CHE Improvement response: Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy (99302)

* ***In terms of the HEQSF at least 50% of the curriculum should be in fields related to the qualifier. Currently it appears that a candidate may complete the qualification with 168 credits in the broad field of the qualifier given the nature of the compulsory modules. This does not amount to 50%. In addition it appears that only 24 credits relate explicitly to diplomacy. Hence the institution should also review the title of the qualification or motivate why 'diplomacy' should be included in the title, or review the structure of the curriculum to reflect an appropriate balance between the two components of the qualifier***.

**RETENTION OF NAME: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY**

Although various names are used for degrees focussing on the “international aspects” of society, the word “affairs” is not the standard term used within the fields of International Politics, International Relations and International Studies. It may even sometimes have a pejorative meaning. If the name International Affairs is indeed used, it is as a synonym for International Relations which then makes the name “International Relations and International Affairs” tautological.

The names of these fields are also important with regard to both the name and the CESM category of the said programme. The content of International Politics is largely restricted to the political aspects of “relations” within the global context. International Relations and International Studies have indeed a larger more multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary scope which includes the non-political and which is not properly captured by the current CESM classifications. Thus in this sense the CESM category 200604 is rather restrictive.

Names of qualifications covering the content “international” are common at universities internationally, but names do vary and examples are:

* Bachelor of Arts in International Relations (offered e.g. by the University of Leeds and Webster University);
* Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (University of Leiden and the Open University);
* Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Politics (University of Portsmouth and the University of Lincoln)
* Degrees focussing on diplomacy only such as the BA in Cultural Diplomacy offered by the Center for Cultural Diplomacy in collaboration with various universities in Europe.
* BA in International Relations and Diplomacy as offered by the Ohio State University and Schiller International University.
* Georgetown University offers a Bachelor of Science in foreign Service with 7 streams:
  + [*Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - Culture and Politics*](http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/majors/culp)
  + [*Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - International Economics*](http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/majors/ieco)
  + [*Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - International History*](http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/majors/ihis)
  + [*Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - International Political Economy*](http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/majors/ipec)
  + [*Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - International Politics*](http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/majors/ipol)
  + *Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - Regional and Comparative Studies*
  + [*Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - Science Technology and International Affairs*](http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/majors/stia)

Their programme is rated the fourth best in the world.

The name most often used is BA in International Relations. As far as could be determined no university is offering a BA degree in International Relations and Affairs, although one university offered a BA in Global Affairs.

The Department of Political Sciences at Unisa has however decided to include both International Relations and Diplomacy in the name of the qualifier in order to give it a more “interstate” political focus and it should be noted that aspects of diplomacy is prominent in the content of most modules in the discipline International Politics as offered by the Department.

It is thus requested that the name BA in International Relations and Diplomacy be retained.

**DEVIATION FROM THE CESM PRESCRIPTIONS**

The second motivation concerns the deviation from the requirement that 50% of the content should be within the qualifier. This deviation only applies when CESM categories are used to determine the content of modules. It is indeed possible, although highly unlikely that, from a technical perspective, a student may pass the degree with only 156 credits in the CESM category of the qualifier. This will only happen if a student selects only language and Economics modules among the electives and decides to take a language and Economics up to the third level. This combination is possible but highly unlikely.

From Table 1 below the following is important to note:

* From CESM category 2006, 156 credits are compulsory;
* Thus 24 credits are required for 50% of the credits to fall in the same CESM category;
* Only 72 credits from non-CESM 2006 are compulsory;
* Thus students have to elect a remaining 11 modules (each with a credit of 12 – total of 132 credits), from the electives;
* Of the electives listed 9 are from CESM category 2006;
* 5 are from related CESM 20;
* 7 are modules with an explicit international content but from different CESM categories;
* Students may take a maximum of 8 modules from the international languages if they wish to take an international language up to NQF level 7;
* Only 1 module in an international language is compulsory (part of the 72 credits listed above);
* The remaining 7 modules have content relevant to the interdisciplinary nature of International relations and the study thereof. See Addendum A copied from Stanford University

The interdisciplinary nature as well as multi-disciplinary nature of International relations is particularly important in this regard and is acknowledged worldwide by institutions. I quote from the American University, Washington (rated 9th best international relations programme in the world) the following with regard to their BA in International Studies:

Offered by the [School of International Service](http://catalog.american.edu/preview_entity.php?catoid=3&ent_oid=132&coid=132&navoid=132&TB_iframe=true), the BA in International Studies prepares students for internationally-focused careers in government, non-profits, and the private sectors. The curriculum is firmly rooted in the liberal arts and sciences, inherently interdisciplinary, and aimed at helping students to think critically and clearly about the most pressing global challenges. It also affords an opportunity for students to find their truest vocations, to discover their passions, and to become active and engaged citizens in a complex global world that defies simple explanations or solutions. SIS faculty and courses help students acquire critical intellectual dispositions and expanded moral imaginations-enabling them to think critically, creatively, and independently about important international issues-that will help them shape the global future. (my highlights)

Likewise Lincoln University also stresses the interdisciplinary nature of studies in International relations: “Lincoln’s BA (Hons) International Relations degree encompasses politics, economics, history, sociology, international law, geography and cultural studies. It is a truly interdisciplinary subject that is both academically rigorous and socially relevant.” (my highlights)

Thus, in the evaluation of the curriculum of the programme it is of the utmost importance to bear the interdisciplinary nature of the qualification in mind. It is also with this in mind that the programme was approved by the University Senate.

If the CESM categories are still regarded as the defining criterion for a programme it is important to note that it is highly unlikely that a student will select none of the other CESM category 2006 and other CESM category 20 modules among the electives. Furthermore, the artificial nature of CESM classification should also be borne in mind. Content that is fundamentally international in nature is classified in other CESM categories. Classifying Politics into water tight compartments is particularly problematic because politics in fact permeates everything.

To conclude the Department of Political Sciences wishes to retain the current name of the programme as well as the current curriculum although there is the unlikely possibility that a student may graduate with only 156 credits in CESM category 2006.

TABLE 1: CESM CATEGORIES OF MODULES

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PROGRAMME DESIGN DETAILS** | | | | | | |
| **COMPULSORY MODULES** | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **Module** | **NQF level** | **Credits** | **Year level** | **Compulsory** | **Electives** | **CESM category** |
| **Year 1 CESM 2006** | | | | | | |
| The politics of Contemporary Africa  APC1502 | 5 | 12 | 1 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| Fundamentals of International Politics  IPC1501 | 5 | 12 | 1 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| South Africa in International Politics  IPC1502 | 5 | 12 | 1 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| **Year 2 CESM 2006** | | | | | | |
| Political Change in Contemporary Africa  APC2601 | 6 | 12 | 2 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| Political Economy of Africa  APC2602 | 6 | 12 | 2 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| International Organisations  IPC2601 | 6 | 12 | 2 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| International Political Dynamics  IPC2602 | 6 | 12 | 2 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| **Year 3 CESM 2006** | | | | | | |
| International Political Theory  IPC3701 | 7 | 12 | 3 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| International Political Economy  IPC3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| Diplomacy  IPC3703 | 7 | 12 | 3 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| Democracy and other Forms of Regime  PLC3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| Principles of International Law  PRI3701 | 7 | 12 | 3 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| Political Conflict and Conflict Resolution  PSC3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | Yes | No | 2006 |
| **Other modules – compulsory Non-CESM 2006** | | | | | | |
| English for Academic purposes  ENN103F | 5 | 12 | 1 | Yes | No | 1102 |
| Economics IA  ECS1501 | 5 | 12 | 1 | Yes | No | 0404 |
| Economics IB  ECS1601 | 6 | 12 | 1 | Yes | No | 0404 |
| South African Economic Indicators  ECS2603 | 6 | 12 | 2 | Yes | No | 0404 |
| Integrated Organisational Communication  COM2602 | 6 | 12 | 2 | Yes | No | 0501 |
|  | | | | | | |
| **Electives from CESM category 2006** | | | | | | |
| Political Evolution of the African State  APC1501 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| Understanding the State  PLC1502 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| South African Politics  PSC2601 | 6 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| Understanding political Behaviour and Participation  PLC2601 | 6 | 12 | 2 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| Politics and Public Policy  PLC2602 | 6 | 12 | 2 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| The Politics of Southern Africa  APC3701 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| The Politics of East Africa  APC3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| The Politics of North and West Africa  APC3703 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2006 |
| Contemporary Issues in Politics: Capita selecta  PSC3701 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2006 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Other Electives from CESM category 20 | | | | | | |
| Research in the Social Sciences  RSC2601 | 6 | 12 | 2 | No | Yes | 20 |
| Globalisation and Social Change in South Africa  SOC2602 | 6 | 12 | 2 | No | Yes | 2007 |
| Decolonisation, Independence and Social change in Modern Africa  HSY3701 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2003 |
| Themes in 20th Century World History towards Globalisation  HSY3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2003 |
| Globalisation  HSY3703 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 2003 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other elective modules with a direct and explicit INTERNATIONAL content but from non CESM category 20** | | | | | | |
| World Issues: A Geographical Perspective  GGH1502 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 1405 |
| Introduction to History of Religions  RST1501 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 1405 |
| Fundamental Rights  FUR2601 | 6 | 12 | 2 | No | Yes | 1205 |
| Economic History of the World  ECS2608 | 6 | 12 | 2 | No | Yes | 0404 |
| International Communication  COM3705 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 0501 |
| International Trade  ECS3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 0404 |
| International Finance  ECS3703 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 0404 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Elective modules from official international languages. These modules are listed per language. A student can select a maximum of 8 modules from one of the languages. Note that only 1 module is compulsory** | | | | | | |
| ARABIC  ARB1501  ARB1602  ARB2603  ARB2704  ARB2705  ARB3706  ARB3707 | 5/6/7 | 12 each | 1/2/3 | No | Yes | 1117 |
| FRENCH  FRC1501  FRC1502  FRC2601  FRC2602  FRC2603  FRC3701  FRC3702  FRC3703  FRC3704  FRC3705 | 5/6/7 | 12 each | 1/2/3 | No | Yes | 1115 |
| MANDARIN (CHINESE)  MAN1501  MAN1502  MAN2601  MAN2602  MAN3702  MAN3703  MAN3704  MAN3705 | 5/6/7 | 12 each | 1/2/3 | No | Yes | 1116 |
| PORTUGUESE  PTU1501  PTU1502  PTU2601  PTU2602  PTU3701  PTU3702  PTU3703  PTU3704  PTU3705 | 5/6/7 | 12 each | 1/2/3 | No | Yes | 1115 |
| GERMAN  GEM1501  GEM1502 | 5 | 12 each | 1 | No | Yes | 1115 |
| **Elective modules with content relevant to International Relations or to the study of International relations** | | | | | | |
| Communication Contexts and Applications  COM1502 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 0501 |
| Media Studies: Institutions, Theories and Issues  COM3702 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 0501 |
| An Introduction to Islam  ICS1501 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes | 1702 |
| Islamic Politics and Economics  ICS3705 | 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | 1702 |
| Ethical information and Communication Technologies for Development Solutions  EUP1501 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes |  |
| Introduction to Business Information Systems  INF1505 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes |  |
| Basic Statistics  STA1510 | 5 | 12 | 1 | No | Yes |  |

ADDENDUM A: CURRICULUM STANFORD UNIVERSITY – RATED THIRD BEST IN THE WORLD (<http://internationalrelations.stanford.edu/content/major-core-classes>)

Note the explicit interdisciplinary nature of the Major (qualifier) with Economics and Statistics regarded as part of the major. Likewise less than 50 % of the degree comes from the major.

**International Relations Major Requirements**

70 units total

**Core Courses** (30 units)

• International Relations (5 units) Political Science 1

• Comparative Governance (5 units) Political Science 4 or History 102

• American Foreign Policy (5 units) International Relations 154, 168, 173, 174, Political Science 110C, 110D, 110G, 214R

• Economics (5 units)

Take at least one (5 units) of the following basic economics courses: Economics 1, 50, 51, 52

• One additional upper-division economics courses from the IR

approved list of courses. (5 units)

• Skills (5 units)

At least one of the following skills classes: Statistics 60 or Economics 102A

Prof Susan Botha

Chair: Tuition Committee

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