

Study Plan Double Degree in International Relations, Environment and Development | Luiss University - University of Sussex

1st year at Luiss – a.y. 2026/2027

		Semester	ECTS
M043	Comparative History of Political Systems	1	6
SKA	Comparative Politics	1	6
IR01	Research Methods for Social Sciences	1	6
M042	Comparative Public Law	1	6
M423	Academic and Professional Communication Skills	1	8
	Second language	2	6
	Academic Boost – Certificate 1	2	6
	Academic Boost – Certificate 2	2	6
-- Choose one major among the following:			
Major in Diplomacy			
IR03	Demography and the Politics of Global Populations	2	6
IR04	International Organizations Global Economic Governance	2	6
IR10	Sociology of Global Politics	2	6
IR11	International Political Theory	2	6
Major in Security			
IR05	Security and the Economy	2	6
IR06	International Human Rights	2	6
IR12	Sociology of Terrorism and Political Violence	2	6
IR07	International Security	2	6
Major in Euro-Mediterranean Studies			
IR08	The Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa	2	6
IR09	Demography, Human Rights and Migration	2	6
IR13	Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	2	6
IR14	EU Neighborhood Policy	2	6

2nd year at the University of Sussex – a.y. 2027/2028

	Term	UK Credits	Recognition for Luiss Degree	ECTS
Critical Debates in Development Theory	1	30	Core course ¹	6
Political Economy of the Environment	1	30	Elective Abroad: Political Economy of the Environment	6
Research Methods and Professional Skills	2	15	Internship / Project Work	6
2 optional modules (see list below)		30 x2	Elective Abroad	6
			Elective Abroad	6
Dissertation / Dissertation with Placement ²	3	45	Final Work	16

Confirmed optional modules³ (30 credits each):

- Activism for Development and Social Justice
- Climate change: Impacts and Adaptation
- Critical Debates in Environment and Development
- Doing Gender in Theory and Practice
- Fair Trade, Ethical Business & New Moral Economies
- Poverty, Vulnerability and the Global Economy

Other optional modules⁴ (30 credits each):

- Climate Resilient Development (IDS)
- Knowledge, power and Resistance
- Global Politics of Environment, Justice and Development
- Climate Change and Energy Policy (SPRU)
- Decolonising, Diversifying & Demytholog Dev
- Political Economy of Development
- Climate Resilient Development (IDS)
- Knowledge, power and Resistance

¹ Depending on the chosen major, it can be one of the following: SLH - History of International Relations (major in Diplomacy), M358 - Security Law and Constitutional Protection (major in Security), or M361 - History and Culture of Mediterranean Countries (major in Euro-Mediterranean Studies).

² Dissertation with Placement: It takes the form of a research placement and not a work placement, allowing the student to carry out primary research for the dissertation while at an organisation in a field relevant to the dissertation. This is normally undertaken from June – August lasts for a minimum of 6 weeks, and is an integral and assessed part of the module. It is the student's responsibility to identify suitable organisations for their placement. Once an organisation has been identified, support is available within Global Studies at Sussex to help with the process until the placement begins. This option is intended as an alternative to the standard research-based dissertation.

³ These modules/options are guaranteed to be offered and not to clash in the timetable.

⁴ These modules give a flavour of the wider range of options. While Sussex aims for students to take their preferred combinations of options from this longer list, this can't be guaranteed and will be subject to timetabling and changes in our curriculum.

Important Rules

- This study plan is designed for students taking part in Double Degree in International Relations, Environment and Development.
- Interested students are required to read and understand the study plan and its rules. These are to be considered binding to the successful completion of the double degree program. Changes to the study plan are usually not possible and any request in this sense must be conveyed to the International Degree Programs Office, that cannot guarantee its feasibility.
- The list of courses to be taken at Sussex may be subject to changes should the academic offer be amended.
- The listed exams must be taken and passed in the academic year indicated in the scheme (not after). Any possible change must be formally authorized by the Academic Commission.
- The selections and admissions process is governed by the procedure detailed in the following webpage: <https://www.luiss.edu/International-relations-environment-development-with-the-university-of-sussex>
- During the second year of the program, students will be subject to the rules of the University of Sussex.
- Progression requirements: Students will be required to complete all courses (equal to 68 ECTS) by the end of the Summer exam session 2026/2027 (27 June 2027)⁵. Failure to do so implies withdrawal from the program.
- Housing: Students who apply for a Masters which starts in September are guaranteed University-managed accommodation at Sussex if the student is a full-time international Masters student (from outside the UK) and applies for accommodation by 1 August. Options can be found here: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/accommodation>
- At the end of the program, if compliant with both Luiss and Sussex academic requirements, students will obtain both the MA Environment, Development and Policy (EDP) (issued by Sussex) and a Master's Degree in International Relations (issued by Luiss).

Thesis

- Students will complete their theses during the second year of the program at the University of Sussex, with a supervisor from Sussex.
- Students will not be able to graduate at Luiss in July. The earliest available graduation date is October/November.
- Students must respect the thesis procedures and deadlines of both institutions. Each institution will grade the final thesis according to its own standards.
- The thesis will be based on one of the 2nd year courses and its maximum length is 10.000 words
- Students will write their dissertation as part of their Sussex course, following the requirements, supervisory arrangements, and internal and external examination procedures that are in place at the University of Sussex.

⁵ The Autumn exam session (August/September 2026) will not be available.



- The Luiss Academic Delegate appointed by the Graduate School will be the thesis supervisors for all students.
- Students will be graded on their theses at the University of Sussex in Brighton according to the following timeline:
 - Deadline for dissertation submission: 1st week of September
 - Deadline for marking & moderation: 2nd week of October
 - Mark Assurance Board (MAB): 3rd week of October
 - Progression Award Board (PAB): 3rd week of October (same week as MAB) / grades will be forwarded to Luiss
 - Release of mark to student: 4th week of October
- Students will need to comply with the Luiss regular procedure regarding the thesis assignment, registration for the degree exam and upload of the thesis. For further information, please check the [following page](#).
- Students will defend their thesis orally in Rome in November in an in-person⁶ graduation ceremony

Conversion Table

University of Sussex		Luiss
70%-100% (plus 50% of the credit at 70 or above)	DISTINCTION	30 e lode
		30
%60 - %69 (plus 50% of the credit at 60 or above)	MERIT	29
		28
		27
%50 - %59	PASS	26
		23
Below 50	FAIL	Fail

While every effort will be made to provide students with complete, accurate and timely information, Luiss reserves the right to change, amend, modify or revoke the aforementioned program. Luiss is not responsible for any cancellation or modification due to events beyond its control. If the program is cancelled or modified for these reasons, Luiss will inform all interested students in a timely manner.

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⁶ Online graduation defenses are not allowed by the Italian legislation.