

Study regulations of the BA in International Relations and Sustainability

Draft, to be decided by the University Senate on **June 30, 2025**

Due to the accreditation as a private university (decision of the Austrian Accreditation Council on 12 July 2007 according to the university accreditation law, BGBl. I No. 168/1999 as amended), the University Board of Modul University Vienna decreed the following study regulations on **June 30, 2025**, based on § 3(1) of the Private University Law.

Preamble

These Study Regulations apply to all versions of curricula in place for the Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Sustainability study program. The current curriculum of this program is referred to with the abbreviation: 116 BA IRS.

§ 1 Ambit

These study regulations define the admission criteria, the structure of the study program and the examination requirements.

§ 2 Goal of the Degree

The Bachelor of Arts degree is awarded at the completion of the international relations and sustainability curriculum and signifies career qualifications. Examinations taken throughout the program, practical trainings, and a thesis or Internship determine whether the student has acquired the knowledge necessary for a transition to professional practice, a coherent overview of the subject matter, the ability to independently apply scientific knowledge and methods, and the theoretical foundation for a continuation of the studies in a graduate-level program.

§ 3 Degree of Completion

After the successful completion of the study program 116 BA IRS, the following academic degree will be conferred:

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Sustainability

The short form of this degree is:

BA in International Relations and Sustainability

§ 4 Admission to the Study Program

The following requirements qualify candidates for admission to the undergraduate BA IRS study program:

(1) Proof of a secondary school leaving certificate or a study entrance examination equivalent to a general university entrance qualification. In case the applicant is attending the final year of secondary school at the time of submitting their application, the applicant needs to submit a mid-semester transcript or equivalent documents to show credibly that the general university entrance certificate will be received before the intended study starts. Applicants need to present relevant certificates as originals before the commencement of studies otherwise the admission is void.

(2) All applicants whose first language is not English must provide a proof that their English proficiency is at least level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages through one of the following tests taken within the last two years.

- a. TOEFL Internet-Based Test: 79;
- b. IELTS: overall band 6.5 (no sub-score below 6.0);
- c. Cambridge English First (FCE): Grade B (minimum of 173); or
- d. Pearson Academic (PTE): 59

The Admissions Committee may grant exceptions if an applicant proves that they have completed at least two consecutive years of secondary or higher education in the English language at a recognized institution (e.g., International Schools with American, British, or IB curricula). The admissions committee reserves the right to request and consider any additional evidence of English proficiency, including from those claiming

(3) The application must include the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae (personal data sheet)
- Letter of motivation
- Copy of passport
- Passport-size photograph
- One letter of recommendation (from academic sources)

(4) A certified translation needs to accompany all documents, which are not in the German or English language.

(5) The Admissions Committee may conduct an interview with the applicant. The interview may take place either in person, via video conference or telephone. The interview serves to clarify unanswered questions raised during the application process and to check if the applicant's expectations, personality profile, and their knowledge of English are in line with what the program offers.

(6) The Admissions Committee decides on the final admission to the study program and possible conditions once the candidate has submitted a complete application.

(7) The Study Contract of a minor accepted into the study program requires the co-signature of a legal guardian.

(8) Conditional Admittance: Applicants who do not fulfill the admissions criteria for direct entry into the 116 BA IRS program may be conditionally admitted upon discretion of the Admissions Committee if they fulfill the criteria for attending the Modul University Vienna Foundation Business Program according to the Foundation Program Study Regulations. The Admissions Committee may also decide to set the Foundation Program course 'Mathematics' as a condition. In this case, a positive assessment of the course 'Mathematics' is required before students can enroll into courses of Mathematics and Statistics I. Progression to the undergraduate 116 BA IRS program is governed by the Foundation Program Study Regulations.

§ 5 Structure and Duration of the Study Program

- (1) The regular duration of the study program is six semesters.
- (2) All lectures, course work, and examinations are held in the English language.
- (3) The 116 BA IRS program requires the student to complete 180 ECTS of courses (including either an Internship or a thesis and enrichment courses), as outlined in § 6.
- (4) Upon application and approval by the Dean, a study semester may be completed abroad at an accredited partner university or an international branch campus of Modul University Vienna.
- (6) Upon application of the student, the Dean may grant a leave of absence. During this period, the student's tuition fees will be suspended, and they will be unable to attend courses, accrue Internship hours, submit a thesis supervision request, receive ongoing supervision, or submit a final Thesis. All other effects of the leave of absence are the responsibility of the student. The application for a leave of absence must include the planned duration of the leave and should be submitted at least one month prior to the start of the semester in which the leave of absence will take place. Multiple leaves of absence are permitted; however, the total maximum duration of leave allowed is 4 semesters.

§ 6 Curriculum Overview

Program version: 116 (BA IRS)				
Subject	Type	Format	h/w	ECTS
Module I: Economic Development				18
Macroeconomics	CC	IL	2	4
Microeconomics	CC	IL	2	4
International Economics	CC	IL	2	4
Economic Geography	CC	LS21	3	6
Module II: Environmental Studies				14
Environmental Security and Conflict Resolution	CC	SE	2	4
Societal and Environmental Transitions	CC	IL	3	6
Climate and Energy Policy	CC	SE	2	4
Module III: Ethics and Philosophy				8
Ethics in International Management and Governance	CC	SE	2	4
Philosophy of Science	CC	SE	2	4
Module IV: International Relations				34
International Relations	CC	IL	3	6
International Organisations	CC	IL	3	6
International Security	CC	LS21	3	6
Contemporary Issues in International Relations	CC	SE	2	4
Capstone Project	CC	SE	6	12
Module V: Law and Governance				26
Human Rights and Economic Development	CC	LS11	4	8
Global Governance	CC	LX21	3	6
Governance for Sustainability Transitions	CC	LS21	3	6
International Law	CC	SE	3	6
Module VI: Political Science				18
Fundamentals of Political Theory	CC	IL	3	6
Political Economy	CC	SE	2	4
Comparative Politics	CC	LX11	2	4
International Politics of Development	CC	IL	2	4
Module VII: Research and Methods				20
Mathematics and Statistics I	CC	LX21	3	6
Academic Writing	CC	SE	2	4
Mathematics and Statistics II	CC	LX21	3	6
Research Design	CC	SE	2	4
Module VIII: Advanced Studies				12
-Critical Reflection on Technological Innovation and Sustainability	ER	SE	3	6
European Integration in a Globalized World	ER	SE	3	6
Module IX: Bachelor Thesis & Enrichment Courses (Option 1A)				30
Bachelor Thesis Tutorial	CC	SE	1	2
Bachelor-Thesis	TH	TH	n/a	12
Enrichment Course I	ER	SE	2	4
Enrichment Course II	ER	SE	2	4
Enrichment Course III	ER	SE	2	4
Enrichment Course IV	ER	SE	2	4

Module X: Internship (Option 1B)				30
Professional Development	CC	PT	1	1
Internship	CC	PT	900	28
Internship Report	CC	ES	1	1
TOTAL ECTS				180

Notes: IL – Interactive Lecture, LX – Lecture Exercise, PT – Practical Training, TH – Thesis, CC: Core Course, ER: Enrichment Course

§ 7 Types of Courses

- (1) Core Courses are mandatory for all students and must be completed with a positive assessment.
- (2) Enrichment Courses are non-core courses and may vary from semester to semester.
- (3) If students register for more than the required courses, including courses from another bachelor study program, the student will be responsible for any additional costs in accordance with MU's Guidelines on Fees.
- (4) Non-curricular courses (i.e., language courses, Foundation Program courses) are not mandatory and will not be counted towards the total number of ECTS nor weighted average grade percentage, however, they will appear on the Transcript of Records as non-curricular ECTS.
- (5) The Dean has the discretion to determine the minimum number of participants for all courses.
- (6) Courses are taught on campus. In exceptional circumstances, the Dean may decide that a course can be taught online or hybrid.

§ 8 Course Prerequisites

Registration in courses will only be permitted following positive assessment in the corresponding prerequisite course(s) or completion of prerequisite requirements.

- (1) Mathematics and Statistics I is a prerequisite for Mathematics and Statistics II.
- (2) Registration in enrichment courses will only be permitted following completion of 50 ECTS in core courses.
- (3) Bachelor Thesis Tutorial is a pre-requisite for the Bachelor Thesis. This course must be completed prior to applying for bachelor thesis supervision.
- (4) 90 ECTS need to be completed before students can enroll in the Capstone Project.
- (5) The Professional Development course is a prerequisite for the Internship and the Internship Report.

§ 9 Internship

- (1) The study program offers students the option to complete an Internship containing a minimum number of 900 hours (30 ECTS including the accompanying Professional Development Course

and the Internship Report) in a field relevant to the study program. This Internship is designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply their acquired theoretical knowledge and gain practical experience.

(2) The Internship may be completed domestically or abroad.

(3) The selection of the Internship requires the written approval of the Dean

(4) Modul University Vienna reserves the right to supervise the Internship.

(5) The Internship may be completed in two parts of equal length. The number of hours must be stated in a work contract or confirmation letter.

(6) The completion of the Internship must be proven through a confirmation letter, reference letter, and/or appraisal on behalf of the company.

(7) Upon successful completion of the Internship, the student will receive the grade “completed” from the Program Area Director.

(8) After completion of the Internship, the student must submit a final report of the internship which follows the relevant guidelines of the Internship Manual. The Internship Report will be graded by the Program Area Director.

(9) The Dean can confer the tasks in (3) to the Internship Coordinator or Program Area Director.

§ 10 Bachelor Thesis

(1) The thesis must be written according to the principles of academic work. The thesis should address a research question linked to a relevant topic identified in a course of the program or through a literature review. The thesis must also contain an empirical component.

(2) The student must submit an application for supervision to the prospective supervisor, including the topic and a brief outline for the thesis. The prospective supervisor and the Dean must approve the supervision of the thesis and inform the student in writing within one week.

(3) After the approval of the topic, the student has up to 4 weeks to submit the research proposal to the supervisor. If this proposal is not handed in by the set deadline, the supervisor has the right to refuse supervision of a student's thesis.

(4) The bachelor thesis must be an individual piece of work. Co-authorship of a bachelor thesis is not permitted. The bachelor thesis shall be written in the English language.

(5) Eligible supervisors are faculty members or external lecturers who hold a doctoral degree. The supervision of a thesis by external lecturers or by academic staff without a doctoral degree requires approval and assessment by the Dean.

(6) The topic of the bachelor thesis can only be changed once and must be made within the first two months after the approval of the supervision by the Dean of the program.

(7) The deadline for submission of the thesis is to be agreed upon by the supervisor and the student.

(8) If the student misses deadlines and no substantial progress on the thesis has been made, the supervisor may withdraw from the supervision of a thesis.

(9) Bachelor theses are electronically archived in the library and may be published on the Modul University Vienna website. Withholding a thesis can be applied for in written form by the supervisor or thesis author if information worthy of protecting is published in the thesis. The publication will be withheld for a maximum of 5 years and is subject to approval by the University Board.

§ 11 ECTS Points

(1) ECTS points (European Credit Transfer System – ECTS, 87/327/ECC, Official Journal no. L 166 from 25 June 1987, CELEX no. 387D0327) are allocated for each course depending on the student workload. In the schedule of studies, in addition to the numbers of hours, the corresponding ECTS points for each course are allocated.

(2) Each ECTS credit corresponds to 25 working hours for the student.

§ 12 Overall Result of the Study Program

(1) The overall assessment of the Bachelor of Arts degree is given by the weighted average grade percentage of all final grades completed at Modul University Vienna, or any international branch campus of Modul University Vienna. Each course is weighted corresponding to the allocated ECTS credits.

Assessment Scheme

- “With distinction” is awarded for an overall grade percentage average of 90% or higher.
- “With merit” is awarded for an overall grade percentage average between 80% and 89%.
- “Passed” is given for an overall grade percentage average between 60% and 79%.

§ 13 Conferment of Bachelor of Arts Degree

(1) The academic degree of BA in International Relations and Sustainability is conferred after completion of all components of the curriculum.

(2) Graduates must complete a total of 180 ECTS as stated in § 6 in order to obtain the degree Bachelor of Arts. Students may transfer course credits from their professional experience or previous educational institution; however, a minimum of 120 ECTS must be completed at Modul University Vienna. Exceptions can be made for credit transfers from recognized post-secondary educational institutions or partner universities. Credits completed in the foundation program will appear on the transcript as non-curricular ECTS and will not be counted towards the total number of ECTS nor weighted average grade.

(3) Graduates will receive the following documents in the English language stating the date on which the degree was awarded.

- a) Bachelor of Arts Diploma: The Bachelor of Arts diploma is signed by the President and the Dean and is certified by the Modul University Vienna seal.
- b) Diploma Supplement: A supplement, which is signed by the Dean, will be provided in addition to the diploma to explain the international allocation of the completed program.
- c) Transcript of Records: The Transcript of Records reflects all courses that have been passed, the respective ECTS credits, and the final course grades as well as the student's weighted average grade.

(4) Where a student does not complete the study program, the student shall receive a Transcript of Records for all course work which has been successfully completed thus far.

§ 14 Semester Conference

In this program, the tasks outlined in § 10 of the MU Examination Regulations and Student Code of Conduct are carried out by a Semester Conference, as specified by the University Constitution, (Art. IX. § 1).

*The University Board of Modul University Vienna publicly announces these Study Regulations which take effect on **July 1, 2025***