



diplomatische
akademie wien

Vienna School of International Studies
École des Hautes Études Internationales de Vienne

Diploma Programme: Entrance Examination

Candidates for admission to the Diploma Programme are required to pass the oral entrance examination at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna or at an Austrian representation abroad. Should a candidate not be able to travel to any of these exam venues, then oral exam via videochat may be authorised – please contact application@da-vienna.ac.at directly.

Candidates are admitted to the entrance examination provided they fulfil the following requirements:

- hold a first level degree of at least 180 ECTS credits (or equivalent) from an accredited institution of higher education (university, college)
- have a very good command of English; the level expected is B2–C1. In very exceptional circumstances, a candidate may be accepted with a minimum B1 level but is then required, as a condition of acceptance, to do intensive remedial English language courses to be completed by 1 September before the commencement of the academic year.

Basic knowledge of German (A1) and a command of French equivalent to a certified A2 level at the time of the entrance exam are recommended, but not required. If available, French and German language skills will be an asset for the candidate's application record.

If the admitted candidate could not prove French language skills on A2 level, then intensive remedial French language courses have to be completed before the beginning of the academic year.

Please find the following information on the next pages:

- Preparing for the Entrance Examination
- Recommended Literature
- Examples of Questions Set

Preparing for the Entrance Examination

The purpose of the entrance examination is to establish whether a candidate has the appropriate qualifications for the successful completion of the Diploma Programme. As the number of places at the DA is limited, candidates are admitted in the order of their ranking. The results of the entrance exams are only valid in the year in which they were held.

The entrance examination consists of an oral interview. The exam can be held at Diplomatic Academy in Vienna or at an Austrian embassy (consulate general) abroad. On reasonable grounds (e.g., a candidate is prevented from travelling to the Austrian Embassy of reference) and on a limited basis a Skype interview may be scheduled.

The oral exam takes place before a commission, and it is held in English. Besides discussing their motivation and future plans with the commission, candidates are questioned on:

- current issues in international affairs
- general knowledge
- one of the following areas:
 - a. international relations
 - b. history in the 19th and 20th century
 - c. economics and international economic relations
 - d. international law and European law
 - e. cultural studies

After the application deadline expires, candidates will be asked to notify the chosen discipline to the Registrar's office.

Additionally, and where applicable, language skills in French and German are tested in a separate short interview.

A reading list, together with suggested reading, is available to help you prepare for the entrance examination. Also, you are strongly advised to read on a regular basis relevant reports and analyses in newspapers and specialized magazines such as International Edition of the New York Times, The Financial Times, Le Monde, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, The Economist, Foreign Affairs etc.

Recommended Literature

Kindly note that these titles are suggestions, you can use any other comparable textbooks available to you.

International Relations

- Baylis, John & Steve Smith (Eds.): *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, 3rd edition
- Burchill, Scott, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit & Jacqui True: *Theories of International Relations*, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005, 3rd edition
- Bjola, Corneliu and Markus Kornprobst, *Understanding International Diplomacy: Theory, Practice and Ethics*. London: Routledge, 2013, chapters 5-8.
- Roach, Steven C., Martin Griffiths, and Terry O'Callaghan. *International relations: the key concepts*. London: Routledge, 2014.

International Law

- Dixon, M.: *Textbook on International Law* (Blackstone Press Limited)
- Seidl-Hohenveldern / Stein: *Völkerrecht* (Heymanns)

European Law

- Barnard, C. & Peers, S.: *European Union Law* (Oxford University Press)
- Hafner, G., Kumin, A. & Weiss, F.: *Recht der Europäischen Union* (Manz, Wien)

Economics

- Samuelson, P.A. & W. Nordhaus: *Economics* (only basic concepts, fundamental concepts of macroeconomics, microeconomics, supply, demand and product markets, economic role of government, international trade and the world economy) (McGraw Hill)

History

- Duroselle, J.B.: *Introduction à l'histoire des relations internationales* (Pocket, 1997)
- Craig, Gordon A.: *Geschichte Europas im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert* (Beck)
- Kissinger, H.A.: *Diplomacy* (Simon and Schuster, 1995)
- Beller, S.: *A concise History of Austria* (Cambridge, 2007)

Cultural Studies

- Couldry, Nick (2019): *Media. Why it matters*, Cambridge: Polity.
- During, Simon (2007): *The Cultural Studies Reader*, London: Routledge.

Examples of Questions for the Oral Exam:

International Relations and Contemporary History

- What are the main schools of thought in International Relations?
- What is power and the balance of power?
- Do we live in the age of global governance?
- Does globalization do away with the nation-state?
- What is diplomacy?
- What are the tasks diplomats perform?
- What is the role of religion in international politics?
- What important types of actors are there in world politics?
- What explains the origins of the European Union?

International Law and European Law

- What are the sources of international law?
- What do you understand by "subjects of international law"?
- Name the tasks of the Security Council of the United Nations.
- Name some of the recent judgements of the International Court of Justice and sketch out their most important points.
- Explain the concept of "extra-territoriality".
- What are the implications of the principle of "non-intervention"?
- What do you understand by the "right of self-determination of the peoples"?
- What are the tasks of a diplomatic officer?
- What do you understand by "diplomatic privilege"?
- What is the role of the European Parliament?
- What is a directive? What is a regulation?
- Describe NATO and briefly discuss its (future) role.

International Economics

- What do you know about J. M. Keynes?
- What are the functions of money?
- What are the main determinants of economic growth?
- Describe Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage.
- Why should governments try to control air and water pollution?
- What is the difference between gross investment and net investment?
- Describe the government expenditure multiplier.
- How are exchange rates determined in a floating-exchange-rate system?
- How will an increase in income tax affect the demand for and the price of cars?
- What is your "opportunity cost" of studying at the Vienna School of International Studies?

Cultural Studies

- Why does media matters for culture and politics?
- How does globalization affect culture?
- Are culture and nature opposite ideas?
- What is the difference between national and nationalist cultures?
- What do you understand by modernity?
- What is meant by 'celebrity culture'?
- How would you describe cultural identity?
- What is the difference between gender and sexual identity?
- Is cultural diversity a recent feature of societies?