

Department of Politics and Public Administration
Master of International and Public Affairs

Credit Unit Statement

The MIPA programme provides conceptual knowledge and in-depth understanding of international affairs for students to meet the challenge of today's globalizing world. To receive an MIPA degree, a candidate is required to successfully complete 60 credits of courses within 2 years for part-time study or 1 year for full-time study. All MIPA courses are 6-credit courses, except two 12-credit ones, POLI6031 Capstone Project and POLI6024 Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University SAIS. Learning activities are usually about 150 hours, including both contact hours and other student learning activities. The usual contact hours for a 6-credit course are about 33 to 36 hours. The total study load is around 1,500 hours.

The MIPA curriculum is constructed on a three-layered structure: **1) two compulsory courses (12 credits); 2) six core and elective courses (36 credits); and 3) a capstone course at the end of the study (12 credits).** This curriculum intends to provide students with **fundamental knowledge, core areas of inquiry, and synthesis of knowledge and application** in international affairs studies.

Fundamental Knowledge (2 courses, 12 credits)

Students must take two compulsory courses in the MIPA programme, POLI6004 Theories of International Relations (6 credits) and POLI6007 International Political Economy (6 credits) during their study. These two courses offer a rigorous introduction to the main debates and theoretical perspectives in the study of international affairs. They provide a broad overview of major concepts, theoretical approaches, and substantive issues in the field of international relations studies. They are designed to help students gain a substantial understanding of the field and major theoretical and practical issues in the field.

Total written output: not less than 5,000 words per course.

Core Areas of Inquiry (6 courses, 36 credits)

A candidate can either take 36 credits of core courses or a combination of core and elective courses to fulfill the requirement in core areas of inquiry of international relations (IR) studies. In combining core and elective courses, a candidate cannot take more than two elective courses (12 credits). In the core areas of inquiry, the MIPA programme offers four categories of courses for students to choose:

- (1) General and functional IR courses: POLI6005 International organizations, POLI6008 Understanding global problems: theory and practice, POLI6029 War and armed conflict: philosophical issues, POLI6032 International law, and POLI6035 War and strategy (all 6-credit courses).
- (2) Courses on Asian Pacific international relations: POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific, POLI6010 Chinese foreign policy, and POLI6033 Cross-Taiwan Strait relations (all 6-credit courses).
- (3) Special topics courses taught by visiting and adjunct professors in the MIPA programme.
- (4) Elective courses offered in other taught-course Master programmes at HKU (such as MPA, MJ, and LL.M programmes) or Master-level courses at MIPA's international partnership institutions, George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, Peking University School of International Studies (SIS), Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Seoul National University Graduate School of

International Studies (GSIS), and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (GIIDSG).

Total written output: not less than 5,000 words per course.

Synthesis of knowledge and application (1 course, 12 credits)

POLI6031 Capstone project is compulsory for all students before graduation. This course enables students to bring together major aspects of international relations studies in the MIPA programme by integrating theories, core areas of inquiry and analytical skills into a final graduation project. Working in small groups and supervised by the MIPA teaching staff, students are required to examine a critical issue in international affairs and produce a project report before graduation.

Total written output: not less than 20,000 words.