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explore

Diplomacy Studies

MA in Political Science,
Specialization in Diplomacy Studies

School of Political Sciences
Division of International Relations



expand



Welcome to the University of Haifa



Situated at the top of the Carmel Mountain, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Galilee, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies.

The University of Haifa is one of Israel's seven research universities, the largest in the north. It is a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility.

An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university has a diverse population of 18,000 students made up of secular and religious Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and native Israelis and a growing number of students from around the world. We invite you to become one of them.

The School of Political Sciences at the University of Haifa, established in 1972, offers students the resources and talent of one of Israel's most prominent academic research centers engaged in teaching and scholarship in the fields of diplomacy studies, political thought, international relations, public policy, public administration, local administration, comparative and Israeli politics. It is home to the National Security Studies Center (NSSC) and the Center for Public Management and Policy (CPMP). Members of the School's faculty occupy leading editorial positions in worldwide academic publications. Counted amongst the School's alumni are members of the Israeli cabinet and parliament, heads of government offices, top military commanders, senior officials in the defense and intelligence establishments and leading media figures.

The Division of International Relations was established in 2000 as part of the School of Political Sciences and plays an important role in training the future generation of researchers and practitioners in the field of international relations.

The Program

The dynamics of the contemporary, complex, interconnected and highly-charged international environment present new challenges for scholars, policy analysts and decision makers, both at the international level and in the context of the Middle East. This situation is especially relevant to the Greater Middle East and the Mediterranean region, which are fraught with chronic tension, cleavage and conflict among (as well as inside) their national entities, and which face several acute social and economic crises.



Against this backdrop, the new graduate program in Diplomacy Studies is intended to elucidate the role of diplomacy as a main vehicle and mechanism for systematically addressing the broad cluster of issues that impinge upon the entire region, and which can no longer be effectively dealt with exclusively from a narrow unilateral or bilateral vantage point.

The program is primarily intended for practitioners who are employed in a range of public and private international, transnational and multilateral organizations, as well as for future diplomats, researchers, and interested academics abroad and in Israel.

This focus on the role of collaborative diplomatic mechanisms is designed to provide students with new insights, concepts and analytical tools for fully understanding the enhanced functions of diplomacy in this new setting. The program is intended to enable students to identify effective solutions to a broad range of political, cultural and economic problems with which they will be faced and be continuously involved (both regionally and globally) as bureaucrats, officials and decision makers, in the context of an array of complex negotiating situations and points of decision.

The one-year program is taught in English over three consecutive semesters from October through August. Exceptional students wishing to apply to the thesis track will need, upon acceptance, to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework.

A thesis is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies in Israel, which is normally completed in the year following the completion of coursework. Students who complete their thesis later than one semester after the completion of their coursework, may be expected to pay an additional fee as detailed by the Graduate Tuition Authority.

Upon completion of the program, students will be awarded an MA in Political Science, with a specialization in Diplomacy Studies from the School of Political Sciences and the Division of International Relations.



Program Structure and Scope

Program Objectives

- To provide students with an understanding of the role of diplomacy in the dynamics of a contemporary international environment;
- To provide insights, analytical tools, new data and original perspectives for employees in a variety of international organizations and frameworks that are involved in diplomatic processes and negotiations. This knowledge will enable them to successfully cope with the challenges of a new and interrelated political and economic environment, particularly in the Middle East;
- To provide interested academics and researchers, who have a special interest in the Middle East, with the needed political and economic infrastructure of knowledge to fully understand the region's political and economic dynamics and historical origins.

Program Outline

All courses are required and should be completed over three consecutive semesters, each comprised of 12 hours of studies.

Semester A: Introductory courses in diplomatic studies, diplomacy and communication.

Semester B: Three advanced courses, including a workshop, applying the theoretical concepts and tools introduced and developed in the first semester.



Semester C: Implementation of the insights, concepts, theories and data provided in the first two semesters as the platform and springboard for simulating the actual dynamics of multilateral diplomacy. Emphasis will be placed on the role of diplomatic methods and strategies in the quest for conflict resolution and regional stability. This semester includes a workshop on the practice of public diplomacy, which will involve both practitioners and diplomats as an integral part of the workshop.



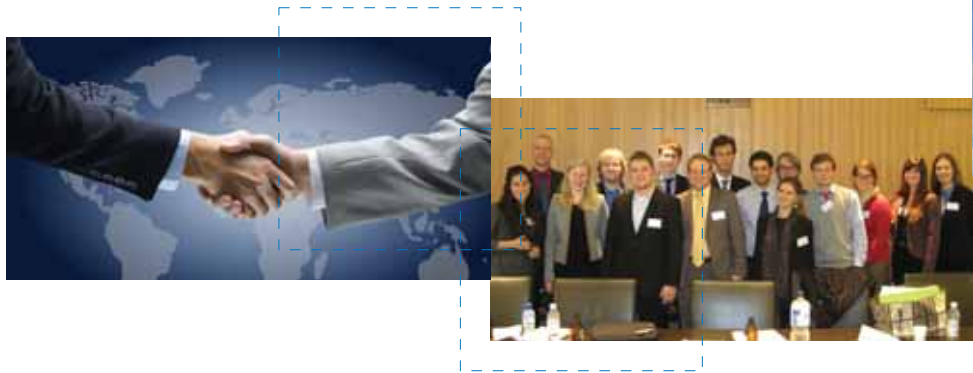
An important element of the program will be the simulated analysis of concrete diplomatic decisions and action games. During the course of this simulation, students will experiment with a range of diplomatic and strategic concepts, techniques and scenarios in a controlled and structured effort to emulate real-time crisis situations, with emphasis on the mechanisms and tools for mitigating and defusing them.

The program consists of 36 credits, including three introductory courses, three seminars, two workshops, simulations and a final project. The final project will include an analysis of empirical issues related to diplomatic studies.

Exceptional students may want to take advantage of the International School's Hebrew and/or Arabic courses, although it is not required and is not included in the tuition. Please see the International School website for more details (www.uhaifa.org).

Curriculum*

Core Courses	Credits
The Arab-Israeli Conflict: History and Diplomacy	4
The New Diplomacy: Structure, Technology and Processes	4
Theories of Communication	4
Diplomatic Simulation: Workshop	4
War and Peacemaking - Diplomacy in the Middle East: Seminar	4
Diplomacy as a Vehicle for Regional Cooperation in the Middle East: Seminar	4
Geography, Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Making	4
Diplomacy in Practice: Workshop	4
Public Diplomacy: The Israeli Experience	4



*The curriculum is subject to change without notice. Please see program website for the most up-to-date curriculum.

Course Descriptions

The Arab-Israeli Conflict: History and Diplomacy

The course deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict in both historical and contemporary terms. In its first part, the course will deal with the growing clash between the Zionist Yishuv and the Arabs of Palestine and the subsequent confrontation between Israel and the Arab states. We will examine Arab and Jewish nationalism, early attempts at a diplomatic solution and the rise of conflict during the British Mandate period. The second part of this course will analyze the causes and effects of six Arab-Israeli wars: those of 1948, 1956, 1967, 1969-70, 1973 and 1982. Emphasis will be placed on diplomacy and strategy in both the regional and global contexts. The third part of the course will begin with the Palestinian Intifada of 1987-1993 and 1993 Oslo Accords and will conclude with an examination of the conflict since the mid-1990s, including Israel's clashes with Hezbollah and Hamas.

The New Diplomacy: Structure, Technology and Processes

The course will address the various patterns of diplomacy, including unilateral, bilateral, multilateral, summit, backchannel and diplomacy of sticks and carrots. It will distinguish between various diplomatic styles and approaches, which are inherent in different cultural, political and ideological frameworks (i.e. "linear diplomacy" vs. "circular diplomacy," "low-context diplomacy" vs. "high-context diplomacy").



Theories of Communication

The course will analyze the evolution of the field of public communication as a factor which has a vast impact on contemporary diplomacy. In this context, several theoretical concepts and perspectives from the fields of international relations, social psychology, rhetoric and philology will be reviewed. The course will also discuss research methods, in particular in connection with diplomatic rhetoric.

Course Descriptions

Diplomatic Simulation: Workshop

The simulation exercise will illustrate and demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages for decision makers, inherent in the highly tense dynamics of having to manage crises under stress and severe time pressure. The simulation will experiment with such emotion-laden crisis situations, and will focus on crucial phases in the course of their evolution, and in the context of the Middle East, both in connection with crisis management and with conflict resolution.



War and Peacemaking - Diplomacy in the Middle East: Seminar

The seminar will address the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the conditions for the achievement of regional peace. It will also focus on the sources of superpower intervention in the conflict in the context of all regional wars since 1956. The various diplomatic initiatives, designed to mitigate or resolve the conflict, will also be analyzed.

Diplomacy as a Vehicle for Regional Cooperation in the Middle East: Seminar

The seminar will examine theories of negotiation and mediation, which emphasize the accommodative and collaborative dimensions among rivals to the Middle Eastern dispute. A series of case studies will be analyzed, in which "soft" diplomatic strategies were employed in a variety of political security, legal and economic frameworks. The relative effectiveness of their success will also be assessed as a basis from which lessons about the future would be drawn.

Geography, Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Making

The course will examine the impact of geographic factors on foreign policy outcomes, as well as geographic factors and resources on conflict and peace in the Middle East. Among the factors that will be studied are location, lack of access to the sea, topography, climate, transportation, population density, and natural resources such as energy and water. The course will include analysis of case studies on the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean, and Turkey and the Caucasus region.

Diplomacy in Practice: Workshop

The workshop will apply the conceptual tools, concepts, theories and insights acquired in the course of the first two semesters to the field of practical diplomacy in an interactive way, and in collaboration with both past and present Israeli and European diplomats.

Public Diplomacy: The Israeli Experience

The growing importance of public diplomacy has been recognized in the last decades, with the emergence of new communication technologies, together with the growing need to reach out to foreign audiences, and trying to create better understanding and support of a state's image, character, values and political positions. The course will examine Israel's unique experience in this area mainly through the analysis of case studies. Among the issues that will be explored: the attempts to bridge between 'what will the Jews do' and 'what will the Gentiles say,' the need to market peace initiatives both domestically and to international players; the attempts to reach out to Arab and Muslim audiences in the region; the use of diplomatic spin as part of the diplomatic exchange; the role of new players in the field such as NGO's and Jewish public diplomacy, and the search for 'branding' or 'positioning' Israel.

Admission Requirements & Prerequisites

General Admission Requirements

- An undergraduate degree in political science from an accredited university in Israel or abroad, diploma and transcript. Students in other disciplines will be considered provided they complete the academic prerequisites.
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 80% or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test); 230 (computer-based test) or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two recommendations from relevant academic faculty members
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Statement of Intent/Personal Essay (500-750 words)
- Medical forms

Academic Prerequisites

Students who have not completed an undergraduate degree in political science will be required to successfully complete the following introductory courses before the first semester of the program:

- Introduction to International Relations
- Introduction to Political Science/Government

Under certain exceptional circumstances, the committee may be willing to consider applicants who do not meet the minimal admissions requirements. See program website for additional details (<http://diplomacy.haifa.ac.il>).



General Information

Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see program website for current tuition and fees. There are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a list of scholarship options please see the International School website.

Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the International School website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications as the complete application file is received.



Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for student's use. Refer to the International School website for more details.

Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes international students to the events and activities taking place throughout the semesters. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze and Bedouin.

Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.



Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to become part of Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.

Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.