MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (M.S.)

Purpose
The Master of Science in International Relations seeks to equip graduates with a solid understanding of the philosophical and Biblical influences impacting international relations and global governance. Students are given a multidisciplinary approach to international relations, addressing history, philosophy, governing structures and processes, and comparative politics. The knowledge of international relations gained through this program is constructed on a solid biblical foundation, advancing global statesmanship in the name of Jesus Christ.

Program Specific Admission Requirements
In addition to the general admission requirements, specific requirements for admission to the Master of Science in International Relations (M.S.) are as follows:

1. Earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.).
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above (on a 4.00 scale).
3. TOEFL Scores for students who speak English as a second language (score of 600 paper-based test; 250 computer-based test, 80 internet-based test)

Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement may be admitted on Academic Caution status. Applicants who hold a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.00 to 2.99 on a 4.00 scale may be eligible for admission on Academic Caution.

Transfer Credit
Students may transfer up to 18 hours of graduate-level credit from an accredited institution. In order to transfer credit, students must have earned the minimum grade of B-, and courses must have been completed within 10 years of the start date of the student’s program at Liberty University. Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits.

Program Learning Outcomes
The student will be able to:

1. Evaluate current research and knowledge of the international relations discipline.
2. Apply a Christian worldview to aspects of the international relations context.
3. Evaluate the impact of various political stakeholders in the international relations context.

Graduation Requirements
In addition to other regulations governing graduation as stated in this Catalog, M.S. in International Relations graduates must:

1. Complete 36 total hours.
2. A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level.
3. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00.
4. No more than two (2) grades of C may be applied to the degree (includes grades of C+ & C).
5. No Grade of D may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ & D).  
6. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
7. Students must complete all work for the degree within five years of initial enrollment in the program.
8. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student’s anticipated graduation date.

Program of Study

Delivery Format: Online Only
- International Relations (M.S.)

Career Opportunities
- Foreign Service or Public Affairs Officer
- International Lawyer
- International Business Consultant
- Global Missions Worker/Director
- Diplomat
- Journalist
- NGO Director
- Researcher
- Professor

Courses
INTL 500 Fundamentals of International Relations 3 Credit Hour(s)
The course offers a critical knowledge foundation of various perspectives, issues, and controversies that comprise contemporary international relations and policy today. Students will engage relevant topics like the structure and actors of the international system; the theory and practice of conflict and cooperation; political economy and international trade; international organizations and human rights; global governance and development; and international security and terrorism. They will be strongly encouraged to reflect upon how each of these topics may be informed by, integrated with, or deviate from a biblically informed world view.
Offered: Online
INTL 502 Global Governance  3 Credit Hour(s)
Since WWII, global governance has been an increasing if contentious force in international politics. Whether political, military, legal, financial, commercial, or humanitarian in nature, global institutions like the UN, the World Bank, the IMF, the World Trade Organization, the World Court, the World Health Organization, and affiliated INGOs have all sought to integrate with, substitute for, or in some cases compete with state actors as providers of basic health, safety, and human rights enforcement. Critically assessing theories, practices, and aims of global governance, the course highlights fundamental tensions between international organizations (IOs), sovereign states, and non-state actors. Students are strongly encouraged to reflect upon how each of these topics may be informed by, integrated with, or deviate from a biblically informed worldview.

Offered: Online

INTL 689 Thesis Proposal and Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is designed to help students complete their master’s thesis in International Relations. It is expected that research for the thesis project will be relevant to the student’s study in the master’s program and will make an academic contribution to the research in international relations.

Offered: Online

INTL 690 Thesis Defense  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: INTL 689
Intended to demonstrate a student’s ability to carry out original research. Thesis may be designed to answer practical research questions, or address theoretical or ethical issues of interest to scholars and professionals in the field of international relations. Credit is not awarded until the thesis has been accepted.

Offered: Online