

Fast Track

The Fast Track option is open to disciplinary master programme students in the following disciplines:

- International Economics
- International Law
- International Relations/Political Science

The Fast Track option is not available to students in the disciplines of Anthropology and Sociology and International History and Politics; the information that follows does not apply to them.

Students in their first semester can apply for admission to the PhD Fast Track programme, an accelerated programme combining the MA and PhD degrees in the same discipline.

The Fast Track programme is for excellent students possessing advanced academic and non-academic skills and experience:

- A stellar record of academic achievement
- Clearly framed research interests and goals
- Competent thesis writing: presenting original critical thinking, supporting arguments and opinions with existing literature and new findings, documenting sources
- Readiness for doctoral level research: data collection and analysis for the creation of original, new knowledge
- Self-discipline and time-management

Please consult the current [PhD Academic Regulations](#) and the current [PhD Implementation Guidelines](#) for a complete description of the requirements, terms and conditions of the Fast Track programme. What follows is a summary:

- Students must earn at least 60 ECTS by the end of their second semester at the Institute
- The third semester of the MA becomes the first semester of the PhD. The 30 ECTS earned in that semester count toward the MA
- The preliminary doctoral thesis dissertation, submitted at the end of the third semester, may fulfil the requirement for a master thesis and its 30 ECTS may then count toward the MA

- It is thus possible to complete both degrees in five years instead of six, with the MA degree awarded at the end of the fourth semester of enrolment at the Institute

To apply for the Fast Track programme, please submit a PhD application by 15 January of your first year of enrolment at the Institute. This will be considered as an internal PhD application. It will need to include only a new letter of motivation and your doctoral thesis proposal.

If your application is accepted, your admission to the PhD programme will remain conditional until the end of your second semester. At that point, the Fast Track committee will do the following to confirm your PhD enrolment in the Fast Track programme:

- Evaluate your overall standing in the programme
- Ensure that your grade point average is 5.0 or higher (on a scale of 6)
- Ensure that you have earned at least 60 ECTS
- Validate your research project and confirm your thesis supervisor

Students admitted to the PhD under the Fast Track programme will be evaluated for a financial support package, along with all other external and internal admitted applicants.

If your PhD enrolment in the Fast Track is not approved, you may complete your master degree in the normal time line. You may then apply for a regular PhD admission.