

## **Master's, Doctoral and Post-doctoral Track Program: Politics and International Studies**

### **1. Open Doors winner's skill set**

Winning the Open Doors competition requires:

- in-depth knowledge of modern political theories, international relations, area studies, and public administration, as well as their practical application;
- the ability to forecast developments and understand the causes of political and international events at the global, regional, national, and local levels;

The winner is expected to demonstrate:

- proficiency in applying scientific methods in the study of international relations, global politics, area studies, and public administration, and the ability to communicate freely and justify one's position;
- the ability to conduct theoretical and applied research, develop strategic approaches, analyze international, socio-economic, and political processes in different regions of the world,
- proficiency in the use of modern communication technologies for academic and professional interactions.

### **2. List of degree programs covered by the subject area**

#### **2.1. List of doctoral degree programs**

5 5 4 International relations, global and regional research  
5 5 2 Political institutes, processes and technologies  
5 6 7 History of international relations and foreign policy  
5 6 2 World history  
5 6 1 Russian history

#### **2.2. List of master's degree programs**

41.04.05 International relations  
41.04.04 Political science  
41.04.01 Area studies  
58.04.01 Oriental studies and African studies  
41.04.06 Public administration and politics

### **3. Content**

#### **Field of science 1. International Relations**

1. World Order in the XXI century.
2. The role of great powers in international relations.
3. History and theory of international relations.
4. Global policy and security.
5. International organizations and institutions.
6. Regional features of modern international relations.

#### **Field of science 2. Political science**

1. Political philosophy of antiquity and the Middle Ages.
2. Political doctrines of the modern era.
3. Methodological approaches to the study of politics.
4. Power as a political phenomenon.
5. Political systems and regimes.
6. Political institutions and actors.
7. The development and modernization in comparative prospects.

### Field of science 3. Area studies

1. International Area (Regional) Studies and Geopolitics.
2. Categories "West" and "East", "North" and "South" in the context of international regionalism.
3. Development and representation of the regional structure of modern Europe.
4. Development and representation of the regional structure of modern North America.
5. Eurasia as a special region of the world.
6. Main stages of the development of the political systems of Arab countries.
7. Policy of the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China and the USA towards the Middle East and Africa.
8. Countries of the Asian-Pacific region in international relations.
9. Formation and presentation of the regional structure of modern Latin America.
10. Formation and presentation of the regional structure of modern South Asia.

### Field of science 4. Public administration and politics

1. Public policy and policy processes.
2. Public administration at different levels.
3. Political institutions and policy change
4. Civic participation and participation of interest groups in public policy.
5. Good governance and regulatory policy.

## 4. Preparation materials

### 4.1 Recommended reading

#### Field of science1. International Relations

##### Reading list in English

1.	History of international relations. University of Debrecen. 2024. URL: <a href="https://real.mtak.hu/199789/1/International-Relations-EBOOK.pdf">https://real.mtak.hu/199789/1/International-Relations-EBOOK.pdf</a> (free access)
2.	An Introduction to International Relations. Third edition. Cambridge University Press. 2017. URL: <a href="https://institutes.abu.edu.ng/idr/public/assets/docs/An%20Introduction%20to%20International%20Relations%20(%20PDFDrive%20).pdf">https://institutes.abu.edu.ng/idr/public/assets/docs/An%20Introduction%20to%20International%20Relations%20(%20PDFDrive%20).pdf</a> (free access)
3.	Burchill S. Theories of International Relations. Fifth edition. New York: PALGRAVE MACMILLAN, 2013. 388 p. URL: <a href="https://professorbellreadings.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/scott_burchill_et-al-_theories_of_intern.pdf">https://professorbellreadings.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/scott_burchill_et-al-_theories_of_intern.pdf</a> (free access)
4.	Jackson R. Introduction to International Relations. Oxford University Press. 2013. URL: <a href="https://www.kharagpurcollege.ac.in/studyMaterial/231813Introduction-to-International-Relations-Theories-and-Approaches-by-Robert-Jackson-Georg-Sørensen-z-lib.org.pdf">https://www.kharagpurcollege.ac.in/studyMaterial/231813Introduction-to-International-Relations-Theories-and-Approaches-by-Robert-Jackson-Georg-Sørensen-z-lib.org.pdf</a> (free access)
5.	Mearsheimer J. The Tragedy of Great Power Politics. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2014. URL: <a href="https://bxscience.edu/ourpages/auto/2015/12/17/46553148/Mearsheimer%20-%20Tragedy%20of%20Great%20Power%20Politics.pdf">https://bxscience.edu/ourpages/auto/2015/12/17/46553148/Mearsheimer%20-%20Tragedy%20of%20Great%20Power%20Politics.pdf</a> (free access)
6.	Ringmar E. History of International Relations. A Non-European Perspective. Cambridge. UK. Open book publishers. 2019. URL: <a href="https://archive.org/details/b7790cae-1901-446e-b529-b5fe393d8061">https://archive.org/details/b7790cae-1901-446e-b529-b5fe393d8061</a> (free access)

**Field of science 2. Political Science****Reading list in English**

- 1.Esser F. and Vliegenthart R. (2017). Comparative Research Methods. In The International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods (eds J. Matthes, C.S. Davis and R.F. Potter).  
URL:  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/9781118901731.iecrm0035> (free access)
- 2.Geddes B. (2003). Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics. University of Michigan Press.  
URL:  
[https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3998/mpub.11910?oauth\\_data=eyJlbWFpbCI6Im5hcG9ub21hcmVuQGdtYWlsLmNvbSIsImluc3RpdHV0aW9uSWRzIjpXSwicHJvdmlkZXIiOiJnb29nbGUifQ](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3998/mpub.11910?oauth_data=eyJlbWFpbCI6Im5hcG9ub21hcmVuQGdtYWlsLmNvbSIsImluc3RpdHV0aW9uSWRzIjpXSwicHJvdmlkZXIiOiJnb29nbGUifQ) (registration required)
3. Heywood A. Political theory: an introduction. L.: Macmillan Education Limited, 2015. 437 p. URL:  
<https://hostnezt.com/cssfiles/politicalscience/Political%20Theory%20An%20Introduction%204th%20Edition%20By%20Andrew%20Heywood.pdf> (free access)
- 4.Lijphart, A. Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method. The American Political Science Review, vol. 65, no. 3, 1971, pp. 682–93.  
URL: <https://www.la.utexas.edu/users/chenry/core/Course%20Materials/Lijphart1971/0.pdf> (open access)
- 5.Lipset S.M. The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited: 1993 Presidential Address. American Sociological Review, Vol. 59, No. 1. (Feb., 1994), pp. 1-22.  
URL:<http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/ps200b/Lipset%20Social%20Requisites%20of%20Democracy%20Revisited.pdf> (open access)

**Field of science 3. Area Studies****Reading list in English**

- 1.Abumere F.A. African identities and international politics. Routledge Publication, 2023. 176 p. URL:<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/id/06f7cd98-c13b-4953-af55-ab9c503bbd27/9781000629651.pdf> (free access)
2. A Short History of South-East Asia. Ed.by P. Church. John Wiley&Sons (Asia) Pte Ltd. 225 p. URL:<https://khmersharingdocuments.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/a-short-history-of-south-east-asia-5th-edition.pdf> (free access)
3. Brzezinski, Z. The Grand chessboard: American Primary and its Geostrategic Imperatives. Basic Books, 1997. 240 p. URL: <https://archive.org/details/grand-chessboard-brzezinski-1997/mode/2up> (free access)
- 4.Shambaugh D. Yahuda M. International relations of Asia. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008. 383 p.  
URL: [https://ia804605.us.archive.org/7/items/introduction-to-international-relations-theories-and-approaches-by-robert-jackson/International%20Relations%20of%20Asia%20%28Asia%20in%20World%20Politics%29%20by%20David%20Shambaugh%20And%20Michael%20Yahuda\\_%28urdukutabhkhana.pk.blogspot%29.pdf](https://ia804605.us.archive.org/7/items/introduction-to-international-relations-theories-and-approaches-by-robert-jackson/International%20Relations%20of%20Asia%20%28Asia%20in%20World%20Politics%29%20by%20David%20Shambaugh%20And%20Michael%20Yahuda_%28urdukutabhkhana.pk.blogspot%29.pdf) (free access)

**Field of science 4. Public Administration and Politics****Reading list in English**

- 1.Hildreth, W.B., Miller, G., & Lindquist, E.L. (Eds.). Handbook of Public Administration (4th ed.). Routledge, 2021. 348 p.

URL: <a href="https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429270680">https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429270680</a> (free access)
2. Weible, C., Sabatier, P. Theories of The Policy Process. Fourth Edition. Routledge, 2018. 402 p. URL: <a href="https://lib.ysu.am/disciplines_bk/e6f9da7263f77fde37d84ead56c6de20.pdf">https://lib.ysu.am/disciplines_bk/e6f9da7263f77fde37d84ead56c6de20.pdf</a> (free access)
3. Wilder, M. Comparative Public Policy: Origins, Themes, New Directions. Policy Stud J, 45.P. 47-66. URL: <a href="https://matt-wilder.github.io/Wilder%20(2017)%20Comparative%20Public%20Policy%20Origins%20Themes%20New%20Directions.pdf">https://matt-wilder.github.io/Wilder%20(2017)%20Comparative%20Public%20Policy%20Origins%20Themes%20New%20Directions.pdf</a> (free access)

## 4.2 Recommended online courses

### Field of science 1. International Relations

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
1. History of International Relations and Foreign Policy of Russia (Stepik)	History of International Relations and Foreign Policy of Russia (Stepik). URL: <a href="https://stepik.org/course/71352/promo?search=7294356697">https://stepik.org/course/71352/promo?search=7294356697</a>	The course provides a comprehensive overview of major historical events, foreign policy strategies, and diplomatic initiatives undertaken by Russian rulers from the reign of Peter the Great to Alexander II. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze key events and figures in the history of international relations and Russian foreign policy, understand Russia's role in international relations during the periods under review, and examine Russia's relations with the major European and global powers.
2. History of International Relations: the Cold War Years (Stepik)	History of International Relations: the Cold War Years (Stepik). URL: <a href="https://stepik.org/course/125888/promo?search=7294356698">https://stepik.org/course/125888/promo?search=7294356698</a>	The main objective of the course is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the complex history of the Cold War, the policies of the major powers, main developments and particular issues on the international agenda. As a result, students will enhance their ability to apply historical methods and work with primary sources in the analysis of international relations and foreign policy.
3. Global Politics (edX)	Global Politics (edX). URL: <a href="https://www.edx.org/course/global-politics">https://www.edx.org/course/global-politics</a>	The course explores global order and local disorders to explain why International Studies in the West are moving towards a planetary approach to World politics. Thinking globally helps explain new links between changes in the natural environment (demographics and climate) and changes in governing Institutions.

		This course draws on a mix of disciplines - anthropology, history, sociology, economics and psychology and a mix of paradigms, as no one approach is sufficient to explain the complexity of global issues today. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to integrate diverse modes of thinking, paradigms, and methodologies to critically engage with contemporary political issues and develop a more comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics shaping global political equilibrium.
4.Global politics for beginners (Udemy)	Global politics for beginners (Udemy). URL: <a href="https://www.udemy.com/course/global-politics-for-beginners/?srsltid=AfmBOod-QOT72UXImaWib8U_ebXaYwRgsjO0yaAdqgLfaFoZwdzCF8O">https://www.udemy.com/course/global-politics-for-beginners/?srsltid=AfmBOod-QOT72UXImaWib8U_ebXaYwRgsjO0yaAdqgLfaFoZwdzCF8O</a>	This course helps to define the key concepts of Realist and Liberal traditions in international relations and their implications, to understand the role and functions of major international organizations, such as the United Nations, NATO, and the World Bank to identify regional flashpoints and the geopolitical dynamics that shape alliances and conflicts.
5.History of International Relations: the Cold War Years (Stepik)	History of International Relations: the Cold War Years (Stepik). URL: <a href="https://stepik.org/course/125888/promo?search=7294356698">https://stepik.org/course/125888/promo?search=7294356698</a>	The main objective of the course is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the complex history of the Cold War, the policies of the major powers, main developments and particular issues on the international agenda. As a result, students will enhance their ability to apply historical methods and work with primary sources in the analysis of international relations and foreign policy.
6.World Politics (University for Peace)	World Politics (University for Peace). URL: <a href="https://elearning.upeace.org/course.cfm?id_instance=D2298310-7E24-4256-9606-F4C376E6AB10">https://elearning.upeace.org/course.cfm?id_instance=D2298310-7E24-4256-9606-F4C376E6AB10</a>	This course provides historical context and a theoretical foundation for the study of contemporary world politics. Approaching the topic from the perspective of Peace and Conflict Studies, the course begins by conceptualizing issues of globalization, interdependence, sovereignty, history, and international relations, and considers various cultural and ethical debates related to

		<p>issues of development, order, security, diversity, and peace. Following a focused and critical consideration of the concept of global governance, the course then moves to a discussion of key international and transnational structures, including regional bodies, the United Nations, and other formal institutions, as well as less formal associations, movements, and other examples of global connectivity. The course ends with students applying the theoretical tools they have developed in the course to specific topics in world politics, such as migration and war.</p>
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### Field of science 2. Political science

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
1.Introduction to Political Philosophy (Open Yale Courses)	Introduction to Political Philosophy (Open Yale Courses). URL: <a href="https://oyc.yale.edu/political-science/plsc-114">https://oyc.yale.edu/political-science/plsc-114</a>	This course gives an overview of major texts and thinkers of the Western political tradition, including Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Tocqueville. The course focuses on three broad themes essential to understanding political life: the polis, sovereign state, and constitutional government and democracy. The course explores the political philosophies that have shaped these institutional forms and examines how they continue to influence modern political structures and ways of life.
2.Political Philosophy: An Introduction (Oxford)	Political Philosophy: An Introduction (Oxford). URL: <a href="https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/political-philosophy-an-introduction-online?code=O21P303PHV">https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/political-philosophy-an-introduction-online?code=O21P303PHV</a>	This online course introduces students to classic and contemporary texts that address central questions in political philosophy, including the state, democracy, liberty, and justice. It provides an introduction to political philosophy by examining the justification of the state and exploring key issues related to democracy, liberty, and justice.
3.Comparative Politics (Youtube)	Comparative Politics (Youtube). URL:	This online course focuses on topics such as the methodology of comparative analysis, political



	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40w3pEvFp0w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40w3pEvFp0w</a>	systems and regimes, electoral systems, political institutions, and actors, as well as autocracy and democracy. It examines fundamental concepts of political science, including political parties, constitutions, and bureaucracy.
4.Understanding Political Concepts (edX)	Understanding Political Concepts (edX). URL: <a href="https://www.edx.org/course/understanding-political-concepts">https://www.edx.org/course/understanding-political-concepts</a>	This online course focuses on topics such as the methodology of comparative analysis, political systems and regimes, electoral systems, political institutions, and actors, as well as autocracy and democracy. It examines fundamental concepts of political science, including political parties, constitutions, and bureaucracy.

### Field of science3. Area Studies

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
1.Introduction to Contemporary geopolitics (E-learning)	Introduction to Contemporary geopolitics (E-learning). URL: <a href="https://elearning.hse.ru/moocs/contemporary-geopolitics">https://elearning.hse.ru/moocs/contemporary-geopolitics</a>	During the course, students explore the origins of geopolitics, the relationship between geopolitics and regionalism, and key actors in contemporary geopolitics. The course focuses on the history and geography of the USA, Russia, and China, as well as their respective foreign policies. It examines the connection between geography and international relations, the development of geopolitical concepts and ideas, how different countries perceive the world, the reasons behind these differing perspectives, and how spatial factors and distance influence economic relations and security concerns.
2.Russia, China and the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific Region (Stepik)	Russia, China and the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific Region (Stepik). URL: <a href="https://stepik.org/course/50042/promo?search=7301372627">https://stepik.org/course/50042/promo?search=7301372627</a>	This course provides students with a conceptual and historical perspective on the interactions between China, Russia, and the United States in the Asia-Pacific region (APR). Special emphasis is placed on the development and evolution of the foreign policies

		<p>of these great powers over recent decades, particularly in the post-Cold War and post-Soviet periods. A distinctive feature of the course is the inclusion of interview sessions with experts and policymakers. Upon completion, students will gain an overview of key conceptual and theoretical issues in political science; develop the ability to discuss the origins of great powers' foreign policies, the formation of international institutions in the twenty-first century, economic development challenges, political identity, and the evolution of political culture. Furthermore, students will analyze the factors shaping emerging powers in the APR and assess their impact on national and regional security and economic dynamics.</p>
3. Multipurpose study of the Baltic region (Stepik)	<p>Multipurpose study of the Baltic region (Stepik). URL: <a href="https://stepik.org/course/50361/promo?search=7301372639">https://stepik.org/course/50361/promo?search=7301372639</a></p>	<p>This course offers a comprehensive study of the Baltic region, focusing on its geographical, geopolitical, and economic characteristics, as well as cross-border cooperation. The course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the principles and challenges involved in the formation, development, and spatial organization of international, transnational, and cross-border regions, with particular attention to the role of the Russian Federation and its constituent entities. Upon completion, students will be able to design and conduct research projects in the fields of economic, social, political, and recreational area studies, incorporating the interests of the Russian Federation and its regions in socio-geographical analyses of international, transnational, and</p>



		cross-border regions, and formulate informed recommendations for their future development.
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#### Field of science 4. Public administration and politics

Online courses in English	Link	Course description
1. ICT and social networks in modern politics (Stepik)	ICT and social networks in modern politics (Stepik) URL: <a href="https://stepik.org/course/170869/">https://stepik.org/course/170869/</a>	This course highlights the connections between politics and ICT by introducing the key issues related to the rise of online journalism and e-government initiatives. It aims at explaining how the Internet and social networks serve as powerful tools for political communication, election campaigning, and public opinion monitoring, while also raising issues of data security, influence on youth, and the dual potential for both positive engagement and societal harm. This course enables students to understand the transformative impact of the Internet on governance, democracy, and civic participation. It explores how digital technologies influence political processes, reshape state–society relations, and create new opportunities and challenges for citizen engagement in contemporary governance systems.
2. Public Policy Analysis (LSE)	Public Policy Analysis (LSE) URL: <a href="https://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/executive-education/programmes/public-policy-analysis">https://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/executive-education/programmes/public-policy-analysis</a>	This course offers a comprehensive overview of the complex social, political, economic, and institutional factors that shape public policy. It explores the interplay between political institutions and policy outcomes, emphasizing how these interactions can lead to policy change on various scales. The course is designed to equip participants with the essential knowledge and analytical tools to assess policy decisions, evaluate government interventions, and formulate informed, impactful policy recommendations.

3. Using Public Policy for Social Change (Coursera)	Using Public Policy for Social Change (Coursera) URL: <a href="https://www.coursera.org/learn/using-public-policy-for-social-change">https://www.coursera.org/learn/using-public-policy-for-social-change</a>	The course provides a detailed introduction to public policy and its role in addressing societal challenges, with a focus on social inequalities. It explores various areas of policy work, including social welfare, public health, the environment, education, and criminal justice. The course is structured to advance knowledge and skills relevant to the fundamentals of public policy design and analysis, policymaking functions across all levels of government.
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