



University of Thessaly  
School of Economic and Administrative Studies  
Department of Economics



University of  
East London

**Inter-Departmental Program of Post-Graduate Studies (IPSP):**  
**International Economic Relations and Security**  
*(MSc in International Economics and Security)*

# Student Guide

«MSc in International Economics and Security»

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## Introduction

Welcome to this Guide for Students of the Interdisciplinary MSc Degree in International Economics and Security. The MSc in International Economics and Security is an International, Inter-institutional Postgraduate Studies Program (IPSP) that leads to a single degree from the University of Thessaly and the University of East London. Its purpose is to train executives in a critical area of international studies that deals with the interaction of international economic relations and international security. As a joint undertaking of two Universities with a long-standing academic excellence, we aim to offer the best of both worlds, both in terms of the inter-cultural aspects of the two institutions, as well as the discipline areas of Economics and Security. In the following pages we provide useful information for our participating students and encourage you to read through and not hesitate to contact us wherever relevant: either through the admissions team, or the secretariat of postgraduate studies. This student guide has been approved by the joint committee of the MSc.

## Article 1. Objectives and Aims of the Postgraduate Studies Program

### 1.Objectives of IPSP

The MSc in International Economics and Security leads to a degree of the University of Thessaly (Greece) and the University of East London (UK). The objective is to provide the highest quality of postgraduate academic standards towards training graduate students in the critical domain of interrelations between global economic and security studies. The ever-evolving economic integration within a global set of markets with common rules and standards is challenged by security aspects focusing on international terrorism, regional and global conflicts, cybersecurity, as well as, sociopolitical aspects of climate change.

### 2.Cognitive Aspects of IPSP

The subject areas include international political economy, international economic relations, economics of defense and security and international studies.

### 3.Degree Title

IPSP awards a Master's Degree entitled 'International Economic Relations and Security' (*MSc in International Economics and Security*). The institutional names, seals and emblems of the two partner Universities shall be portrayed in the Degrees in English.

### 4. Students' Profile

The profile of eligible students points at graduates of departments of Economics and Administrative studies, as well as, Political science, International studies, along with armed and security forces accredited Schools and Colleges.

### 5. Institutional Bodies of the IPSP

There is a nine-member joint governing committee (JGC), comprised of four members from each of the two partnering Institutions and a student representative. The JGC nominates the Director of the IPSP, as well as the members composing the admissions committee (3 members) and the financial administration (sub)committee, if needed.

## Article 2. Postgraduate Studies Degree

### 1. Duration.

IPSP is an intensive full-time course with a 12-month duration, from October to September of the following year.

### 2. Successful Completion

The successful awarding of degree requires the successful completion of eight courses (all compulsory) and of the dissertation. IPSP awards 75 ECTS units, or 180 UK Credits.

## Article 3. Admissions Criteria

### 1. Applications

Applications should be submitted at the start of the Spring Semester of the previous academic year.

The evaluation of applications is based upon the performance of candidates under the following criteria/weights guide:

No	Selection Criteria	Weight %
1	Degree/Diploma mark	20%
2	Language requirements-performance	30%
3	Evaluation of letter of intent	30%
4	Interview	20%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2. Tuition Fees

Tuition fees intend to cover the operational expenses of the IPS degree. Their level may be updated when necessary, upon the approval of the relevant JGC.

### 3. Scholarships- Financial Support

The postgraduate degree program provides for one merit-based, full scholarship, based on undergraduate student performance.

The joint program committee may examine cases of funding requests in exceptional cases. The request should be submitted by the interested party, following a successful admissions process.

## Article 4. Curriculum

### 1. IPS Course Curriculum

The curriculum is comprised of a dissertation project and two taught Semesters as follows:

#### Curriculum Outline

<u>Semester I</u>			
No	Module Code	Modules	Credit Units (ECTS)
1		International political economy	7,5
2		International trade theory, policy & practice	7,5
3		International Conflict & Security Analysis	7,5
4		Quantitative and qualitative research methods	7,5
	Total		<b>30</b>

### Semester II

No	Module Code	Module	Credit Units (ECTS)
1		Geopolitics & Geo-economics	7,5
2		Contemporary topics in globalization	7,5
3		Security Economics	7,5
4		Euro-Asian Politics and Economics	7,5
	Total		<b>30</b>

	Credit Units (ECTS)
<b>Dissertation</b>	<b>15</b>

## 2. IPSP Module Convenors

Module convenors are primarily selected by the JGC from the faculty of the parent institutions. There is the possibility of outside experts selected on special occasions to lead a module, or more, often to contribute to the lectures and relevant curriculum activities.

## 3. IPSP Student Advisors and Dissertation Supervisors

Each student is followed in terms of academic progress and support by a JGC-nominated faculty. In addition, the JGC allocates faculty towards supervising the dissertation of each student.

## 4. Assessment of Student Performance

Assessment and grading in each course is the sole responsibility of the module convenor and is done independently from the other courses, while it is based on the objective assessment of the student's performance (assignments, exams, etc.). The evaluation criteria are clearly defined in the information leaflet of each course. In case a student fails a course he / she can be re-examined in that course in the September re-sit exam period. The maximum number of re-siting a course is two (2) times. If he / she fails to obtain a passing grade in the two examination periods, he / she must repeat the IPSP.

## 5. Dissertation

At the end of the spring semester, each student undertakes the dissertation on a theme related to one of the subjects of the Program. Following its completion, it must be presented and supported before a three-member examination committee (supervisor and 2 faculty members) appointed by the JGC of the IPSP.

The supervisor has the academic responsibility for the elaboration of the dissertation and is appointed by the JGC, following the candidate's submission of a dissertation proposal that must include the relevant title, supervisor and description. Research experts from recognized research institutes or other faculty members may be appointed co-supervisors of the graduate student, following their involvement at the IPSP. The number of dissertations that can be supervised by each faculty member should not exceed 5 (five). The presentation of the Master's Thesis is publicly supported, before the three-member examination committee on a date and place determined by the JGC, following a proposal by the Director of the IPSP. In exceptional cases, if there is an objective weakness or an important reason (illness, absence abroad, etc.), it is possible to replace the supervisor or member of the Three-Member Examination Committee after a decision of the Director of the IPSP and with the consent of the JGC. The procedure for submitting the dissertation for examination is as follows: following the release of a list of

compiled topics by faculty, students make their selections in consultation with the proposing faculty and academic advisor. Upon successful completion of the spring semester courses, students enter the phase of dissertation preparation. JGC validates the selection of dissertation topics and supervisors. Following the submission of the dissertation by the student and its formal approval by the supervisor, dissertations are submitted in four copies to the Secretariat by a pre-announced date, no later than the 31 of August. The language of the diploma is English. Following the public presentation and defense of the dissertation, it must be submitted in its final form in both printed and electronic copies to the Secretariat and kept in the Library of the IPSP. The dissertation preparation guide is posted on the IPSP website. In order to successfully complete the obligations of the postgraduate student that leads to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma, he / she must have received a passing grade in all the courses and in his / her dissertation. The mark of the IPSP is based on the weighted average of the marks received for the eight courses (70%) and the degree of the dissertation (30%)

## **Article 5. Studying towards IPSP**

### **1. Attendance of Modules.**

Each cycle (duration) of the IPSP is two (2) semesters under full-time status. Modules begin on the first Monday of October and end on the last Monday of May. Classes are held throughout the week and are organized in the form of modules. Following the completion of Modules, the last quarter (i.e. the period June-August) is available for the preparation of the dissertation. Attendance is mandatory. The upper limit of allowed absences for each course is set at 30%. It is legally permissible for up to 35% of lectures to be offered remotely. Participation in the internal evaluation process of the IPSP, with anonymous evaluation questionnaires is mandatory and is expected to take place between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> week of courses. It is possible to remove a student from the IPSP, without refunding of tuition fees, following a decision of the JGC of the IPSP, in cases of non-compliance with the following obligations:

- The regular attendance of the courses in a percentage of at least 70% of the lectures held in each semester.
- The submission within the stipulated deadlines of the required assignments for each course.
- Their attendance at the exams.
- Respect for the decisions of the University institutions as well as academic ethics.

An extension of studies may be granted, only in exceptional cases, for up to one year following a decision of the JGC.

### **2. Suspension of Studies.**

Students may be granted, upon submission of a relevant application, a temporary suspension of studies, which may not exceed two (2) consecutive semesters. During the suspension, the postgraduate student loses his / her student status. The time of suspension is not counted in the maximum duration of regular study.

### **3. Part-Time Study Status.**

It is possible to attend the Program, under a part-time status for up to two (2) semesters without additional costs in special cases. Part-time students must declare their preference from the beginning in the application form for admission to the IPSP, if they are unable to meet the minimum requirements of the "full" study program for reasons such as: illness, workload (more than 20 hours per week) , serious family, military service, force majeure, etc., which are examined and decided by the JGC of the IPSP. The duration of part-time study may not exceed twice the full-time study duration, ie the two academic

years. Part-time students must choose 2 of the total of four (4) attendance modules per semester before the beginning of lectures.

#### **4. Logistics Support.**

The Program will operate in the facilities of the Department of Economics of the University of Thessaly in halls and buildings, with a total area of 2500 sq.m. on a plot of 3000 sq.m., which are to include the operation of the IPSP. The lecture rooms of the courses of the IPSP include: B20, A1 and A2.

#### **5. Completion of Studies and Awarding of Degree.**

The following obligations must be fulfilled before a student may participate in the graduation ceremony and is awarded the graduate status from the IPSP

- Successfully completion of the course, as provided by the Curriculum.
- Returned the Academic ID
- Having an all-clear status from the library.
- Having settled the financial issues with the IPSP.

Admission to the ranks of graduate students of the IPSP is done in the presence of the Director of the IPSP and the Dean of School at University of Thessaly and the relevant authorities in London.

#### **6. Institutional Repository.**

The approved Dissertations, following the completion of any corrections proposed by the examination committees, are submitted by the prospective postgraduate students in the library in two copies, one (1) book-bound form and one (1) copy in electronic form. The Secretariat of the department shall not finalize the process of validation of performance of the respective academic degree, unless it receives from the candidates a certificate of submission of the dissertation from the Library of the University of Thessaly. Under the responsibility of the central library of the University of Thessaly all these works are published in the institutional repository of the University

#### **7. Certificates.**

The form of the Postgraduate Degree and the awarding ritual are defined in the institution's regulations.

#### **8. Official Internet Site of the IPSP.**

The official website of IPMS - [http: //...../](http://...../) contains all the up to date information and announcements of the Program and is the official internet site for students.

### **Article 6. Quality Standards and Assurance**

#### **1. Copyright and Plagiarism.**

The copyrights of the Master's Thesis or the rights of patent or commercial exploitation of the works are determined by relevant decisions of the Ethics Committee of the University of Thessaly.

All kinds of plagiarism at any level of the Program (course work, references, or text of the dissertation), fabrication of research data and wider unscientific behavior are not permitted. The Ethics Committee is responsible for informing the students of the IPSP, as well as, to impose penalties, where necessary. Detailed instructions on the subject will be issued by the University Ethics Committee. No postgraduate thesis is submitted for support unless previously checked by the online plagiarism prevention service of the central library of the University of Thessaly.

## **2. Research Ethics and Conduct Committee (RECC).**

According to law, the funded research projects, dissertations and doctorates that according to the statement of the scientific director include research involving human subjects, in material derived from human subjects, such as genetic material, cells, tissues and personal data, in animals or in the environment, natural and cultural, are submitted for approval to the RECC and the project shall not begin to be implemented at University, or Research body level, unless it has obtained the relevant approval of RECC. The same goes for research in the social sciences, through demonstrated respect for individual rights, the rules of confidentiality and protection of personal data.

## **3. Program Evaluation**

IPSP fully implements the provisions on the evaluation of the Law, as follows: At the end of each semester, an anonymous electronic evaluation of each course and Module Convenor is performed by the students. The IPSP will be evaluated in accordance with the applicable criteria of article 44 of the Law, and in accordance with the quality assurance procedures in force at the University of Thessaly. The report and the evaluations of this article are published on the website of the Institutions and are communicated, under the responsibility of the Dean, to the Greek Minister of Education, Research and Religions, and are taken into account in the external evaluation and quality certification procedures.

## **Article 6. Transitional Regulatory Arrangements**

All issues that may arise and is not covered by the relevant provisions of the law, or regulation of postgraduate studies will be addressed by the JGC of the IPSP following the recommendation of the Director and the Senate of the Rules of Procedure and publication in the Government Gazette. Regular review of these rules of procedure for postgraduate studies may take place every two years