

WHY STUDY SMALL STATES STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND?



- Teaching based on extensive research on small states by internationally acknowledged academics
- Strong foundations in theory
- Focus on Iceland and other small states in the international system
- Small classes allow for engagement with faculty and peers
- All courses are taught in English

Specialized diploma in small state studies

The postgraduate diploma offers a detailed study of small state theories based on the latest research and practice on the state and the international system. It also emphasizes opportunities and constraints facing small states in Europe, i.e. how they are affected by, and have responded to, the process of European integration, new security threats, globalization and other domestic and international challenges.

Special attention is paid to the Nordic states and their reactions to European integration. The diploma also focuses on Iceland's position – as a small state – in the international system. A vast majority of member states in today's European Union are most often categorised as small states – and the same applies to a majority of member states of the United Nations.

Students who apply for the MA programme in International Affairs at the University of Iceland can have their Small State Studies diploma credits transferred, given that they fulfil the admission criteria.

Why Reykjavík?

The Centre for Small State Studies at the University of Iceland has already established itself as one of the main institutes in research and teaching on small states. The Centre brings together a global network of academics working in this field. The Centre has, with several European universities, held an annual Summer School on Small States in Europe – funded by ERASMUS – since 2003. It has published a number of books and papers on small states and held conferences and seminars in Iceland and abroad.

“During my Bachelor studies I came across the sub-field of Small State Studies, which I was very interested in. In International Affairs often the focus is on the great powers, while most countries in the world are small. The diploma in Small State Studies takes smaller states as the main focus point, which gives a completely different and mostly overlooked view of International Affairs.”

Floris Cooijmans- Student in Small States Studies Postgraduate Diploma

For further information on general matters at the University visit the website: www.english.hi.is
Specific information on this program can be found: https://english.hi.is/small_states_studies



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



“I didn’t have any aspirations with the degree. I just wanted to learn more about small states in international organisations. But now I have become a political advisor for a member of the European Parliament. Here we are constantly facing the issues of representing a small state. The programme has definitely given me new viewpoints and tools to analyse the political situations and do well as an advisor.”

Evelien Westert – Student in Small State Studies Postgraduate Diploma

Programme structure

The diploma is a full time study, taught in the autumn semester. It consists of five courses, including one elective

Mandatory

STJ301M Small States Theory: Opportunities and Constraints of Small States in the International System. (6 ECTS). Supervisor: Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair. Lecturer: Jack David Mowbray.

STJ303M The Power Potential of Small States in the European Union (8 ECTS). Supervisor: Baldur Thorhallsson Professor.

ASK306F Foreign Policy Analysis (6 ECTS). Supervisor: Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir, Associate Professor of International Affairs.

ASK113F Small States and Arctic Governance (6 ECTS). Supervisor: Page Wilson, Associate Professor of Political Science.

Electives

STJ312M Term Paper in Small States Studies (4 ECTS). Students who wish to complete the diploma in one semester must write an extra paper in relation to the course Small States Theory: Opportunities and Constraints of Small States in the International System.

STJ026F Small State Leadership in Gender Policy (4 ECTS). Supervisors: Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor of Political Science, Pia Elisabeth Hansson, Director of the Institute of International Affairs and Centre for Small State Studies, Tómas Joensen, Researcher at the Centre for Small-States Studies. – *Summer Semester*

Admission requirements

BA, B.Ed., BS degree or equivalent qualification. International applicants, whose native language is not English, are required to provide results of the TOEFL (79) or IELTS (6.5) tests as evidence of English proficiency. See further:

https://english.hi.is/university/proof_of_english_proficiency_requirements

Application Deadline:

- International students 1 February
- Nordic citizens are exempt and may apply for graduate studies until 5 June
- Students from Iceland 5 June

Online application forms and further information can be found at: english.hi.is/small_states_studies

Cost: Annual registration fee at the University of Iceland.

For further information please contact the Faculty of Political Science, e-mail: nemFVS@hi.is

Phone +354 525 4500

Office hours: M-F 09:00-15:00

Course descriptions and further information can be found in the course catalogue: english.hi.is/small_states_studies



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**Welcome to the
University of Iceland**