

JOIN THE HUB OF EASTERN EUROPE EXPERTS!



Eastern European and Russian studies Join the hub of Eastern Europe experts!

Why choose the Eastern European and Russian Studies Master's programme at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science (IIRPS VU)?

You will:

- Explore Eastern Europe from the base of cosy modern Vilnius
- Build your expertise by studying in one of the leading research institutions in the region
- Join a lively hub of field experts and practitioners
- Have an opportunity to experience Russia within an hour's drive
- Take part in study trips to Belarus, Moldova, Georgia
- Conduct an internship in leading foreign policy institutions and think-tanks

IDENTIFICATION

Name of programme	Eastern European and Russian Studies
Qualification awarded	Master in Political Science (MA)
Level	Second cycle studies
Study field	Political science
Scope of programme (ECTS)	90
Language of instruction	English
Length of programme (years)	1.5 (3 semesters)
Tuition fee	€ 2265 EUR per year, € 3397.5 total per study
Deadline for application	1 May – non EU/EEA 1 June – EU/EEA as well as for non EU/EEA applicants with Lithuanian embassies residing in their home countries

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

• The objective

The Eastern European and Russian Studies Programme is devised to provide with deep and comprehensive knowledge about the region - its political, economic and cultural particularities, and develop your academic and analytical skills that will enable students to analyse, evaluate and assess key political and social processes within this dynamic and exciting region.

• Career opportunities and access to further studies

Our graduates work in a number of different fields; some pursue their career as civil servants in public administration institutions and diplomatic service, others work as analysts and experts in the international organizations, academic and research institutions, as well as in the private sector in Lithuania and abroad. For those who wish to spread their knowledge and gain further insight into the Eastern and Central European studies there is access available to the third cycle studies (doctoral studies).

WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE WILL STUDENTS ACQUIRE?

- first-hand experience of Eastern Europe regional specifics through studying across the range of area specific courses including state, society, economics, culture and politics of the region;
- professional expertise on the key issues that impact domestic and foreign policies in the states of Eastern Europe and Russia;
- advanced knowledge of the concepts, theories and methods in the contemporary political science, especially in the field of International Relations and Comparative Politics;
- deep understanding of the history and political systems of the Eastern European countries and Russia, as well as political and economic transformation processes that are taking place in the region;
- skills to analyse the development of the region in the context of contemporary international and regional co-operation;
- methodological skills required to undertake and produce an independent research project.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In the first semester, students start with four courses that introduce them to the economic, historic and cultural context of Eastern Europe and Russia, as well as the political science research methods that will be crucial in preparing their MA thesis. These courses take up to 10 ECTS credits each.

The second semester offers an opportunity to build extensive knowledge and expertise in their preferred field of interests by choosing three elective subjects from the list of courses open to all Master level students at the Institute. Students will also attend Master's seminars to further develop their MA thesis research design and one compulsory course dedicated to providing in-depth knowledge of economic and political particularities in Russia.

During the third semester, students work on their Master's thesis and continue attending Master's seminars. Additionally, they can extend their knowledge by attending one elective subject based on their academic or professional interests. Moreover, students are offered an opportunity to build their resume by conducting a professional internship with non-governmental organizations or research institutions based in Vilnius.

The overall structure of the programme is shown in the table below:

1st Semester (30 ECTS)
Compulsory Courses
Economic Transformation: From Command Economy to a New System (10 ECTS)
State and Society in Eastern Europe and Russia: From Autocracy to Democracy (10 ECTS)
Inventing Eastern Europe: Explorations of the European East (5 ECTS)
Search and Research: Methods and Approaches in Political Science (5 ECTS)
2nd Semester (30 ECTS)
Compulsory Courses
Master's seminar (5 ECTS)
Russian Politics and Economy in Post-modern World (10 ECTS)

Elective Courses
Elective course (5 ECTS)
Elective course (5 ECTS)
Elective course (5 ECTS)
3rd Semester (30 ECTS)
Compulsory Courses
Master's seminar (5 ECTS)
Master's Theses (20 ECTS)
Elective Courses
Elective course (5 ECTS)

The elective courses students can choose are listed in the table below:

Elective courses	
Autumn semester	Spring semester
Moral Issues of War	International Political Economy and Globalization (5 ECTS)
Security and Sustainable Development	Energy Security
International Organizations	Belarusian and Ukrainian Studies
EU External Relations	Nationalism and Its Manifestations in Central and Eastern Europe

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Public defence of a Master thesis.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All international students wishing to take the Master's degree programme of Eastern European and Russian studies must **apply online** using the [University Admission website](#).

More information about admission procedure can be found [here](#).

To apply for this programme, you need Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in Social Science or Humanities. The selection criterion is based on the weighted average of all grades recorded in the transcript of your academic report. To join us, you need to be proficient in English, therefore a minimum 80 of TOEFL (IBT) or 550 (pBT) or 6 of IELTS score is required.



Note: if your mother tongue is English and/or you have a university degree in English, you will be exempt from providing an English language test score.

EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

As social scientists we also know that most of the learning happens while preparing for and writing assignments so we have made sure to include quite a few of them in the curriculum. Each of these assignments will showcase your academic excellence and integrity. To help you, we have prepared methodological requirements of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University that can be found [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Do not hesitate to contact us:

Academic contact	Admissions contact
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