



**Caucasus University**  
**Caucasus School of Governance**

<b>Name of Educational Programme</b>	
საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების სადოქტორო პროგრამა	

<b>Name of Educational Programme in English</b>	
PhD Program in International Relations	

<b>Level of Higher Education</b>	
PHD	

<b>Type of Educational Programme</b>	
Academic	

<b>Language of Instruction</b>	
Georgian	

<b>Awarded Qualification, Code</b>	
In Georgian	საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების დოქტორი (0705)
In English:	Doctor of International Relations (0705)

<b>Program Coordinator/Co-Coordinator</b>	<b>Doctor of International Relations</b> <b>Sergi Kapanadze</b>
Approved under the order N 01/01-10 - 25.02.2016 of the president of the Caucasus university. Renewed under the order N 01/01-17 - 09.03.2021 of the president of the Caucasus university.	

<b>Date of Program Approval</b>	
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Approved under the order №01/01-16 (08.04.2020) of the president of the Caucasus university.

### Program Volume in Credits

PHD program in International Relations is comprised of 60 ECTS learning component which consists of courses component (30 ECTS credits) and teaching assistance component (30 ECTS credits), research component consists of PHD thesis defense, which must be completed within two years (4 semesters).

Standard duration of the program is 3 academic years. The academic year is composed by a semester principle. One academic year consists of two – spring and fall semesters. One semester includes 20 weeks and academic year includes 40 weeks. 1 ECTS credit is equal to 25 credit hours, which includes students contact hours (lecture, seminar, practical work, communication with a supervisor etc.) and independent work (reviewing scientific literature, justifying the actuality of the topic, carrying out research). Program allows to collect less than 60 ECTS credits per academic year.

Upon expiration of the PHD program a student, with an academic liability may continue his/her studies during the additional semesters (no more than 4 semesters) with the purpose of completing the educational program, simultaneously keeping the student status.

### Program Admission Preconditions

Pre-condition for enrollment in the PHD program in International Relations is:

- Having MA or related academic degree (candidate should represent the relevant document);
- At least 2 years of work experience or/and more than 2,5 GPA in any MA degree specialties (more desirable in Political Science, International Relations, Jurisprudence, European Studies, Public Administration, Economics and other relevant specialties)

Procedures for enrollment in the PHD program include:

- Interview with the enrolment commission of the Caucasus School of Governance;
- Applicant's CV (resume) and motivation letter, describing applicant's motivation to study on the program;
- Representing 1-2-page review-analysis of any book or article (applicant should review any book or article in the field of international relations. He/she should describe the main finding of the book/article, relevance of applied research methods (if any));
- Preliminary outline of PhD research (which can be changed later);
- B2 level of English is one of the preconditions to be submitted to the program, which should be proved by the relevant certificate;
- Applicants who have finished English language BA or MA programs or studied in any foreign university for at least one semester are free from the obligation of submitting the certificate;
- Enrolment criteria are determined by the School Council and is published online.

## Qualification Description of the PHD Program in International Relations

### Objective of the PHD Program in International Relations

Program meets the mission of the Caucasus University and the Caucasus School of Governance and ensures the preparation of research oriented, highly qualified, competitive specialists having high moral standards, democratic values. They meet all educational requirements of this field.

Program prepares high level IR researchers and experts, who are able to provide the scientific research of regional or world political processes. Program objective is to provide graduates with necessary skills for carrying out fundamental research and creating new knowledge in the field of international relations.

There is a growing demand on research-oriented specialists of international relations. Such kind of qualified specialists are important for scientific and research organizations, public service, educational institutions, regional or international organizations.

PHD program in International Relations has been developed as a result of consultations with relevant professors from Amsterdam, Warsaw and Central European Universities.

Objective of the PHD program is to provide students with theoretical knowledge in the field of international relations and relevant learning-scientific-research skills. Program graduates will have an opportunity to use contemporary research methods and best practices, synthesize acquired theoretical and practical knowledge. Developing an ability to synthesize theoretical and practical knowledge is one of the determinants of program's success. PHD candidates are given opportunity to start scientific activities in different directions and show their professionalism, gain professional experience, which will serve as initial stage for their further academic or scientific success.

Considering the abovementioned, PHD program in International Relations provides PHD candidates with an opportunity to:

- Develop skills for analyzing and assessing actual problems on international relations and updating knowledge;
- Carry out qualified research and write thesis, which can successfully be used in practice;
- Have an active communication with scientific and research circles and develop the skill of updating his/her knowledge;
- Learn how to organize and carry out independent research using contemporary research methods and approaches to deal with actual problems of the field;
- Get fundamental and systemic knowledge in the field of international relations;
- Learn how to use theoretical knowledge effectively in practice and turn it into policy decisions;
- Become aware of and protect progressive values in the field of International Relations.

<b>Learning Outcomes of the PHD Program in International Relations</b>	
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- Students will get deep knowledge in the field of international relations. They will also get known with current theoretical debates.
- Students will get knowledge based on newest practical achievements. They will become aware of practical research methods in international relations, which gives an opportunity of expanding existing knowledge and using innovative methods in practice.
- Students will learn contemporary research methods and tools; develop modern progressive teaching and learning methods, get fundamental knowledge in international relations, foreign policy and conflict resolution theories, research methods in international relations.
- They will be able to identify micro and macro problems, analyze them and find relevant solutions.

Graduates will be able:

- To plan and carry out fundamental research in the field of international relations;
- Demonstrate and promote his/her research;
- Turn the research into publishable article;
- Develop new courses according to the research and PHD thesis.
- Graduates will be able to generate new knowledge and look critically at current developments in international relations.
- Students will develop skills to analyze, synthesize and assess difficult and contradictory ideas and approaches, collect information from different sources and analyze it, plan and carry out research, select relevant qualitative methods for problem analysis.
- Program graduates are able to effectively represent their opinion and research outcomes;
- Graduates are able to take part in debates and discussions related to their research topic or other important issues of international relations.
- Using contemporary research methods, graduates are able to carry out the research on any IR related issue and develop specific conclusions and recommendations.
- Graduates are able to collect and analyze information on any IR related issue to get a better understanding of existing problems;
- They are able to plan further learning process and deepen acquired knowledge.
- Program graduates are able to use acquired knowledge and research skills for developing theoretical and methodological aspects during their teaching or other kind of field related activities. Their activities will be directed towards the establishment and strengthening of ethical values gained during the program. They will respect scientific values, that excludes plagiarism. During the whole program student is involved in the process of strengthening liberal values.

## Areas of Employment

Doctors of international relations can take relevant positions in state structures and higher education institutions according to the established nomenclature. They will be able to carry out scientific-research and expert activities. They will also have all the competencies to be competitive in their profession and take and work on high positions in this field.

Caucasus University signs three-year labor agreement with its PHD graduates on teaching activities. They can also be employed in following directions:

- Educational institutions
- Scientific and research centers
- Analytical centers
- International organizations

## Evaluation System of Student's Knowledge

PHD program in International Relations considers an active participation of students in the learning process and is based on the principle of continuous evaluation of the acquired knowledge.

The aim of the evaluation is to assess to what extent the learning outcomes prescribed by the syllabus are reached. The student's evaluation consists of multiple components and evaluates the course goals and learning outcomes by applying measurable criteria and appropriate rubrics. The student's evaluation is based on four major principles: objectivity, trustworthiness, validity and transparency.

The students are evaluated according to two sets of evaluation: summative and formative. The aim of the summative assessment is to accurately evaluate the student's performance. It monitors quality of learning and the level of the student's achievement in relation to the goals set by the course. The formative assessment is oriented on the student's development. It gives students appropriate feedback on their achievements.

The evaluation system includes 100 points and envisages:

- a) Five types of positive grades:
  - a.a) (A) Excellent – 91-100 points of assessment;
  - a.b) (B) Very good – 81-90 points of maximal assessment;
  - a.c) (C) Good – 71-80 points of maximal assessment;
  - a.d) (D) Satisfactory – 61-70 points of maximal assessment;
  - a.e) (E) Sufficient – 51-60 points of maximal assessment;
- b) two negative grades:
  - b.a) (FX) Did not pass – 41-50 points of maximal assessment, which means the student needs to work harder and is allowed to retake the exam one more time after working independently;
  - b.b) (F) Fail – 40 points or less of maximal assessment, which means the student's work is insufficient and he/she has to retake the course.

Students are awarded credits on the basis of the final evaluation comprising the scores of the interim and final exam assessments.

The attainment of student's learning outcomes considers the interim and final evaluations, for which relative proportions out of the total score (100 points) and a minimum competence level are allocated. Namely, out of 100 points, the interim results are allocated 70 points, while the final exam results are 30 points. In both of the components (interim and final) the minimum competency barrier to be reached is 51%. The interim evaluation includes assessment components, the total of which is 70 points. For each assessment component, the evaluation is based on the pre-determined learning goals, task-oriented clear criteria and the learning rubrics drawn on their basis. In the interim results the student has to accumulate at least 59% of the 70 points to be allowed to take the final exam. The student's final examination is passed, if he/she gets at least 60% of the total 30 points.

In case the student fails to overcome the minimum competency barrier of the final exam, he/she is allowed to retake the final examination. The student shall retake the final examination within the period prescribed by the academic calendar no later than 5 days after announcement of the results of the final exam.

In case the student totally scores 0-50 points or fails to overcome the minimum competency barrier set for any form of the evaluation (Interim/Final exam), he/she shall be given a grade of "F-0".

PHD thesis is evaluated according to the following system:

- a) Excellent (summa cum laude) – 91-100 points of assessment.
- b) Very good (magna cum laude) – 81-90 points of maximal assessment; meets all the envisaged requirements;
- c) Good (cum laude) – 71-80 points of maximal assessment; meets almost all the envisaged requirements
- d) Satisfactory (bene) – 61-70 points of maximal assessment; meets requirement;
- e) Sufficient (rite) – 51-60 points of maximal assessment; besides some deficiencies, performed work meets basic requirement;
- f) Did not pass (insufficient) – 41-50 points of maximal assessment, which means that thesis doesn't meet requirements due to the significant deficiencies;
- g) Fail (sub omni canone) – 40 points or less of maximal assessment, which means that thesis doesn't meet any requirements.

The student receives a positive grade for the thesis if he/she exceeds the minimum competency threshold - according to the digital equivalent of the grade, 60% of the total grade. In case of garnering 41-59 points in the dissertation, the doctoral student is entitled to submit a revised dissertation within one year. The doctoral student application for re-defense must be submitted to the School Dissertation Board within 1 month of the announcement of the result, and if the score is less than 40, the doctoral student loses the right to submit the same dissertation. Detailed information on preparation and defense of a thesis is in the Caucasus School of Governance Thesis Defence document.

- lecture     seminar     analysis of scientific works  
 project     independent work     PHD thesis

Considering the specifics of certain courses, following learning and teaching methods are used – verbal, writing, working on course materials, method of demonstrations, discussion/debates, writing method, team (collaborative) work, case study, problem-based learning method, explanatory methods, brain storming, deductive teaching methods, and etc. During the teaching and learning process these methods replace each other. They are complementary. Method used within the certain course can be seen in the syllabus of each course.

### Human Resources of the Program

Caucasus University's 1 professor, 2 affiliated associate professors and 3 invited professors.

### Other Resources of the Program

Caucasus University and the Caucasus School of Governance have Memorandums of Mutual understanding with local and foreign higher educational institutions, non-governmental and governmental organizations.

#### Partner Universities;

- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;
- Fairleigh Dickinson University (USA), 14.02.2019
- Warsaw University (Poland), 29.01.2019
- Lviv Academy of Commerce (Ukraine);
- Grigol Robakidze university;
- Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA).

#### Partner organizations:

- Defence Institution Building School (DIB)
- Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training and Research Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Georgian Foundation for Strategy and International Studies (GFSIS);  
(Erasmus + in the framework of PESTUGE project)
- Georgian Reforms Association;
- Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civil Equality  
(Erasmus + in the framework of PESTUGE project)
- Parliament of Georgia (Erasmus + in the framework of PESTUGE project)
- Constitutional Court of Georgia
- Georgian national Communications Commission
- Municipal Development Fund of Georgia
- European House
- Fund Caucasus University
- Ministry of Justice of Georgia
- Liberal Thinking Association

- Oxigen of Democracy
- Tbilisi City Hall
- Center for Youth Development and Support
- Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency
- Association of Young Economists Georgia
- "World Vision" International Georgia
- Ministry of Defence of Georgia
- National Agency of Public Registry of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia
- NATO and EU information Center
- Ministry of Finances of Georgia
- European Association of Law Students – Georgia
- Tbilisi City Assembly
- State Audit Office
- EU-Georgia Business Council
- International Center for Education
- National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
- State Audit Office, State Sudit Institute
- National Agency of Tourism
- Grigol Robakidze University
- National Bank of Georgia
- Ministruy of Economics and Sustainable Development of Georgia
- EY Georgia
- KPMG Georgia
- PwC Georgia
- Deloitte & Touche
- Adizes Institute

#### **Material-technical Base**

For reaching the outcomes envisaged by the PHD Program in International Relations the University infrastructure and material and technical resources are unrestrictedly accessible for the students and the academic personnel, namely:

- ✓ Auditoria equipped with appropriate equipment and conference halls;
- ✓ Institute of Peace Studies;
- ✓ The library equipped with computers and appropriate Information Technologies;
- ✓ Computer classes/labs, computers connected to the internet and intranet and specially tailored software guaranteeing smooth operation of learning/teaching process;

The educational program has appropriate textbooks and methodological literature. The University Library provides students with printed and electronic versions of the textbooks prescribed by the syllabus, methodological and scientific literature as well as database of the bookfund and an electronic catalogue posted on the University website.

The material resources of the University ensure the goals set by the PHD Program are reached and the planned outcomes are realized:



**Premises:** the PHD Program is conducted on the University premises where sanitary-hygiene and safety rules are adhered to (alarm system is installed, fire extinguishers are available, the whole University perimeter is controlled by surveillance cameras and the discipline is ensured by the University guards). The University building fully complies with technical requirements stabled for Universities; the University has auditoria designed for lectures and practical classes fully equipped with appropriate equipment and devices (projectors, desks and chairs, whiteboards, etc.).

**Library:** - The University library has printed and electronic fund necessary for implementation of the Bachelor's Program accessible for the students and academic personnel (12 290 printed and 3192 electronic units). The library has an electronic catalogue. The library has a Reading Room equipped with appropriate property (chairs, desks, computers). The library has one photocopier which can be used by students with the help of four library staff members. The Reading Room allows students to use internet and international electronic resources:

- ✓ Cambridge Journals Online
- ✓ e-Duke Journals Scholarly Collection
- ✓ Edward Elgar Publishing Journals and Development Studies e-book
- ✓ Royal Society Journals Collection
- ✓ Taylor And Francis Online
- ✓ EBSCO Elit package
- ✓ International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center

**Information-Communication Technologies** – laboratories and computer equipment appropriate to the Bachelor's Degree Academic Program meeting modern requirements, connected to the internet and accessible for the students, academic, invited and administrative personnel are available at the University. The computers are equipped with appropriate instruments/applications. The auditoria and computer classes are equipped with local net and internet.

The University operates an electronic system for organizing the educational process, which fosters academic process and makes monitoring of the students' academic performance possible at all times. The University makes the catalogue of the educational programs and the information on implementation of the educational programs and conducting the educational process public and accessible at all times.

Currently Caucasus University is equipped with modern computers and photocopying machines (they were replaced with the most up-to-date ones in 2018). The University has seven computer classes on B and C floors; two more such classes will be added on A floor in the current year.

Such classes are equipped with PC and Multimedia Projectors. Such Projectors and Computers are available in each auditorium. The University administration and practically all the employees have access to the computers and internet. The University operates a Computer Park with more than 350 units. In addition, the University has printers and scanners; a few so-called Smart Boards, photocopying machines "Kyocera" brand, color photocopying machines "HP MFD" type. Wi-Fi and IP telephone connection are accessible throughout the whole University premises. There are three modern servers in the University Server Department where appropriate net equipment is installed (with Cisco and Nortel switches, Fortinet, NG Firewall, wireless controller and access point; etc.) more than 100 such devices. The University is connected to the external net and has 150/150 Mbps access to local and global connections.

The mentioned resources are accessible for the University students, academic, invited and administrative personnel. All the interested persons are informed on the possibility of using these resources and are familiar with the rules and procedures of their utilization.

### **Standards of PHD Program in International Relations**

PHD program in International Relations is based on the following standards:

- Relevance of program objective and learning outcomes;
- Learning and research methodology, adequacy of program assessment;
- PHD candidate's personal achievements and their individual performance;
- Provision of teaching and research process with relevant resources;
- Raising the quality of teaching and learning.

### **Financial Support of the Program**

PHD program in International Relations has a budget approved by the order of the president of Caucasus University.

Program Curriculum										
№	Course Code	Course	Prerequisite	Credits	ECTS credits					
					I year		II year		III year	
					Semester					
					I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<b>Mandatory courses</b>				<b>Total 60</b>	15	15	20	10	0	0
1	RM 7150	Research methods		5	5					
2	AW 7150	Academic Writing		5	5					
3	MPP 7250	Contemporary Political Philosophy		5	5					
4	IRT 7150	Theories of International Relations		10		10				
<b>Elective courses</b>										
5	CT 7150	Conflict Resolution Theories		5		5				
6	GCFP 7150	Foreign Policies of Big States		5						
<b>Teaching and Assisting</b>										
7	TM 7250	Teaching Methods		10			10			
8	TA 8150 TA 8250	Teaching Assistance		20			10	10		
<b>Research component</b>										
9	OE 8150	Thesis writing and defense	RM 7150 AW 7150 MPP 7250 IRT 7150							

**Hourly Calculation of the PHD program in International Relations**

Nº	course	hours	ECTS					
				lecture	Seminar/practical work/Meeting with a supervisor	Presentation	Midterm and final exams	Consultation
1.	Research methods	5/125	12	11	2	5	5	95
2.	Academic Writing	5/125	12	11	2	5	5	95
3.	Theories of International Relations	10/250	15	14	2	5	5	214
4.	Contemporary Political Philosophy	5/125	12	11	2	5	5	95
5.	Foreign Policies of Big States	5/125	12	11	2	5	5	95
6.	Conflict Resolution Theories	5/125	12	11	2	5	5	95
7.	Teaching Assistance I, II	20/500	-	100	10	-	5	390
8.	Teaching Methods	10/250	15	14	2	5	5	214
9.	Thesis Preparation and Defense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Map of Learning Outcomes

		Learning outcomes in relevance with the program				
Semester	Course/module/practice/research component	1. Has a deep, systematic, theoretical and practical knowledge of international relations, as a scientific discipline ;is aware of contemporary theories of international relations and possesses relevant research methods for this field.	2. Is able to identify and solve problems of international relations using different theoretical approaches; Can understand the national, or specific interest, develop his/her own position and hold a discussion to support it.	3. Students will develop skills to analyze, synthesize and assess difficult and contradictory ideas and approaches, collect information from different sources and analyze it, plan and carry out research, select relevant qualitative methods for problem analysis. They are able to carry out fundamental research in the field of International Relations, including for publication in international peer-reviewed journals. Can demonstrate the results of his own research.	4. Based on their own research interests they are able to develop the course based on modern teaching and learning methods. They can use contemporary methods of teaching.	5. Respects basic norms and principles of International Relations and his/her received decisions are based on these principles.
	Mandatory component					
I	Research methods			High	Medium	Low
I	Academic writing			High	Medium	Low
II	Contemporary Political Philosophy	High	Low		Medium	

II	Theories of International Relations	High	Low		Medium	
III	Teaching methods			Low	High	Medium
III-IV	Teaching Assistance I, II			Medium	High	Low
III-VI	Thesis Preparation and Defense	Low	Medium		High	
	Elective courses	High	Medium		Low	

## Map of Learning Outcomes

<p><b>Program objectives</b></p> <p><b>Program outcomes</b></p>	<p>1. Program provides graduates with an ability to understand and provide scientific explanation and assessment of important problems in International Relations, updated their professional knowledge. Program gives graduates practical skills for the implementation of their research.</p>				<p>4. Graduates are able to use deep and systemic knowledge of the field in an effective way, by using this knowledge in certain institutions to take decisions at policy level.</p>
	<p>2. Provides graduates with necessary to carry out teaching and research process independently, find solutions for important problems in the field of International Relations.</p>				<p>3. Graduates are able to develop a high-quality, practically usable monographic work on the basis of a theoretical understanding of the problems of international relations.</p>
<p>1. Has a deep, systematic, theoretical and practical knowledge of international relations, as a scientific discipline ;Is aware of contemporary theories of international relations and possesses relevant research methods for this field.</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>			
<p>2. Is able to identify and solve problems of international relations using different theoretical approaches; Can understand the national, or specific interest, develop his/her own position and hold a discussion to support it.</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>			<p><b>X</b></p>

<p>3. Students will develop skills to analyze, synthesize and assess difficult and contradictory ideas and approaches, collect information from different sources and analyze it, plan and carry out research, select relevant qualitative methods for problem analysis. They are able to carry out fundamental research in the field of International Relations, including for publication in international peer-reviewed journals. Can demonstrate the results of his own research.</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p>4. Based on their own research interests they are able to develop the course based on modern teaching and learning methods. They can use contemporary methods of teaching.</p>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p>5. Respects basic norms and principles of International Relations and his/her received decisions are based on these principles.</p>				<p><b>X</b></p>