Welcome to Trier

A Young University in Germany's Most Ancient City

Trier University was originally founded in 1473. Tied to the rich cultural history of the Trier region in the heart of Europe, it has established itself in its present form as a productive hub of teaching and research. A total of nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites (including the famous „Porta Nigra") characterize the city which not only prides itself to be Germany's „oldest" city. Trier is the former capital of the West Roman Empire, residence of secular and ecclesiastical leaders, the birthplace of Karl Marx and a renowned wine-growing district.

Students and staff appreciate the close connections between disciplines and facilities on a beautifully located campus. As a member of the University of the Greater Region, Trier offers easy access to its partner universities in Metz, Nancy, Luxemburg, Liège, Kaiserslautern and Saarbrücken.

Last but not least, Trier offers an attractive place to live, affordable housing space, an excellent infrastructure as well as a multitude of opportunities for sport, leisure and cultural activities.

Master International Relations & Diplomacy

You are interested in international relations and world politics? You want to earn further qualifications at the intersection of political science, history and law? You are looking for a study program that helps to prepare you for job opportunities in the field of international relations?

The Master „International Relations & Diplomacy" offers you an attractive choice! The study program entails courses in international relations (political science), international history and international law. In sum, the program wants to address conceptual and empirical questions of world organization in a world that is characterized by overlapping patterns of conflict and cooperation, crisis and change.

Overview

Degree	Master of Arts (MA)
Duration	2 Years (120 ECTS)
Format	Full Time
Tuition Fees	No
Language of Instruction	German (Principle Language of Instruction), English
Application Period for German and EU applicants	05.05.2026 – 15.09.2026
Application Period for Foreign Students	05.05.2026 – 31.05.2026 (non-EU-citizens)
Intake	October 2026
Location	Trier, Federal Republic of Germany

Please note that the study plan is optimized for a start in the respective winter semester. For further information on the program and application procedure visit:
www.ibid.uni-trier.de

Contact us:
Chair of International Relations and Foreign Policy
IBID Program Coordinator: Dr. Sascha Werthes
Universität Trier / FB III – Politikwissenschaft
D-54296 Trier / Germany
masteribid@uni-trier.de

IBID

INTERNATIONALE BEZIEHUNGEN & DIPLOMATIE

International Relations & Diplomacy

UNIVERSITÄT TRIER

Study Program

The Master Program „International Relations & Diplomacy“ reflects the increased relevance, complexity and challenges in world politics. It offers a multidisciplinary academic profile combining political science, law and history. The objective of the Master program is to provide students who aspire to work in an international context with a profound understanding of concepts and theories as well as tools and instruments to be applied in international relations.

Multifaceted Course Offerings

The program spans the realm of international relations in its entirety: Courses deal with a range of actors (from individuals to states, NGOs and international organizations), issues (from armed conflict to cultural exchange or global crises) and principles (from state sovereignty to human security or differing conceptions of world order). The courses are designed to address questions of theoretical understanding as well as questions of practical organization and implementation of policies.

Innovative Emphasis

The emphasis on international relations and diplomacy is an expression of three distinct perspectives that are associated with the program: We understand diplomacy to be concerned with mediating complex international problems, managing a diversity of actors and interests as well as working for the solution of global challenges. Such a perspective includes, but is not confined to the work of „professional“ diplomats. Secondly, our perspective on international relations and diplomacy is guided by the notion of an international community of cooperating and competing actors. This allows for the inclusion of a range of approaches to international relations – from classical positions of the „English School“ to theories of normative change and practice to postcolonial approaches. Thirdly, our emphasis implies a focus on „diplomatic skills“, i.e. using case scenarios, simulations and the exchange with practitioners.

Structure of the Program

The structure of the program rests on three pillars: International Relations, International History and International Law. In addition to these there is a special emphasis on the development and discussion of research designs that will prepare for an individual master thesis. The program also includes optional features such as internships, elective modules from a broad range of competences and disciplines or studying abroad. German is the principal language of instruction although there are regular courses in English as well.

	International Relations	International History	International Law *Paths of Research*
1	Theories & Practices of Diplomacy	Ideas, Institutions and Actors	General Areas in International Law
			Paths of Research: *Findings & Orientation*
2	Conceptual & Empirical Questions of World Organization	International Transfer, Conflicts & Exchange Processes	Special Areas in International Law
			Paths of Research: *Approaches & Methods*
3	Comprehensive & Job-Oriented Skills Academia & Practice; Axuiliary Training and Skills; Vocational Orientation & Training		Special Issues In International Law
			Paths of Research: *Research Design*
4	Master Thesis		

Qualifications and Opportunities

The increase in political, economic, social and cultural interdependencies across the globe – with all its potential and problems – is mirrored by an increased internationalization of job profiles. The Master program wants to offer a range of qualifications to prepare for job opportunities in international organizations, foreign ministries, NGOs, think tanks or academia.

Program Features

Interdisciplinary Cooperation

The study program centers around the cooperation of three chairs at Trier University:

Prof. Dr. Manuel Fröhlich
Chair of International Relations and Foreign Policy

Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehmkuhl
Chair of International History

Prof. Dr. Birgit Peters
Chair of International Law

In addition to core courses you can choose from a wide pool of elective modules from neighboring disciplines to language training.

International Network

Trier University and the participating academic staff are part of a network of international universities and institutions. We are engaged in exchange programs in the context of ERASMUS or the German Academic Foreign Exchange Service (DAAD). We stand ready to advise and support you in identifying study and intern opportunities that complement our program.

Student Orientation

Trier University provides a very good student-teacher-ratio. Elements of academic supervision and mentoring are integrated into the study program. Participating staff in general and a program coordinator in particular are focused on providing support for your studies.

Project Experience

The study program includes the chance to integrate project work. A variety of offers at Trier University may present the opportunity to collect experience by participating i.a. in „Model United Nations“, „Moot Court“ or „Refugee Law Clinic“ structures.

Fusion of Theory and Practice

The regular exchange with practitioners, field trips to international organizations, digital formats or topical courses that combine teaching and research are constitutive features of the program.