



# IRPG846

## International Relations Special Project

S1 External 2018

*Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Aleksandar Pavkovic

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Contact via email

TBA

Credit points

8

Prerequisites

16cp in IRPG units and (GPA of 3.5 out of 4.0 or 5.50 out of 7.00) and permission by special approval

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is research-based unit requires the completion of a dissertation of approximately 15,000 words in one semester on a topic within the scope of International Relations. The research topic is chosen by the student but must be approved by the convenor as suitable for an MIR dissertation and for which supervision is available within the Department. The unit is not normally undertaken until at least four units in the MIR program have been completed, and entry is conditional on the achievement of a High Credit or Distinction average in these four units. Applications for enrolment in the unit should be made through the MIR office and are assessed individually.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Acquisition of the abilities to plan, design and execute self-directed research on a topic in the field of International Relations

The extension and enhancement of knowledge and skills in the application of relevant concepts, theories and methodologies

The capacity to analyse, evaluate and synthesise scholarly evidence

The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

## General Assessment Information

*Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.*

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Research Proposal</u></a>	10%	No	29 March 5 pm
<a href="#"><u>Dissertation (research paper)</u></a>	90%	No	8 June 5pm

### Research Proposal

Due: **29 March 5 pm**

Weighting: **10%**

An 800 word project proposal (including title). The proposal should include:

- A specific core research question, and sub-questions that need to be answered
- A preliminary argument/hypothesis in relation to the problems/issues you intend to address (i.e. the anticipated answers to the research questions you have identified above)
- A justification of the research question: why is this question important or significant?
- Research Methodology: How do you intend to address the research problem? What kinds of source material will you rely upon?
- Sources: Identify at least four sources that appear key to your research and identify why the author's approach/analysis is significant to your research
- A provisional chapter outline, including a few sentences on what you envisage will be included.
- A schedule of dates by which components of your research will be completed (based on your chapter outline). You should be working towards having a complete first draft of your thesis at least two weeks before the due date.
- Bibliography: A list of at least 10 sources that you intend to rely upon (not included in the word count).

Your chosen topic can be drawn from a unit you have studied before and may represent your

continuing concern with issues that you feel you did not address to a satisfactory conclusion in that unit. However, your essay must be new and original and cannot reproduce work done before. Significant penalties up to and including failure in the unit will result from the resubmission of previous work.

Submit via Turnitin slot on the iLearn page. No hard copy.

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## Dissertation (research paper)

Due: **8 June 5pm**

Weighting: **90%**

This unit is principally an exercise in *independent research*. The main substantive task is to complete a piece of formal academic writing of **5000 words (including footnotes but excluding the bibliography)** - a research paper or 'dissertation'. It should specify a clear research question, demonstrate command of the topic, provide some originality in its analysis, and present a coherent and supported scholarly argument.

Your dissertation should include:

- title page
- plagiarism (academic honesty) declaration
- abstract (excluded from the word count)
- table of contents indicating section or chapter headings
- A central research question
- main text
- bibliography
- page numbers

All assignments should be submitted electronically using the Turnitin assignment link on the unit's ilearn website.

A grade criteria and marking rubric can be found on the ilearn website for the unit. Read this carefully before completing your essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

## **Delivery and Resources**

The convenor will have a weekly consultation period in his office which students - internal and external - are welcome to attend. The convenor will also set up a discussion board for external students where research proposals can be uploaded and students and the convenor can comment and make suggestions.

Each student will also select an academic supervisor who may be consulted over the course of the semester for advice on forming a question, writing a research proposal and other questions related to your project as they arise.

The attendance of the following meetings with the convenor is obligatory for **internal** students; unless you obtain exemption from the meeting from the convenor or medical exemption you will be penalized (3 points for each failure to attend).

### **On campus sessions:**

**Wednesday 7 March, 11am -1 pm** - 2.605 Australian Hearing Hub (contact Sasha 0415 178559 to open the door)

A group discussion and consultation session in which the Convenor will elaborate on how to approach writing your research proposal. Before this meeting, students should attempt to draft aspects of their research proposal, including:

- formulation and refining of your general topic area so that it addresses a specific problem.
- defining one or more research questions (max 3) which your project will answer
- a preliminary argument/hypothesis in relation to the problems/issues you intend to address
- some indication of the relevant research literature in your chosen area
- methodology which you intend to use in conducting your research.

**Wednesday 4 April 2017, 11am -1 pm** - 2.605 Australian Hearing Hub (contact Sasha 0415 178559 to open the door)

A second group discussion and consultation session on the next stage in your research: the identification and evaluation of a broader range of relevant scholarly literature. A substantial

amount of searching and reading will be required (some will already have occurred) to complete a literature review. Students need to come to this session having drafted a literature review of 600-800 words. Students should begin on this task immediately after completing their research proposal. A good literature review will:

- provide a theoretical context for the project
- demonstrate where the research project fits in the existing body scholarship
- identify gaps or areas of dispute in the existing literature
- further assist in justifying the question/s and approach of the project

The literature review may form part of your final essay, subject to revisions, though not all needs to be included.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#).

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism has become an increasing problem in universities. The convenor of this course finds plagiarism in all its forms offensive and will pursue any plagiarism committed by students in this course and will apply appropriate penalties. Plagiarism is essentially a form of cheating, which provides those students with an unfair advantage to the rest of the student body, and devalues the MIR degree. The Department and the Faculty take plagiarism very seriously, with penalties escalating from mark deductions, zero grades for particular assignments, zero grades for the course as a whole, and in serious cases, expulsion from the degree and the university.

Both the research proposal and final dissertation paper will be automatically screened through Turnitin (anti-plagiarism software).

## Extensions

Any student seeking an extension of time to submit their dissertation or research proposal must, except in extraordinary circumstances, submit to the Convenor (or have submitted on their behalf) a request in writing and supportive documentary evidence prior to the due date. Extensions will not be given other than in exceptional cases of illness. In such cases, a certificate signed by a medical practitioner must be submitted as supportive documentary evidence.

In extraordinary circumstances where a written request for an extension cannot be submitted, an application for an extension can be sought verbally. However, in such cases, any extension granted will be subject to the student subsequently submitting such documentary evidence as is deemed appropriate by the Convenor. If an extension is sought due to the death of a family member, proof must be provided in the form of a death certificate.

Extensions beyond one week are subject to special consideration. The policy for this is detailed under Policy and Procedures under 'Disruption to Studies Policy'.

Whilst we do understand that many or most students support themselves through paid employment, extensions cannot be granted on this basis alone. Students must manage their time and workloads accordingly. Essay topics will be given to students by the second week of semester leaving ample time for essay preparation. Meeting deadlines for assignments is an important skill, and is expected in most jobs. Accordingly, the penalties for late submission are high.

## Penalties for Late Submission

Any research paper that is submitted after the due date and without having obtained an extension will be penalised at a rate of 2% per day. For example:

- a 6% penalty will be applied to an assignment that is 3 days late. If the paper receives an

original mark of 70/100, after a 6% penalty is applied, the final mark for the essay would be 66/100

Any paper that is submitted 10 days after the due date will not be marked and the student submitting such a paper will be deemed not to have completed and submitted the paper.

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:



## Learning outcomes

- Acquisition of the abilities to plan, design and execute self-directed research on a topic in the field of International Relations
- The extension and enhancement of knowledge and skills in the application of relevant concepts, theories and methodologies
- The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Dissertation (research paper)

## PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Acquisition of the abilities to plan, design and execute self-directed research on a topic in the field of International Relations
- The extension and enhancement of knowledge and skills in the application of relevant concepts, theories and methodologies
- The capacity to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scholarly evidence
- The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Dissertation (research paper)

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Acquisition of the abilities to plan, design and execute self-directed research on a topic in

the field of International Relations

- The extension and enhancement of knowledge and skills in the application of relevant concepts, theories and methodologies
- The capacity to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scholarly evidence
- The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Dissertation (research paper)

## **PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Acquisition of the abilities to plan, design and execute self-directed research on a topic in the field of International Relations
- The extension and enhancement of knowledge and skills in the application of relevant concepts, theories and methodologies
- The capacity to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scholarly evidence
- The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Dissertation (research paper)

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Acquisition of the abilities to plan, design and execute self-directed research on a topic in the field of International Relations

- The extension and enhancement of knowledge and skills in the application of relevant concepts, theories and methodologies
- The ability to effectively communicate academic arguments

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Dissertation (research paper)