International Political Economy (IPE)

MA

Curriculum for Master’s Degree Programme in International Political Economy
Degree programme:
Master’s Degree Programme in International Political Economy – MA

Contact:
Head of Department of Social Sciences and Distance Learning Coordinator

Length of degree programme:
Three semesters or more

Number of credits:
90 ECTS, Cycle 4 under Iceland’s National Qualification Framework for Higher Education and Degrees from 2007
120 ECTS

First edition, April 2014
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Description of study programme

Starting in fall 2014, Bifröst University will offer an MA study programme in International Political Economy (IPE). Political Economy has a long history. This discipline is concerned with the relationship between the market, law and the public sector; nowhere in the world do pure markets exist, unmarked by government intervention. Parallel to the development of world affairs over the last decades, globalisation and growing international trade, international political economy has matured and expanded and its importance as an independent discipline increased.

International political economy scrutinises the interaction between international markets and the state system and analyses how economic, legal and political factors intertwine and either facilitate or impede international trade. The study programme explores how states and international institutions shape international business and how wealth and power are distributed and are woven together in the world system. This new degree programme is a dynamic addition to the BA study programme in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), which Bifröst University has offered for some years. This is the first time that a study programme in International Political Economy is offered in Iceland.

The Master’s degree programme in International Political Economy is a challenging study programme that prepares students to analyse and address diverse and difficult topics relating to international communications. The study programme is conducive to attaining a thorough, far-reaching understanding of the forces that shape economic development on the international scene, put their mark on interactions between nations and affect living standards and culture in communities around the world.

International studies

Bifröst University’s international relationships are most strongly manifested in its extensive collaboration with foreign universities. Students of Bifröst University have the opportunity to study at one of Bifröst's partner universities. Bifröst University receives foreign exchange students from its partner universities as well, and collaboration and interaction with exchange students is an important part of the international experience that Bifröst offers its students. A good number of Master's students spend an exchange semester abroad, although fewer do so than undergraduate students. The University’s academic staff also collaborates extensively with universities abroad in the areas of teaching and research.

The University is a member of the Erasmus programme and likewise has bilateral agreements with numerous universities outside Europe. Bifröst participates in the University of the Arctic (UArctic), a consortium of over 100 universities in Canada, the United States, Russia and the Nordic countries.
Programme structure and teaching methods

Admission requirements to the study programme are a Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification, pursuant to the National Qualification Framework for Higher Education and Degrees from 2011.

The study programme is 90 credits at the Master's level and is taught primarily through distance learning. Courses are in most instances taught in seven-week sessions, each of which concludes with student learning assessment (see course descriptions for individual courses). There are two sessions to a semester, and courses are divided equally between sessions. Students may choose to begin their studies either in the fall or the spring semester, but core courses are for the most part taught in the fall. Normal study progress involves completion of five courses (30 ECTS) in the fall semester, five courses (30 ECTS) in the spring semester and a final Master's thesis project (30 ECTS) in the fall semester of the following academic year. A full-time student will thus complete the programme over three semesters.

Students also have the option of completing a 60-ECTS thesis to graduate with a 120-ECTS Master's degree in International Political Economy. In special cases, students may also apply to complete the equivalent of 30 credits in an unpaid internship in addition to the normal 90 credits.

The study programme emphasises scientific methods, comprehension and student research competences in the field of international political economy. The objective of the study programme is to qualify students to carry out research in the field of international political economy at the same time as they gain the knowledge and proficiency to hold positions in administration or at institutions of all stripes with an involvement in international business and politics.

One ECTS credit is considered to correspond to 25-30 hours of student work. This work includes all reading, assignment work, preparation for final examinations, presentations, working weekends, lectures and all other work that students complete in connection with a course.

Teaching, assessment of studies and the organisation of teaching are as per the Rules on Studies and Teaching, found in Bifrost University’s Quality Manual (see EF 110). The Quality Manual also contains rules for examinations and various instructions for students. The Quality Manual can be viewed online in Icelandic at http://www.bifrost.is/islenska/um-haskolann/gaedamal/fylgiskjol/ and in English at http://www.bifrost.is/english/about-bifrost/quality/appendices/

Electives

The Master’s programme in International Political Economy (IPE) is organised around eight mandatory core courses, which all students must complete. Two courses (12 ECTS in total) are electives. Each semester, elective courses are offered, and students may also take courses on related subjects that are taught at the Department of Law and Department of Business. Special support courses are also offered in connection with the completion of the final thesis.
# Programme composition

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**Thesis Gateway:** In students' first spring semester and second fall semester, they can enrol in a special thesis gateway, where they receive methodological assistance in writing the final thesis. Students may enrol in this gateway course a maximum of two times and will receive 6 ECTS credits if they complete all tasks assigned in the thesis gateway. Credits that students receive for this work constitute part of the 30 credits for the research project (6 credits of 12 thesis credits in Spring Semester 1 and 6 credits of 18 thesis credits in Fall Semester 2). Support that students can obtain in the thesis gateway course is supplemental to assistance from the supervisor, not a replacement for this guidance (For a more detailed description, see Thesis Writing on pp. 21–22).
Course descriptions

International Political Economy (Core)

Semester: Fall – 12 weeks

Degree programme: MA in International Political Economy (IPE)

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master’s studies

Language: Instruction in Icelandic, course materials in English and Icelandic.

Instructor: Eiríkur Bergmann

Teaching methods: Lectures, discussions and project sessions

Content and objectives:

The course is divided into three sections by subject. First, the course reviews the economic history of Western nations, a) from the Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution, b) the prelude to the First World War and the protectionism of the interwar period, c) the international economic system after the Second World War and d) the development of the global financial system. Next, the course delves into major economic currents, a) liberalism, b) realism or protectionism and c) critical policy/radicalism. Major economic communities will also be studied, such as European cooperation.

In the third section, business cycles in the international market economy will be analysed, particularly international crises, such as a) the Great Depression in the 1930s, b) the Nordic banking crisis at the end of the 1980s, c) the Asian financial crisis in the 1990s and d) the international financial crisis in the late 2000s. The economic history of Iceland will also be examined, lingering in particular on the impact of the international financial crisis.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of the course, students will:

- Have a knowledge of the main subjects, currents and trends in the field of international political economy
- Have an understanding of the historical development and structure of the international economic system
- Have developed the skills to apply theories of international communications to understand, analyse and explain complex issues in the field of international political economy.
International Politics (Core)

**Semester:** Fall – 6 weeks

**Degree programme:** MA in International Political Economy (IPE) – PPE

**Prerequisites:** General requirements for admission to Master’s studies

**Language:** Instruction in Icelandic, course materials in English and Icelandic.

**Instructor:** Magnús Árni Magnússon

**Teaching methods:** Lectures, discussions and project sessions

**Content and objectives:**

The course deals with the history and development of the international system and the most important topics in international politics. The main theories in the field of international communications are applied to analyse the situation in international politics in an age of globalisation and altered circumstances in the wake of the Cold War's end. The course also discusses the development of major world regions, focusing in particular on Arctic issues.

**Learning outcomes:**

After the course, students will:

- Have a knowledge of the main topics of international politics
- Have an understanding of the international system, the dominant power system and the changes that have occurred over the last decades
- Have developed the skills to apply theories of international communications to understand and analyse complex issues that fall within the framework of international politics
Government Control and GDP Growth (Core)

Semester: Fall – 6 weeks

Degree programme: MA in International Political Economy (IPE)

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master's studies

Language: English if foreign students will be attending the course, otherwise Icelandic; students can choose to hand in assignments in either English or Icelandic.

Instructor: Dr. Ólafur Ísleifsson

Teaching methods: Teaching methods are lectures and discussions.

Content and objectives:

Main course topics include:
National accounts and changes in price level; domestic product, GDP growth and natural rate of unemployment; money, financial markets and inflation; aggregate supply, aggregate demand and the effect of economic management measures; business cycles, inflation and unemployment; international business, real exchange rate of a currency as a yardstick of industries' competitive position, Euro cooperation and the theory of optimum currency areas.

Learning outcomes:

Learning outcomes refer to the knowledge, skills and competences in international political economy that students are to acquire in this course.

Knowledge

- Students can explain basic macroeconomic concepts and are familiar with concepts such as multiplier effect, monetary policy, balance of payment and real exchange rate.
- Students understand the importance of national accounts.
- Students understand the factors affecting inflation, unemployment, interest rate, exchange rate, industries' competitive position and other macroeconomic aggregates.
- Students can search for material through the Internet content providers that collect information on economic conditions and economic outlook.

Skills

- Students can analyse the effect of one macroeconomic aggregate on another.
- Students can draw models used in economic analysis, e.g. aggregate supply and aggregate demand.
- Students understand media discussion of economics.

Competences

- Students can assess the effect of government actions on the various aspects of the economy.
- Students can use public data to analyse economic outlook.
- Students can interpret media discussion of economics.
- Students can utilise models to analysis the economic situation and outlook.
International Business in Emerging Markets (Core)

Semester: Fall – 6 weeks

Degree programme: MA in International Political Economy (IPE), MS/MIB in International Business

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master's studies

Language: Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in Icelandic and English

Instructor: NN

Teaching methods: Teaching methods are diverse and build on Bifröst University's tradition of project-based learning. Lectures and guidance from the instructor are provided directly to on-campus students or with audio and video through the University's learning management system.

Content and objectives: The international business environment has radically changed since the financial crisis hit in 2009. The course will deal with the impact of globalisation and the financial crisis on the fragile environment of businesses operating in a developed market, emerging market regions and developing countries. Business ethics have gained increased weight after the financial crisis. The course thus delves in particular into ethics, corruption, corporate social responsibility, sustainability and good governance. The course will touch on the changes faced by the European Union and the problem of the Euro.

The course will likewise involve analysis of international markets in rising developing countries and regions such as China, India, the Middle East and South America in comparison with the European Union. The differences in trade connections between these countries/regions will be explored, and examples of investment and interaction from these countries/regions will be examined. Students will complete concrete assignments in groups of up to five.

Strong emphasis is placed on academic skills, careful working methods and consistency of format.

Learning outcomes: After the course, students will: Have knowledge of the most recent trends in international business and emerging market studies. Students can set out in an organised manner an analysis of an international market that takes into consideration theories of international business, pointing out solutions that a third party can leverage. Students can likewise explain the complex interaction between financial stability and business opportunities, systemic effects of corruption or ethics and the structural capacity of trade connections between countries. Students must be able to compare major theories and criticise them by drawing conclusions and supporting these with arguments.
Methodology (Core)

**Semester:** Spring – 12 weeks

**Degree programme:** MA in International Political Economy (IPE), MA in Cultural Management, MS/MIB in International Business

**Prerequisites:** General requirements for admission to Master’s studies

**Language:** Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in English and Icelandic

**Instructor:** Dr. Sigrún Lilja Einarsdóttir

**Teaching methods:** Teaching methods are diverse and build on Bifröst University's tradition of project-based learning. Lectures and guidance from the instructor are provided directly to on-campus students or with audio and video through the University's learning management system.

**Content and objectives:**

This course introduces core research concepts and methods and at the same time aims to prepare students for writing the Master’s thesis project. The course will cover various research traditions in the social sciences; formation of research questions and objectives; development of hypotheses and theories; preparation of research plans and formatting of Master’s projects; qualitative and quantitative research methods; construction of questions; data processing; presentation of findings; and research validity, reliability, transparency and ethics. Students go through the process of preparing research, selecting methods and conducting research, as part of which students receive training in collecting qualitative data, such as interviews, participant observation and textual analysis. Students likewise receive training in setting up simple online questionnaires. At the same time, students are introduced to the main traditions concerning Master’s thesis projects at Bifröst University, and project work in the course is designed to be of continuing use for students in writing the Master’s thesis.

**Learning outcomes:**

**Knowledge and understanding**

On completion of the course, students will:

- be informed about key methodological concepts
- recognise salient traditions in social science research
- possess knowledge of basic research methods, both quantitative and qualitative
- be aware of the limitations of research methods, as well as their advantages and drawbacks, validity and reliability
- be conscious of ethical issues in research

**Skills**

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- make use of the course project in continuing work on the Master’s thesis project and gain increased proficiency in scientific methods
- formulate research questions and research objectives and define research project scope
• design research based on objectives and questions, select appropriate research methods and ask questions in line with project objectives
• organise a research project (Master’s thesis project) by preparing a research plan
• obtain data, especially qualitative data, and have received training in use of such data in the course
• analyse the research data they have obtained and present their findings in a clear and appropriate manner
• recognise the validity and reliability of their own research
• prepare a “risk assessment” regarding ethical issues and confidentiality of research participants and evaluate whether presentation of data collides with ethical issues or not
• make conclusions on the basis of their own findings in a critical manner and avoid drawing overly strong conclusions on the basis of available data
International Economics  (Core)

Semester:  Spring – 6 weeks

Degree programme: MA in International Political Economy (IPE)

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master’s studies

Language: Instruction in Icelandic, course materials in English and Icelandic.

Instructor: NN

Teaching methods: Lectures, discussions and project sessions

Content and objectives:

This course deals with international business theories, such as productivity and comparative advantage, resources, income distributions, economies of scale, open and closed economies both large and small, currencies, globalisation, development-related issues, financial systems and financial crises and other topics pertaining to international economics.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of the course, students have a substantial knowledge of major topics in international economics; an understanding of the interaction and inner workings of the international economic system; skills for independent analysis and explanation of economic challenges in an international context.
International Finance (Core)

Semester and length: Spring – 6 weeks

Degree programme: MA in International Political Economy (IPE), MS/MIB in International Business

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master's studies

Language: Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in Icelandic and English

Instructors: Stefán Kalmansson, adjunct lecturer

Teaching methods: Teaching methods are diverse and build on Bifröst University's tradition of project-based learning. Lectures and guidance from the instructor are provided directly to on-campus students or with audio and video through the University's learning management system.

Content and objectives:


Learning outcomes:

Knowledge objectives:

- Students can describe the environment of multinational corporations and characteristics thereof.
- Students can highlight basic elements respecting the causes and effects of the financial crisis.
- Students can explain and criticise theories on the relationship between various economic indicators.
- Students understand influencing factors that can cause exposure in international business management.

Capability objectives:

- Students can interpret financial aspects of business management at an international level.
- Students can explain the forces that affect the development of economic indicators and currency exchange rates.
- Students have received training in analysing international business conditions as compared to local corporate activity.
• Students have received training in familiarising themselves with and analysing conditions for multinational business operations under various scenarios.

• Students can assess the potential benefits/risks involved in multinational business operations.
Intercultural Communication (Core)

Semester and length: Fall – 6 weeks

Degree programme: MA in International Political Economy (IPE), MS/MIB in International Business

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master's studies

Language: Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in Icelandic and English

Instructor: Ingvar Örn Ingvarsson

Teaching methods: Lectures, discussions and assignment work in class. Active student participation is expected during teaching.

Content and objectives: A discussion of intercultural communication and why it is one of the main criteria for success in international business. The course examines how others view “us” and assess our business practices. The practical application of intercultural communication in decision-making, negotiations, presentations, personal relations, and so on. The objective is to analyse cultural difference and let it act to one's benefit rather than being a hindrance.

Learning outcomes: On completion of the course, students will have a good understanding of the importance of intercultural communication in international business. They will have built on and added to their basic knowledge of intercultural communication and thereby possess improved skills in communicating with persons from other countries, which is a prerequisite for success in international business. Students will have gained the capability to analyse and solve problems that arise due to differing manners of communication in international business.
International Political Philosophy (Elective)

**Semester and length:** Spring – 6 weeks

**Degree programme:** MA in International Political Economy (IPE)

**Prerequisites:** General requirements for admission to Master’s studies

**Language:** Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in English and Icelandic

**Instructor:** Páll Rafnar Porsteinsson

**Teaching methods:** Lectures, discussion classes and projects

**Content and objectives:**

The course deals with philosophical challenges in contemporary international politics: the concept of national sovereignty in relation to supranational cooperation and authority; the just distribution of wealth and quality without borders; the philosophical basis for international human rights; the distinction between human and civil rights; ethical criteria and objectives of countries’ foreign policy. The course seeks to illuminate issues from the perspective of major theories, such as internationalism, relativism, nationalism and regionalism.

**Learning outcomes:**

After the course, students will:

- have knowledge about major topics in contemporary international political economy.
- have an understanding of the ethical challenges of international politics.
- have the capability to analyse, explain and address ethical issues in an international context.
Global Marketing (Elective)

Semester and length: Fall – 6 weeks

Degree programme: MS/MIB in International Business

Prerequisites: General requirements for admission to Master's studies

Language: Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in several languages

Instructor: Ragnar Már Vilhjálmsson

Teaching methods: Teaching methods are diverse and build on Bifröst University's tradition of project-based learning. Lectures and guidance from the instructor are provided directly to on-campus students or with audio and video through the University's learning management system.

Content and objectives:

The course deals with international marketing in a theoretical and applied context. Students learn to think about marketing issues in a global competitive environment and make an effort to think beyond the environment with which they are thoroughly familiar. Use will be made of examples that illuminate theories and give students a sense of the challenges of international marketing management.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding:

After the course, students will:

- Be able to position traditional marketing in an international context
- Know about the methodology of various theories of global marketing
- Understand the market environment of individual markets, both internal factors such as culture and the political legislative and regulatory environment and external factors such as the competitiveness of markets

Capability objectives:

After the course, students will:

- Be able to analyse the competitiveness of countries or markets in an international context
- Be able to apply their knowledge of theories of global marketing in choosing a methodology based on conditions for businesses in globalisation
Negotiations (Elective)

**Semester and length:** Spring – 6 weeks

**Degree programme:** MS/MIB in International Business

**Prerequisites:** General requirements for admission to Master's studies

**Language:** Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in Icelandic and English

**Instructors:** Elmar Hallgríms Hallgrímsson

**Teaching methods:** Teaching methods are diverse and build on Bifröst University's tradition of project-based learning. Lectures and guidance from the instructor are provided directly to on-campus students or with audio and video through the University’s learning management system.

**Content and objectives:** The course deals with the keys to effective negotiation skills. The course will introduce means of attaining better results in negotiations and how one can encourage a solution-oriented approach with negotiating parties. Among other things, the course will cover systematic preparation for negotiations, helpful methods in structuring a successful negotiation process and various tactics for meeting different negotiators. The course will run through the basics of mediation, which is growing in prominence as a methodology for solving matters of dispute around the world. Mediation seeks the direct involvement of parties to a dispute in solving the matter rather than having a third party decide the outcome. The mediation process and the demands made of mediators in their work will be reviewed. Techniques that can be used in improving communications between sides in a dispute will be examined, as will effective methods of gathering information.

**Learning outcomes:** On completion of the course, students will have gained the knowledge to attain better results in negotiations. Students will also have gained proficiency in interpersonal communications. They will have learned to apply creative and innovative thinking in solving matters of dispute and gained the ability to analyse the actual nature of a dispute. They will have learned how to use active listening in resolving matters of dispute and learned questioning techniques to gain an understanding of a dispute's essence.
**Special Elective**

**Semester:** Offered as suitable – 6 weeks

**Degree programme:** MA in International Political Economy (IPE)

**Prerequisites:** General requirements for admission to Master’s studies. Additional requirements may be made for individual courses.

**Language:** Icelandic or English

**Instructor:** Various

**Teaching methods:** Lectures, discussions and project sessions

**Content and objectives:**

Various special electives may be offered over the study period, often in collaboration with other Master’s degree programmes, which relate to important special issues of topical interest in the field of international affairs. Special electives are organised as suitable and are traditional 6-credit courses. The objective of special electives is to enhance the flexibility of the degree programme and give students an opportunity to tackle challenging topics of the moment, e.g., in connection with the work of researchers at Bifröst University.

**Learning outcomes:** Announced when electives are advertised.
Thesis Writing (Elective)

**Semester and length:** Fall and spring – 6/12 weeks

**Degree programme:** MA in International Political Economy (IPE), MS/MIB in International Business

**Prerequisites:** General requirements for admission to Master’s studies

**Language:** Lectures in Icelandic, course materials in Icelandic and English

**Instructor:** Dr. Sigrún Lilja Einarsdóttir

**Teaching methods:** Audio lectures uploaded to the course webpage, project work and one working weekend at Bifröst University

**Content and objectives:**
This thesis-writing gateway suits Master’s students who are starting concept work for a 30-credit Master’s thesis and/or have already made some progress but would like methodological support in their thesis work. Students who have completed a methodology course and an introductory course in international political economy and have made good progress in their Master’s studies may take this course and may complete a maximum of 12 thesis credits in this way (Thesis I and Thesis II), whether in the fall semester or spring semester, provided that they fulfil the requirements for enrolment in this gateway. Students can continue to develop research concepts from their methodology class or work with new ideas for a Master’s thesis. Students choose one of four different learning modules, depending on which module suits individual students best at any given time: Module 1 (Research plan) allows students to formulate a new topic for a Master’s thesis from the ground up, carry out concept work, examine the theoretical background and thereby complete a research plan for their project. At this stage, students are under the tutelage of an instructor, but a decision will be taken later as to whether and when students will receive guidance from a supervisor. Module 2 (Writing the theory section) suits students who have formulated their Master’s thesis topic in a methodology course and focuses on drafting an in-depth theory section, either prior to or after completing the main data collection phase (depending on research approach). At this stage, students may be obtaining guidance from a supervisor but receive methodological support from an instructor. Module 3 (Data collection) suits students who have formulated their Master’s thesis topic in a methodology course and centres on the main data collection phase, following consultation between the instructor and supervisor. Students obtain guidance from their supervisor but receive methodological support from an instructor. Module 4 (Data analysis and presentation of findings) is a stand-alone continuation of Module 3 and concerns data analysis and presentation of research findings. In this module, students receive assistance in identifying suitable methods of analysis and the best way of presenting their findings. Students obtain guidance from their supervisor but receive methodological support from an instructor. The module does not involve traditional teaching or instruction per se, but the instructor will contribute brief review input as the need arises, and students can seek assistance from the instructor as needed, particularly as
relates to methodological support. Students attend working weekends, where they listen to guest lectures, participate in discussion groups and have the opportunity to meet with the instructor as needed. Credits earned in these gateway modules form part of the final thesis credits, but it should be noted that the credit weight of the thesis does not decrease on completion of the thesis gateway.

**Learning outcomes:**

The objective of the thesis gateway is to enable students to organise and coordinate their thesis work better.

In thesis gateway modules, students will:

- apply methods and knowledge gained in studies, develop a research topic or continue work on a topic from a methodology course in consultation with their instructor/supervisor.
- improve their ability to work independently and enhance the overall quality of their work in writing a Master's thesis.
- gain training in analysis and in putting forward solutions appropriate for the subject matter.
- demonstrate an ability to deal with theories and accepted views in an autonomous and critical manner, organise their own work and complete a predetermined section of the thesis at the end of the semester.
Final Thesis  (Mandatory)

**Semester and length:** Fall or spring semester – 30 ECTS

The final project in a Master's study programme is an academic thesis or other comparable project, which each Master's student completes on his/her own and must meet all requirements made of final projects in general at this stage of higher education. Final project requirements in this degree programme are the same as apply to Master's study programmes at Bifröst University in general. In this context, see the directions for Master's students and their supervisors on the MS/MA thesis, found in the Bifröst University Quality Manual.

The final project is an academic thesis or other comparable project, which each Master's student completes on his/her own and must meet all requirements made of final projects in general at this stage of higher education. With the final thesis, the Master's student demonstrates his/her mastery of methods, work methods and procedures and theories in the study area in question and submits a work that has independent theoretical or applied value for the field or profession. The final project is an important part of a Master's student's training, and s/he is responsible for all components of this project.

*Learning outcomes:*

- To be able to apply methods and knowledge gained in studies.
- To work under the close supervision of a supervisor.
- To gain training in analysis and in putting forward solutions appropriate for the subject matter.
- To have the ability to deal with theories and accepted views in an autonomous and critical manner.

Further information on the MA thesis can be found in the Bifröst University Quality Manual, appendix 230a (EF 230a).
**Intended learning outcomes**

Intended learning outcomes for the study programme are set forth as per Iceland’s National Qualification Framework for Higher Education and Degrees, issued in 2011 by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, pursuant to Act No. 63/2006.

On completing their studies, degree holders should meet the following standards, as per the educational performance attested to in the diploma and diploma supplement.

**Knowledge and understanding**

That degree holders have gained a systematic understanding of the latest knowledge possible in the field of international political economy.

**Type of knowledge**

That degree holders have an important awareness of issues and challenges, based on the latest information and research in the field of international political economy.

That degree holders have acquired knowledge through coursework, research and use of the Internet for knowledge acquisition in a specialised field of expertise within international political economy.

**Practical skills**

That degree holders can make an independent assessment of challenges, make professional decisions and justify them in a clear manner on the basis of their knowledge in the field of international political economy.

That degree holders have the ability and competences to assess, analyse and obtain scientific data relating to economic and political unrest on the international scene.

That degree holders can understand and address complex challenges in the field of international communications in a professional context and collaboration.

**Theoretical skills**

That degree holders can independently assess when different methods of analysis and complex theoretical considerations are applicable.
That degree holders demonstrate a deeper and improved understanding of and a broader perspective on their field of expertise within international political economy than entailed in studies at the first higher education cycle.

That degree holders have learned to think critically.

That degree holders have the ability to integrate knowledge and resolve complex issues and can apply the research process effectively and carry out research projects.

**Learning skills**

That degree holders have developed the learning skills and autonomous working methods necessary for them to continue on to further study at the third higher education cycle, which is largely based on autonomous working methods.