The International History and Politics Department of the Graduate Institute in Geneva offers a unique opportunity to study and research today’s global challenges from a multiplicity of historically-informed perspectives.

Situated in the heart of international Geneva, we are uniquely positioned to monitor and examine the making of international policies and the global history and politics that stands behind them. International Geneva is where national, transnational and international, public and private actors operate and meet constantly. Here, peace agreements are signed, international IT protocols are negotiated, environmental advocacy, public health policies, financial, economic, conflict and security issues are imagined, debated and enforced, between and beyond nations. This has been the case for one hundred years, and Geneva continues to actively shape the future.

Both the Master Programme and the PhD Programme in International History and Politics explore the modern world through these transnational histories, taking into account a multiplicity of perspectives.

This education opportunity is offered to high-quality students interested in the drivers of contemporary global governance challenges and their historical undercurrents in the areas of politics, development, conflict, environment, humanitarianism, commerce and finance, health and culture.
A Dynamic Study Plan

MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

- 3 compulsory courses (18 credits)
- 12 elective courses (72 credits)
- 8 to 10 courses in discipline of specialisation (48 to 60 credits)
- 2 to 4 in one or several other disciplines (12 to 24 credits)
- Thesis (30 credits)
- Total of 120 credits

PHD IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS

- 2 compulsory courses (12 credits)
- 2 elective courses (12 credits)
- Preliminary thesis dissertation (30 credits)
- Option to choose other discipline minor (18 credits)
- Dissertation
- Total of 54 credits or 72 (with minor)

Courses

- Historiography: A Critical Introduction
- A History of the Post-September 11 Era
- An International History of Racism
- Applied Research Seminar in International History and Politics
- Histories Beyond Nations
- Foreign Policy of Major Powers
- The Evolution of Global Security
- Corruption Histories
- Violence, History and Memory in 20th Century Africa
- Empire and Anti-Imperialism in Latin America
- From Truman to Trump: US Foreign Policy and International Security since World War II
- Gender, Sexuality and Decolonisation in the Global South
- Global Population and Reproductive Politics in the 20th Century
- History and Development
- Humanitarians and Human Trafficking
- Race and Mobility: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
- Transatlantic Relations since 1945
- Understanding Terrorism: History, Context and Challenges
- The Climates of History
- China-Europe Relations
- State-Building and War-Making in the Developing World
- The United States and the World since 1945
- Agriculture in World History
- Public Health and Medicine
- The Arab Israeli Conflict
- Modern China: A Great Transformation

Why Study International History and Politics?

The International History and Politics Department of the Graduate Institute – the oldest school of international relations in Europe located in Geneva, the site of historical international organisations and historically of the League of Nations – enables students to pursue historical research and analysis in the context of the Institute’s anchoring in both the humanities and the comparative analysis of contemporary policy and governance.

The particular contribution of the International History and Politics Department is to bring a historical methodology to the study of international affairs, including policy-making, political systems and institutions. These methods – specifically qualitative and textual analysis, archival research and attention to structural change and continuities over time – allow students to coherently link history, politics and the contemporary environment.

A degree in international history and politics at the Graduate Institute in Geneva can lead to a career as an international historian, but it also provides a set of tools for a successful career in politics and diplomacy, or in the private sector. The same methods that make for a great international historian are a tremendous, indeed indispensable asset in the world of global politics. Of particular importance are the ways that historians illuminate the political relevance of questions of meaning, culture, mentalities and deep economic structures locally and globally.
Faculty and Research

The International History and Politics Department of the Graduate Institute researches and teaches the contemporary world through its different histories and from a multiplicity of perspectives. The Department hosts a diverse community of distinguished professors and researchers with deep knowledge of today’s global challenges expertise on many regions of the world and with a great sensitivity to diversity.

PROFESSORS

GOPALAN BALACHANDRAN  Globalisation  North-South relations  Diasporas
CAROLYN BILTOFT  Globalisation  History of international relations  International organisations
NICOLE BOURBONNAIS  Global health  Gender  Public policies
RUI ESTEVES  Currencies and foreign exchange  Finance, financial markets, international investment  Corruption and rent-seeking
JUSSI HANHİMÄKİ  Cold War  Foreign policies  International organisations
SUSANNA HECHT  Environmental history  Political ecologies  Resource governance
MOHAMMAD-MAHMOUD OULD MOHAMEDOU  Political violence  State-building  Political transition
AMALIA RIBI FORCLAZ  Agriculture  Labour  International organisations
DAVIDE RODOGNO  Humanitarianism  Authoritarianism  International organisations
AIDAN RUSSELL  Violence  Decolonisation  Borders and mobilities
CYRUS SCHAYEGH  Transnational history  Cold War  Decolonisation

ECCELLENZA PROFESSORIAL FELLOWS

ANTOINE ACKER  Environmental History  Anthropocene  Climate, Energy and Innovation
MISCHA SUTER  History of science  European social history  Colonialism

HONORARY AND FORMER PROFESSORS

BRUNO ARCIDIACONO  Taught in 1987–2015  Armed conflict  International organisations  History of international relations
GARETH AUSTIN  Taught in 2010–2016  Comparative and global economic history  Economic history of Sub-Saharan Africa
PHILIPPE BURRIN  Taught in 1987–2004  Second World War  Fascism, nazism, antisemitism  History of international relations
MOHAMMAD-REZA DJALILI  Taught in 1980–2010  Political sociology  Development  History of international relations
PIERRE DU BOIS  Taught in 1992–2007  European history  International security/defence  History of Switzerland
MARC FLANDreau  Taught in 2008–2017  Economic and financial history  International monetary system  History of science, information and expertise
SAUL FRIEDLANDER  Taught in 1964–1987  History of international relations, 1918–1945  History of German foreign policy, 1918–1939  History of nazi policies of extermination
MICHAEL GOEBEL  Taught in 2018–2021  Immigrants, refugees, diasporas  Urban questions  Global and European history
ANDRE LIEBICH  Taught in 1989–2013  Minorities  Post-communism  Immigrants
MIKLÓS MOLNÁR  Taught in 1963–1988  History of international relations  Social history of Central Europe  History of Hungary
LANXIN XIANG  Taught in 1996–2021  Cold War  Foreign policies  World wars
Students and Careers

The International History and Politics Department of the Graduate Institute prepares you for an international career.

From academe to diplomacy to the corporate sector by way of the media, foundations and think-tanks, effective analysis and practice of current international affairs need the contribution of an appropriate historical contextualisation and knowledge. This is what we offer our Master and PhD students, helping them secure that quality advantage.

Through historical methodology such as qualitative and textual analysis, applied research seminars conducted with practitioners in partner organisations, archival research and attention to structural change and continuities over time, students study international politics, policy-making, political systems and institutions, transnational actors and actions, and history of culture, societies, markets and environment in regional and/or global perspective.

Studying international history and politics at the Graduate Institute means acquiring high-quality training, an international network and practical experience. It also means living in a city, Geneva, where international cooperation happened, happens and will continue to happen.

Past and present cohorts of Master and PhD students have been extremely successful and are currently employed in a wide range of roles in the private and public sector.

To the extent of its ability, the Graduate Institute strives to support its students throughout the duration of their studies with nearly half of our students receiving direct or indirect financial support. Financial aid is awarded on the basis of an application documenting financial need.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“...The Department of International History and Politics at the Graduate Institute provides students with the opportunity and the tools to approach their studies in more complex and innovative ways than do other graduate programmes around the world."

Jonathan Matthew SCHMITT
United States of America

“A wonderful community of scholars and students. The historical sources available in Geneva – a hub of international organisations – have enriched my work in a way that I had never expected, and my time at the Graduate Institute broadened my intellectual horizon.”

Yukako OTORI, Japan

“I have continually found the space to explore novel openings and have received great direction and support. An ideal milieu in which to broaden our spectrum of thought, history and politics and everything else in between.”

Aditya Kiran KAKATI, India

For more information
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