

Roskilde University

**Cand.soc. / MSc in**

# **International Politics and Governance**

Master's Programme



# International Politics and Governance

Problems do not respect borders. Nor should solutions. Climate changes, security concerns, online disinformation, public health matters - examples are abundant of societal challenges disrespecting national borders and administrative levels. Effective solutions involve international institutions and politics, national as well as local interests and capacities.

Agreeing on solutions is both difficult and insufficient and policymakers and other leaders must pay attention to execution, implementation, and evaluation. In short, the world needs experts with skills to operate effectively in the intersection between international politics and public administration. As a student of International Politics and Governance at Roskilde University you become that expert.

You will study how international politics impacts governance, how governance impacts politics, and what this means for the ability of international institutions, governments, and other organizations to help address border-crossing public policy issues.

Our research behind the programme is transdisciplinary and so is your learning. In your studies you will draw on knowledge from the fields of international politics, economics, law, public policy, administration, and management. The transdisciplinary approach enables you to navigate the landscape of international affairs and organisations, to understand the economic dimension of policy issues and their solutions, and to become aware of how international agreements, institutions, and regulation work as concrete tools for both policy and politics. Four mandatory courses are specially tuned allowing you to achieve these aims.

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# International Politics and Governance – continued

We aim for you to become an expert in solving cross-border problems. To this aim, we provide you relevant theories, social science methods (qualitative and quantitative), and analytical strategies. Adhering to Roskilde University's Problem-oriented Project Learning approach, our approach to teaching is that you play the key role. We expect of you to engage in your class work and participate in discussions, exercises, excursions, and more. Particularly, we expect that you and your teammates independently conduct research-like project work for half of your credits (ECTS). We expect you and your team of fellow students to formulate research questions, decide on research designs, carry out research, and write up final reports which you present and defend at an oral exam.

This way you will learn the explanatory force of theories, strengthen your knowledge of methods, and develop expertise in dissemination of your findings to stakeholders. And don't worry: all project work is supervised by a member of faculty.

Studying International Politics and Governance you become part of an international environment, in which students and faculty originate from different countries. You have easy access to staff as well as to support if you want to set up an academic or social event. We encourage you to get engaged in your study environment. In addition to being friends, your fellow students are the first links in your professional network.

# Content

**!** Note, that this is an example of a recommended course of study. Individual students' courses, projects, internships and accredited study abroad may vary in relation to the above. You can see the range of courses currently offered by Roskilde University at [study.ruc.dk](http://study.ruc.dk).

1. year		2. year	
1 <sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER	2 <sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER	3 <sup>RD</sup> SEMESTER	4 <sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER
<b>International Civil Servants and Public Administration</b> [Course] 10 ECTS	<b>International Policy Analysis</b> [Course] 10 ECTS	<b>Choose A or B</b>  <b>A</b> <b>Advanced Methodology</b> [Elective Course] 5 ECTS  <b>Advanced Study Seminar</b> [Elective Course] 10 ECTS  <b>Project in Applied International Politics and Governance</b> [Project] 15 ECTS  or  <b>B</b> <b>Project-oriented internship</b> 30 ECTS	<b>Master thesis</b> 30 ECTS
<b>International Institutions and Politics</b> [Course] 10 ECTS	<b>Advanced Methodology</b> [Elective Course] 5 ECTS  <b>Applied International Policy</b> [Project] 15 ECTS		
<b>International Public Economics</b> [Course] 10 ECTS			

## 1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER

On your first semester, you follow three mandatory courses, allowing you to acquire solid theoretical insight and empirical knowledge that is foundational your progression through the program. The courses cover: International civil servants and public administration; International politics and institutions; and International public economics. The coursework also entails the teaching of practically applicable skills such as working with legal documents and producing materials for policymakers.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER

On your second semester, you follow a mandatory course on International Policy Analysis and a method course of your choice. The second semester also contains the first project. In a team and under supervision, you write a project thematically tied to the International Policy Analysis course allowing you and your team to specialize in a subject matter of your interest (e.g., climate, food, social policies, health, or foreign policy). As part of the project, you are introduced to project management methodologies relevant to both the execution of the project and project management in your future career.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SEMESTER

Your third semester comes in two versions. You can choose to stay in Roskilde and further deepen your methodological and professional knowledge through a specialisation course, a methods course (both elective), and writing a project with teammates. Or you may choose to do an internship where you get involved in your host organization's activities and apply your theoretical and methodological knowledge in practice. An internship report concludes the internship. The internship option requires preparation; we recommend you start preparing your stay on during the preceding semesters.

## 4<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER

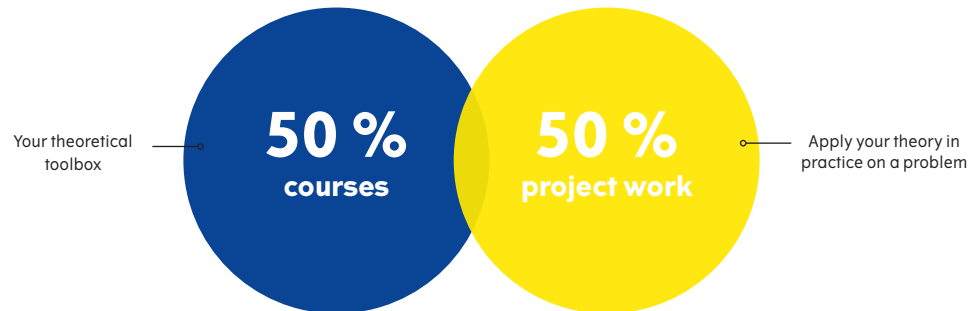
The final semester is dedicated to your master's thesis. You may write with up to three teammates or you can write alone. The thesis is your final chance to specialise in a subject matter of your choice, to try out new methods, or hone methods, approaches, and techniques you already know. You may wish to engage with an organisation or a private company and work with a research question relevant for them and make your work both useful and deployed in solving issues in practice.

# Form of Study

Through your education, you get the opportunity to create your own individual education profile and your own independent specialization in accordance with the idea of the problem-oriented, interdisciplinary and project-oriented teaching method at Roskilde University.

## THE STUDY FORM IS A COMBINATION OF

- Problem-oriented project group work
- Courses that are organized as teaching in small groups, where the focus is on theories, methods, and problems in an interaction between teacher and student



The project work and guidance are prioritized at Roskilde University. We also prioritize that you gain experience with the production and processing of empirical data as well as the practical application of theories and methods.

All master's programmes offer project-oriented internships and / or studies at other universities at home and abroad with credit transfer.

# Project Examples

The project work allows you to focus on your interests. As the research question and the design of the project are decided by you and your team (under supervision), the project work represents a unique possibility to unite academic curiosity and professional development. In the process of examining a research question of your choice, you study relevant theories, become skilled in using social science methods, and competent in communicating your results. Examples of project work include:

- How can cooperation solve the climate crisis? Promoting ties between coal miners' unions and environmentalist
- Hello, are there anybody there? Accessing the EU's strategy on civil society involvement in the European policy process
- Multilevel governance: The impact on the regional level of the EU 'Fit for 55' green deal initiative
- Multilevel governance and the implementation of SDG 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure)
- Assessing the effect of inclusive politics towards women, when preparing policies and legislation for climate induced migration: The preparedness of local governing bodies
- International tax evasion: May international organizations and NGOs force states to act by raising awareness?
- Tech, democracy, and diplomacy: Are digital technologies challenging liberal democracy and may a tech embassy be an answer?

What project would you write if you studied International Politics and Governance?

# Competences

International Politics and Governance makes you an expert in cross-border problem solving. You will acquire analytical, communicative, and project management skills, as well as team leadership, mediator, and problem-solving competencies. Independently, you will be able to

- identify pertinent problems in your field or for your organization
- choose relevant designs and methods and conduct analytical work
- report findings concisely, effectively, and appropriately orally and in writing
- prepare basis material for decision making by leaders and policymakers
- give policy advice

# Career

**Communications and international affairs** | UN organization

**EU and UN negotiator** | National ministry

**Data Analyst** | private company, research sector

**Tender and contract manager** | private company, medical sector

**Global market advisor** | interest organization

**Policy advisor** | National ministry

**International Project Coordinator** | NGO working on democracy

**Management consultant** | large consultancy company

# Further information



You can find admission requirements, application deadlines and other information about International Politics and Governance at Roskilde University here:

[ruc.dk/en/master/international-politics-and-governance](https://ruc.dk/en/master/international-politics-and-governance)

Contact us if you have questions about International Politics and Governance:

RUC Study & Career Guidance

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