



The Review of the Study Programme “International Relations and Regional Studies”

I have reviewed the 2024 Study Programme “International Relations and Regional Studies”, developed by the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education for the first (bachelor’s) level of higher education in the specialty 291 International Relations, Public Communications, and Regional Studies.

The reviewed bachelor’s programme aims to train highly qualified specialists who possess comprehensive knowledge of the theory and history of international relations, foreign policy, regional processes, public communications, and the activities of international organisations. It combines theoretical preparation with the development of analytical, communicative, linguistic, digital, and practical competencies. Its objectives correspond to the requirements of contemporary higher education and to the professional expectations placed upon specialists working in the field of international relations.

The sequence of the educational components provides students with a solid and progressively developing body of knowledge. Foundational courses such as Theory of International Relations, Introduction to Political Science, Fundamentals of Regional Studies, Introduction to Sociology, and Fundamentals of International Economic Relations establish the theoretical framework of the programme. These are complemented by courses dealing with the history of diplomacy and international relations, international law, foreign policy analysis, political geography, international organisations, globalisation, conflict studies, and European integration.

The programme gives particular attention to the historical development of international relations. Courses covering diplomacy in the ancient and medieval periods, interstate relations in the early modern age, international relations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the international system after the Cold War enable students to understand contemporary political processes in their historical context. As a historian, I consider this approach especially valuable, since a thorough understanding of present-day international affairs is impossible without knowledge of their historical origins and development.

The regional dimension of the programme is also clearly defined. The curriculum addresses the position of Ukraine in international processes, the foreign policies of Central and Eastern European countries, the history of Ukrainian–Hungarian relations, ethnic relations in East-Central Europe, and the specific historical and contemporary characteristics of Transcarpathia. The geographical location, multilingualism, and cultural diversity of Transcarpathia offer particularly favourable conditions for the study of regional cooperation, cross-border relations, intercultural communication, and the interaction of different political and cultural communities.

From the perspective of diplomatic practice, I consider the inclusion of Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette, Diplomatic and Consular Service, Conflictology and Theory of Negotiations in the Field of International Relations, Intercultural Communication, Administrative Documents in Ukrainian, and Administrative Documents in English to be particularly important. Diplomatic and international work requires not only theoretical knowledge, but also precision, responsibility, cultural awareness, appropriate conduct, and familiarity with the formal requirements of official communication.

The multilingual character of the programme represents one of its major strengths. Instruction in Ukrainian, Hungarian, and English, together with specialised foreign-language training, supports the development of the linguistic competencies necessary for international professional activities. Graduates are expected to communicate at a professional level, participate in discussions, prepare analytical and official documents, and engage effectively with representatives of foreign institutions. In the field of international relations, high-level foreign-language competence is an essential professional requirement.

Graduates of the programme will possess competencies that can be applied in diplomatic representations, ministries, government agencies, international organisations, research and analytical institutions, public and private companies, the media, and civil society organisations. At the same time, the programme provides an appropriate academic foundation for continuing studies at the second, master's level of higher education.

In conclusion, the 2024 Study Programme "International Relations and Regional Studies" is professionally sound, logically structured, practice-oriented, and consistent with the requirements of bachelor's-level higher education. It provides students with the theoretical foundations, historical knowledge, practical skills, linguistic competence, ethical awareness, and analytical abilities necessary for professional work in international relations, public communications, diplomacy, and regional studies.

I therefore recommend the Study Programme "International Relations and Regional Studies" for approval and implementation.

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