

SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

# **Prospectus for Admissions 2019**

**B.A. (Research) in International Relations**

**Department of International Relations  
and Governance Studies**

**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## **Contact for academic queries**

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### **Useful links**

[www.irgs.snu.edu.in](http://www.irgs.snu.edu.in)

<https://snu.edu.in/admissions>

## Introduction

The Department of International Relations and Governance Studies will offer a B.A. (Research) in International Relations programme in the academic year 2019, which commences in July 2019. It is 4-year programme that involves 3 years of course work and a year to complete one's dissertation.

This prospectus provides an overview of the programme and information about its key features. If you are a prospective student or the parents of one, and would like to know more about this programme, you can write to us at the email addresses mentioned on page 2 of this document.

### *Studying International Relations at SNU*

The study of International Relations at SNU entails being eventually equipped to engage in a lively conversation between world historical developments and international relations theorizing. While conscious of developments in the Anglo-American mainstream, the Department is inclined to pursue genuinely more wide-ranging empirical and theoretically anchored accounts of international politics across diverse issue areas – development, security, gender and the environment. 21<sup>st</sup> century Asia merits special attention in this regard, and we especially focus on China.

We seek to reflect on old and new realities and theory building efforts, both from the past and present, in IR. The Department has an interest in applying and testing historical and theoretical insights generated within the discipline, as well as drawing on insights from the humanities and allied social and behavioural sciences to help us think more imaginatively about a range of global collective action problems. These encompass a wide variety of international concerns ranging from (though by no means restricted to) climate change, intellectual property regimes, cyber security governance, inequality and social policy and global refugee politics. It also warrants an active interest in international institutional design and global governance aspects (for e.g. the reform of the UNSC), an assessment of the role of non-state actors, discourses around rising powers, systemic power transition scenarios and comprehensive traditional and non-traditional security dilemmas.

A dimension germane to the research and teaching sensibilities of the Department is a thoroughgoing normative engagement with questions relating to epistemic and economic imbalances between the global North and the South, facets relating to war and peace, accounts of global cooperation, utopias and dystopias in world politics and the evolving content of global justice. As the vast menu of issues suggest, research and teaching in IR has never been more enticing yet challenging. This variety also speaks well to the range of careers we at this Department aim to equip our students to finally adopt.

## ***The B.A. (Research) in IR programme in a nutshell***

### *Uniqueness*

Our undergraduate programme is unique. It weds a core disciplinary training in International Relations, to deep familiarity with the theory and practice of fields germane to, among others, governance, development, environment and gender.

### *Strong faculty*

The programme is taught by faculty members who are leading teachers and researchers in their fields. Our faculty members bring training received at some of the leading universities in India and abroad to the classroom. Their research informs public debates and policy alike and makes their teaching cutting-edge.

### *Specialisations*

Our faculty specialisations include theories of IR and disciplinary histories; China in global politics; development in global and comparative settings; governance and ecological economics; gender and visibility; political philosophy and Indian foreign policy.

### *Multidisciplinary education*

Education at SNU is a multi-disciplinary practice. Students of the Department read courses that are common to their peers from other Departments of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as other Schools in the University. They get exposure to multiple perspectives and ideas. Multi-disciplinarity is reflected in 4 types of courses students are required to read.

### *Minor in another subject*

SNU offers opportunities for minoring in programmes offered by other Departments. These are also available to students who major in the B.A. (Research) in International Relations programme.

### *Interaction with practitioners*

Value to the programme is added by the talks and other academic events, which the Department organises. We invite foreign policy, development and governance practitioners—such as diplomats, policy experts and trade deal negotiators—along with senior academics to share their ideas and work. We encourage students to engage in conversations with speakers, which sharpens their knowledge and skill-sets.

### *Research—an integral component*

Research is an integral component of education at SNU. Students are encouraged to carry out independent research as part of a special initiative called Opportunities for Undergraduate Research (OUR). In addition, the experience of writing a dissertation in the final year of the programme strengthens their research skills.

## ***Programme Outcome***

The training we offer to students of this programme reflects our belief that 21<sup>st</sup> century careers should be marked by **sustainability** and **flexibility**. Work should not exhaust a person or make them resent what they do. And they must be able to master many facets to meet the goals or level of satisfaction associated with a field, or indeed, to switch to another, a likelihood in a world where a job for life is passé and where the watertight walls between careers have never been finer.

We believe that 21<sup>st</sup> century professionals have the opportunity to **design their careers**, and for this, they need two core attributes. First, they should be enterprising, or be willing and resourceful to take initiatives and risks. Second, they should have an assortment of skills, abilities and knowledge to support the initiatives and risk-taking. Thus, upon successful completion of the BA (Research) in International Relations, our students can look forward to the following:

1. A thorough and systematic **understanding** of how global affairs take shape and how they influence the choices made by nations and individuals.
2. The ability to **analyse** and **evaluate** complex strategic trends at the international level, which are necessary for careers in international institutions, think-tanks, foreign and security affairs journalism as well as public policy and social work.
3. Strong **articulation** and **presentation** skills, which are core ingredients of leadership capacity in all fields today.
4. Strong **writing** skills that are indispensable to different types of writing, from academic and policy work to journalism and advocacy.
5. A robust **critical** aptitude, that is honed to go beyond the obvious and engage with nuanced perspectives.

## ***Credit Requirement***

To be conferred the BA (Research) in International Relations degree, a student needs to complete a total of 150 credits, which are divided into different course and dissertation components. The distribution of the credits and courses is mentioned in the table below.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Typical timeline</b>	<b>Credits</b>
IR core courses (11)	Semesters I-IV	44
IR major elective courses (10)	Semesters II-VI	40
Courses common to students of SHSS (3)	Semesters I-II	12
University Wide Elective (UWE) courses offered by other Departments (6)	Semesters V-VI	24
Core Common Curriculum (CCC) courses (6)	Semesters I-VI	18
Dissertation	Semesters VII-VIII	12

*Illustrative course spread across semesters*

<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Semester 1</b> Academic Writing Logic and Scientific Reasoning Introduction to International Relations Global History and International Relations Major Elective 1 CCC 1	<b>Semester 2</b> Understanding Modernity India in World Affairs International Organisations and Global Governance Theorising International Relations Major Elective 2 CCC 2 3
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Semester 3</b> Global Political Thought Intellectual Histories and Theories of Economic Development Knowing and Governing Ecosystems and Economies Major Elective 3 Major Elective 4 CCC 3	<b>Semester 4</b> International Security Science, Technology and International Relations International Law and World Politics Major Elective 5 Major Elective 6 CCC 4
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Semester 5</b> Major Elective 7 Major Elective 8 UWE 1 UWE 2 UWE 3 CCC 5	<b>Semester 6</b> Major Elective 9 Major Elective 10 UWE 4 UWE 5 UWE 6 CCC 6
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Semester 7</b> Dissertation	<b>Semester 8</b> Dissertation

## ***Overview of the core courses***

These courses are compulsory for IR major students.

### **INT101 – Introduction to International Relations**

As a discipline, International Relations (IR) covers a vast field involving actors, issues, patterns and phenomena. This course introduces the discipline to show how it relates to the world it studies. It will focus on the distinctness of the international, the nature of international reality, key concepts within IR and its disciplinary histories. The objective is to invite students to IR by equipping them with the background, vocabulary and intellectual resources to inhabit the field and begin understanding world politics from a disciplinary vantage point.

**Learning outcome:** The ability to separate international relations from other dimensions of social reality as well as to use IR tools of studying international relations systematically.

### **INT102 – Global History and International Relations**

Students of International Relations need to take an active interest in the category ‘global’ and how it has played out through the course of human history. Global history provides an exciting account of the nature of human interconnections across time and space in different political theatres. What can students of International Relations learn from history?

**Learning outcome:** To develop a historical sensibility among students of International Relations and a curiosity of how the past impinges on the present.

### **INT103 – India in World Affairs**

This course covers the significant features of modern and contemporary India’s international relations. Against a background that traces India’s emergence as an international actor, the course will focus on six elements: history and worldview, postcolonial trajectory, relations, regions, issues, and challenges and prospects. In addition to the dynamics of recent decades, the course will highlight the enduring patterns in India’s engagement with the world. Of particular interest to this course will be the balance that Indian diplomacy seeks to strike between the country’s interests and its global commitments.

**Learning outcome:** The ability to see how the interactions between India’s domestic politics and international relations shape its international relations; to separate rhetoric from reality in India’s foreign policy discourse; as well as a basic ability to write knowledgeably about the subject.

### **INT104 – International Organizations and Global Governance**

As a concept, global governance emerged in the 1990s as a response to systemic developments-such as globalization, technological progress, the end of the Cold War and the growth of transnationalism-and a concomitant increase in the complexity of issues and problems that needed resolution at levels higher than sovereign states acting on their own. This course examines the need for, and definitions of, global governance in the contemporary world. It explores the theoretical underpinnings of global governance in international relations. The second part of the course will look at development and global

governance, in particular, taking up state and non-state actors by turn. The course ends by setting out some challenges in global governance.

**Learning outcome:** On successful completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the emergence of global governance, the concept and its theoretical underpinnings in international relations, as well as its politics, processes, and challenges, including in particular in the domain of development.

### **INT 105 – Theorizing International Relations**

This is a fundamental course that seeks to expose undergraduate students to both mainstream and critical approaches to theorizing International Relations. The intent is to also examine the broader intellectual and political milieu that contributed to shaping a particular theorist’s account of the world.

**Learning outcome:** To help students think theoretically about various facets of world politics and develop an appreciation of intellectual history as well.

### **INT201 – Global Political Thought**

Although some form of politics or political institutions have existed in most human settlements, reasoned reflections have brought out varied understandings of the same in different time-periods and cultures. Ancient Greeks’ reflections on politics and state were subsumed under their inquiries on the nature of the good life. On the other hand, modern contractarian thinkers thought about it, mostly, as an instrumental way of securing peace or as an institutional mechanism to minimize the inconveniences of the ‘state of nature’. One could also say that—though this is a contentious point—different concerns have undergirded political thinking in what we geographically describe as the ‘West’ and the ‘East’. Through reflections on some of the key texts, the course will try to bring out the deeper nuances of our contemporary understanding of politics.

**Learning outcome:** To develop the ability to engage with contemporary political events in a theoretically rigorous manner.

### **INT202 – Interrogating Histories and Theories of Economic Development**

Introducing contested histories and key debates in economic development since the middle of the 20th century, this course explores the genesis of the idea of ‘development’ itself, engaging critically with the meaning of the term and varied development theories as they evolved overtime. The role of the state and the market will be a particular area of focus. It will include understanding the evolution and ascendancy of various schools of thought (for example, the Chicago School, Washington Consensus and Post-Washington Consensus) and key global actors (for instance, Bretton Woods institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank), in shaping and influencing the discourse and architecture of development policy and practice, up until the current crisis in contemporary capitalism and governance driven by the neoliberal global order.

**Learning outcome:** To imbue students with a historical understanding of contested pathways and theories in the trajectory of economic development.

### **INT203 – Knowing and Governing Ecosystems and Economies**

What we know about and how we know ecosystems and economies, shape the ways in which we govern them. This course introduces and explains the major disciplines and inter-disciplinary formations that help us understand natural and (human) economic functions (from the local and national to planetary limits), and their complex relationships.

**Learning outcome:** To understand global and national management of ecosystems and economies, especially the use of “ecosystem services” and the knowledge politics involved.

### **INT204 – International Security**

Security studies is a wide subfield in International Relations that encompasses both traditional and non-traditional concerns. Traditional security issues range from classical geopolitical concerns to more recent geo-economic accents. Non-traditional security concerns treat the human being as the central referent of security studies and ask interesting questions relating to human development, the environment, food and water security as well as other dimensions that are normally neglected in traditional security studies. The course intends to straddle the worlds of both traditional and non-traditional security.

**Learning outcome:** To be able to conceptualize security broadly and arrive at a better appreciation of both traditional and non-traditional security aspects of world politics.

### **INT205 – Science, Technology and International Relations**

Science enjoys an exalted status as a knowledge system and is important to understand it in its own right. However, for students of International Relations, it is particularly urgent to understand the influence of this mode of knowledge in shaping world politics around us. Technological developments also carry a specific set of implications depending on the timing of their arrival and the manner of their deployment. The course seeks to look at various critical moments in techno-politics as well as recent advances in the digital sphere, artificial intelligence, meta-data analytics and climate politics to discern their individual and collective influence on our overall well-being.

**Learning outcome:** To partake of developments in science and technology and study their impact on different facets of world politics.

### **INT206 – International Law and World Politics**

How do international law and world politics intersect? A curiosity about the workings of international law will quite quickly reveal the importance of political context to appreciate legal developments. Whether it is the study of legal norms, legal institutionalization or theories of international law, students of world politics must engage the world of the concrete and law provides an anchor to distil the workings of politics while sifting through the domain of practice. Drawing on empirical illustrations from the realm of security, trade and the environment, the course shall demonstrate the nature of interconnections between world politics and international law

**Learning outcome:** To understand how politics provides the context for international law and how international legal outcomes in turn impacts politics.

***Pool of major elective courses***

Student must choose any 10 courses from those listed below. The list reflects our assessment of what are relevant courses during a given period (of say 3-4 years). The list changes as new courses are added, and old ones are deleted. Please note that mere listing of a course below does not guarantee that it would be offered.

1. Political Biographies and World Politics
2. Literature and World Politics
3. Cinema and World Politics
4. Understanding Bureaucracies
5. Liberalism and its Critics
6. Comparative Constitutionalism
7. Deciphering Perceptions: Masking and Unmasking World Politics
8. International Relations of Asia
9. China in Global Politics
10. International Thinking in Indian History
11. Inequality and Social Policy for Development
12. Constitution, Governance and Politics in India
13. India's Development in Comparative Perspective
14. Agriculture *in/vs* the Environment: The nation state and planetary limits
15. Agri-food systems: Work and technology in contemporary Asia
16. Ecological Economics – Nature, time and justice
17. Cities of the Global South
18. Science Diplomacy
19. Interpreting Modern Politics: Key Texts
20. Politics and Governance in South Asia
21. Problem Solving in International Relations