



UNIVERSITY  
OF TRENTO - Italy

## THE Ph.D. PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Understanding the Complexities  
of a Changing World



### INFO

**School of International Studies**

**Ph.D. Programme**

via Tommaso Gar, 14 - 38122 Trento (Italy)

+39 0461 283150

phd@sis.unitn.it

**[web.unitn.it/drsis](http://web.unitn.it/drsis)**

A **multi-disciplinary approach** is necessary to understand a rapidly changing world, where the complex economic, institutional, social and legal developments can no longer be approached from a single vantage point. The Ph.D. programme in International Studies promotes a broad and in depth knowledge of the theoretical approaches of the various disciplines underpinning International Studies (economics, law, history, sociology, political science) with the development and acquisition of analytical skills and tools needed in empirical research.

The Ph.D in International Studies is a **highly-selective and demanding programme**, which enables Ph.D. students to achieve a standard of **excellence** consistent with **post-graduate studies** at other leading international institutions.

## The Structure of the Programme

The programme, entirely in English, combines both **structured coursework and individual research**. In the first year, Ph.D. students take a range of classes and participate in a series of seminars which provide them with the theoretical and empirical building blocks, necessary to understand international processes and make sense of their complexity.

Already the second semester is dedicated primarily to preparing a thesis proposition and its presentation in order to design the individual research project from the beginning. In the remaining semesters Ph.D. students concentrate on their individual research and writing of the thesis, combining research periods abroad, participation in research seminars, and discussion of their advancements.

## Coursework and Individual Research

The academic year is divided into two semesters, with the Fall Semester lasting from November to January and the Spring Semester from March to May. Classes normally begin in November. The exam period is in February and June/ July.

	FALL	SPRING
First Year total 164 h	European Integration Studies (24 h)	International Studies (24 h)
	Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods in International Studies (48 h)	Proposal Writing for International Studies (24 h)
	Academic Writing for International Studies (24 h)	Summer School
		Proposal preparation and Graduate Student Conference
	Participation in Guest Lectures (min. 10 h)	Participation in Guest Lectures (min. 10 h)
Second Year total 22 h	Dissertation Writing for International Studies 1 (12 h)	Research and elaboration of thesis
	Participation in Guest Lectures (min. 10 h)	
	Research and elaboration of thesis	
Third Year total 24 h	Research and elaboration of thesis	Research and elaboration of thesis
		Dissertation Writing for International Studies 2 (24 h)
		Graduate Thesis Seminar (presentations)

## Training Writing Skills and Opening New Horizons

The size of the School of International Studies allows for a close interaction between Ph.D. students and their supervisors and other Faculty, gives the opportunity to participate in research projects, and creates an ideal working environment.

In parallel with courses, **Academic Writing** builds the necessary language competences to write a Ph.D. thesis, submit articles and reviews to international journals, present results at international conferences.

**Vocational Courses** (hands-on exercises on policy writing), **Guest Lectures and seminars**, **Career-oriented workshops** with professionals complement the programme and provide further insights into academic issues and the current international job market.

## Network

The School closely cooperates with Foundation Bruno Kessler's **CeRPIC Research Center**, on International Politics and Conflict, which funded scholarships on topics related to security issues. A cooperation agreement was signed with the **Institute for Minority Rights** and the **Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism of EURAC** (European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano), with the purpose of promoting initiatives on the analysis of global phenomena.

## Scholarships

Participation in the Programme is supported by **fully funded scholarships**. The School awards from 4 to 6 scholarships each year. There are no tuition fees.

## Career Prospects

The Ph.D. Programme prepares students for positions of advanced **researchers in University and International Research Centres**, careers in organizations and institutions working at the **European or International level, government or non-governmental organizations** as well as private companies operating globally.

Our **Alumni** have successfully taken positions such as Post Docs, Researchers, tenured and non-tenured lecturers, policy making officers in international organizations.

(<http://web.unitn.it/en/drsis/36191/phd-alumni-in-international-studies>)

## Admission Requirements

The **call for applications** is usually published in Spring. The **selection process**, based on the evaluation of the application and an interview for shortlisted candidates, is closed before Summer. The applications should be filed online (see <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1946/announcement-of-selection>). The main requirements for admission include an excellent command of **English** (working level, i.e. C1 level or higher), an **outstanding curriculum** of study and an **original proposal** for a Ph.D. research project related to the field of international studies.

