



UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED
Faculty of Law and Political Sciences

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INFORMATION ON COMPLETION OF STUDIES
For students in the English-language MA program (MIR)
Spring semester of Academic Year 2024/2025

I. REGISTRATION FOR FINAL EXAMINATION

Takes place via the Modulo system, based on information received from the Student's Office
<http://www.juris.u-szeged.hu/english/study-administration-for/application-for-the>)

II. RE-REGISTRATION FOR FINAL EXAMINATION AND ITS SCOPE

Those current and former students, who do not undertake final examination in the Spring semester, will be allowed to retake the examination in the Fall semester of the Academic Year 2025/2026.

III. TIMETABLE OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Sending thesis by mail to the supervisor	30 April 2025
Uploading thesis (final, approved version by the supervisor) to the thesis topic selection form in Modulo:	14-21 May 2025
Submission of theses and simultaneous registration for the final examination in Modulo:	2-9 June 2025
Final Exam + thesis defense	16 June 2025
Registration for the <i>Retake</i> Final Examination in Modulo:	16- 17 June 2025
Retake Final Exam:	23 June 2025
Graduation ceremony:	12 July 2025

IV. THE FINAL EXAMINATION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS

1. The Final Examination includes the Defense of the MA Thesis submitted. **The first part of the Final Examination shall be the Thesis Defense, which is – if successful - followed by second part, as detailed hereunder.**
2. **Once the Thesis has been submitted, the Advisor assesses it in writing** and grades the formal aspects of the Student's Thesis Work in NEPTUN as part of the designated course on a 3-tier scale: failed-passed-excellent). In addition, **the Program Administration additionally assigns the Thesis to a Reviewer/Oponent, who then prepares a written assessment of the Thesis, evaluating it as to format and content and asking 1 to 3 questions from the student.**
3. In their assessments, **Reviewers suggest a grade for the Thesis. The Reviewer's assessment will be sent to the Final Examination Panel (Panel), as the Reviewer is not necessarily one of the 2 or 3 members of the Panel. Reviewer's assessment is communicated to the student as part of the Final Examination** and the questions asked by the Reviewer should be answered as specified below:
4. During the Final Examination, the **Students shall start with the obligatory Thesis Defense procedure accompanied by a 10 minute-long ppt-presentation (exclusively focusing on introducing the Research questions, hypotheses and conclusions of the Thesis and nothing else), also providing answers to the questions asked in the Advisor's assessment.** The presentation and the answers are then assessed by the Panel, based on the grade given by the Advisor). *The Panel may ask further questions from the Students as part of the Defense, but answers given to these shall be considered in grading the Defense performance. If the Thesis Defense is successful, its grade is communicated to the Student on site after a brief consultation of the Panel. The Defense Grade is the grade given by the Final Examination Panel.*
5. **If Thesis Defense is unsuccessful, the Students may not continue their Final Examination and are informed to that effect, as the case may be.**
6. **Upon a successful Thesis Defense, second part of the Final Examination starts. The Panel continues asking the Students from two Subject Areas out of three (law, economics, international relations) – previously agreed upon with the Advisor – that have relevance to the broader topic of the Thesis.** The three Subject Areas applicable to the Final Examination can be found under **Part V** hereunder, but only two of these apply to each Final Examination depending on the Thesis topic as specified above.
7. Upon a successful Thesis Defense, the Final Examination shall be **considered successful if Students answer the questions pertaining to both Subject Areas on a satisfactory level. The Panel shall assess the answers given per Subject Area.**
8. **The Final Grade of the Final Examination is the average of the grades of the Thesis Defense and those given on the questions answered in the two Subject Areas.**
9. *If one of the Subject Areas produces a Failed assessment based on the Students' answers, both subject Areas will have to repeated on the Retake Final Examination.*

Subject Area #1: International Relations/International Studies

Evolution of the European Concept

- 1. The Fundamental Values of European Integration: Evolution of the Peace Theory to the Values declared by the Lisbon Treaty**
- 2. European identity: sources, manifestation and political aspects**
- 3. The EU as a federal political structure: ideas and theories, visions of unity (monarchs vs. republics, socialists vs. liberals, functionalists vs. federalists)**

Democracy, Subsidiarity and Multilevel Governance in Europe

- 4. Democracy, Legitimacy: theoretical trends and their practical implications in Europe**
- 5. Governance theory, multilevel governance**
- 6. Political structures and the exercise of national and local competences**

Frontiers of European Integration, Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy

- 7. Political objectives and consequences of EU enlargement, the possible limits of enlargement, policies substituting or complementing enlargement**
- 8. Objectives and tools of neighborhood policy, Eastern partnership, Mediterranean cooperation**

Diplomatic Relations

- 9. The main focus of following multilateral organisations: UN, EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, NATO, African Union, Arab League**
- 10. Prospects of a reform of the UN**
- 11. Definition and consequences of bipolarity and multipolarity in diplomatic relations**
- 12. The evolution of relations between the West and Russia in the last 25 years**

The European Union and European Policies

- 13. Integration theories**
- 14. Institutions of the European Union**
- 15. Democratic deficit in the EU**
- 16. Citizens and the EU: public opinion and electoral participation**
- 17. Strengths and weaknesses of Common Foreign and Security Policy**

Subject Area #2: Economic Aspects of the European Union

Economic Fundamentals of EU Integration

- 1. The levels of economic integration: from bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to economic and monetary (and political) union.**
- 2. The steps of European economic integration: from the common market to European economic governance.**
- 3. The Eurozone crisis and EU-level crisis management.**
- 4. Competition regulation in the single European market: restrictive agreements, dominant position, concentration of undertakings, state aid.**
- 5. The common trade policy of the EU: schemes, system of preferences, the Community Customs Code, the functioning of the customs union.**

International Political Economy

- 6. Central and Eastern Europe: economic transition from socialism to market economy and EU membership.**
- 7. The Central and Eastern European model of capitalism.**
- 8. The impact of the 2008 global crisis on the Central and Eastern European countries**

European Business Environment

- 9. Economic performance of the EU; the EU's position in the global economy.**
- 10. The Europe 2020 strategy: priorities, indicators, EU member states' performance.**
- 11. The tools and functioning of the internal market of the EU: SOLVIT, TARIC, Single Market Scoreboard.**

European Economic and Monetary Union

- 12. The theory of Optimum Currency Areas and the European Economic and Monetary Union.**
- 13. European monetary integration in the 1970s: snake in the tunnel, European Monetary Cooperation Fund, European Currency Unit, European Monetary System.**
- 14. The Delors plan; the Maastricht convergence criteria; European monetary integration in the 1990s: EMS crisis, European Monetary Institute, convergence period.**
- 15. The European Central Bank; common monetary policy before, during and after the crisis; inflation-targeting and quantitative easing.**
- 16. European economic governance since 2011: the European Semester and its elements, the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure and the MIP scoreboard and tools.**
- 17. Plans and prospects for the European Economic and Monetary Union: Plan for a genuine Economic and Monetary Union (2012); the banking union (2014); the 5 presidents' report on the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union (2015).**

Subject Area #3: Legal, Political and Institutional Aspects of the European Union

Comparative Constitutional Law and Governance Theory

- 1. Democracy, European models of democracy, forms or European parliamentary regimes, structures and competences of national parliaments**
- 2. Political responsibility, form of government. Role of European heads of states, competences and functions of national governments. Legal structure of national central administrations.**
- 3. Unitary and federal states, decentralization, deconcentration, devolution, self-governance in Europe**
- 4. The notion of constitution. Constitutionalism and constitutional protection. Institutional and procedural tools for the protection of the constitution and constitutionality**

Protection of Human Rights

- 5. European Concept of Human Rights protection - philosophical and theoretical foundations. Evolution of theories.**
- 6. Multilevel Protection of Human Rights in Europe: national, European and international competences, sources and regimes of protection. Interconnection of the different levels.**
- 7. The European Convention of Human Rights: political background, historical evolution, nature of rights and tools of protection**
- 8. Institutional framework of Human Rights protection (Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights)**

Legal Structures of European Construction

- 9. Institutions of EU integration in light of the principles of democracy, supranationalism and intergovernmentalism**
- 10. Legal system of the EU: competences, sources of law, legislative process, general principles**
- 11. Court of Justice of the European Union: competences, structure, functions, proceedings**
- 12. Cooperation of Member States and EU: subsidiarity, proportionality, national identity, participation in decision-making, execution, enforcement of decisions**

International Economic Relations and Economic Relations

- 13. Sources of private international law and their connection (scope of private international law, elements of the conflict rule, characterization, *renvoi*, non-application of foreign law)**
- 14. Liberalization of the global market – institutional frameworks (GATT, WTO)**
- 15. International commercial transactions (Vienna Convention)**
- 16. Securities in international trade**

VI. METHOD OF EXAMINATION

In case Final Examinations are conducted via online video link, it shall be carried out via Skype. All Students must have access to their own Skype account (in their own name, as displayed in University registration documents). Other technical information regarding the examination, such as the link for accessing to the exam, will be provided later on.

Irrespective of whether video-link or in-person attendance is required for the final examination, no preparation time will be provided before answers during the Final Examination, and the Panel will ask more, shorter questions (maximum 4) from each of the two Subject Areas as indicated above under Point IV. The student shall answer these questions without any additional time provided to draft the answers.

Members of the Panel shall be given a list of the titles and summaries of the theses of the students (on top of Advisors' assessments) registered for the Final Examination in advance. This may orient them in what questions to ask the students during or after the Defense ppt presentation.

VII. ABSENCE FROM FINAL EXAMINATION

In case the student is absent from the Final Examination, the following legal consequences should apply:

According to the Studies and Examinations Regulation of the University of Szeged, point 13.4:

„Unauthorized absence from the examination shall be deemed as an examination used up, and shall be deducted from the possible number of occasions provided for repeating the exam.”

Students, however, may submit a request declaring that their absence from the examination was due an unexpected cause – not qualifying as a technical issue – that can be excused. The student shall be obliged to immediately report such occurrence to the Students' Office when it occurs or after the student becomes aware of it.

Excusing absence:

Via MODULO/Request to the Dean, in a written request, under circumstances meriting special equitable assessment, e.g., health, family or other exceptional reasons, with evidence.

Submission deadline: **within 5 days** from the missed final examination at the latest, after this, no request can be submitted. **All documents offered as evidence to support or justify the omission of the examination shall be attached.**

In the absence of a request excusing absence or in the event it is denied, no additional opportunities shall be offered to the student to retake the exam in the current Final Examination Period, only in the Retake Final Examination Period. If the student is absent from the Retake Final Examination, no request to excuse absence may be submitted.

VIII. RETAKING THE FINAL EXAMINATION

No successful Final Examinations can be retaken to improve the grade or assessment.

The Final Examination qualifies as unsuccessful, if the Examination Board assesses the total of the student's answers during the examination in one of the specific Subject Areas as Failed. In this case, the Final Examination (*with both subject areas*) should be retaken in another Final Examination period.

IX. FINANCIAL DEBTS

Settling debts

If payment obligations (tuition, co-pay, etc.) according to NEPTUN are not settled till the first day of the Final Examination registration period, (**2nd of June**) the student will be deleted from the lists of those registered for the Final Examination.

50. § (5) of the Act on National Higher Education

Students, who have not settled their outstanding payment obligations against the higher education institution, cannot be allowed to take the Final Examination.

X. CALCULATING DIPLOMA AVERAGE

Diploma averages for the MA program in International Relations are calculated as the average of the following 2 criteria:

- the average of all the grades for all the mandatory courses in the curriculum over the course of 2 years – except practices and seminars – and,
- the result of the Final Examination.

Mandatory Courses to be accounted into the Diploma Average:

- Comparative Constitutional Law and Governance Theory
- Diplomatic Relations
- Economic Fundamentals of EU Integration
- Evolution of the European Concept
- Legal foundations of International Cooperation
- Tendencies in European Political Philosophy
- Democracy, Subsidiarity and Multilevel Governance in Europe
- European Economic and Monetary Union
- Frontiers of European Integration: Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy
- Global Economic Trends and Centres
- Legal Structures of European Construction
- Protection of Human Rights in Europe (lecture)
- European Business Environment
- Freedom, Security and Justice in European Union
- Globalization and Development
- International Political Economy

- The European Union and European Policies (lecture)
 - Economic and Social Statistics (lecture)
 - Industrial Relations and Employment Policies
 - International Private Law and Economic Relations (lecture)
 - Knowledge Management
 - Political Risk Management and the Deliberative Process
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- Those courses which the students needed to accredit in the form of +30 ECTS compensatory courses based on the Educational and Outcome Requirements do not account toward this result.
 - The assessment of the Final Examination shall be average of the grades acquired on the Final Examination in accordance with the above.

Szeged, 3 March 2025

Dr. Norbert Merkovity
Vice-Dean for Education