

Study Plan for Students Enrolled in the First Year in 2024-2025

Prospective students: For brief course descriptions, click on the course names below.

Check here the [Background Readings for Newly Admitted Students!](#)

FIRST YEAR

First semester

- [Comparative Politics](#) (6 credits)
- [Economic Models of Politics](#) (6 credits)
- [History of International Relations](#) (12 credits)

Second Semester

- [Human Rights and International Justice](#) (6 credits)
- [International Political Thought](#) (6 credits)

Plus one of the following:

- [Global Inequalities](#) (6 credits)
- [Sociology of Development](#) (6 credits)

Plus two of the following:

- [EU Law and Policies in Managing Migration](#) (6 credits)
- [International Dispute Settlement](#) (6 credits)
- [International Organizations](#) (6 credits)
- [Democratization in the Global World](#) (6 credits)

First and/or Second Semester

- A further **6 credits** are to be covered, as a matter of student choice, by any graduate course(s) offered by the University irrespective of the language of instruction (including any of the above courses if not already chosen).

Elective courses in English include: [Economics and Migration](#) (6 credits, second semester), [Gender Issues From a Global Perspective](#) (6 credits, first semester), [History, Conflict and Great Power Aspirations – The Cases of Japan and China](#) (6 credits, second semester), [History of Modern and Contemporary China](#) (6 credits, first semester), [Indian Ocean: History, Geopolitics, and Security](#) (6 credits, first semester), [Italian Politics and Society](#) (6 credits, second semester), [Law of Regional Integration](#) (6 credits, second semester), [Public Diplomacy in the Digital Era](#) (6 credits, second semester), [History and Culture of Middle East](#) (6 credits, first semester), [Green growth, innovation and sustainability](#) (6 credits, second semester).

Electives also include language courses (other than English) offered by the Department of Political and Social Sciences and basic or intermediate courses in the Italian language (option available for non -Italian students)

A further **3 credits** can be covered (as a student's choice) by the course in [Academic Writing](#) (second semester).

Non-Italian students **MUST** include **6 credits** in the **Italian language** unless:

- they have obtained a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree in Italian in Italy;
- they have obtained an Italian school diploma abroad;
- they possess an Italian language certification of at least level B1.

SECOND YEAR

First Semester

- [Issues in International Relations](#) (6 credits)
- [Ethics and International Relations](#) (6 credits)

Plus one of the following:

- [Methods for Political Research](#) (6 credits)
- [European Union Politics and Governance](#) (6 credits)

First and/or Second Semester

- A further **6 credits** are to be covered, as a matter of student choice, by any graduate course(s) offered by the University irrespective of the language of instruction (including any of the above courses if not already chosen).

- Up to a further **12 credits** in professional or linguistic training to be covered (as student choice) by some combination of the following:

1. One or more language courses other than English (6 or 9 credits for each course). The following languages are currently taught in the Department: French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese. N.B. The teaching of these languages assumes an adequate knowledge of Italian.** As in the first year, non-Italian students may choose to take Italian.

2. A period of work placement (stage), secured on students' own initiative ([6](#), [9](#), or [12](#) credits depending on length).***

- **A Thesis (24 credits).**

* The Department provides a short course in the **Italian language** (6 credits, first semester) in the first year.

***The University does not itself provide work placements for students. Rather, work placements are sought out by students on their own initiative, and are then recognized by the University with credits. Efforts by students to secure work placements are facilitated by conventions between the University of Pavia and specific institutions. In recent years, Pavia University has had conventions with a large number of institutions, including the following: FAO; Amnesty International, Italian section; UNICEF Pavia Committee; US Consulate General; Israeli Embassy; French Embassy; Henry Martyn Institute, International Center for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation; Representation of the European Commission in Milan; Socialist Group in the European Parliament; Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale (ISPI); Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI); International Institute of Administrative Sciences. Subject to approval, students may apply independently for an internship with some alternative organization. In the light of a successful application, the University will then aim to establish the necessary official convention between the University and the organization in question.

Disclaimer: Although changes in the course structure as described above are unlikely, the degree program is subject to periodic modifications in terms of individual courses or course descriptions. Degree programs for any given year are normally officially confirmed in April or May of the prior academic year. Any changes in the program will be reflected in immediate updates on this website.