



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

MA *Diplomatic Studies* (Coursework) (01250409)

Department Political Sciences

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Admission requirements

1. Honours degree in Political Sciences **or** relevant honours degree
2. A cumulative weighted average of at least 65% for the honours degree
3. An admissions essay may be required
4. An entrance examination may be required

Note: Additional work/modules may be required in order to reach the desired level of competency

Other programme-specific information

Three core modules have to be taken during the first semester of study.

Students may, with the approval of the programme manager, replace at most one core module with DIP 876 Diplomacy and international studies or an appropriate MA Coursework level module of the same credit value that is presented in the Department.



Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Diplomatic practice 872 (DIP 872)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

An introduction and advanced analysis is provided of global diplomatic practice, one of the most important institutionalised activities within the international system. The focus is predominantly state-centric, although the growing impact of non-state entities on the form and substance of diplomacy is accommodated. Aspects such as the evolution, modes, styles, legal framework and institutions of diplomacy are investigated, as well as the specific roles and functions of diplomats and emerging areas of diplomatic specialisation such as defence diplomacy. An African perspective on all of the above is prioritised, and in this regard specific emphasis is placed on negotiation - a diplomatic mode and specialisation that is crucial within the context of African diplomatic practice.

Diplomacy and international studies 876 (DIP 876)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The holistic nature and interdisciplinary scope of diplomacy, as an institution, practice and area of academic study and research, are introduced and contextualised within the broad framework of international studies, incorporating aspects of international relations, international law and international political economy. Subsequently, the focus shifts to the theoretical and practical relationship between international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy. Accordingly, South Africa's diplomacy, at a global and regional level, is critically analysed using the comparative method amongst others.



Diplomatic theory 877 (DIP 877)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

An introduction to and analysis of diplomatic theory, defined as systematic reflection on diplomatic ideas, activities and issues. Such reflection has historical, conceptual and normative elements that by nature pertain to diplomatic practice as empirical referent. This involves the critical examination of key assumptions on diplomacy. On the one hand, since diplomatic ideas inevitably reflect broader international relations theories and since the modern diplomat should have some understanding of the latter, attention is given to these. On the other hand, on a capita selecta basis, attention is paid to theoretical perspectives on issues that appear on the global diplomatic agenda.

Methodology of diplomatic studies 878 (DIP 878)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Political Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Using appropriate methodological approaches and research methods, aspects of the diplomatic theory and diplomatic practice modules are applied to specific diplomatic case studies and issues of international and transnational importance. In addition to the emphasis of methodology and selected research methods, attention is also paid to the development, structure and writing of research reports in the field of diplomatic studies. The outcome of this module is an approved research proposal on a diplomatic theme for the mini-dissertation, that also complies with ethical guidelines.

Mini-dissertation: Diplomatic studies 895 (DIP 895)

Module credits	60.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English



Department Political Sciences

Period of presentation Year

Module content

A mini-dissertation based on independent research done by the student in the broad field of diplomacy, is written under the guidance of a supervisor.

Mediation in African conflicts 871 (PTO 871)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Political Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The module aims to develop an advanced understanding of the key academic and policy debates regarding international mediation; to explore both the theory and the practice of mediation; and to develop strategising skills for peacemaking. The focus is on mediation undertaken by the United Nations, the African Union and sub-regional bodies in major conflicts in Africa. This module may be taken by students enrolled in MA Security Studies, after consultation with the department.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are



legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.