

## **Executive Master in International Politics**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

#### **1. Introduction**

CERIS was established in 1985 upon the initiative of a group of university professors, diplomats and senior civil servants. The objective was to promote research, post graduate studies and executive education in the field of *Politics & International Relations*.

In 1988, CERIS launched its **Executive Master in International Politics (MAIP)**, designed specifically for professionals. Over the years, this original programme has been completed by undertaking **tailor-made** intensive courses devoted to issues such as the external action of the EU, public diplomacy, conflict management, peacekeeping and security studies. Twenty years later, in 2008, CERIS introduced its **Executive Master in Governance and Development Policy (MADEV)**.

The **Executive Master in International Politics (MAIP)**, provides **post graduate education for professionals**: Brussels-based diplomats, EU and NATO civil servants, corporate executives and journalists. It covers the **main aspects of contemporary international politics** and combines lectures, case studies, seminars and supervised research activities.

#### **2. Curriculum**

The aim of the Executive Master in International Politics is an enhanced understanding of **Global & Regional International Politics**. The Executive Master is structured into 12 thematic and geographical modules. The first part of the course - "**Global International Politics**" - is made up of **five modules** entitled: "*Power politics and International relations*"; "*World Economy in the era of Globalisation*", "*Conflict Management, Arms Control & Cyber Security*", "*Geopolitics of Energy and Climate Change*" and "*Issues of International Law*". The second part, focused on "**Regions and Global politics**", is composed of **seven geographical modules** entitled: "*USA Foreign Policy & Transatlantic relations*"; "*Geopolitics of Russia & Central Asia*"; "*The Future of European Union*"; "*Geopolitics of Maghreb & Middle East*"; "*South and East Asia: The New Epicentre of Global Politics*"; "*Latin America & Caribbean*" and last but not least, "*Sub-Saharan & East Africa*".

The **Executive Master in International Politics** working in an international environment who would like to acquire specific skills and knowledge which will help them get a comprehensive understanding of the international system.

The course is made up of **60 ECTS** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System): **30 ECTS** for class attendance and online courses + **30 ECTS** for student workload, learning outcomes and contact hours.

**Classes** are conducted in English and are held on Friday evenings (6pm – 7.30pm) and Saturday mornings (9.30am – 12.30 am). In addition to the 4 hours/week delivered in the auditorium, the **classes are complemented by online courses (e-learning courses) that count for at least 4 hours/week**. The recordings of the live courses, as well as the recordings of the online courses are available on the e-learning platform (see e-community).

### **3. The Faculty**

The high quality of the programme depends above all on its participating faculty. **CERIS** has developed an extensive network of contacts with **renowned scholars drawn from leading academic and research institutions and with key experts from international organisations**. This pooling of resources provides a high-profile professorial corps which few institutions could provide on their own. Every year, the programme is supported by thirty experts from such academic institutions as the London School of Economics and Political Science, the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Royal Holloway, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, The Graduate institute of International and Development studies of Geneva.

Among those who are lecturing at Ceris for a number of years, we are able to name: **Michael Cox** (London School of Economics & Political Science - LSE, Director of IDEAS) - **Jamie Shea** (Director of Policy Planning – Private Office of the Secretary General of NATO) - **Anastasia Nesvetailova** (CITY, University of London) - **Stefano Pagliari** (CITY, University of London) - **Ronan Palan** (CITY, University of London) - **Amelia Hadfield** (University of Kent) - **Neil Robinson** (University of Limerick) - **Robert Falkner** (London School of Economics & Political Science - LSE) - **Guy Olivier Faure** (Université Paris V Sorbonne) - **Jean Arthur Régibeau** (Director General, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) - **Pierre Vimont** (Executive Secretary General of the EEAS) - **Robert Cooper** (formerly Counsellor to EEAS - former DG for External & Politico-Military affairs, Council of the EU) - **Sven Biscop** (Egmont Institute & College d'Europe - Brugge) - **George Joffé** (University of Cambridge, RIIA - Chatham House) - **Fawaz A. Gerges** (London School of Economics & Political Sciences - LSE) - **Mohamed-Reza Djalili** (Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies – Geneva) - **Peter Ferdinand** (University of Warwick) - **Kate Sullivan** (University of Oxford) - **Yuko Kawato** (Asia Centre, Paris) - **Guibourg Delamotte** (National Institute of Oriental Languages & Civilisations - INALCO, Paris) - **Remko Breuker** (Leiden University, Institute for Area Studies) - **Laurence Whitehead** (University of Oxford, Nuffield College) - **Javier Fuentes Leja** (EEAS) - **Daniel Large** (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS & Central European University - Budapest) - **Juliette Bird** (Head of Nato's Counter Terrorism Section - Nato) - **Nicholas Williams** (Head of the Operations Section of the International Staff of NATO) - **Jacques Rupnik** (Institut d'Etudes Politiques - IEP & Centre de Recherches Internationales - CERI, SciencesPo, Paris) - **Tanguy Struye de Swielande** (Catholic University of Louvain - UCL, Director of CECRI) - **Riccardo Petrella** (Catholic University of Louvain - UCL, Director of IERPE) - **Pierre Defraigne** (Director of the College of Europe, Madariaga Centre) - **Richard Caplan** (Oxford university, Linacre College) - **Rik Coolsaet** (Ghent University, Egmont-Royal Institute for International Relations); **Lucas Kello** (University of Oxford).



## Fall-Winter Term : Global International Politics

### **Module 1 Power Politics and International relations**

The globalisation of world politics - Introduction to Classical and Critical Geopolitics  
Theories of Global Politics - BRICSAM States and the problem of Global Governance

*Seminar 1 Future Trends & World Geopolitics* : Prospective analysis - Where the power goes the US and the rising powers - The Future of Asia - New International Balance of Forces

### **Module 2 World Economy in the era of Globalisation**

Economics of Globalisation and Regionalisation Crises in the Global Financial System - International Economic Diplomacy - Global Financial Governance - Economic development thinking and policy perspectives - Central Banks & Quantitative easing - Keynes versus Hayek - Geoeconomy

*Seminar 2 International Negotiation* : Concepts & Analytical Framework - Going to Practice Case Study & Simulation -Multilateral Negotiation (WTO, IPPC....)

### **Module 3 Conflict Management, Arms Control & Cyber Security**

War, peace and security - The management of international conflicts - United Nations Peacekeeping - Non Proliferation - The Origins of Conflict - Arms control - disarmament, confidence and security building measures - Non Proliferation - Cyber Security & Cyber War

*Seminar 3 Geopolitics of Terrorism* : Asymmetric Warfare - Negotiating with Terrorist Geopolitics of Terrorism - Counter-Terrorism - DAECH: A Global Threat?

### **Module 4 Politics of Energy and Climate Change**

Global energy security - European energy security - Geopolitics of Energy - The Politics of Climate change Climate Change and Development

*Seminar 4 Perspective on Sustainable Development* : Sustainable Development - Capitalism & Sustainability - Environment & Sustainable Development - UN Climate Change Conference.

### **Module 5 Issues of International law**

Current Status of International Penal Law - Politics & International Law - The Question of Humanitarian Intervention - Case Study & Practices - International Court & Tribunal (ICC, ICTY, ICJ,.....)

*Seminar 5 Culture, Identity, Ideology & Nationalism* : Discussion about the Culture, Identity & Ideology - Anthropology & Philosophy aspects of mythology, Ideology and Nationalism, The Question of Genocide.



## Winter-Spring Term : REGIONS & GLOBAL POLITICS

### **Module 6 USA Foreign Policy & Transatlantic relations**

US Foreign Policy after Trump's election - EU/US Relationship - America and the transatlantic relationship - NATO and the Future of Transatlantic Relations - Nato's new Strategic concept & Policy

**Seminar 6 Nato Operations & lessons learned** : Afghanistan, Prospect & Challenges Ahead - lessons from Libya & Afghanistan - What does Nato Want? - Nato is today Emphasis on Operations?

### **Module 7 Geopolitics of Russia & Central Asia**

Russian foreign policy priorities - Russia Geopolitics - The new international politics of Central Asia

**Seminar 7 Russia versus West, NATO & Europe** : The Russia & the West - The Challenge of Global Security of Ukraine - US/Russia Relations - EU/Russia Relations

### **Module 8 The Future of European Union**

BREXIT - The Future of European Union - Franco-German cooperation - The Euro Crisis and its impact - The EU enlargement - The enlarged EU and its neighbours (the Balkans, Eastern & Southern Europe) - Turkey's European endeavours.

**Seminar 8 European Security & Defence Policy** : The Lisbon Treaty - Challenges for European External Action Service - European Defence policy - The new EU Security Strategy - EU/Nato Relations

### **Module 9 Geopolitics of Maghreb & Middle East**

Geopolitics of the Persian Gulf - Iran in the international system - Tunisia, Libya and the Maghreb - Egypt, Syria, Iraq and the future topology of the Middle East - Israel and its neighbours - United-States in the Middle East

**Seminar 9 The Consequences of Arab's Uprisings** : Egypt, Syria and the Arab Uprising - The Arab Revolt and the Decline of the West? - L'Iran et la Turquie face aux révoltes du monde Arabe - The Nato peace operation in the Middle-East Context.

### **Module 10 South & East Asia the new epicentre of global politics**

Japan's foreign policy and security concerns - India: a great power in the making - China's domestic and foreign policy - Regional cooperation in South-east Asia - South and North Korea

**Seminar 10 Economic Cooperation & Security Concerns in Asia** : Security Concerns in Asia - North Korea at the Crossroads - Regional Cooperation in Asia - Asian views on the Global Financial Architecture

### **Module 11 Latin America & Caribbean in the international system**

US/LAC Relations - EU/LAC Relations - China/LAC Relations - LAC more autonomous in World Affairs - Emerging powers: the case of Brazil - Geopolitics Importance of LAC - Regional Integration in the LAC

**Seminar 11 Hegemony & Global Governance in Latin America & Caribbean** : Hegemony and regional governance in the Americas - Emerging powers and global order - LAC and the new Regional Political Integration Initiatives - Latin America & Caribbean Migration - EU/CELAC relationship.

### **Module 12 Sub-Saharan & East Africa**

Africa in the international system - The Horn of Africa - China's historical turn to the African continent - Autopsy of a failed state: the case of RDC- The Great Lakes Region Crisis in regional & international context. - South Sudan in Regional & Global Context

**Seminar 12 African Governance & Development Challenges** : Security & Development in Sub Saharan Region The Wealth of African nations - The Africa Growing economies: challenges & opportunities - The Governance & Development Challenges in the Great Lakes Region.



## **4. Teaching System**

The MAIP course, based on empirical methods, aims to relate conceptual frameworks and theoretical frameworks to recent and current events. This objective is pursued through lectures, discussions, seminars in small groups, presentations by participants and self-study from the reading and on-line materials available.

Lectures are delivered in English. Lectures are always followed by a discussion with the guest speaker. Seminars complement the lectures, providing course participants with an opportunity to discuss the critical issues presented in the lectures. In addition, optional visits or study trips are organised during the year.

Self study is vital to this course. The modules are supported by **Background Readings** and by **Audio/Video Recordings downloadable from the Moodle e-learning platform** (e-community). The Textbooks consist of a selection of recent and authoritative academic publications on the topics and a bibliography which is updated every year. The textbooks are no longer printed but are downloadable from the e-campus or e-community. Participants are provided with the textbooks to pursue a more in-depth study in preparation for the end of course **oral exam**.

The **e-community is an essential teaching tool**. Here, participants can download the course outlines & handouts prepared by the lecturers, the Proceedings (or course synopses) and Background reading or indeed any other printed document. **Access to audio/video recordings** of the lectures forms a crucial part of the course materials. In addition, participants have access to a virtual library for research purposes and coursework. Finally, participants are also invited to visit the **CERIS Facebook or YouTube page**<sup>1</sup>, where they will find interviews with the lecturers on issues of related interest for the MA course and which aim to stimulate **interaction with the participants**.

### **4.1. The Certificate**

**The Executive Masters 60 ECTS** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) are issued by CERIS & the Université libre de Bruxelles - ULB and are **agreed by ARES** (Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur) which is the federation of "*Wallonia-Brussels Federation*" higher education institutions in Belgium. The jury of the Executive Masters program delivers a **Certificate Level 7 EQF** (European Qualification Framework). Participants should be aware that this Postgraduate Certificate is not the equivalent of a Graduate Certificate, Bologna-type Master (120 ECTS).

**EQF Level 7 Knowledge:** Highly specialised knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of work or study, as the basis for original thinking and/or research. Critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface between different fields.

**EQF Level 7 Skills :** specialised problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields.

**EQF Level 7 Responsibility and autonomy :** manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches; take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of team.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/eLearningCERIS>



## **4.2. How to qualify**

In order to qualify for the *Executive Master in International Politics*, participants are required to participate in all 12 teaching modules of the programme (**30 ECTS**), write two Seminar essays, produce a dissertation or Masters thesis and pass an oral examination (**30 ECTS**).

The **Seminar essay** is a dissertation of 3,000 words. Participants are expected to react from their own perspective and to discuss one of the issues presented during the seminars.

The **Master thesis** is a piece of work that all course participants have to produce in order to qualify for the Executive Master in International Politics. The thesis can be written in either English or French. It should address a specific question related to development policy issues and an initial proposal must be submitted by each student to the academic supervisor for approval. The thesis should have the form and style of a scientific article.

It should address a specific issue of international politics and an initial proposal must be submitted by each student to the academic supervisor for approval. The thesis should have the form and style of a scientific article. It should demonstrate that it has taken into account most of the existing work on the subject and make a contribution to knowledge in the area. Its length should be around 15.000 and 20.000 words. Each participant will be assigned a supervisor and will be expected to be in regular contact with the latter during his or her research. Once submitted, the thesis will be assessed by the supervisor and at least one external examiner. CERIS reserves the right to publish the outstanding dissertations on its website ([www.ceris.be](http://www.ceris.be)).

The **Final examination** is an oral assessment of the candidate's understanding of International politics. Candidates sit the “major oral” in English or in French, in front of a panel of at least two professors. They are asked questions on their thesis as well as any current issue of international politics. They are required to demonstrate their understanding of the deeper causes and their capacity to analyse complex issues.

The exams are organized during the **last week of June and October**. If this opportunity is not used, it is still possible to sit the exam **in late January, late June or late October of the following academic year**

A **re enrolment fee** of **2000 €** will be charged for re-registration. However, in case of **non consecutive re registration** (if the re registration occurs after an interruption of more than one year) the fee will be of **€ 2.500**. No one may sit the same examination more than twice.

The **final grade** is calculated as follows: 40% of marks for the thesis - 40% of marks for the oral examination - 20% of marks for the seminar essays.

A combined average mark of more than 55% is required for the certificate to be awarded. The grading system is as follows: Satisfecit (55-64), Cum Laude (65-74); Magna Cum Laude (75-84); Summa Cum Laude (85 or more).





## **5. Admission and fees**

Prospective applicants must hold a relevant university degree and several years of professional experience. As a matter of principle, admission requires either a Bologna master's degree or an equivalent diploma delivered after four years of university studies (240 ETCS). A bachelor's degree might be accepted, if combined with a relevant professional background. In addition, applicants should demonstrate an excellent command of English.

Given the large number of annual applications, only candidates fulfilling these criteria will be considered. Interested candidates are required to submit the application form, along with copies of their university degrees and detailed curriculum vitae, to the CERIS main office in Brussels. An electronic version may also be sent by e-mail to [info@ceris.be](mailto:info@ceris.be)

There are two intakes a year:

**October intake:** Most participants attend the programme from October to May; closing date for applications is October 31. **February intake:** It is also possible to attend the course from February to January; the closing date for applications is 28 February. Participants are nonetheless encouraged to apply early, as only a limited number are accepted each academic year.

The **tuition fees** for attending the programme are € 4.500 for the whole course. A first instalment of € **2.000**, called **booking fees**, needs to be paid after receipt of the admission letter. Booking fees are part of the tuition fees. Please note that CERIS doesn't offer scholarships or fee waivers. A **discount** is offered to groups of at least 3 applicants working in the same organization or company. Prospective candidates might also benefit from an "early birds rate", if applications are submitted before August 31st (October intake) or December 31st (February intake). **Discounts are not cumulative.** Future tuition rate is subject to change and Ceris reserves the right to determine tuition rate differential between EU residents and non-EU residents status.

### **5.1. Cancellation policy**

Once you confirm your registration for the October or February intake, a deposit of € 2.000 is required. **The deposit is non refundable / non transferable.**

In case of visa refusal, the applicant has the possibility to re apply for the following academic term or to shift to the distance learning program. Payment of fees' balance will be required prior to the activation of e-learning facilities.



## **6. On-line study : On-line access to course facilities**

The **Executive Master in International Politics** may be taken entirely online. Using a personal login, participants have access to the courses through the **Moodle e-learning platform** (e-Community)<sup>2</sup>. The **e-community is the essential teaching tool** for online participants. Here, they can download the course outlines & handouts prepared by the lecturers, the Proceedings (or course synopses) and Background reading or indeed any other printed document. **Access to audio/video recordings** of the lectures forms a crucial part of the course materials. In addition, it enables to use a virtual library for research purposes and coursework.

Online participants are assisted by an **academic tutor** who provides them with the teaching framework and necessary guidance. They keep in regular contact by e-mail or by Skype. In addition, a **thesis supervisor** will be assigned according to the candidate's research project.

Online participants are not necessarily bound by the October/February intake. It is possible to start the program the **first working day of every month** (except in July or in August). Payment of the fees is requested prior to the activation of the access code to the e-campus.

### **Distance-learning Programme:**

To be awarded the **Executive Master in International Politics**, the online course participants are required to write two seminar essays, produce an original dissertation or Masters thesis on a subject of their choice, previously approved by the core faculty and pass an oral/written examination. Online participant will take the oral exam by using the facilities of a computer assisted video conference, without having to travel to Brussels (Skype system).

### **Additional Information:**

**CERIS (www.ceris.be )**

**Avenue Jeanne 44 CPI 124/02, B-1050 Brussels**

**Email : info@CERIS.be**

**Phone: +32 (0)2 537 40 75**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ceris.be/moodle/>

