course?

To cancel a course or to amend anything regarding your registration, you must obtain an amendment form from the Faculty office and obtain the necessary signatures. The form must be submitted at the Faculty office. If you intend to cancel a course and do not do so, you will continue to be registered for the course and will be deemed to have failed the course at the end of the year. It is therefore extremely important to make sure that you have cancelled any courses that you do not intend to take and make sure that you have evidence that you have cancelled the course. To find more information about the process as well as the forms you need to complete Please go to <https://www.wits.ac.za/humanities/faculty-services/undergraduate-services/>



Note:

- It is your responsibility to make sure that you are registered for the correct modules by accessing your I-Wits email after registration and downloading the confirmation of registration letter.
- If you are unsure about your registration, please contact the Faculty office to confirm your registration and amendments to registration have been processed and are correct.
- IR will not accept late registrations after the end of the second week of each semester.
- Students banned from participating in or receiving instruction or supervision in any course/s for which they are not registered.

Our Undergraduate Curriculum

First year of Study

First-year IR contains 2 courses designed to introduce students to the exciting and interesting subject matter that constitutes our discipline.

INTR1012A - Introduction to the Discipline (Semester One)

International Relations (IR) is a multidisciplinary field with origins in history, economics, political science, sociology, and law. The study of IR contributes to societies' overall understanding of why states do such things as go to war, why they trade with each other, and why they care when human rights are being abused elsewhere. You, as budding IR scholars and experts, are here to gain an understanding of the key events and tools that are used to unpack why states, international organizations, even individuals, behave the way they do. In BLOCK 1 you will learn fundamental IR concepts; you will be immersed in the historical background and philosophies of IR; you will come to appreciate how foreign policy is crafted and the role of international institutions and law in IR. Importantly, you will be taught the foundational skills required for critical thinking and analytical writing to become a well-informed, well-rounded IR scholar. BLOCK 2 focuses on War & Peace, a central concern of IR. Some scholars argue that war made IR! From the Thirty Years War to the World Wars, the Cold War, the War on Terror, war has shaped power relations between states within the inter-state system. The study of War & Peace in IR deals with challenging questions such as: Why do states go to war? Is war ever justified? Should peace be maintained at all costs? What are the different and new types of war? What mechanisms are used to deter wars and maintain peace? These questions are key to understanding the inter-state system and IR.

INTR1010A - Africa and South Africa's International Relations (Semester Two)

For students to understand the international relations of both South Africa and other African states their diplomatic and domestic history will be examined. Students would also study how foreign policy

is created, what types of issues determine these countries' foreign policy and who contributes to the process. Regional, sub regional and continental organizations which contribute to international relations of South Africa and Africa will be discussed as well as issues of common concern to all states. Moreover, South Africa's as well as Africa's contribution to international organizations and regimes will also be dealt with. This course would build on the knowledge established in the introductory IR course especially that pertaining to foreign policy decision-making and theory. This would also serve to reinforce content learnt in the first semester and students would now have to apply theory to practice. The course also addresses the issue of international political economy in greater detail, focusing on its operation in Africa and the implications thereof for the economies of these states.



Second Year of Study

The two second-year courses building on the fundamental theories and concepts covered in the previous year's courses proceed to examine three very important IR areas, namely international law, security studies and international political economy.

INTR2008A – Law and Security (Semester One)

This course introduces two very important components of International Relations namely, international law and security studies. The course provides an essential excursion into the field of international law, which provides the underlying principles that govern the relations between all states. No study of International Relations would be complete without it. This brief course will examine a variety of topics ranging from what is international law, its creation and application, to subfields of international law such as statehood, human rights and the use of force. Special emphasis will be given to the role of the United Nations, but this should not erode the importance of other multilateral forums or bilateral negotiations in the construction of international law. Understanding sources of conflict in order to devise mechanisms to resolve and ultimately prevent conflict between countries has been a stated goal

of International Relations since its inception. Yet, the world is still plagued by conflict that has morphed from mainly being precipitated by states to include nonstate actors such as liberation/terrorist movements, rebels, militias, private military organisations, and criminal cartels. Acknowledged sources of insecurity extend not just to armed conflict but to epidemics, human trafficking, slavery, famine, climate change and illicit narcotics as well as newer threats such as cybercrime, and bio-warfare. The course seeks to unpack, assess, and make sense of both old and new security threats.

INTR2007A – International Political Economy (Semester Two)

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the study of International Political Economy (IPE). Using key theoretical and analytical tools students will learn to make sense of global economic relations; relates structures and/or institutions and the impact that they have on the world economy. Among others we will consider how the process of globalization affects the development process of states in different regions of the world as well as the potential of South-South cooperation in providing alternative, more equitable, de-Westernised economic interactions between states.



Third Year of Study

In their third year of study students will take 2 IR courses in each semester = 1 compulsory course + 1 elective course per semester = 4 courses for the year.

There is a tutorial programme for both compulsory courses and these are held in the assigned timetable slot for IR on a Friday morning. Please do not schedule any other course during this time.

Third-year Compulsory courses

All students must take the compulsory course in Semester One which is INTR3025 – Thinking, Theorising and Research IR which and in Semester Two INTR3012 – Transnational Issues. Both these courses are taught in the Monday timetable slot.

INTR3025 – Thinking, Theorising and Researching International Relations (Semester One – Compulsory Course)

The objective of this course is to allow students to critically engage with IR theory. The course's focus is two-fold for the IR theory section 1) It asks why IR theory is Western centric and what are the implications of this for the field broadly and the discipline within the global South in particular and 2) How do we create global IR theory. As basic and mostly Western IR theoretical paradigms have been covered in both first and second year, students are assumed to be familiar with these, although you may want to revise these from your first-year textbook. The course further intends to facilitate critical engagement and reflection regarding the origins, purposes, and uses of knowledges in the study of IR. The course will also investigate the incorporation of indigenous knowledge from various parts to the globe to expand the analytic capacity of IR especially in the Global South. Student will also be introduced to some of the quantitative and qualitative research methods used by IR scholars with the last 3 weeks focusing on using quantitative methods as a means of conducting IR research.

INTR3012 – Transnational Issues (Semester Two – Compulsory Course)

This course examines key transnational issues that shape and inform world politics. It looks at new values diffused by global actors, including transnational social movements which seek to address global inequality and the global democratic deficit. The focus, in particular, will be on the various non-traditional security issues that are increasingly capturing international attention. Key concepts to be examined include human rights and humanitarian intervention, specifically the notion of the 'responsibility to protect' (R2P), transnational social movements, global migration, as well as the scramble for natural resources. Students are expected to gain greater awareness and understanding of transnational issues, particularly as they get to explore them in/from African contexts.

Elective Courses

Students can then choose 1 elective course per block. These courses are taught on the Wednesday timetable slot. We recommend that those students interested in our Postgraduate programme select courses on the basis that they may want to specialise in the area in later years of study. There are 4 electives per semester that students can choose from.

The elective courses are designed to be small seminar style classes with a maximum number of 40 students per course. These classes are designed to approximate a post-graduate teaching environment that are far more interactive with weekly discussions and class presentations. Due to the high levels of engagement, linked to student assessment, these are classes that should not be missed. Thus, there is an 80% attendance requirement to be allowed to submit the final assessment and attendance is taken weekly.



Semester One Elective Courses

Students are only allowed to choose 1 of these courses per semester.

INTR3002 – International Organizations (Semester One)

This course is designed as a specialised study of international organisations (IO) which are important actors in international relations. Its principal aim is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the various priorities and operations of both international (the United Nations) and regional (the African Union & the European Union) organisations. The histories and theories related to this field will be examined. Students will also be required to critically evaluate the role and utility of these organisations in today's complex and dynamic international context.

INTR3022 – Intermediate International Political Economy (Semester One)

The objective of this course is to give you an in depth understanding of the study of International Political Economy as it relates to Africa. Complex economic theories are introduced. Student's use of quantitative research skills to analyse economic data is expanded. Students are asked to critically evaluate existing policies of IPE actors. Students will be exposed to a comprehensive set of ideas and readings.

INTR3023 – Foreign Policy Analysis (Semester One)

The focus of this course is on consolidating student's knowledge of foreign policy theories and practice. Moreover, it seeks to develop students' understanding of foreign policy concepts and the theoretical frameworks within which they function. Students will also be required to analyse and evaluate different foreign policy approaches or tactics together with their ultimate outcomes. Finally, students are required to apply what they have learned in a simulation exercise.

INTR3024 – South African Foreign Policy (Semester One)

This course probes the evolution of South Africa's foreign policy against the backdrop of changes in both the domestic and international arenas. The focus will be on the interplay of events and actors in the post-apartheid era. The course attempts to build on the previous courses on South African/African International Relations, but it is also an opportunity for students to gain in-depth appreciations of the continuities and discontinuities in South African foreign policy. Conceptually, the course is anchored in ideas about foreign policy--the projection of interests and power beyond borders. Empirically, the course touches on a wide range of subjects such as South Africa in Africa, the Great Lakes region, Southern Africa, relations with Nigeria, the United States, and the BRICs. Students are encouraged to broaden their intellectual horizons by examining equally important themes and debates such as South Africa in the United Nations, relations with Western Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Latin America as well as bilateral relations with countries such as Angola, Japan, and North Korea.

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Semester Two Elective Courses

Students are only allowed to choose 1 of these courses per semester.

INTR3008 – East Asia (Semester Two)

This course focuses on the international relations of the key East Asian states, China, Japan and Korea. The economic and political evolution of these three states will be discussed and evaluated. Inter-state conflicts over the following issues will be discussed and evaluated: China-Taiwan, North-South Korea, South China Sea, Sekaku/Daioyu Islands, Dokto/Takashima Islands. Conflicts are evaluated within the following theoretical frameworks: realist, neo-realist, Marxist, liberal, integration theory and constructivism. South Africa's democratic transition is offered as a model for conflict resolution in East Asia. Additional topics for evaluation include China-US relations, China-Africa relations, Japan-Africa relations, Korea's economic miracle and Korea-Africa relations. Given that over 25 percent of South Africa's foreign trade is now with these three East Asian nations, the region is becoming increasingly important and relevant.



INTR3010 – The Middle East (Semester Two)

This course provides an understanding of the dynamics of domestic, regional, and international politics in the Middle East. The course examines among other topics 1) The Arab Israeli conflict; 2) Prospects for peace and 3) The impact of political Islam and the foreign policy of selected Arab states.

INTR3013 – United States Foreign Policy (Semester Two)

The United States of America is a global super-power. The globalisation of the international political economy since the 1980s, the end of the Cold War and the 'war on terror' have reshaped the role of America and its foreign policy in the world. In many ways the new world order created over the past three decades has attempted to remake the world in the image of the USA. This course will attempt to equip students to engage in a critical analysis of American foreign policy. Students will interrogate how American foreign policy is shaped and will be provided with critical conceptual tools to understand the various social forces that mediate and determine policy outcomes. Moreover, students will be encouraged to scrutinise American foreign policy 'from below'. This means students will be encouraged to engage with American foreign policy generally from the standpoint of the global South and particularly from the perspective of Africa. Moreover, the operations of power within American foreign policy and its consequences for the South and Africa will be critically assessed.

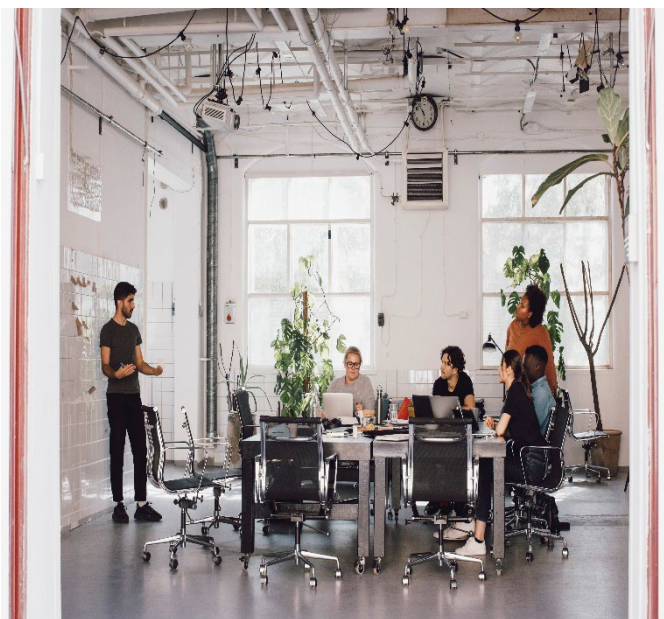
INTR3021- The International Relations of Africa (Semester Two)

The course has three core themes: Firstly, it explores the historical origins of Africa's dependence on external forces, and its marginality in global politics, both in theory and in practice. Secondly, it examines how the different IR theories have conceptualised Africa, and how their representations of Africa have informed and shaped practices on and toward the continent. Thirdly, it will examine African perspectives on IR, in particular, those drawing from critical theory in its most engaging aspects. The course thus offers a functional knowledge of the underlying areas and philosophies that have defined Africa and its place in the making of the international order. The course thus explores the international relations of Africa from historical, theoretical, and geopolitical perspectives.

Course Format and Lecture Attendance

Lectures are held in person on campus. However, some components of the course may be presented in an online format as the discretion of your lecturer. Even though lecture attendance is not compulsory, we strongly recommend that students attend lectures as there is a strong correlation between lecture attendance and student performance in course assessments. As IR covers complex and multifaceted issues it is often more difficult to develop a thorough understanding of these by engaging with the course material by yourself only. Learning is a social exercise and most people learn better together. Lectures are opportunities for students to learn from experts in the area being studied. Irrespective of class size, lectures can be highly interactive where questions can be raised or greater clarity asked for on an issue or debates initiated.

At third-year level students are required to attend 80 percent of all their elective courses' seminars to be granted DP (to be allowed to submit their final assessment or write the final exam). Attendance is taken weekly and as these are small classes absences are easily noticed. Moreover, students will be required to participate in seminar activities and presentation for assessment purposes, thus being absent for these seminar assessments will result in you being given a mark of zero.



Course Preparation

Preparing for a class means doing all the reading and any written work that have been assigned for the respective class or topic. All courses in their outline should provide students with assigned weekly material that they are expected to have covered before class. As a finite amount of content can be covered in lectures, doing the assigned class and tutorial readings expands your knowledge of the subject substantially, allowing you to begin to develop your expertise in an area.

Tutorial Programme and Attendance

All IR courses except for the third-year elective course have tutorial programmes. Here the large class is divided into smaller groups and meet weekly with their assigned tutor to explore a particular facet of a course in greater depth. An exceptional amount of thought goes into designing the content and the format of these programmes to make them vibrant learning experiences within a peer learning environment which have been found most conducive to participants' intellectual development.

All IR tutorials are scheduled on the timetable slot allocated to IR; therefore, no student should have any timetabling conflict with their tutorial. Please consult your course outline for further information regarding when the programme starts and its format.

All tutorials should be attended unless you have a valid excuse for your absence. To be granted DP for your course i.e., to qualify to submit your final form of assessment or write the final exam - **80 percent**

of its tutorials must be attended. Many tutorial programmes have class activities/assignments and/or class participation components where frequent absenteeism will have a detrimental impact on your grades. If you are going to be absent, please be polite and excuse yourself from the tutorial. Please also come to class on time.



Referencing and Plagiarism

At university we expect all students to reference their use of the ideas of other academics they have used when writing any academic work. In doing this we acknowledged the contributions academics have made to the area that we are studying as well as our understanding thereof. Our first-year courses will assist students in learning when and how to reference. Please note that IR at Wits uses the Chicago referencing system. The following website comprehensively outlines the correct referencing format for this style https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Plagiarism is more than not referencing in a paper; it extends to copying work from others as well as using AI sites or paper writing syndicates to write your papers. Irrespective of the form it takes, plagiarism constitutes academic misconduct. Where most of a paper's content has found to be plagiarised, it will be given a mark of **zero**. At first- and second-year minor cases of plagiarism will be dealt developmentally but marks can still be deducted. At third-year level we have a zero-tolerance policy irrespective of the degree of plagiarism and students will be reported to the School of Social Sciences plagiarism committee who will take the matter to an academic misconduct hearing that could result in a student's suspension or expulsion from the university. Thus, it is in your best interest to adopt good research and writing practices as well as time management skills to avoid these practices. Cutting and pasting from electronic versions of articles and books and then changing a few words is not an acceptable practice and constitutes plagiarism. Students need to practice the skills of writing other scholars' ideas and arguments in their own words. If you quote from a source, please place the quote in quotation marks.

Ulwazi Course Site

All our undergraduate courses have an Ulwazi site used to post general information regarding the course; the course syllabus; readings; important announcements; assessment formats and rubrics; additional resources and student marks/grades. All courses are required by university policy to have a fully populated Ulwazi course site, which sets out the weekly lecture and tutorial contents, together with required learning materials such as readings or videos that are required for the week. Further the site should set out the course assessments, their due dates, assessment and marking rubrics as well as the mark percentage for each component. If an IR Ulwazi course site is undeveloped or underdeveloped, please inform the Head of Discipline so that this can be rectified immediately.

Please check your Wits email regularly as all announcements posted on Ulwazi should be sent to this address. To reiterate: your Wits email is also one of the primary ways our administrator will contact you should the need arise. To access Ulwazi please go to <https://www.wits.ac.za/ulwazi/>



Our physical location

IR is located on the first floor of Robert Sobukwe block, on the East Campus of the university. Student notice boards are found on the wall between offices 125A-E and 126. Office 126 is also where course material can be collected.

Our staff

Current Head of Discipline

Professor Jacqui Ala

Room: RSB108

Email address: Jacqueline.dematosala@wits.ac.za

Departmental Administrators:

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Ms Laura Bloem | Laura.Bloem@wits.ac.za | +27117174382 | Head Administrator |
| Office: RSB109 | | | |
| Ms Nonhlanhla Mkhize | Nonhlanhla.Mkhize@wits.ac.za | +27117174387 | Course material, tutorial administration and general student queries |
| Office: RSB 126 | | | |

Full Time Academic Staff

| Academic | Areas of expertise |
|---|--|
| Professor Rod Alence Office RSB 120 Email : rod.alence@wits.ac.za | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data science ○ Quantitative research methods ○ The IPE of Africa |
| Prof Malte Brosig Office: RSB 113 Email : malte.brosig@wits.ac.za | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International organizations, ○ Peace and security (Europe & Africa), ○ Global governance, ○ BRICS, ○ Peacekeeping, ○ The United Nations Security Council. |
| Mr Larry Benjamin Office: 124 Email: larry.benjamin@wits.ac.za | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Middle East ○ International negotiation processes, |
| Prof Jacqui de Matos-Ala Office : RSB Email : jacqueline.dematosala@wits.ac.za | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IR pedagogy - ○ Knowledge production in IR, ○ IR theory from Africa and the Middle East ○ Norm localization and disability rights ○ Gender, Race & Culture ○ IR research methods (decolonization) ○ Historical international relations practices from the Global South ○ Subaltern studies ○ |
| Zimkhitha Manyana Office : RSB 112 Email : Zimkhitha.Manayab@wits.ac.za | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foreign policy and diplomacy ○ Impacts of technological advancements on the practice and study of IR ○ Political and IR theory ○ IPE ○ IR research methods |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Prof Dilip Menon Office: RSB 123 Email : dilip.menon@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International History in the post 1800 period ○ Theory from the Global South ○ Cold War IR with reference to the global south. ○ The International Relations of South Asia |
| <p>Dr Mopeli Moshoeshoe Office: RSB 119 Email : mopeli.moshoeshoe@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International trade ○ The SADC ○ International Political Economy |
| <p>Dr Candice Moore Office: RSB 117 Email : candice.moore@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SA foreign policy ○ BRICS - selected global issues and global regions. ○ IR theory ○ Global south in international institutions |
| <p>Dr Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh Office: RSB 115 Email : sizwe.mpofu-walsh@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nuclear non-proliferation ○ Nuclear security ○ South African foreign policy ○ Race and International Relations ○ Postcolonial IR |
| <p>Prof Vish Satgar Office: RSB 114A Email : vishwas.satgar@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate change and international relations ○ Decolonising IR ○ Democratic Marxism |
| <p>Dr Michelle Small Office: RSB 119 Email : michelle.small@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (In)Security, Violence, and Conflict in Africa. ○ Non-State Violence Actors in Africa. ○ Private Security and Military Companies (PSMCs) in Africa. ○ Foreign Military Presence in Africa. ○ Arms, Weapons, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Africa. ○ Transnational Organized Crime in Africa. ○ Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Displacement, Migration in Africa. |
| <p>Dr Natalie Zahringer Office: RSB: 114B Emails: natalie.zahringer@wits.ac.za</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International law, ○ Norm evolution and contestation, ○ International organisations especially ○ The UN, EU, ICC and AU. ○ R2P, ○ Atrocity crimes and security issues linked to this such as humanitarian interventions and international criminal accountability. |

Interacting with IR Academics and Administrators

- Our staff are staff are happy to make themselves available to students to assist them with questions and queries related to their study of International Relations.
- If you need assistance beyond what we can provide as far as possible we will refer you to those who can.
- Both academics and administrators have set time where they are available to consult with students. In as far as possible try and consult with them during these times. If you are unable to meet during these times you can email staff to arrange an alternative time.
- Consultation times for academics are posted on their Ulwazi course sites and on the door of the administrator 'offices.
- Outside of these times staff are not required to be in their offices. Staff are often busy with other tasks, so students should not assume that we will always be in our offices.
- Students can also email requests to staff.
 - In your email please clearly state who you are, which course you are in and the request that you are making.
 - Please address the staff member by their title and last name unless they have stated otherwise.
 - If you are comfortable in doing so, please at the end of the email next to your name list the pronoun that you wish to be addressed by, namely, he/she/they.
 - Please double check that you have the correct email address.
- Staff should respond to all email inquiries within 48 hours of their receipt.
- If you receive an out of office response, the staff member will only respond to your email once they are back in their office or they will refer you to the person filling in for them while they are absent.
- Staff are not required to answer emails outside of working hours which are generally before 8:30 and after 4:30 and over weekends with concessions made on Friday afternoons to accommodate the religious/cultural practices of staff members.
- In all engagements between staff and students, all parties should maintain and demonstrate mutual respect for each other in these interactions.
- The process for resolving lecturer-student disputes particularly related to marks is set out in the addendum section of this document.
- Student and staff membership of social media groups associated with the Wits IR department is voluntary. All official IR social media sites must comply with the Social Media policy of the University. We caution that there have been instances of non-Wits students joining class WhatsApp groups where they have used this as a platform to scam students by asking for money as well as threatening students with harm if they report this conduct. Please be wary of meeting up with people on class WhatsApp groups and/or responding to requests to loan people money or other items especially if you do not know them personally. Further, no bullying, harassment or discriminatory accusations made against group members, lecturers, administrators, or tutors on these groups will be tolerated and such conduct will be subject to disciplinary procedures as mandated by university policy **C2017/631**. This applies to both official Wits IR social media as well as WhatsApp groups set up for a specific IR course.

Other Useful Information

Importantly - Should you experience any difficulties that impact on your ability to attend this course, cover its content and/or submit assessments by the assigned dates, please discuss this with your course convener as soon you are able so that we can make accommodation arrangements. **The sooner we know, the sooner we can help you and the greater the number of options at our disposal.**

For emergency telephonic counselling, please contact the **Wits student Crisis Line 0800 111 331 toll free 24/7/365**. Wits Students are also encouraged to use the Wits Student Crisis Texting App. Details on how to access the Wits Student Crisis App are posted below.

CCDU BRAAMFONTEIN CAMPUS WEST [Main Office]:

CCDU Building, Braamfontein Campus West, Wits University
Closest Entrance: Gate 9, Enoch Sontonga Ave, Braamfontein.
Email: info.ccd@wits.ac.za
Tel: 011 717 9140/32



Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Disability Rights Unit to access the various accommodations that would facilitate more conducive learning and physical environments. Please see their webpage <https://www.wits.ac.za/disability-rights-unit/> for more information.

Teaching and Learning Advisors

Should students require assistance with planning their curriculum, mentoring, time management, study-skills or dealing with the academic implications of personal problems, then it is strongly recommended that they consult with Faculty Teaching and Learning Advisors, whose contact details are listed below:

Dr. Lindiwe Tshuma

Email: Lindiwe.Tshuma@wits.ac.za

Tel: 011 717 4090

Faculty of Humanities, South West Engineering Building, Room 2

Nompumelelo Bhengu-Schmitz

Email: Nompumelelo.bhengu@wits.ac.za

Tel: 011 717 4099

Faculty of Humanities, South West Engineering Building, Room 3

The Wits Writing Centre

The Wits Writing Centre (WWC) is a free and confidential service open to any Wits student who wants to work on their writing. For more information about their services please use the following link <https://www.wits.ac.za/students/wits-writing-centre/>

Graduation

Graduation ceremonies for post-graduate students are usually held in April, July and December. Final corrected research reports, dissertations and theses need to be submitted 6-8 weeks before a graduation ceremony in order of a student to graduate. Given the time taken for the work to be processed, and for corrections to be done, students and supervisors need to plan hand-in times carefully if they want to graduate at a specific ceremony.



**We look forward to seeing you at
Graduation!**

Acknowledgements

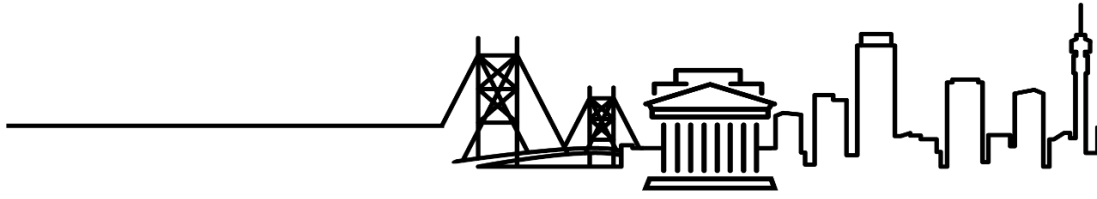
Wits University website <https://wits.ac.za>

The Faculty of Humanities website - <https://www.wits.ac.za/humanities/faculty-services/postgraduate-services/>

The Faculty of Humanities Rules and Syllabus Booklet

The University Fees Booklet 2022

From Application to Graduation, the Wits School of Education 2021



Addendum

University Assessment Policies, and Related Procedures

Assessment is a very important part of the learning process. Our lecturers put a lot of work into ensuring that assessments set for each level of study help students master the competencies that their course seeks to develop. IR is also committed to making our assessment task as well as criteria clear to students, either in a verbal or oral format or both. This holds true irrespective of the assessment format. All our assessment activities are informed by and where mandated comply with the Senate Standing Orders on Assessment document G-SC-TLC-2022-004.

The IR marking process.

- All assessments are marked according to the assessment criteria set by the lecturer for that assessment. These are required to be communicated to students beforehand in either in their course outline or on the Ulwazi site.
- If an assessment is marked by a tutor, it will be marked according to the assessment criteria set by the lecturer.
- The lecturer meets with their tutors to review the marking criteria before they begin marking.
- The lecturer reviews the marking of each tutor to ensure that their marking is valid and reliable, conforming with the marking criteria and awarding the appropriate mark.
- Students should receive feedback on all formative assessments. However, this feedback may take different formats. For example, there may be a marking rubric with comments for an essay or an answer sheet for a tutorial exercise or multiple-choice test. However, this does not make some forms of feedback superior to others.
- It is important that students pay attention to the feedback they receive as this is designed to assist in their academic development.
- Feedback is an important part of the learning process.
- Using feedback constructively necessitates that you are open to having your work critiqued by someone with more academic experience. It is important to note that your work is being critiqued for the purpose of improving your academic abilities and that it is your work that is being evaluated not you as an individual. This is often a hard distinction to make but feedback should not be taken as a personal slight but seen as something positive.

The role of the external examiner/internal examiner in the assessment process.

- As per the university standing orders on assessment (G-SC-TLC-2022-004), all exit level courses are reviewed by an external examiner.
- An external examiner is an International Relations academic from another university that has been approved by the Faculty of Humanities as possessing the necessary competencies to evaluate IR courses and provide an appraisal to the lecturer as well as the Head of IR and the Head of the School of Social Sciences as to of the overall standard and quality of the course

and the standard, clarity, suitability and overall quality of the assessments selected for external examining and that these align with the course or programme learning outcomes.

- The external examiner also reviews a selection of completed student assessments to check that markers have adhered to the marking criteria and applied them consistently and fairly. Assessments constituting no less than 30 percent of a course's total marks are sent to the external examiner for this review. An additional 30 percent is internally moderated by members of the Wits IR staff.
- An internal examiner is a staff member from IR who performs the same function as the external examiner. They evaluate all second-year course content, assessments and marking as well as exit level courses.

Procedures for asking for clarification on feedback and/or the mark assigned.

- Should you need further clarification regarding your feedback or on the mark you received you should make an appointment to see the person who marked the assessment.
- This could be either your tutor or your lecturer and they would be happy to assist you further.
- Only after engaging in this process are students allowed to request a re-evaluation of their assessment.

Re-evaluation Process and Procedures.

- Should you subsequently believe that your feedback and evaluation deviates from the set assessment criteria, you are required in writing (sent to the lecturer's email address) to
 - formally request a re-evaluation of your assessment from your lecturer.
 - Please cc the Head of Discipline in this email.
 - set out in detail how the feedback and evaluation deviates from the assessment criteria for the evaluation as set out in the evaluation rubric.
 - provide your lecturer with this documentation within 7 days of receiving your assessment feedback.
- The lecturer will then evaluate this request and then respond in writing, addressing the points raised by the student. If the lecturer believes that a mark adjustment is warranted this amendment will be made.
- A lecturer is allowed 2 weeks to review and/or re-evaluate an assessment.
- Should the student still be dissatisfied with this outcome, they can request, in writing, that their assessment be sent to the external or internal examiner for final moderation. Please email this request to the lecturer and CC the HOD

Please note:

- The external or internal examiner has the discretion to **both raise or lower a mark**. Per university policy, the decision of the external or internal examiner is final.
- Only individual requests for reassessment will be considered. No class demands for reassessment will be entertained.
- At all times when dealing with evaluation disputes International Relations will follow the above procedure set out in the university's standing orders on assessment. As per the standing orders on assessment (G-SC-TLC-2022-004), the Head of Discipline does not automatically need to be involved in this process.
- The internal/external examination process has been devised by the university to resolve mark disputes and ensure reliability, validity, and fairness in the evaluation of assessments. The Head of Discipline receives all reports from the external/internal examiners. Only if the

lecturer fails to consistently respond to a student's request for assistance regarding feedback and evaluation should they email the Head of Discipline.



Procedures for raising complaints and concerns related to academic issues.

- All complaints and concerns related to a specific course are to be raised with the lecturer of that course.
- Please be specific as to what the problem is that you are experiencing and/or the request that you are making.
- Be mindful of the fact that academics and administrators may be to comply with university policies in specific instances and therefore may not be able to accommodate your request.
- All academic related complaints will be dealt with by the IR academic staff according to the procedures set out above.
- All complaints of an academic nature need to be lodged at the appropriate level as per university document **UR-Pr-2019-021**. and can only be escalated to a higher person if the parties are unable to resolve the problem satisfactorily. If this chain of escalation is not followed strictly upper members of management structures will simply refer students back to the relevant person that they should have engaged with initially.
- A request for escalation requires a detailed email be sent to the subsequent person in the escalation chain formally making this request and CCed to the course lecturer as well. The email must give a detailed account of the grievance/s as well as what actions have been taken to address this issue, and the progress made to date in attempting to resolve these as well as why a final resolution has not been achieved.
- If further meetings between the parties and the HOD and/or HOS are deemed necessary only students enrolled in the course and who are party to the complaint will be allowed to attend the meeting.

The chain of escalation for academic matters



Queries for IR Administrators

- If a mark has been incorrectly recorded, please contact your lecturer as well as an IR administrator to get this corrected immediately. Please raise this issue as soon as you become aware of it. Please follow up to ensure that the corrections have been recorded.
- Issues related to the procession of tutor contracts and payments.

Course queries that should go the Head of Discipline

1. If after numerous requests a course fails to provide students in its first week with:
 - the course content,
 - readings, academic competencies the course seeks to develop,
 - the course assessments, their due dates as well as their contribution to the course's mark total (no assessment component may count more than 40 percent of the total marks for a course)
 - the assessment criteria for each assessment in writing.
 - This information can either be provided in a course reading pack, printed course outline and/or on Ulwazi.
2. Lecturers being repeatedly absent from class without arranging make-up classes.
3. Assessments taking longer than 4 weeks to be returned to students without a reason being given to students by lecturer.
4. Lecturers repeatedly missing student consultation times.

For further details on where and how to direct queries that you may have please consult the following link <https://www.wits.ac.za/students/student-grievance-procedures/steps/#d.en.1091805>

Other complaints and disputes

- Complaints about harassment or discrimination by a member of staff against a student need to be directed to the Head of School who is mandated to consult with the HOD of IR and refer the matter to the relevant university structures. The university takes such allegations very seriously and will investigate these complaints extensively through the Gender and Transformation Office.
- Any person found to have created fictitious complaints that impugn the reputation and good standing of an administrator, academic member of staff or tutor, will have disciplinary proceedings instituted against them. All such matters will be addressed as per University Policy G-C-2020-037.