

**REGULATIONS FOR THE  
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (PDIPIA)  
AND THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

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**Admission requirements**

IPA 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs or the degree of Master of International & Public Affairs, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
  - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
  - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

IPA 2. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

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**Qualifying examination**

- IPA 3. (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or the candidate's ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
- (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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**Award of Postgraduate Diploma**

IPA 4. To be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) complete an equivalent of 5 courses as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.
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**Award of Master degree**

IPA 5. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of International & Public Affairs, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) complete an equivalent of 8 courses as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.

IPA 6. Candidates who have been admitted to the course leading to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and who have completed the curriculum for the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and satisfied the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below, may be considered for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of International & Public Affairs. If candidates are so admitted, and complete the prescribed curriculum for the degree of Master of International & Public Affairs, they shall be eligible for the degree of Master of International & Public Affairs, but shall not be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs. Candidates admitted under this regulation to the course leading to the award of Master of International & Public Affairs who fail to satisfy the examiners under IPA5 but who satisfy the examiners under IPA4 shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs.

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### **Length of curriculum**

IPA 7. The curriculum of the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs shall extend over not more than two academic years or equivalent and shall include written examinations administered in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.

IPA 8. The curriculum of the Master of International & Public Affairs shall extend over not more than two academic years or equivalent and shall include written examinations administered in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.

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### **Completion of curriculum**

- IPA 9. To complete the curriculum, candidates
- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
  - (b) where so provided in the syllabuses, shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or project in lieu of one or two courses on a subject within their approved fields of study; and
  - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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### **Title of dissertation or project**

IPA 10. Subject to the provision of Regulation IPA 9(b), the title of dissertation/project shall be submitted and the dissertation/project shall be presented according to the schedule as below:

Project

<b>Title of project submitted on or before</b>	<b>Project to be presented on or before</b>
30 September	30 December of the same academic year
30 January	30 April of the same academic year

## Dissertation

Schedule for first-year candidates:

<b>Title of Dissertation submitted on or before</b>	<b>Dissertation to be presented on or before</b>
30 September	30 April of the same academic year
30 January	30 December of the next academic year

Schedule for second-year candidates:

<b>Title of Dissertation submitted on or before</b>	<b>Dissertation to be presented on or before</b>
30 September	for <b>September</b> intake candidates – 30 April of the same academic year for <b>January</b> intake candidates - *30 December of the same academic year
30 January	for <b>September</b> intake candidates – 30 April of the same academic year for <b>January</b> intake candidates - *30 December of the next academic year

\* to comply with the regulations IPA7 and IPA8 regarding “length of curriculum”.

Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation/project represents their own work.

**Examination**

- IPA 11. (a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework, a dissertation or a project shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) Assessment of candidates’ coursework during their studies may be taken into account in determining their result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

IPA 12. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined during any of the semester of study, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the course or courses of failure upon the approval of the departmental head.

IPA 13. Subject to the provision of Regulation IPA 9(b), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation or project may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or project within a specified period.

IPA 14. Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic semester. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates’ absence from the examination.

- IPA 15. Candidates who
- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners under Regulation IPA 12; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment at a second attempt; or

- (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or project under the provision of Regulation IPA 13; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised project or dissertation under the provision of Regulation IPA 13

may be required to discontinue their studies.

### **Examination results**

IPA 16. A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the postgraduate diploma or degree requirements and are to be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs and Master of International and Public Affairs shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' postgraduate or degree diplomas.

## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (PDIPIA) AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)**

### **PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

Most of the core courses are taught in the evening or on Saturdays. Some courses may be offered in a 4-week-long intensified format in addition to the usual 12-week format. To receive the award of Master of International and Public Affairs candidates have to complete 8 courses or equivalent successfully within two years by choosing 6 core courses (including 2 compulsory courses) plus the equivalent of two courses from one of the following options:

- (a) Two more courses (core or elective);
- (b) One core/elective course plus a project of 10,000-12,000 words ("POLI6014 Project" is equivalent to one elective course);
- (c) A dissertation of 20,000 - 24,000 words ("POLI6015 Dissertation" is equivalent to two elective courses);
- (d) Overseas study/internship (equivalent to one or two elective courses); or
- (e) Graduate exchange program with George Washington University (GWU), The Elliott School of International Affairs (students take 9 credit hours of coursework at GWU, which is equivalent to 2 MIPA elective courses).

#### **Compulsory course list:**

- POLI6004. Theories of international relations
- POLI6006. International political economy

#### **Core course list:**

- POLI6005. International organizations
- POLI6007. International relations in the Asia-Pacific
- POLI6008. Understanding global problems: theory and practice

POLI6010.	Chinese foreign policy
POLI6011.	International security in East Asia
POLI6012.	Intergovernmental relations in Greater China
POLI6016.	A selected topic in international and public affairs (I)
POLI6020.	East Asian political economy
POLI6025.	A selected topic in international and public affairs (II)
POLI6026.	A selected topic in international and public affairs (III)
POLI6027.	A selected topic in international and public affairs (IV)
POLI6029.	War and armed conflict: philosophical issues
POLI8004.	Government and law
POLI8005.	Government and the economy
POLI8014.	NGOs and governance
POLI8024.	China's governance in the reform era

**Elective course list:**

POLI6014.	Project
POLI6015.	Dissertation
POLI6021.	Overseas study at Peking University: "Current issues in China's international relations" (one course equivalent)
POLI6023.	Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (one course equivalent)
POLI6024.	Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (two courses equivalent)
POLI6028.	Overseas study at Shanghai International Studies University (one course equivalent)

*Students are required to pay additional costs to take the above overseas study courses (POLI6021, POLI6023, POLI6024 and POLI6028).*

**Elective courses can also be chosen from the following programmes (subject to requirements and appropriate course fees as decided by host departments)#**

- law (Department of Law, HKU)
- international business (School of Business, HKU)
- public policy (Department of Politics & Public Administration, HKU)
- media studies (Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU)

**Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs**

Candidates may be awarded a *Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs* upon successful completion of 5 courses within two years.

**Chinese Language Training: Certificate in Chinese Language**

MIPA candidates whose mother tongue is not Chinese may like to study for a certificate in Chinese language at the Department of Chinese at the University at extra cost during the daytime. The Certificate in Chinese Language courses (1-2 years) may be taken in the Putonghua stream or the Cantonese stream

**Compulsory courses**

**POLI6004. Theories of international relations**

This course is a survey of major theories about international relations and the causes of cooperation and conflict among nations. It covers several important theoretical perspectives in the current studies of international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.

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**POLI6006. International political economy**

This course is a broad overview of major theoretical approaches, concepts and substantive issues in the field of international political economy (IPE). It is designed to help students gain a substantial understanding of the relations between politics and economic and the interplay between power and wealth. The course starts with a critical evaluation of major theoretical perspectives on IPE and then examines some core issue areas, such as economic interdependence, the international trading system, multinational corporations, the international monetary system, North-South relations, and foreign economic policies of key states in the international economic system.

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**Core Courses**

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**POLI6005. International organizations**

This course provides a general survey of the development of international organizations. It begins with the philosophical and theoretical foundations of international organizations and then examines a broad range of international organizations and the issues which these international organizations are designed to deal with such as collective security, peaceful settlement of disputes, and promoting international justice, social and economic development. Special emphasis is given to exploring the roles and functions of the United Nations, and its affiliated organizations. Attention will also be given to regional organizations such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and European Union (EU).

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**POLI6007. International relations in the Asia-Pacific**

This course is a survey of international relations in the Asia Pacific region. Instead of providing a comprehensive examination of the history, culture, and national policies of countries in the region, it mainly addresses four issues here: What are major trends in regional IR? What is the source of conflict in the region? What are the common interests that unite peoples and states of the Asian Pacific? How does the region organise itself? It explains dynamics and patterns of regional international relations in a broad geopolitical and geoeconomic context. Topics in discussion include major powers' role in the region, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, ASEAN, Southeast Asia and regional institution-building.

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**POL6008. Understanding global problems: theory and practice**

This course aims to critically explore some of the major challenges confronting an international community that is faced with unprecedented levels of global interdependency and escalating power asymmetry. The class will provide a detailed analysis of the issues at stake, providing students with the intellectual grounding necessary to critically evaluate many of our most pressing global problems and their proposed solutions. While the list of controversies changes each semester, some past questions have included: Are genetically modified foods crucial to the fight against hunger? Is U.S. hegemony a force for global (in)stability? Is globalization inherently "anti-religious"? Was NATO intervention in Kosovo justified? In exploring these and other controversies, the course will combine perspectives from the academic literature with those of practitioners, including senior diplomats, representatives from non-governmental organizations, government officials, and corporate executives.

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**POLI6010. Chinese foreign policy**

This course is an in-depth survey of Chinese foreign policy since 1949. It begins with a framework of analysis for studying Chinese foreign policy. Different models and explanations are used in analyzing Chinese foreign policy. Some special emphasis is placed on the revolutionary source of Chinese foreign policy and China's position in the changing international environment during the Cold War and beyond.

**POLI6011. International security in East Asia**

This course examines major trends and problems in East Asian security. Taking a broad concept of “national security,” it studies regional security issues in both “traditional security” sense and “non-traditional security” sense. Besides, introducing basic concepts and approaches to the study of regional security in East Asia, the course analyses national security policies of major powers in the region and how their policies affect regional security environment.

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**POLI6012. Intergovernmental relations in Greater China**

This course examines the intergovernmental relations between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macau Special Administrative Region, Taiwan and such coastal regions in South China as Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Xiamen and Shantou. Emphasis will be placed on Hong Kong's interaction with its neighbours in different policy areas, including trade, transport, infrastructure projects, environmental protection, crime control and immigration.

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**POLI6016. A selected topic in international and public affairs (I)**

This course is offered from time to time. Students should consult the Department on the content of the course on offer.

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**POLI6020. East Asian political economy**

This course examines the interaction of politics and economics in international trade with reference to the world economy's most dynamic region - the Pacific Rim. International politics and international economics have been described as interwoven strands in the fabric of world order. This course focuses on three dimensions: First, theoretical perspectives on the politics of international trade and more specifically, the arguments for and against free trade. Concepts such as free trade, protectionism, new protectionism, and strategic trade will be discussed with reference to developments in the Pacific region. Second, the institutional and legal framework of the world trade system: the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor organization - the World Trade Organization (WTO). The institutional dimension will be discussed with reference to the changing global trade environment, particularly in the Pacific Rim. Third, case studies on the major political and economic challenges arising from trade difficulties that Pacific Rim countries have to confront.

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**POLI6025. A selected topic in international and public affairs (II)**

This course is offered from time to time. Students should consult the Department on the content of the course on offer.

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**POLI6026. A selected topic in international and public affairs (III)**

This course is offered from time to time. Students should consult the Department on the content of the course on offer.

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**POLI6027. A selected topic in international and public affairs (IV)**

This course is offered from time to time. Students should consult the Department on the content of the course on offer.

**POLI6029. War and armed conflict: philosophical issues**

This course provides a thorough introduction into the moral issues of war and armed conflict, with a focus on current debates in just war theory, and in particular on such controversial issues as “the moral (in)equality of soldiers”, the principle of discrimination, terrorism, guerrilla warfare and humanitarian intervention.

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**POLI8004. Government and law**

This course examines selected aspects of the provinces, processes and products of constitutional, statutory and contractual decision-making in government. Topics include: the nature and significance of constitutional and political structures, rights and obligations, with reference especially to the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights; the means by which statutes and ordinances are created and interpreted; the exercise of legal power in the form of a right to impose requirements, levy fees, determine entitlements, and enter into contracts; and the need for decisions and action to be subject to various forms of review.

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**POLI8005. Government and the economy**

The course surveys the objectives pursued by government in managing the economy, the means employed in pursuit of those objectives, and theories concerning government's economic behaviour.

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**POLI8014. NGOs and governance**

This course examines the relationships between and among the state, the market and civil society with particular reference to the work of those not-for-profit organizations and associations which are normally referred to as NGOs. It focuses on the legal-structural dimensions of NGOs and the ways in which they operate in the production, provision, ownership, regulation and facilitation of various goods and services. It recognizes that the activities of NGOs are frequently central to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies in both domestic and international arenas.

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**POLI8024. China's governance in the reform era**

In spite of China's sustained economic growth since 1978, the Chinese government is still coping with the many legacies of the socialist system during its transition to a more marketized economy and affluent society. China's opening up to the outside world and its growing integration with the world economy further pose new challenges in its pursuit of political order amid rapid social and economic transformation. This course aims to analyze the key issues shaping the governance of China during the reform era. After surveying the major changes of the Chinese political and administrative systems since 1978, this course will examine a set of institutional and policy challenges critical to China's governance, such as leadership succession, civil service and administrative reforms, central-local relations, uneven regional development, state-society relations, social inequality, globalization and the growing integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

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**Elective Courses**

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**POLI6014. Project**

MIPA candidates can choose to work on a project under guidance in lieu of electives or spending time overseas. A project is considered the equivalent of one elective course. The appropriate length of project is 10,000-12,000 words.



**POLI6015. Dissertation**

MIPA candidates can choose to work on a dissertation under guidance in lieu of electives or spending time overseas. A dissertation is considered the equivalent of two elective courses, with a length of about 20,000-24,000 words.

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**POLI6021. Overseas study at Peking University: “Current issues in China’s international relations”**

The course will explore the major foreign policy issues that are confronting China in recent years. These issues include China and globalization, China and regional security, China’s relations with US, China’s relations with Europe, China’s relations with Japan, and China and international environmental protection. It will be jointly taught by renowned Chinese international specialists based in Beijing as well as practitioners from relevant government agencies such as the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course is equivalent to one MIPA course.

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**POLI6023. Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (one course equivalent)**

The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) summer program provides students from across the United States and abroad an opportunity to enrol in excellent courses taught in a condensed form. Courses offered include American foreign policy since World War II, global issues: drugs, crime and terrorism, principles and practices of conflict management, strategy and policy, international monetary theory, international trade theory. Students are required to take one SAIS course.

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**POLI6024. Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (two courses equivalent)**

The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) summer program provides students from across the United States and abroad an opportunity to enrol in excellent courses taught in a condensed form. Courses offered include American foreign policy since World War II, global issues: drugs, crime and terrorism, principles and practices of conflict management, strategy and policy, international monetary theory, international trade theory. Students are required to take two SAIS courses.

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**POLI6028. Overseas study at Shanghai International Studies University**

The course will explore the foreign economical relations of China. The issues include China and globalization, China and regional economy, China’s relations with US, China’s relations with Europe, China’s relations with Japan, and China and international environmental protection. It will be jointly taught by renowned Chinese international specialists based in Shanghai as well as practitioners from relevant government agencies such as the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course is equivalent to one MIPA course.

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**Other Elective Courses**

Selected courses are offered by the following departments as electives of the MIPA programme subject to additional entry requirement: The Department of Law, the School of Business, the Journalism and Media Centre, the Department of Politics and Public Administration (Master of Public Administration Programme). The offering of these elective courses will be announced in appropriate timing before course enrolment. MIPA students may have to pay different fees for these elective courses.