

Graduate Certificates

Webster University Geneva's Department of International Relations offers the following three Certificate programs. A Graduate Certificate is an official academic credential which can either be pursued as a stand-alone program after a bachelor's degree, as a stepping stone toward a master's degree, or as a post-master experience, adding expertise to your own portfolio of skills and experience.

Webster University Geneva's full-time professors and experts from the sectors that form "Genève Internationale" bring together their theoretical perspective as well as current insights and practical approaches to the classroom.

International and Regional Security (4 courses)

This certificate program will prepare students for further graduate study in the fields of international relations, national security and international security, as well as related careers in the public and private sector. Students will be introduced to scholarly work on the sources of conflict, violence and security issues in the international arena, as well as literature on the resolution and mitigation of such conflicts. Students will apply theories and concepts of both interstate and intrastate conflict to important contemporary cases, and analyze the effectiveness of potential policy responses. Where available, this certificate may be earned while completing the MA in international relations or as a stand-alone graduate certificate.

Graduates of this program will understand how to apply major theories of international security to analyze real-world regional and international conflicts. They will also be capable to identify, design and apply potential policy solutions designed to resolve or mitigate real-world conflicts.

In Geneva, there are many organizations working on issues of security, engaging with UN institutions or non-state actors, whose primary purpose is the analysis and mitigation of conflict. Security issues span various domains, from political negotiations on disarmament to the humanitarian sector, creating cross-cutting challenges for many International Organizations like the IOM and WHO, as well as for the International NGO community based in Geneva or beyond.

International and Nongovernmental Organizations (4 courses)

Learn about and study the activities of International and Nongovernmental Organizations (INGOs) which often play critical roles in world affairs, on par with governments and businesses, like creating integral education programs, forging peacebuilding initiatives or providing health services in the developing world. Participants will be able to identify the theories, history and major actors that govern the modern operations of INGOs; critically analyze and evaluate the roles and activities of INGOs in international affairs; evaluate the consequences of the political, managerial and even moral choices of INGOs.

Participants will also develop the specific skills needed in managerial roles within nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profits -- skills like cross-cultural team leadership, grant writing and fundraising, negotiating skills, finance and project management. These practical skills complement expertise in international affairs, and give access to those aspiring to work with organizations like The Global Fund, Medecins sans frontières, World Wildlife Fund, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Society and United Nations support organizations and agencies based in Geneva or beyond.

International Development (4 courses)

The graduate certificate in international development gives students the opportunity to develop specialized expertise in the theories, issues, actors, problems, and solutions facing countries and other actors undergoing the development process. Coursework will expose you to the challenges that issues such as poverty, hunger, conflict, human rights and sustainability cause in developing countries. These challenges are core to the purpose and mission of many of the institutions, agencies and NGOs operating in Geneva. Providing solutions requires a deep understanding of their complexity as well as tools for analysis.

Learn to identify and analyze the concepts, factors and issues related to international development; compare the political, economic and social conditions in developed versus developing countries; and apply the major theories of international relations to current and historical issues in international development.

Which courses will I take – and when are courses offered?

Each Certificate has one required course and three elective courses. Classes are held on weekday evenings, after working hours, at our campus in Bellevue. Courses are offered during 8-week terms (half semester blocks). Participants can choose one or two nights per week, depending on their commitments and aspirational date of graduation.

How many courses are required?

Each Certificate is four courses (12 credits, in the US system). Participants can begin at any of five different entry points during the year and study at their own pace. Pursued at the pace of two nights per week, the degree is 16 weeks in duration. Yet depending on preferred course topics, some will choose a slower pace, earning the certificate over about six months.

How is this Certificate in comparison to a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in the Swiss system?

Webster's Graduate Certificate programs are actual master's degree courses (you will share courses with master students). Credits can be applied toward a traditional master's degree, and eventually toward a PhD. In the Swiss higher education system, there is a track for Executive Education called "Formation Continue" which offers the CAS credential; however, courses in those programs, while practical in nature, are not considered equivalent to master's courses and do not apply toward a master's degree.

As a Stepping Stone toward Your Master's Degree

Courses earned in a Graduate Certificate (12 credits) can be applied toward a future Master of Arts degree at Webster University (36 credits). Our institutional accreditation from the U.S. also means that courses are recognized and possibly used as credits toward other master's programs at universities around the world.

Flexible Options, Designed for Working Professionals

Participants who are established in their careers in the Geneva area can pursue the courses at night. Recent graduates from a bachelor's degree can pursue internships during the daytime. Webster also offers 'academic internship' opportunities, which require an additional course but which can be of value for those seeking experience during a career transition.

Sample of courses offered in 2018-19 (academic year)

You can choose electives based on particular areas of interest. Courses are offered on a rotation during each academic cycle. Options for online course(s) amake it possible to continue studies during work or family travels.

Term	Fall 1	Fall 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer
Dates	27 Aug – 19 Oct	27 Oct – 22 Dec	14 Jan – 8 Mar	18 Mar – 10 May	27 May – 19 July
Course Menu	International Law	International NGOs*	International Security*	Grant Writing, Fundraising and Development	International Disaster Law
<p><i>Each Certificate is one required course (noted) plus three elective courses. These courses and others may also be offered online throughout the year.</i></p> <p>* required for the Cert in International & Nongovernmental Orgs</p> <p>** required for Cert. in Int'l and Regional Security</p> <p>*** required for the International Development Certificate</p>	International Political Economy	Principles of Negotiation	International Organizations	Project Development for INGOs	U.S. Foreign Policy
	Food and Water Security	Middle East Area Studies	Humanitarian Issues in International Politics: Refugees and Migration	Politics of Development***	
	Research Methods	Issues in International Politics: International Order, U.S. Hegemony and Global Security	The U.N. in International Politics	Comparative Foreign Policy	
			Humanitarian Issues: Refugees and Migration		
			Asian Area Studies		

Contact Us for more information: www.webster.ch/admissions