



UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED
Faculty of Law and Political Sciences

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INFORMATION ON COMPLETION OF STUDIES

**For students in the English-language MA in International relations
program (MIR)**

Spring semester of Academic Year 2025/2026

I. REGISTRATION FOR FINAL EXAMINATION

Takes place via the Modulo system, based on information received from the Student's Office
<http://www.juris.u-szeged.hu/english/study-administration-for/application-for-the>)

II. RE-REGISTRATION FOR FINAL EXAMINATION AND ITS SCOPE

Those current and former students, who do not undertake final examination in the Spring semester, will be allowed to retake the examination in the Fall semester of the Academic Year 2026/2027.

III. TIMETABLE OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Uploading thesis (final, approved version by the supervisor) to the thesis topic selection form in Modulo:	20-27 May 2026
Submission of theses and simultaneous registration for the final examination in Modulo:	3-10 June 2026
Final Exam + thesis defense	18-19 June 2026
Registration for the <i>Retake</i> Final Examination in Modulo:	19-21 June 2026
Retake Final Exam:	24 June 2026
Graduation ceremony:	03 July 2026

IV. THE FINAL EXAMINATION

1. The Final Examination consists of two sections: The first section is called MA Thesis Defense, and the second section is called Final Examination. If **the first part of the Final Examination, which is Thesis Defense, successful - then it should be followed by the second part**, as detailed hereunder.

Please note that only those students are allowed to start the final examination who had successfully collected 120 (150) credits at the end of their fourth semester in the program. Students are responsible to ensure that they registered in and passed all the mandatory and necessary elected courses to reach 120 (150) credits.

2. **At the beginning of the last semester**, at the end of which the students wish to take the Final Examination, they shall **sign up for the course titled “Final Thesis (10 credits)”** in the NEPTUN electronic system. The aim of this course is to assist and follow the thesis-writing process of the student by their supervisor, and at the end of the semester or when the thesis is officially submitted for the Final Examination, it is graded by the supervisor on a 3-tier scale: failed-passed-excellent. This grade reflects the thesis-writing process and it is not the grade for the thesis itself.

The MA Thesis

Students of the MIR program are bound by the latest Thesis Regulations of the University of Szeged Faculty of Law and Political Sciences which is available on the [Faculty's website](#). The general requirements, as outlined in the Thesis Regulation, are indicated below. For all other requirements, the Thesis Regulation should be consulted.

- a) The length of the thesis shall be at least 80,000 characters (spaces included), including footnotes and the table of contents. The inner title page, the bibliography, annexes, appendices, pictures, maps and diagrams shall not be included in the length of the thesis.
- b) The pages of the thesis shall be numbered consecutively with increasing Arabic numerals beginning with one. Page numbers shall be placed at the top or at the bottom of the pages.
- c) On the left-hand side of the pages a margin of 3 cm is required while on all the other sides a 2.5 cm margin shall be left.
- d) The thesis paper shall be written in Times New Roman font with 1.5 line spacing. Bold, italic or underlined font types shall only be applied to titles or highlighting. A font size of 12 shall be used for the thesis with the following exceptions: - for (chapter) titles and subtitles the font size shall be 13-15;
 - the font size of 10 shall be used for footnotes;
 - for titles of pictures, maps, diagrams and tables, the font size shall be 10-12; and
 - for internal text of tables and diagrams the font size shall be 8-12.
- e) Tables, diagrams, pictures and maps shall be both numbered and titled and a reference to their source shall also be provided. Tables, pictures, maps and diagrams covering a whole page or not fitting into the body of the text shall be placed in the appendix or annex.
- f) Annexes or appendices shall be titled and if there are several of them, they shall also be numbered.

There is no standard for referencing style, however, the students are suggested to use one of the following citation styles: APA (in-text citation) or Chicago (footnote).

Should the thesis fail to meet the requirements stipulated in here, the Supervisor of the thesis shall grade the thesis as unsatisfactory/failing without substantive examination or consideration. Violation of other formal requirements, such as citations and references, use of AI tools extensively and other intellectual property issues, may be considered as a basis for grading the thesis as unsatisfactory/failing depending on their gravity or otherwise taken into account in its assessment. Other formal requirements subjected to MA theses are included in the Faculty's thesis regulation and the students are obliged to follow the rules stipulated in the Faculty thesis regulation.

After the thesis consultation period, **the student first submits the thesis to the supervisor**, until the deadline. Based on the final comments of the supervisor, the student corrects the thesis and **uploads the final version of the thesis, approved by the supervisor, to the thesis topic selection form in Modulo**. There is no possibility to modify or change the text of the thesis after this submission. Students should pay attention to the deadlines defined in the timetable above in Part III. During the consultations throughout the semester, the two main subject areas subjected to Final Examination will be communicated by the Supervisor, based on the title/topic of the Thesis.

3. The next step for the student is to **register for the Final Examination in Modulo**, which requires again the uploading of the final thesis (the same version which has been uploaded previously to the thesis topic selection form in Modulo). In between these two steps the students are finishing their regular exams in the final semester's courses. **Please pay attention to the deadlines!**

4. When the student has registered for the Final Examination, the MIR Program Administration assigns the thesis to **an opponent, who then prepares a written assessment of the Thesis, evaluating it as to the format and contentwise**. The Review contains the evaluation, the grade recommended by the opponent and a minimum of three and up to five questions to be directed to the student at the Final Defense. The Student is entitled to receive the text of the evaluation (**without the recommended grade and the questions**), the last two days before the Final Defense takes place. The identity of the opponent shall be revealed to the student two days before the thesis defense at the latest with the exception of the questions posed by the opponent and the marking proposal. The opponent's assessment is sent to the Final Examination Panel (Panel), as the opponent is not necessarily one of the formal members of the Panel.

5. The actual Thesis Defense Procedure takes place as the first part of the Final Examination before the Panel consisting of at least three members.

Students start with giving an oral summary of their Thesis, in approximately 5-7 minutes, without slides, presentations or the use of any additional materials (e.g. paper notes, tablet, mobile phone, any other printed or electronic format materials). Their presentation exclusively should focus on introducing the research questions or hypotheses, methodologies, main findings, and conclusions/suggestions part of the Thesis, no more information is needed.

Then, the student then shall **answer the questions of the Panel, including the opponent's questions**.

The grade for the thesis is formed based on the assessment of the written thesis, the student's presentation, and the answers given. The Panel takes into account the grade recommended both by the supervisor and the opponent. After the confidential decision-making of the Panel, the grade of the Thesis Defense is communicated to the Student on site.

6. **If the Thesis Defense is unsuccessful**, the Student may not continue the Final Examination and will have the possibility to retake the Final Examination earliest in the following semester.

7. **Upon a successful Thesis Defense, the second part of the Final Examination starts.**

The aim of the second part of the Final Examination is to test the general knowledge of the students in two subject areas out of the total number of three main subject areas: law, economics, international relations (see, Part V-Final Examination Materials in this document) Each main subject area consists of a specific number of topics, defined in Part V of this document. The students shall **prepare for the exam from all of those specific topics in the two main subject areas.**

At the Final Examination, once in the examination room, **the Student randomly draws one question for each Subject Area** from the sets of questions placed face down on the table. After drawing one question from each of the two Subject Areas, the Student has 5 minutes to think through the answers to both questions. The Student then presents these answers to the Examination Panel, which may ask additional questions related to the main questions.

Final Examination shall be considered successful if Students answer the questions pertaining to both Subject Areas at a satisfactory level. The Panel shall assess the answers given and grade it separately per each Subject Area.

If the student fails one of the Subject Areas, it results in failing this part of the Final Examination and both subject Areas will have to be repeated at the Retake Final Examination.

8. The final examination grade is calculated as the average of three components:

- 1- the thesis defense grade,
- 2- the grade for Subject I, and
- 3- the grade for Subject II.

Final Examination Grade = (Thesis Defense Grade + Subject I Grade + Subject II Grade) / 3

9. Dress Code and Appearance Guidelines for the Final Examination

The Final Examination requires formal attire in accordance with the established business formal norms. It is therefore essential to note that shorts, trainers, sportswear, clothing that exposes the stomach and similar garments are not considered appropriate for the Final Examination. Students are respectfully requested to adhere to these standards as a component of their obligations related to the final examination.

Eating, chewing (e.g. a chewing gum) is not allowed at the exam room. Respectful and ethical behaviour is expected from the students throughout the whole Final Examination.

Subject Area #1: International Relations/International Studies

The Main Historical Milestones of the 20th and 21st Century

1. The Proxy Wars of the Cold War
2. The End of the Bipolar World - dissolution of the Soviet Union
3. The Arab Spring - causes and consequences
4. The Rising of China

Democracy, Subsidiarity and Multilevel Governance in Europe

5. Democracy: main models and state traditions in Europe
6. Democracy: its core principles, challenges and opportunities in Europe
7. Multilevel governance: territorial organization of states, and the exercise of national, regional and local competences according to the CoE documents

International Organisations

8. United Nations: principles, organizational structure, main characteristics of operation, reform
9. International organizations for defence and security
10. International economic and financial organizations (World Bank Group, IMF, WTO and GATT, OECD)
11. European organizations outside of the European Union (Council of Europe, OSCE)
12. Regional organizations outside of Europe (OAS, ASEAN, African Union, Arab League)

Diplomatic Relations

13. Define the core functions of diplomacy and analyse how these functions have evolved from classical to modern diplomacy. Explain which global developments since the 20th century have reshaped diplomatic practice and why.
14. Discuss the legal framework established by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Apply its rules to a hypothetical situation in which a diplomat commits a crime in the host country, and evaluate whether the Convention adequately addresses contemporary challenges such as digital espionage and terrorism.
15. Using one global issue of your choice (climate change, pandemics, trade disputes, AI governance), analyse how multilateral diplomacy operates. Explain the role of one international organization involved, the decision-making mechanisms it uses, and the main obstacles to consensus.
16. Compare and evaluate the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation and peacekeeping as diplomatic tools in crisis management. Use at least one real-world conflict to illustrate the strengths and limitations of each method.

Subject Area #2: Economic Aspects of the European Union

Economic Fundamentals of EU Integration

- 1. The levels of economic integration: from bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to economic and monetary (and political) union.**
- 2. The steps of European economic integration: from the common market to European economic governance.**
- 3. The Eurozone crisis and EU-level crisis management.**
- 4. Competition regulation in the single European market: restrictive agreements, dominant position, concentration of undertakings, state aid.**
- 5. The common trade policy of the EU: schemes, system of preferences, the Community Customs Code, the functioning of the customs union.**

International Political Economy

- 6. Central and Eastern Europe: economic transition from socialism to market economy and EU membership.**
- 7. The Central and Eastern European model of capitalism.**
- 8. The impact of the 2008 global crisis and 2020 pandemic on the Central and Eastern European countries.**

European Business Environment

- 9. Economic performance of the EU; the EU's position in the global economy.**
- 10. The tools and functioning of the internal market of the EU: SOLVIT, TARIC, Single Market Scoreboard.**
- 11. The EU in the 2020s: Brexit and European Green Deal**

European Economic and Monetary Union

- 12. The theory of Optimum Currency Areas and the European Economic and Monetary Union.**
- 13. European monetary integration in the 1970s: snake in the tunnel, European Monetary Cooperation Fund, European Currency Unit, European Monetary System.**
- 14. The Delors plan; the Maastricht convergence criteria; European monetary integration in the 1990s: EMS crisis, European Monetary Institute, convergence period.**
- 15. The European Central Bank; common monetary policy before, during and after the crisis; inflation-targeting and quantitative easing.**
- 16. European economic governance since 2011: the European Semester and its elements, the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure and the MIP scoreboard and tools.**
- 17. Plans and prospects for the European Economic and Monetary Union**

Subject Area #3: Legal, Political and Institutional Aspects of the European Union

Comparative Constitutional Law and Governance Theory

- 1. Sovereignty, State and Statehood. Constitutional Development in Europe. The forms of State and the Head of State.**
- 2. Democracy. Parliamentary regimes. The models for Government's accountability. Governance in Europe.**
- 3. Rule of law. Constitution and constitutionalism. The Division of Powers. The Protection of Fundamental Rights.**

Protection of Human Rights

- 4. Multilevel Protection of Human Rights in Europe: national, European and international competences, sources and regimes of protection. Interconnection of the different levels.**
- 5. Classification of rights into 1st, 2nd & 3rd illustrates the tension between civil, political and cultural, social rights with 'new' rights & their potential legitimacy. In particular right to health, climate change (recent ECtHR decisions) and the protection of the environment.**
- 6. Challenges to the international system for the protection of human rights are not new but contemporary issues are causing tensions in how we understand the limits of human rights application. Students should focus on issues such as: recent conflict & humanitarian crisis, mass surveillance, state sovereignty & the relationship with international human rights protection.**

European Union Institutions and EU Policies

- 7. Institutions of EU integration in light of the principles of sovereignty, supranationalism and intergovernmentalism.**
- 8. Legal construction of the EU: competences, sources of law, legislative process, general principles.**
- 9. The main institutions of the European Union, their competences, tasks, composition, general procedures they conduct.**
- 10. Court of Justice of the European Union: competences, structure, functions, proceedings.**
- 11. What are the main components of the EU foreign policy? The institutional aspects, operational examples, benefits, limitations and challenges.**
- 12. Legal system of the EU: competences, sources of law, legislative process, general principles (subsidiarity and proportionality).**
- 13. Political objectives and consequences of EU enlargement, the possible limits of enlargement, policies substituting or complementing enlargement, accession procedure.**
- 14. Explain the policy making procedure in the EU. The main actors, main procedures, main obstacles and the current solutions offered.**

15. Explain the EU's energy policy through the development of environmental and nuclear organisations, summarise the institutionalisation of environmental considerations in the EU-wide policies.

16. Explain the EU's digital policy: What are the main areas of governance, the reasons, strengths and weaknesses, institutional framework.

VI. ABSENCE FROM FINAL EXAMINATION

In case the student is absent from the Final Examination, the following legal consequences should apply:

According to the Studies and Examinations Regulation of the University of Szeged, point 13.4:

„Unauthorized absence from the examination shall be deemed as an examination used up, and shall be deducted from the possible number of occasions provided for repeating the exam.”

Students, however, may submit a request declaring that their absence from the examination was due to an unexpected cause – not qualifying as a technical issue – that can be excused. The student shall be obliged to immediately report such occurrence to the Students' Office when it occurs or after the student becomes aware of it.

Excusing absence:

Via MODULO/Request to the Dean, in a written request, under circumstances meriting special equitable assessment, e.g., health, family or other exceptional reasons, with evidence.

Submission deadline: **within 2 days** from the missed final examination at the latest, after this, no request can be submitted. **All documents offered as evidence to support or justify the omission of the examination shall be attached.**

In the absence of a request excusing absence or in the event it is denied, no additional opportunities shall be offered to the student to retake the exam in the current Final Examination Period, only in the Retake Final Examination Period. If the student is absent from the Retake Final Examination, no request to excuse absence may be submitted.

VII. RETAKING THE FINAL EXAMINATION

No successful Final Examinations can be retaken to improve the grade or assessment.

The Final Examination qualifies as unsuccessful, if the Examination Board assesses the total of the student's answers during the examination in one of the specific Subject Areas as Failed.

In this case, the Final Examination (*with both subject areas*) should be retaken in another Final Examination period.

VIII. FINANCIAL DEBTS

Settling debts

If payment obligations (tuition, co-pay, etc.) according to NEPTUN are not settled till the first day of the Final Examination registration period, (**3rd of June**) the student will be deleted from the lists of those registered for the Final Examination.

Students, who have not settled their outstanding payment obligations against the higher education institution, cannot be allowed to take the Final Examination.

X. CALCULATING DIPLOMA AVERAGE

Diploma averages for the MA program in International Relations are calculated as the average of the following 2 criteria:

- the average of all the grades for all the mandatory courses in the curriculum over the course of 2 years – except practices and seminars – and,
- the result of the Final Examination.

Mandatory Courses to be accounted into the Diploma Average:

1. Comparative Constitutional Law and Governance Theory
 2. Research Methods in International Relations and Political Sciences I
 3. Economic Fundamentals of EU Integration
 4. Diplomatic Relations
 5. The Main Historical Milestones of the 20th and 21st Century
 6. International Organizations
 7. Democracy, Subsidiarity and Multilevel Governance in Europe
 8. European Economic and Monetary Union
 9. Global Economic Trends and Centers
 10. The Foreign Relations of the EU to the Main Regions outside the EU
 11. Economic and Social Statistics (lecture)
 12. International Political Economy
 13. The European Union and European Policies (lecture)
 14. European Business Environment
 15. Freedom, Security and Justice in the European Union
 16. Globalisation and Development
 17. Protection of Human Rights (lecture)
 18. International Business Transactions (lecture)
 19. Research and Development in the EU
 20. Political Risk Management and the Deliberative Process
- Those courses which the students needed to accredit in the form of +30 ECTS compensatory courses based on the Educational and Outcome Requirements do not account toward this result.
 - The assessment of the Final Examination shall be average of the grades acquired on the Final Examination in accordance with the above.

Szeged, 19 February 2026

Dr. Norbert Merkovity
Vice-Dean for Education