

Student Guidelines for MA in Diplomacy and International Studies, 2564–2568

Content

1) Contact information	1
2) Study plans and courses	1
3) Program structure	5
4) Enrolment and GPA requirements	6
5) Choice of study plans	6
6) Thesis and Independent Study	7
7) English language requirements	8
8) Referencing and plagiarism	10
9) Student trip financial support	10

1. Contact information

Dr Benjamin King
 Head of MA Program
benjamin.k@rsu.ac.th

IDIS office
idis@rsu.ac.th

2. Study plans and courses

Study Plan A

8 core courses

IDS 699 Thesis

Students who choose Study Plan A must write a thesis on a topic within the fields of diplomacy and international studies, or a related field, as partial fulfilment of the program. The research topic must be approved by the student's advisor and an examination committee before research is conducted.

Study Plan B

8 core courses

2 elective courses

IDS 697 Comprehensive Examination

A written examination of knowledge covered across the program; an appointed examination committee may also require an oral examination.

IDS 698 Independent Study

Directed reading and research on a topic related to diplomacy and international studies under the supervision of an advisor. The research topic must be approved by the relevant advisor prior to commencement of the study.

Core courses

IDS 602 Foreign Policy Analysis

Exploration of various theories and approaches as tools for analyzing foreign policy, including its formation, implementation and impacts; theories and approaches will include realism, neo-realism, post-modernism, decision-making, game theory, systems analysis and integration theory. Case studies will be used extensively to show how various theories and approaches can be used in analyzing real-life foreign policies in various regions of the world so that students will gain analytical skills for practical use in their professional life. Students will gain practical skills in analyzing the impacts of the implementation of selected foreign policies, for example, the impacts of the establishment of free trade areas on the government and the private sector of Thailand. The course will additionally cover possible policy recommendations to alleviate adverse impacts.

IDS 603 International Politics and Security

Theoretical approaches to international relations and international politics; historical evolution of international relations; behavior and foreign policies of states; roles of international norms and international institutions in dealing with global and regional issues related to international security, such as cultural and religious conflicts, the use of force, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, epidemic outbreaks, new threats to security.

IDS 605 International Economics and International Business

Knowledge of international economics and international business; examination of the international economic and international business environment, which is rapidly changing; discussion of various theories on international economics and international trade; discussion of factors that are influencing international economic and international business decision-making, such as the money market, international currency exchange rates, the economic and trade policies of governments, and the characteristics of products and consumer behavior; discussion of decision-making on international business strategies and business plans and how to structure an international business organization to best serve international business objectives.

IDS 607 Negotiations and Conflict Resolution

Knowledge of the nature of international negotiations and how to ensure the best possible results from international negotiations; discussion of the importance of the strategic planning process of international negotiations and conflict resolution, as well as negotiation techniques that would help to ensure the best possible outcome from negotiations and find lasting solutions to international conflicts.

IDS 608 Political Economy of Asia

Political economic theories and concepts; explanations and perspectives of political economic theories and concepts in relation to the economic development of East and Southeast Asia; linkages between politics and economics that lead to industrial and economic changes in the Asian region since WWII; factors that result in success and failure of economic development in the region; relationships between major players and their impact on Asian politics and economics.

IDS 611 Asia Diplomacy

The meaning, theories and importance of diplomacy; developments of diplomacy; Western and Eastern diplomacy; diplomatic techniques; bilateral diplomacy and multilateral diplomacy; public diplomacy and its implications; cultural diplomacy and its significance; modern diplomacy

IDS 612 International Organizations and Human Rights

Fundamental knowledge of the United Nations, World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund; philosophical foundations of human rights; human rights in international law; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; theoretical perspectives on human rights in international relations; the history of human rights in international relations; the Responsibility to Protect; comparative studies on human rights; global civil society and human rights; the human rights-based approach to development; contemporary challenges to human rights.

IDS 661 Research Methodology

The meaning and importance of research, the procedure to use both quantitative and qualitative methods, the research design process, research tools, data collection and analysis, quantitative analysis, surveys, content analysis, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, research presentation and research ethics.

Elective courses

IDS 613 ASEAN in World Politics

The origins, development and role of ASEAN since its inception in 1967 with an emphasis on the domestic and regional contexts that led to its creation and changing roles in international fora; relevant international relations concepts relating to ASEAN regionalism and integration; analysis of the successes, failures and challenges of this small regional organization in coping with regional crises and in moving towards an ASEAN Community comprised of three pillars as envisioned in the ASEAN Charter; analysis of whether ASEAN will be able to maintain its “centrality” in the evolving Asia-Pacific/Indo-Pacific regional architecture, as well as maintain its “balancing act” in its relations with dialogue partners (ASEAN+ 1) and in various regional fora, including Asean Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN+3, East Asia Community (EAS), RCEP; examination of whether the “ASEAN Ways” are push or pull factors in ASEAN’s development towards a people-centred ASEAN.

IDS 614 Seminar on Foreign Policy and Global Issues

Events, trends and problems facing humanity in an increasingly interdependent world; political, economic, social and ecological concerns in the 21st century; alternative perspectives on interpreting and resolving global dilemmas; foreign policy approaches and responses to these global issues.

IDS 615 Identity Politics and International Affairs

Identity politics based on race, ethnicity, religion, civilization, culture, gender and other cleavages that affect international affairs; ideas, beliefs, norms and ideologies related to identities impacting global situations such as nationalism, regionalism, cosmopolitanism and ethnonationalism; cooperation and conflict on the basis of identity such as secession, transnational common identity, border issues, human rights violations and discrimination.

IDS 616 Global Justice

Understanding of global distributive justice and definitions of justice that transcend the nation-state and its borders through the lenses of political justice and human rights. The course explores key debates that have been addressed for threatening global cohabitation such as global poverty and inequality, climate change, immigration and freedom of movement, humanitarian intervention and global gender justice.

IDS 617 Great Powers and Politics in Asia

The influence of great powers, such as the USA, China, Japan and Russia, in the politics of Asia in the contemporary era; analysis of economic, political and military relations between the major powers and other nations in the region.

IDS 642 Comparative Political Economy of Southeast Asia

The course will serve as a gateway to understanding the intricate interaction between political and economic policies that drove a selected group of Southeast Asian countries. How did these Asian countries manage to rise to the top of developing countries with impressive growth rates in the 1980s and the early 1990s? The course will offer an analytical overview of political development in the Southeast Asian nations since the post-colonial era (for Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia) and since the Second World War (for Thailand). The course also offers the analysis of how have the political reforms beginning almost ten years ago changed the political and economic landscape of Southeast Asian nations.

IDS 643 International Political Economy

The course introduces students to the major issues of international political economy, namely, the proper balance between state and the market and how their interactions affect the flows of capital, goods and labor, and the globalization phenomenon. It covers the main theories and perspectives on political economy, for example, liberalism, Marxism and nationalism will be discussed. The course will then examine the building blocks of the global economy, namely, national economies, the global trade system, the global financial system and regional economic integration.

IDS 670 Regional Cooperation and Integration: Theory and Practice

The course explores the theories and concepts of regional cooperation and integration. It will discuss and examine their various forms, benefits and costs in political, economic and social areas. The course will use the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) as in-depth case studies, where similarities and differences between regional cooperation and integration will be discussed. It will also trace Thailand's experiments with regional cooperation as a tool of its time-honored foreign policy from ASEAN to APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), BIMSTEC (Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), ACD (Asia Cooperation Dialogue), ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy), ASEAN +3 (China, Japan and South Korea).

IDS 691 Seminar on Trade and Investment in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have recently become members of ASEAN and recognized as new and promising markets for trade and investment. This course will explore their trade and investment opportunities. It will survey the prevailing commercial regulations, investment rules and incentives in these countries, as well as their political and economic systems.

3. Program structure

Year 1	
Plan A	Plan B
Semester 1	Semester 1
IDS 602 Foreign Policy Analysis	IDS 602 Foreign Policy Analysis
IDS 603 International Politics and Security	IDS 603 International Politics and Security
IDS 607 Negotiations and Conflict Resolution	IDS 607 Negotiations and Conflict Resolution
IDS 661 Research Methodology	IDS 661 Research Methodology
Semester 2	Semester 2
IDS 605 International Economics and International Business	IDS 605 International Economics and International Business
IDS 608 Political Economy of Asia	IDS 608 Political Economy of Asia
IDS 611 Asia Diplomacy	IDS 611 Asia Diplomacy
IDS 612 International Organizations and Human Rights	IDS 612 International Organizations and Human Rights

Year 2	
Plan A	Plan B
Semester 1 IDS 699 Thesis	Semester 1 IDS xxx elective course IDS 698 Independent Study
Semester 2 IDS 699 Thesis	Semester 2 IDS xxx elective course IDS 698 Independent Study IDS 697 Comprehensive Examination

4. Enrolment and GPA requirements

Students must enroll before the beginning of each semester in accordance with the program structure.

If students require further advice about which courses to take, they should contact the Head of Program.

If students require assistance with the enrolment process, they should contact the IDIS office.

To maintain their student status, all graduate students at Rangsit University must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75. Students who fail to do this will have their student status terminated.

Following termination of their student status, students may continue their studies by re-enrolling under a new student ID. In such cases, students are permitted to transfer their previous grades for 4 courses, but those grades must be B or above.

To graduate, students must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

5. Choice of study plans

Students will receive advice on which study plan to choose throughout year 1.

Generally, students who maintain high GPAs are advised to choose Study Plan A (Thesis), whereas students with lower but nevertheless satisfactory GPAs are advised to choose Study Plan B (Independent Study).

Students may contact the Head of Program for advice at any time regarding this matter.

6. Thesis and Independent Study

Research topics

Students are required to develop their own research topics.

Research topics must fall within a sub-field of diplomacy and international studies. Research topics that are considered insufficiently relevant to the degree program will not be permitted.

Students are strongly advised to develop research topics in accordance with faculty members' areas of expertise. It is therefore recommended that students contact potential supervisors to discuss their ideas and request advice.

Word lengths

Thesis – approximately 30,000 words

Independent Study – approximately 15,000 words

Abstracts

Thesis and Independent Study abstracts must be checked by Rangsit University's English Language Centre (building 3). This will cost roughly 300-500 baht.

Publication requirement

To graduate, students must publish their Thesis or Independent Study as a paper.

Students are advised to satisfy this requirement by presenting at Rangsit University's International Conference and publishing their paper in the conference proceedings. The conference is usually held in May and the submission deadline is usually in late February.

Students are allowed to present at, and publish in the proceedings of, a different international conference.

Students close to completion at a time when they would have to wait many months to satisfy the publication requirement via Rangsit University's International Conference can either wait or pursue a more convenient alternative.

Students should not publish until they are close to completion as discrepancies between the published paper and the Thesis/Independent Study may lead to examination problems. For this reason, students must have their supervisor's approval to publish.

Thesis/Independent Study titles and published paper titles must be identical.

Submission of research proposals and supervisor selection

Students must submit a draft of the introduction, literature review and methodology sections of their research document to the IDIS office.

IDIS faculty members will then discuss and decide which faculty members are best qualified to advise which students.

Students may state their preferred choice of supervisor in the submitted document. However, the final decision will be made by the faculty.

Examination

Successful completion of Thesis and Independent Study are subject to passing an oral examination by an appointed committee.

Thesis students must additionally have their research topic approved by an appointed committee.

Thesis examination committees consist of one external examiner and two internal examiners (including the student's supervisor).

Independent Study examination committees consist of three internal examiners (including the student's supervisor).

Independent Study students must also pass IDS 697 Comprehensive Examination.

7. English language requirements

Article 1. This notification shall apply to students in master degree program (English Program) enrolling from the academic year 2564 (2021) onwards.

Article 2. All applicants for master degree programs are required to take the RSU2 Test organized by Rangsit English Language Institute (RELI). Applicants who have passed the test can submit their test scores to the Graduate School within the period specified in article 4; **or** those who have passed TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC with required minimum scores can alternatively submit their score reports to the Graduate School within the period specified in article 4.

Article 3. The English proficiency criteria for students being enrolled in master degree programs (English Program) are detailed as follows:

- 3.1 Students who earn from B2 level or above on CEFR, or from B2 level or above on RSU2-Test (equivalent to CEFR), or from a 500 or above on PBT TOEFL (paper-based), or from a 173 or above on CBT TOEFL (computer-based), or from a 61 or above on iBT TOEFL (Internet-based), or from a 5 or above on IELTS, or from a 60 or above on CU-TEP, or from a 550 or above

on TOEIC are eligible to enroll in master degree programs and are not required to take an English course.

- 3.2 Students who earn from B1 level but less than B2 level or on CEFR, or from B1 level but less than B2 on RSU2-Test (equivalent to CEFR), or a minimum score of 450 but lower than a score of 500 on PBT TOEFL (paper-based), or a minimum score of 133 but lower than a score of 173 on CBT TOEFL (computer-based), or from a 45 but less than a 61 on iBT TOEFL (Internet - based), or from a 4 but less than a 5 on IELTS, or from a 45 but less than a 60 on CU-TEP, or from a 400 but less than a 550 on TOEIC are eligible to enroll in master degree programs, but are required to enroll and pay additional fee in one English course:

ENL 500 English for Graduate Studies

Students must pass this course before graduating.

- 3.3 Students who earn from A2 level but less than B1 level on CEFR, or from A2 level but less than B1 level on RSU2-Test (equivalent to CEFR), or a minimum score of 400 but lower than a score of 450 on PBT TOEFL (paper-based), or a minimum score 93 but lower than a 133 on CBT TOEFL (computer-based), or from a 30 but less than a 45 on iBT TOEFL (internet-based), or from a 3 but less than a 4 on IELTS, or from a 30 but less than a 45 on CU-TEP, or from a 260 but less than a 400 on TOEIC are eligible to enroll in master degree programs, but are required to enroll and pay additional fees in two English courses:

ENL 513 English 3

ENL 500 English for Graduate Studies

Students must pass these two courses before graduating.

- 3.4 Students who earn below A2 level on CEFR, or below A2 level on RSU2-Test (equivalent to CEFR), or below a score of 400 on PBT TOEFL (paper-based), or below a score 93 on CBT TOEFL (computer-based), or below a score of 30 on iBT TOEFL (internet-based), or below a score of 3 on IELTS, or below a score of 30 on CU-TEP, or below a score of 260 on TOEIC are eligible in master degree programs, but are required to enroll in four English courses below and are subject to pay additional fees.

ENL 511 English 1

ENL 512 English 2

ENL 513 English 3

ENL 500 English for Graduate Studies

Students must pass these four courses before graduating.

Article 4. The results of the tests as specified in article 2 shall be valid for two years from the test date as specified on the score report to the date of admission to the programs.

Article 5. The Administrative Committee may manage diverse English proficiency criteria; however, the criteria requirements must not be below the standard designated in this Notification.

Article 6. In case of having difficulty in following these regulations, Dean of the Graduate School shall make a final decision.

8. Referencing and plagiarism

Students should use APA style 6th edition for citations and references.

Any coursework that involves plagiarism above a threshold of 15% will receive an automatic F grade (0 points).

A Thesis or Independent Study involving plagiarism above a threshold of 15% must be revised until it is below the threshold.

Turnitin software, as well as the ability of lecturers to manually detect and prove plagiarism by locating the relevant sources and comparing it against the student's work, will be used to determine whether the 15% threshold has been exceeded.

To avoid plagiarism, students must correctly incorporate sources into their work through properly cited and referenced paraphrases and quotations. Any students who require instruction on these techniques of academic writing should contact the Head of Program.

9. Student trip financial support

Non-scholarship students who have been enrolled for 1 year are eligible to receive financial support to participate in IDIS's annual student trip.