



HANDBOOK 2021-2023

THE MA IN POLITICS AND SECURITY PROGRAMME

THE MA IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## **WELCOME TO THE OSCE ACADEMY!**

Since its establishment in 2002 by agreement between the OSCE and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek has developed into one of the primary vehicles for the OSCE to promote its commitments in Central Asia. The OSCE Academy serves the wider region of Central Asia and the OSCE as a regional centre of excellence in higher education, academic research, capacity building, and policy dialogue. The OSCE Academy's Master of Arts in Politics and Security and the Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development Programmes are unique opportunities for up to 60 graduate students from Central Asia and outside of the region.

The strategic objective of the Academy is to contribute to the formation of a new generation of young and mid-career professionals from the wider region of Central Asia and the OSCE area by means of graduate education and knowledge sharing in fields deemed relevant and important by the OSCE and its participating States.

The Academy provides young professionals with career opportunities in various disciplines, ready to take up responsibility in top-management positions in international organisations, government structures, and academia. The Academy serves as a platform for enhanced dialogue and exchange of new ideas between the academic and policy-making communities and it continuously expands its network of partnerships to act as a true institution of the OSCE and its participating States.

## **THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)**

The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization whose 57 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and puts the political will of the participating States into practice through its unique network of structures and field missions. It conducts a wide range of activities related to all three dimensions of security on the basis of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

## **WHY THE OSCE ACADEMY?**

There are many graduate programmes in Central Asia, but the OSCE Academy has made, and continues to make, unique contributions to Central Asia and beyond. In many ways, the Academy is a promoter of the OSCE values and ideals and a model for reforming the region's higher education and research systems. Engaging with the Academy is a lasting investment in one's professional and personal advancement and contributes to the positive development of Central Asia.

The MA programmes include specially designed courses and modules on comprehensive security, democratization, rule of law, conflict prevention, international organizations, macro and micro economics, good governance, economic governance and regulation, economics of the energy sector etc.

The regional and gender-balanced composition of students, researchers, and training participants selected for each class creates a dynamic mix of perspectives in coursework and research. Our beneficiaries bring their personal experiences and knowledge about each society to test their assumptions and develop innovative solutions to chronic social and political problems.

As dissenting opinions and freedom of expression come under pressure around the globe, the Academy remains a truly open forum for vigorous debates, open exchange of views, and broad perspectives on policies affecting the political, social, and economic problems of Central Asia. Critical thinking, objective reasoning, and seeking the truth are encouraged in every lesson and assignment. In all its academic affairs, the Academy maintains strict standards of integrity in student selection, assessment, and granting of degrees/certificates.

The facilities and resources available to our beneficiaries in the Academy are among the best of higher education institutions in the region. Students have full access to the relevant hardware and software, and a growing library of e- and hard-copy resources to support their coursework.

The alumni of the MA Programmes form a regional network of young professionals, working in international organizations such as the OSCE or UN agencies, government bodies of the states in Central Asia, research institutions and think tanks, and the private sector. They are also successful scholars pursuing degrees in institutions such as George Mason University, Central European University, University of York, University of St Andrews, University of Tsukuba, University of Heidelberg, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Coimbra, or the University of Salerno.

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

The Academy's MA Programmes are extremely demanding and require to study full-time without the possibility to enroll at a different programme in higher education or to take on a job on a regular base at the same time. To maximize students' achievement, all admitted students automatically receive the following financial support:

- Stipend
- Medical insurance for the period of stay in Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz citizens are not eligible)
- Round trip travel expenses to Bishkek (economy class)
- International internship support

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The OSCE Academy is an equal-opportunity institution. It operates on the principle of non-discrimination. All recruitment decisions are made on the basis of selecting the most qualified candidates, taking into consideration regional and gender balance. The OSCE Academy encourages applications from nationals of OSCE participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-operation, and OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

### **THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICS AND SECURITY (CENTRAL ASIA) PROGRAMME 2021-2023**

The Master of Arts in Politics and Security (Central Asia) Programme is a 18 months programme that offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in areas of politics, security and international relations based on international standards of teaching. The programme is designed for students who wish to broaden their education and gain the knowledge and skills necessary for professional or academic careers in areas of politics, security, international relations, conflict prevention and international development.

Students have the opportunity to meet and to be taught by leading academics, experts, and representatives of international organizations. Because the programme meets international educational standards, it attracts many of the most talented and qualified graduate students throughout Central Asia and out of region.

The programme is accredited by the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education "EdNet", and supported by the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, interested OSCE participating and partner States, and other parties. The international partner institutions as well as the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy provide assistance in elaborating curricular details, conducting classes, organizing internships, and carrying out other activities.

## PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- Combine rigorous theoretical and practical training through multidisciplinary full-term courses and practice-oriented short modular courses;
- Provide students with contemporary approaches and tools to work in the fields of political science, international relations, security, democratization and human rights, sustainable development, nationalism, and ethnicity-both in general and as applied in the Central Asian context;
- Expand students' professional opportunities by improving their competencies necessary for their future careers;
- Introduce students to the professional world through the internship programme, use of practitioners as guest lecturers, and a network of professionals, Academy alumni, and current students;
- Familiarize students with the mission, principles, and activities of the OSCE within its three dimensions with a special focus on Central Asia;
- Establish a stimulating learning environment and provide close interaction between students, faculty and administration; and
- Encourage friendship and respect in a culturally, nationally, and ethnically diverse environment of the Academy.

## CURRICULUM 2021-2023

*Note: MA in Politics and Security programme curriculum is subject to change at any time and is offered below only as a general overview of courses that will be offered in 2021-2023. All courses, modules, and Comprehensive State Exams are graded. The list of electives is preliminary and the Academy reserves the right to modify it to satisfy the interest in specific topics.*

The academic year of the MA in Politics and Security Programme is divided into four semesters. Full-term and modular courses are offered in Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 semesters. Fall 2022 semester is devoted to the completion of writing MA thesis and internship. The following schedule represents the planned dates for the four semesters:

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fall 2021   | 1 September, 2021 – 25 December, 2021 |
| Winter 2022 | 10 January, 2022 – 30 April, 2022     |
| Spring 2022 | 10 May, 2022 – 30 August, 2022        |
| Fall 2022   | 1 September, 2022 – 28 February, 2023 |

Two types of courses are offered for students: full-term courses and short-term modules. Full-term courses designed to broaden theoretical knowledge of students and strengthen their analytical and research skills. Modules (modular courses) are one or two-week short-term courses, intensively scheduled and taught by experts in a certain field. All full-term and modular courses are required and graded.

**Fall 2021** (1 September, 2021 – 25 December, 2021)

*Required full-term courses:*

1. International Relations, 4 credits
2. Central Asian Politics and Security, 4 credits
3. Research Methods in Social Science, 2 credits

4. Human Rights and International Law, 2 credits
5. Governance, Democracy and Public Policy, 2 credits
6. German/Russian Language, 4 credits

*Credits required from full-term courses: 18 credits*

*Required modules:*

1. European Politics, 2 credits
2. The OSCE, 2 credits

*Credits required from modules: 4 credits*

**Winter 2022** (10 January, 2022 – 30 April, 2022)

*Required full-term courses:*

1. History of Political Thought, 4 credits
2. International Political Economy, 4 credits
3. Quantitative Methods in IR, 3 credits
4. Research Methods, 3 credits
5. Contemporary Security Issues, 4 credits
6. German/ Russian Language, 3 credits

*Credits required from full-term courses: 21 credits*

*Elective modules:*

1. Energy Politics, 2 credits
2. Nation, State and Nationalism, 2 credits

**Spring 2022** (10 May, 2022 – 30 August, 2022)

*Required full-term courses:*

1. MA Thesis Seminar, 4 credits

*Credits required from full-term courses: 4 credits*

*MA Thesis Proposal: 2 credits*

*Required modules:*

1. Introduction into qualitative research methods, 2 credits
2. Political Islam, 2 credits
3. Political Violence and Terrorism, 2 credits

*Credits required from modules: 6 credits*

*Elective modules:*

1. Central Asia and Middle East, 2 credits
2. Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking, 2 credits
3. International Cyber Security, 2 credits
4. Central Asia and China, 2 credits
5. Central Asia and USA, 2 credits
6. Central Asia and Russia, 2 credits

*Credits required from Elective modules: min 10 credits*

Fall 2022 (1 September, 2022 – 28 February, 2023)

Fall 2022 semester lasts from September 2022 through February 2023. During the Fall semester 2022, students will fulfill their internships, conduct research, write and defend their MA theses, and take the State Exam.

1. Internship period (minimum 8 weeks), 12 credits
2. MA Thesis, 20 credits
3. State Exam, Thesis Defense

Credits to be earned in Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 semesters: min. 65 credits.

Total credits to be earned in the Fall 2022 semester: 32 credits.

Credits to be earned for the research work: 23 credits.

Total credits to be earned: 120

## MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021-2023

The Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development is a 18-month programme that offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in economics, governance and development based on international standards of teaching. The programme is designed for students who wish to broaden their education and gain the knowledge and skills necessary for professional or academic careers in the fields of economics, development and governance.

Students have the opportunity to meet and to be taught by leading academics, experts, and representatives of international organizations. Because the programme meets international educational standards, it attracts many of the most talented and qualified graduate students throughout Central Asia and wider OSCE region.

The programme is accredited by the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education “EdNet”. The curriculum of the programme is approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, and it is supported by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, interested OSCE participating and partner States, and other parties. The international partner institutions and the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy provide assistance in elaborating curricular details, conducting classes, organizing internships, and carrying out other activities.

### PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- Combine rigorous theoretical and practical training through multidisciplinary full-term courses and practice-oriented short modular courses;
- Provide students with contemporary approaches and tools to work in the fields of economics, development, public policy and regulation - both in general and as applied in the Central Asian context;
- Expand students’ professional opportunities by improving their competencies necessary for their future careers;
- Introduce students to the professional world through the internship program, use of practitioners as guest lecturers, and a network of professionals, Academy alumni, and current students;
- Familiarize students with the OSCE mission, principles, and activities with a special focus on Central Asia;
- Establish a stimulating learning environment and provide close interaction between students, faculty and administration; and
- Encourage friendship and respect in a culturally, nationally, and ethnically diverse environment of the Academy.

### CURRICULUM

*Note: The OSCE Academy’s MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme curriculum is subject to change at any time and are offered below only as a general overview of courses that will be offered in 2021-2023.*

*The list of electives is preliminary and the Academy reserves the right to modify it to satisfy the interest in specific topics. Students must obtain minimum 12 credits out of offered elective courses.*

The academic year of the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme is divided into four semesters. Full-term and modular courses are offered in Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 semesters. Fall 2022 semester is devoted to the completion MA thesis and internship. The following schedule represents the planned dates for the four semesters:

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fall 2021   | 1 September, 2021 – 25 December, 2021 |
| Winter 2022 | 10 January, 2022 – 30 April, 2022     |
| Spring 2022 | 10 May, 2022 – 30 August, 2022        |
| Fall 2022   | 1 September, 2022 – 28 February, 2023 |

Two types of courses are offered for students: full-term courses and short-term modules. Full-term courses designed to broaden theoretical knowledge of students and strengthen their analytical and research skills. Modules (modular courses) are one or two-week short-term courses, intensively scheduled and taught by experts in a certain field. Modules deliver a practice-oriented approach and allow students to practice their knowledge using real-life examples under the topics assigned for each class. All full-term and modular courses are required and graded.

**Fall 2021** (1 September, 2021 – 25 December, 2021)

*Required full-term courses:*

1. Macroeconomics, 4 credits
2. Economic Governance and Regulation, 4 credits
3. Economics of Sustainable Development, 2 credits
4. Academic Writing, 4 credits

*Credits required from full-term courses: 14 credits*

*Required modules:*

1. International and Regional Trade Arrangements, 4 credits
2. The OSCE, 2 credits

*Credits required from modules: 6 credits*

*Elective courses:*

1. Statistics, 2 credits
2. Introduction to Stata, 2 credits
3. Cross Cultural Communication, 1 credit
4. Russian Language, 4 credits

**Winter 2022** (10 January, 2022 – 30 April, 2022)

*Required full-term courses:*

1. Econometrics, 4 credits
2. Microeconomics, 4 credits
3. Research Methods and Design, 4 credits

*Credits required from full-term courses: 12 credits*

*Required modules:*

1. Energy Politics, 2 credits
2. Good Governance in Central Asia, 2 credits



3. Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources, 2 credits  
*Credits required from modules: 6 credits*

*Elective courses:*

1. Russian Language, 3 credits
2. International Economic Indices and Economy Rankings, 1 credit
3. Mixed Methods to Understand Economic and Other Human Behavior, 3 credits
4. Project Management, 2 credits

**Spring 2022** (10 May, 2022 – 30 August, 2022)

*Required full-term courses:*

1. International Development, 2 credits
2. International Financial System, 2 credits
3. Economics and Regulation of Energy Sector, 2 credits

*Credits required from full-term courses: 6 credits*

*Required modules:*

1. Industrial Policy, 2 credits
2. Integrated Water Management, 2 credits

*Credits required from modules: 4 credits*

*Elective courses:*

1. MA Thesis seminar, 2 credits

*MA Thesis proposal: 2 credits*

**Fall 2022** (1 September, 2022 – 28 February, 2023)

Fall 2022 semester lasts from September 2022 through February 2023. During the Fall semester 2022, students will fulfill their internships, conduct research, write and defend their MA theses, and take the State Exam.

1. Internship period (minimum 8 weeks), 12 credits
2. MA Thesis, 20 credits
3. State Exam, Thesis Defense

Credits to be earned in Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 semesters: min 62 credits.

Total credits to be earned in the Fall 2022 semester: 32 credits.

Credits to be earned for the research work: 34 credits.

Total credits to be earned: 128

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