

HONG KONG CHU HAI COLLEGE
Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute

**Master of Social Sciences in
International Relations for Belt and Road Countries
(MSocSciIR)**

Programme Handbook

**2026/2027
Academic Year**

**Programme Director:
Dr. Oleksandr PIDCHOSA**



The Master of Social Sciences in International Relations for Belt and Road Countries (MSocSciIR) is an interdisciplinary and comprehensive programme focusing on the possible changes in international relations between China and Belt and Road countries. The basic objective of this programme is for students to capture the main trends of contemporary geopolitics and their influence on geostrategy of major international actors at global and regional levels.

Programme Objectives (POs):

PO1	To equip students with advanced concepts, theories and analytical schemes of the subject of international relations focusing on the emergent schools of geopolitics and geostrategy and international political economy;
PO2	To develop in students advanced knowledge and analytical capabilities for the understanding of the history, culture and the major trends of development of the global system and major regions and countries covered by the Belt and Road Initiative;
PO3	For students to acquire the practical skills and a critical mind for the appreciation and evaluation of events, past, present and future, that would be important for their future career that deals with Belt and Road countries;
PO4	For students to build up critical perspectives of cross-culturalism and transculturalism;
PO5	For students to develop from multiple sources of information and value positions a global and historical development perspective of the transformation of the Chinese society, polity and economy and the implications for its future development, its interaction with other countries and the consequent impact on the global, regional and national systems of the Belt and Road countries.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs):

Upon completion of this programme, students should be able to:	
PILO1	Explain and appraise the complexities and local specificities of international issues for evaluation and practical applications.
PILO2	Apply different disciplinary approaches and analytical schemes for the evaluation of the complexities and possible trends of development of international issues.
PILO3	Analyse own situation in business and other job situations in a broader and deeper institutional framework.
PILO4	Build on theories and development experiences learned to formulate short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to problems arising from particular business and job situations.
PILO5	Evaluate and consolidate additional (non-conventional) knowledge and skill sources, both locally and overseas, to extend one's analytical capability for problem solving.

Programme Structure:

Core Courses (15 credits)			Credit
1.	RBR601	Research Methods and Methodology	3
2.	RBR602	China's Development Experiences in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative	3
3.	RBR603	History and Culture of the Belt and Road Countries and Regions	3
4.	RIR601	Geopolitics and Geostrategy – the New International Relations	3
5.	RIR602	International Political Economy	3
Elective Courses (Choose 15 credits)			Credit
1.	RBR611	A Practitioner's Guide to International Finance	3
2.	RBR612	10 Plus 3 – Economics and Politics of ASEAN and China, Japan and Korea	3
3.	RBR613	Study Tours to Selected Belt and Road Countries	3
4.	RIR611	Research Thesis - International Relations	6
5.	RIR612	Politics and Economics of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor	3
6.	RIR613	Geopolitics of the Greater Central Asia (including Afghanistan)	3
7.	RIR614	Geopolitics of Russia and Eastern Europe	3
8.	RIR615	Oil Politics, Economy and Society of the Middle East	3
9.	RIR616	Theories and Ideas of Democracy, Capitalism, Socialism and Other Alternatives	3
10.	RIR617	Politics of European Integration and Implications for the World	3
11.	RIR618	Comparative Legal Systems - International Relations	3
Total no. of credits required for Graduation			30

Mode of Study:

Full-time: 1 year

Part-time: 2 years

Graduation Requirements:

Students are required to complete 30 credits as required by the curriculum within the maximum registration period, and with a Graduation Grade Point Average (GGPA) of not less than 2.00.

Award Classification	Minimum Graduation GPA
Distinction	3.50
Merit	3.00
Pass	2.00

Important Regulations:

(Extracted from the General Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Programmes)

Period of Study and Maximum Period of Registration

TPG4.1 The period of study of a taught postgraduate curriculum shall normally range from 2 semesters to 1 full academic year for full-time mode and 2 full academic years for part-time mode, unless otherwise specified.

TPG4.2 The maximum period of registration of a student shall normally be 200% (150% for Architecture Programme) of the normative period of study, unless otherwise permitted by the Registrar.

Attendance and Absence

TPG9.1 Students are required to attend all scheduled classes, tutorials and laboratory sessions.

TPG9.2 Students attending classes, tutorials and laboratory sessions are required to verify their identities by tapping their student card on the designated reader upon entry the classroom. Students who are unable to produce their student cards must instead show a valid government-issued photo identification (e.g., Hong Kong ID card or passport) to the instructor immediately at the start of the class. Failure to provide valid identification may result in being marked absent.

TPG9.3 To minimize disruption, students who arrive 15 minutes or more after the class has begun will be marked absent. Late arrivals may also be denied entry at the instructor's discretion.

TPG9.4 Academic impersonation, including impersonating another student or allowing himself to be impersonated to attend class on one's behalf, is a serious academic misconduct, and will be referred to the Student Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary actions.

TPG9.5 A student who is unable to attend classes or required activities because of illness or circumstances beyond his control for not more than one week shall inform the Faculty in which he has registered in writing at the earliest opportunity.

TPG9.6 When longer absence is necessary or when absence from assessments is involved, a student shall submit an application for leave of absence in writing to the Faculty together with a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner or other supporting evidence.

TPG9.7 When a student's absence (excused or otherwise) from classes, tutorials and laboratory sessions has reached 30% or more of the total number of periods of a course in one semester, he will be deemed to have not met the course requirements, accordingly be prohibited from taking the examination of that course and receive a final failing grade (grade F) for that course, unless special approval has been obtained from the Registrar.

TPG9.8 A student who has been absent, with or without permission, for a period of such length as to make it impossible, in the opinion of the Registrar, for him to complete his year's work shall not resume attendance in the same academic year unless otherwise permitted by the Registrar.

TPG9.9 A student who has been absent for more than twelve continuous months without permission may be regarded as having withdrawn from his studies.

Unsatisfactory Performance and Discontinuation of Studies

TPG13.1 A student whose performance is unsatisfactory, may be required to:

- discontinue his studies; or
- repeat whole or part of his programme before being admitted to further assessments; or
- present himself for assessment without repeating any part of his programme.

TPG13.2 Unless otherwise permitted by the Faculty Board, a student shall be recommended for discontinuation of his studies by the Dean and confirmed by the Academic Board if he has failed to:

- gain at least 40% of the required credits in an academic year (for full-time mode);
- gain at least 20% of the required credits in an academic year (for part- time mode);
- resume study after a leave of absence or the period of suspension has ended; or
- fulfil successfully all the requirements for graduation within the maximum registration period permitted for the curriculum.

TPG13.3 The Board of Examiners may recommend to the Academic Board that a student be required to discontinue his studies in a curriculum administered by the Board.

TPG13.4 In all cases where a student is recommended for discontinuation of studies, there shall be a review of the circumstances of the case by the Student Review Committee.

TPG13.5 The student shall be informed of the decision of the Student Review Committee as soon as possible once the decision is made.

TPG13.6 Appeal against the decision of the Student Review Committee shall be made to the Registrar's Office in writing within five working days subsequent to the communication of the decision to the student.

Use of AI

All students are required to thoroughly review, understand, and strictly comply with the College's 'Implementation Rules on the Use of AI Tools in Learning and Teaching (For Students).

Notes:

Students should familiarise themselves with the “General Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Programmes” which could be found in the Student Handbook provided by the Registrar's Office.

Useful Contacts:

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Email: obor@chuhai.edu.hk

Tel: (852) 2972 7337 / (852) 2972 7249

Office Location: W401 and W403

Registrar's Office:

Email: general@chuhai.edu.hk

Tel: (852) 2972 7200

Education Technology Service Office (ETSO):

Email: helpdesk@chuhai.edu.hk (Support)

etso@chuhai.edu.hk (Information & Suggestion)

Tel: (852) 2972 7394

Student Affairs Office:

Email: sao@chuhai.edu.hk

Tel: (852) 2972 7426