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Doctor of Philosophy in **International Relations**

USIU-Africa is accredited in Kenya by the Commission for University Education (CUE) & the United States of America by WASC Senior College and University Commission respectively.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in International Relations is a research-focused program designed around a student-centered curriculum. Combining rigorous coursework with independent research, the program is offered on both full-time and part-time bases. Its core strengths lie in peace and conflict studies, development studies, and foreign policy and diplomacy. The curriculum emphasizes participatory learning through research, seminar presentations, interactive discussions, case studies, group work, reflective exercises, portfolio development, and simulations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Advanced understanding of international relations theories and global governance.
2. Ability to conduct independent, original research on international political, economic, and security issues.
3. Expertise in analyzing geopolitical trends and their impact on global affairs.
4. Proficiency in policy formulation and diplomatic negotiation strategies.
5. Critical evaluation of international institutions, laws, and human rights frameworks.
6. Strong academic writing and presentation skills for publishing and teaching in higher education.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

64 UNITS

CORE COURSES

52 UNITS

IRL 7001	Epistemological Debate on the Application of IR Theories	3 units
IRL 7002	Research Philosophy & Methods in IR	3 units
IRL 7004	Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis	3 units
IRL 7005	Classical Political Philosophy	3 units
IRL 7007	Peace and Security Studies	3 units
IRL 7015	Environmental Theories and Politics	3 units
IRL 7008	Public Policy Analysis	3 units
IRL 7009	Comparative Politics	3 units
IRL 7013	International Law	3 units
IRL 7011	PhD Research Seminar	3 units
IRL 7012	PhD Project Development and Field Work	3 units
IRL 7016	Democratization and Governance	3 units
IRL 7801	Comprehensive Exams	1 unit
IRL 7901	Dissertation 1 - Proposal Writing & Defense	3 units
IRL 7902	Dissertation 2 - Data Collection	3 units
IRL 7903	Dissertation 3 - Data Collection 2	3 units
IRL 7904	Dissertation 4 - Data Analysis & Writing	3 units
IRL 7905	Dissertation 5 - Dissertation Defense	3 units

ELECTIVES

12 UNITS

Choose four electives

IRL 7003	International Development	3 units
IRL 7006	Contemporary Political Philosophy	3 units
IRL 7010	Diplomatic & Consular Practice	3 units
IRL 7014	Gender and IR	3 units
IRL 7017	International Humanitarian Law	3 units
IRL 7018	Conflict Analysis	3 units
IRL 7019	Conflict Resolution and Peace building	3 units



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

1. International Relations Professor
2. Diplomatic Advisor
3. Foreign Policy Analyst
4. International Development Consultant
5. Global Security Analyst
6. Intelligence Analyst
7. Human Rights Advocate
8. Conflict Resolution Specialist
9. United Nations Officer
10. Political Risk Analyst
11. International Business Consultant

CONTACTS

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