

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Article 1 Purpose

1. The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (hereinafter the "Institute") awards five disciplinary Master's degrees, corresponding to the following programmes:
 - Anthropology and Sociology;
 - International Law;
 - International Economics;
 - International History and Politics;
 - International Relations/Political Science.
2. The Institute also awards an interdisciplinary master's degree, corresponding to the programme:
 - International and Development Studies with a choice of specialisation
3. The Master's programmes are designed to provide the candidate with a high level of academic training, enabling them to acquire the knowledge and methodological tools necessary to understand the field covered and to produce personal and original work.
4. The present Academic Regulations (hereinafter, the "**Regulations**") establish the principles governing the organisation of the Master's programmes. The Academic Committee of the Institute (the "Academic Committee") adopts, after receiving approval from the Direction of Studies of the Institute (the "Direction of Studies"), the study plan for each programme, as well as the Implementation Guidelines for the application of the Regulations (the "Guidelines").
5. Where applicable, the Regulations take precedence over any other regulations (guidelines, study plan, syllabi, etc.). Similarly, the Guidelines take precedence over any rules other than the Regulations (study plan, syllabi, etc.).

Article 2 Admission

1. Candidates for admission must meet the following requirements:
 - hold a Bachelor's degree (minimum 180 ECTS credits - European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) or a degree deemed equivalent in the discipline(s) relevant to the programme awarded;
 - meet the other conditions, particularly linguistic, required by the Institute.
2. Candidates for admission must submit a complete file within the deadline set by the Institute.
3. Admission is decided by a committee specific to each programme. The committee's decision is final.
4. The committee may admit a candidate, reject or admit them with conditions.
5. In exceptional cases, an admitted candidate may request to be transferred from one programme to another. The written request must be submitted to the Direction of Studies before the beginning of the first semester.

Article 3 Registration

Each candidate admitted to a Master's programme must be registered with the Institute for the entire duration of their studies (including periods of extension or leave).

A student is deemed registered when they have fulfilled the conditions for admission, have paid their tuition fees and have not been eliminated under the terms of Article 13.

Article 4 Languages

The working languages of the Institute are French and English. Each student has the right to express themselves, orally and in writing, in either of these languages.

Article 5 Obtaining the Master's degree

To obtain the Master's degree, each candidate must obtain a total of 120 ECTS credits, which they will obtain by:

- following the required courses and obtaining the corresponding credits;
- writing a thesis and having it accepted, in compliance with the Regulations, other rules and within the deadlines set in these documents.
- for candidates in the Fast-Track programme who are admitted to the doctoral programme, successfully completing and defending their preliminary thesis dissertation, in compliance with the terms of the applicable regulations and within the deadlines set forth thereafter.

Article 6 Courses

1. In accordance with the study plan of their programme, students must take compulsory and elective courses in order to obtain, before the end of the fourth semester, 90 ECTS credits of teaching. In any case, they must obtain a minimum of 18 ECTS credits at the end of the first semester, 36 ECTS credits at the end of the second semester and 54 ECTS credits at the end of the third semester. Failure to do so will result in their elimination from the Institute. It is strongly recommended that students spread as many courses as possible over the first three semesters of the programme and earn as close to 90 ECTS credits as possible during this period in order to devote the fourth semester to their dissertation. If, at the end of the fourth semester, a student fails a course and does not accumulate the 120 ECTS credits required to obtain the degree, he or she will be eliminated from the Institute.
2. The study plans may also include an internship, workshops and Applied Research Projects.
3. Students in the disciplinary Master's programme will obtain between 66 and 78 ECTS credits in the discipline of specialisation, and between 12 and 24 ECTS credits in one or more complementary disciplines. For the interdisciplinary Master's degree, the respective study plans determine the distribution of credits.
4. Each student registers for the courses within the time limit set by the Institute.
5. When the previous training of a student is justified, the Direction of Studies can authorise them to replace certain compulsory courses by other courses, for a maximum of 12 ECTS credits.

6. Each student may request in writing from the Direction of Studies the authorisation to take optional courses outside their study plan, in addition to the credits that can be obtained in the framework of an exchange semester as specified in article 7. These exemptions will not exceed 12 ECTS credits, which can be obtained either in another study plan of the Institute or in another academic institution.

Article 7 Exchange semester

1. Students authorised to spend the third semester in another academic institution with which the Institute has concluded an agreement may have a predefined number of ECTS credits obtained for courses taken and passed in that institution validated by the Direction of Studies. Equivalence of ECTS credits is decided by the Direction of Studies.
2. In the case of specific agreements between the Institute and another academic institution, a higher number of credits may be validated, as well as a stay outside of the Institute lasting more than one semester, subject to prior written agreement from the Direction of Studies.

Article 8 Evaluation of the courses

1. The student's work within the framework of a course (course, seminar, Applied Research Project, etc.), internship or workshop is evaluated as determined and announced by the faculty member.
2. In a course, the evaluation takes the form of a grade ranging from 1 to 6, with a graduation of a quarter point.
3. In an internship or workshop, the evaluation takes the form of a "pass" or "fail" grade.
4. Students may not submit all or part of the same written work for multiple evaluations.
5. A grade of 4 or higher in a course or the mention "passed" in an internship or workshop leads to the awarding of the corresponding credits. A successful course, internship or workshop, including the related evaluation, cannot be repeated.
6. A grade of less than 4 in a course, a "failure" in an internship or workshop, or the codes R (withdrawal justified) and N (withdrawal unjustified) do not result in the awarding of credits. In the case of a grade of 3.75, the professor may assign the code S (pending), which allows the student to submit a make-up assignment. If the latter is deemed sufficient, a grade of 4 is awarded; if it is deemed insufficient, the initial grade of 3.75 is definitively awarded.

Article 9 Dissertation

1. The dissertation is a personal and original piece of research. It is written in English or French. The organisation of the work and the deadlines for the dissertation are set out in the Guidelines. Any failure to comply with the procedures and deadlines will result in elimination from the Institute.
2. The dissertation is supervised by a member of the Institute's teaching and research staff (TRS), with the exception of doctoral students who have a teaching

assistant or research assistant contract. Co-supervision is only possible in exceptional cases, with the prior written authorisation of the Director of Studies.

3. The dissertation is evaluated by a committee of two members, the supervisor and another reader (or the two co-supervisors, if applicable).
4. The dissertation results in a written report and a grade evaluating the student's work.
5. The student must obtain a minimum grade of 4 for the dissertation in order to obtain the 30 ECTS credits required by the study plan. A grade lower than 4 results in elimination. In the case of a mark of 3.75, the committee may, however, award the code S.

Article 10 Time limits for the completion of studies

1. The regulatory duration of studies is in principle four consecutive semesters (except in the specific case of a dual degree agreement with a partner institution, or in the case of a candidate admitted to the PhD programme within the framework of the Fast-Track programme). Each study programme begins in the fall semester.
2. A student may request a suspension of studies ("leave of absence") from the Direction of Studies. This must be justified by unforeseeable circumstances (notably illness, accident, death of a close relative) or parental reasons (maternity, paternity) or professional reasons (fixed contract at 80% or more, excluding internship), which must be duly documented. A leave of absence must not exceed two consecutive semesters. The Direction of Studies may take into account exceptional situations, depending on their level of seriousness.
3. Apart from the cases provided for in paragraph 2 of this article, an extraordinary extension of the time limit set out in paragraph 1 may only be granted by the Direction of Studies for unforeseeable circumstances (notably illness, accident, death of a close relative) or parental reasons (maternity, paternity), which must be duly documented. An extension or several consecutive extensions must not exceed one semester. The Direction of Studies may take account of exceptional situations, depending on their level of seriousness.
4. Specific deadlines, particularly those relating to courses, are set out in the Regulations or in the rules established in accordance with the Regulations (Guidelines, study plan, etc.).

Article 11 Academic integrity

1. Any breach of the rules of academic integrity or any act of plagiarism duly proven by a professor or the dissertation supervisor may result in sanctions ranging from a grade of 0 or Fail to definitive elimination from the Institute. The precise procedures are set out in the Directive on Academic Integrity.
2. Cheating consists in particular of not respecting the rules of organisation of an assessment or of reusing, in whole or in part, a piece of personal work, which has resulted in the granting of credits or the obtaining of a qualification, by presenting it as an original piece of work.
3. Plagiarism includes appropriating the creative work of others and presenting it as one's own work, reproducing excerpts of text, data, figures, images, etc. from external sources without citing the source, or using the original thoughts of other authors without citing the source.

Article 12 Graduation

1. Students who have acquired the 120 ECTS credits in accordance with the Regulations, in particular with the conditions set out in Articles 5 to 9, and respecting the deadlines set out in Article 10, obtain the Master's degree.
2. The diploma is awarded by the Institute.

Article 13 Elimination

1. A student shall be definitively eliminated from the Institute if they:
 - fail to comply with the requirements set out in article 3;
 - fail to meet the conditions for graduation set out in articles 5 to 9;
 - fail to meet the deadlines set out in article 10;
 - fail to comply with deadlines or procedures, where non-compliance is specified as eliminatory in the Regulations or Guidelines;
 - seriously violates the Directive on Academic Integrity or the Research Ethics Guidelines;
 - seriously violate the Institute's code of conduct.
2. The decision to eliminate a student shall be made by the Director of the Institute, taking into account exceptional situations.

Article 14 Admission to the PhD programme

1. The completion of the Master's degree allows, under certain conditions, access to one of the Institute's PhD programmes. These conditions are specified in the academic regulations of the PhD programme, in particular in article 2.2.
2. Students with an average of at least 5 may apply for the PhD programme via the Fast-Track programme, in the discipline corresponding to their specialisation, and be admitted at the end of their second semester of study, as established in the academic regulations of the PhD programme, in particular in article 2.3. They must obtain a minimum of 60 ECTS credits, including the compulsory courses of the first two semesters, before the end of their second semester of study. If their application is accepted, they can enter the PhD programme as of the third semester, which thus becomes the first of their PhD programme.

Article 15 Opposition and appeals

1. Any opposition to a decision resulting from the application of the Regulations must be submitted in the form and within the deadlines set out in the Regulations related to opposition procedures at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies ("RIO-IHEID").
2. In the event of an appeal against the decision, the matter may be referred to the competent body and dealt with in the appropriate manner and according to the deadlines stipulated in the Regulations cited previously.

Article 16 Entry into force

1. Following preliminary approval from the Faculty Board, the current Regulations were approved by the Foundation Board on 3 June 2025 and shall come into force on 1 September 2025.
2. The Regulations replace all previous regulations.
3. The Regulations apply to all students who started their Master's degree before the Regulations came into force and to all students who start their Master's degree after the Regulations come into force.

Geneva, 1 September 2025

The French-language version of the Regulations is the authentic one.