



Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani
UNIVERSITY

Master's Educational Program

Program Name	Eastern Europe Foreign Policy and Security
Program Head	Ivan Okromtchedlishvili, Associate Professor
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Qualification to be Awarded	Part I of the program (60 ECTS): Master of Political Science Part II of the program (60 ECTS): Research Master of Political Science
Program Volume in Credits	The Master's program is built on the ECTS system, is student-centered, and is based on the student's academic workload required to achieve the educational program's objectives. The Master's program comprises 120 ECTS credits and consists of two parts, each with a volume of 60 ECTS credits (Part I and Part II). 60 credits per year, 30 credits per semester; standard duration is 2 years (4 semesters). Depending on the student's individual workload, the annual number of credits may be less than or greater than 60, but no more than 75.
Date of Program Approval and Protocol Number	17.01.2025 № 01-25
Date of Program Update and Protocol Number	24.06.2026 №05-26

Program Objectives

The master's program "Eastern Europe Foreign Policy and Security" aims to:

Part I:

1. Equip the graduate with a comprehensive, profound, and systematic knowledge of Eastern European security and geopolitical challenges.
2. Develop the graduate's skills in research and critical analysis of the historical, social, economic, and geopolitical dynamics that influence the formulation of foreign and national security policies and strategies of Eastern European countries.

Part II:

3. Provide the graduate with the ability to conduct independent research while adhering to the principles of academic integrity and employing modern methods and approaches. This is aimed at supporting the processes of formulating and executing foreign and national security policies, with a focus on current and evolving security threats.
4. Enable the graduate to contribute to the advancement of professional knowledge and evidence-based decision-making practices within the realm of Eastern European foreign policy and security.

Learning Outcomes

The program is structured so that upon completion of each part, the student achieves learning outcomes corresponding to the qualification.

Upon completion of Part I of the program (Master of Political Science / 60 ECTS), the graduate:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- (A) Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the geopolitical and security challenges facing Eastern Europe, including the influence of Russia, the role of NATO, and other regional and international actors.
- (B) Critically comprehends the political systems, economic, and foreign policies of Eastern European countries, including the significance and impact of historical and contemporary events.
- (C) Understands highly relevant contemporary security issues, such as military readiness, cybersecurity threats, hybrid warfare, and the role of regional alliances.
- (D) Understands the integration process of Eastern Europe with global institutions and the impact of these alliances on the region's foreign policy and security dynamics.

Skills:

- (E) Applies critical thinking and analytical skills to assess political, economic, security, and military developments in Eastern Europe using interdisciplinary approaches.
- (G) Critically analyzes security dynamics in Eastern Europe, evaluates military readiness, cybersecurity threats, and hybrid warfare strategies, and formulates and proposes practical solutions.
- (H) Presents their own conclusions, arguments, and research findings in written and verbal forms, including to policymakers and representatives of international organizations.

Responsibility and Autonomy:

(I) Contributes to the development of professional knowledge and evidence-based decision-making practices in the field of Eastern European foreign policy and security.

Upon completion of Part II of the program (Research Master / 60 ECTS), the graduate:

Skills:

(F) Independently conducts in-depth research on problematic issues in Eastern European foreign policy and security, observing academic integrity principles and utilizing modern methods and approaches to formulate effective strategic perspectives and policy recommendations.

Responsibility and Autonomy:

(J) Independently plans and manages their own learning and scientific-research process in the direction of foreign policy and security studies.

Admission Prerequisites

For Part I of the Program (60 ECTS): Admission to Part I of the Master's educational program is carried out based on the results of the Unified Master's Examinations and internal university examinations, or in cases defined by the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, according to the established rule, following administrative registration and based on the Rector's order. Internal university examinations determine the general level of knowledge within the chosen specialty and English language proficiency at the B2 level. Interview and exam topics/tests and evaluation criteria will be published on the university's website (<http://www.sabauni.edu.ge>) at least one month prior to the start of the exams. A candidate is exempt from the English language test if they present a valid international certificate confirming a B2 level of English (FCE, IELTS, TOEFL PBT/CBT/IBT, VERSANT, CERTUS, PEARSON), or if they have completed a Bachelor's/Master's program fully in English or at least one full semester in English.

Note: All aforementioned certificates must be valid at the time of application, and the applicant must be able to present them. Expired documents will not be considered.

For Part II of the Program (60 ECTS): A person who enrolled in Part I (60 credits) of the Master's program based on Master's examinations and completed it is authorized to continue their studies in Part II of the same program without passing Master's examinations, provided that no more than 5 (five) years have passed since their enrollment in Part I. Enrollment in the program via mobility is possible twice a year within the timeframes set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, observing mandatory procedures and rules established by the university. Enrollment in the program or transfer from a recognized higher educational institution of a foreign country is carried out based on the decision of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Teaching-Learning Methods

☒ Lecture ☒ Working in a group ☒ Practical work ☒ Seminar ☒ E-resource learning ☐ E-learning ☒ Other

Student Knowledge Evaluation System

The assessment of a student's learning outcome achievement level in an educational component of an academic program includes forms of assessment—midterm (one-time or multiple) and final assessment, the sum of which constitutes the final grade (100 points).

Midterm and final assessments (assessment forms) include an assessment component/components that determine the method/methods of evaluating the student's knowledge, skills, and/or competencies (such as oral/written exams, oral/written quizzes, homework, practical/theoretical work, etc.).

An assessment component integrates homogeneous assessment methods (test, essay, demonstration, presentation, discussion, performing a practical/theoretical task, group work, active participation in discussions, case study, etc.). The assessment method/methods are measured by assessment criteria—the unit of measurement for the assessment method—which determines the level of learning outcome achievement.

Each form and component of assessment has a designated weight in the final grade out of the total score (100 points), which is reflected in the specific syllabus and communicated to the student at the beginning of the academic semester.

It is impermissible to award credit using only one form of assessment (either midterm or final assessment alone). A student is awarded academic credit only upon receiving a positive evaluation.

During the implementation of the educational program, the weight of the minimum competence threshold for the student's midterm and final assessments is reflected in the specific syllabus and communicated to the student at the beginning of the academic semester. The grading system allows:

for five types of positive grades:

(A) Excellent	91-100 points
(B) Very Good	81-90 points
(C) Good	71-80 points
(D) Satisfactory	61-70 points
(E) Sufficient	51-60 points

two types of negative grades:

(FX) Failed to pass	41–50 points of the maximum grade, which means that the student needs to work harder to pass and is granted the right to take an additional (makeup) exam once through independent study;
(F) Failed	40 points or less of the maximum grade, which means that the work done by the student is not sufficient, and they must restudy/retake the subject.

Evaluation Forms and Components

Evaluation Forms and Components	Maximum Score
Midterm Evaluation:	70 points
1.1	
1.2	
1.3	
Final Evaluation	30 points
Final Written/Oral Exam	30
Total	100 points

In the learning component of an academic program, in the event of receiving an FX, an additional (makeup) exam shall be scheduled no less than 5 calendar days after the announcement of the final exam results.

The score received by the student on the additional exam is not added to the points previously obtained in the final assessment. The grade received on the additional exam serves as the final assessment and is reflected in the final grade of the academic program's learning component.

If, taking into account the grade received on the additional exam, the student obtains 0–50 points in the overall final grade of the educational component, the student will be issued a final grade of F (0 points).

Employment Sphere

The program prepares graduates for careers in diplomatic, international, scientific-research, intelligence, security, and defense sectors, as well as in non-governmental organizations. With a focus on practical skills, graduates of the program will be well-equipped to effectively engage in the formulation, planning, research, and analysis of foreign and security policy.

Part II of the program (Master of Research) emphasizes research, enabling students to conduct in-depth studies on major political, security, and defense issues in Eastern Europe. This strong research foundation is ideal for graduates aiming for an academic career or policy analysis roles in government and international organizations.

Further Education Opportunities

A graduate of the first part of the Master's program (60 ECTS credits) is entitled to continue their studies in the second part of the Master's program in Eastern Europe Foreign Policy and Security at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (60 ECTS credits) without passing Master's examinations, provided that no more than 5 years have elapsed since their enrollment in the first part. Meanwhile, a graduate of the second part of the Master's educational program in Eastern Europe Foreign Policy and Security (60 ECTS credits) [is eligible to continue studies] at higher education institutions in Georgia or other countries in foreign policy, security, and defense studies, or other

Material Resources Necessary for Program Implementation

The material resources owned and possessed by the university ensure the realization of the goals of the master's educational program and the achievement of the planned learning outcomes:

Buildings and Facilities: The Master's educational program is conducted in buildings and facilities under the 24-hour possession and ownership of the university, where sanitary-hygiene and safety standards are strictly maintained. The buildings are equipped with alarm systems and fire extinguishers, the perimeter is under video surveillance, and order is maintained by the university security staff. The facility fully meets the technical requirements established for higher education institutions, featuring lecture halls and classrooms designated for practical studies that are equipped with appropriate technology and inventory (projectors, chairs, desks, boards, etc.).

Library: The university library preserves a print and electronic collection relevant to the master's educational program, which is accessible to students, invited lecturers, and academic staff. The library features a reading hall equipped with appropriate furniture and equipment (chairs, tables, computers). There is a multifunctional copier/printer in the library, which students can use with the assistance of library staff. In the reading hall, students have access to the internet and international electronic databases (Sakanonmdeblo Matsne [Legislative Herald of Georgia], EBSCO, HeinOnline, Elsevier). The university library also maintains an electronic catalog.

Academic Staff Workspace: A working environment equipped with appropriate furniture and technology (chairs, tables, cabinets, internet-connected computers, and a multifunctional copier/printer) is provided for the academic staff.

Information and Communication Technologies: To facilitate the implementation and administration of the Master's educational program, the university utilizes information and communication technologies. Specialized software relevant to the master's program is available, and the existing computer hardware meets modern requirements, is connected to the internet, and is accessible to students, as well as academic, invited, and administrative staff.

An electronic system for student assessment and educational organization (Learning Management System) is used to give students access to their grades, enable the administration to monitor academic progress, and support the learning process. The university ensures the publicity and accessibility of information through its website, which hosts the educational program catalog, information regarding program implementation, the management of the learning process, and more.

Program Structure

The Master's program (120 ECTS) consists of two parts, each with a workload of 60 ECTS credits:

The first part of the program (60 ECTS — Master of Political Science) comprises solely an educational component. This includes nine compulsory courses from the major field of study (54 ECTS) and one elective course (6 ECTS)

The second part of the program (60 ECTS — Master of Research) includes both educational and scientific-research components. Educational Component (30 ECTS) consists of three compulsory (18 ECTS) and two elective (12 ECTS) courses. It focuses on developing skills in written and oral research, locating and processing primary and secondary sources, and conducting independent research. Scientific-Research Component (30 ECTS) consists of the preparation and defense of a Master's thesis.

Students may choose elective courses either from the subjects offered within this program or from any other active Master's program operating at the university.

Enrollment in the Master's educational program through the mobility process is possible twice a year, within the timeframes established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, in compliance with mandatory procedures and university regulations.

General enrollment or transfer enrollment into the Master's educational program from a recognized foreign higher education institution is conducted based on the decision of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Educational program curriculum

№	Prerequisite	Module/Subject	ECTS კრედიტი				Student's study load	
			Year 1		Year 2			
			Semester					
			I	II	III	IV	Contact hours	Independent hours
Part I of the Program (Master of Political Science / 60 ECTS) — Educational component								
Compulsory educational courses in the main field of study - 54 ECTS								
1.	No prerequisites	Modern Political History of Eastern Europe	6/150				29	121
2.	No prerequisites	Political Systems of the Eastern European States	6/150				29	121
3.	No prerequisites	Political Economy of Eastern Europe	6/150				28	122
4.	No prerequisites	Foreign Policy of Eastern Europe: Modern Discussions	6/150				29	121
5.	No prerequisites	Military Readiness: Concepts, Choices, Consequences	6/150				29	121
6.	No prerequisites	Russia's Foreign Policy and Security of Eastern Europe		6/150			42	108
7.	No prerequisites	Great Power Foreign Policy and Eastern Europe		6/150			29	121
8.	No prerequisites	"Gray Zones" and International Security Challenges in Eastern Europe		6/150			26	124

9.	No prerequisites	National Security and Defense Policy and Management		6/150			42	108
Elective educational courses in the main field of study								
1.	No prerequisites	Terrorism and Counterterrorism		6/150	+		29	121
2.	No prerequisites	Conflicts in Eastern Europe		6/150	+		29	121
3.	No prerequisites	Cybersecurity in the Context of Eastern European Security		6/150	+		29	121
4.	No prerequisites	Strategic Communication in the Context of Foreign Policy and National Security		6/150	+		29	121
5.	Military Readiness: Concepts, Choices, Consequences	Military Strategy and Campaign Planning in the Eastern Europe Security Context		6/150	+		29	121
6.	No prerequisites	EU Association Agreement and European Integration		6/150	+		41	109
7.	No prerequisites	Ethnic Minorities and State Policy in Post-Soviet Georgia		6/150	+		28	122
8.	No prerequisites	Interest Groups and Lobbying		6/150	+		28	122
9.	No prerequisites	Georgian State Structure		6/150	+		40	110
10.	No prerequisites	Eastern Europe and Energy Security		6/150	+		29	121
11.	No prerequisites	Georgia-EU Trade and Economic Relations		6/150	+		29	121
12.	No prerequisites	Public Finance and the Security Sector		6/150	+		29	121
13.	No prerequisites	Political Islam and the Modern World		6/150	+		29	121

Part II of the Program (Research Master of Political Science / 60 ECTS) — Educational and Scientific-Research Components								
Compulsory educational courses in the main field of study - 18 ECTS								
1.	No prerequisites	Academic Writing for Master's Students			6/150		28	122
2.	No prerequisites	Qualitative Research Methods			6/150		42	108
3.	No prerequisites	Quantitative Research Methods and Data Analysis using SPSS			6/150		42	108
Elective educational courses								
Elective Courses of Part I (60 ECTS credits) of the Master's Educational Program in Eastern Europe Foreign Policy and Security.								
Scientific-Research Component - 30 ECTS								
1.	Academic Writing for Master's Students; Qualitative Research Methods; Quantitative Research Methods and Data Analysis using SPSS	Master's Thesis				30/750	10	740
Per semester			30	30	30	30		
Per year			60		60			
Total			120					

Map of program objectives and learning outcomes

Educational program objectives	Learning outcomes									
	Knowledge and Understanding				Skills				Responsibility and Autonomy	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Objective 1. Equip the graduate with a comprehensive, profound, and systematic knowledge of Eastern European security and geopolitical challenges.	X	X	X	X						
Objective 2. Develop the graduate's skills in research and critical analysis of the historical, social, economic, and geopolitical dynamics that influence the formulation of foreign and national security policies and strategies of Eastern European countries.		X			X		X	X		
Objective 3. Provide the graduate with the ability to conduct independent research while adhering to the principles of academic integrity and employing modern methods and approaches. This is aimed at supporting the processes of formulating and executing foreign and national security policies, with a focus on current and evolving security threats.					X	X	X	X	X	X
Objective 4. 4. Enable the graduate to contribute to the advancement of professional knowledge and evidence-based decision-making practices within the realm of Eastern European foreign policy and security.						X		X	X	X

Map of the program's mandatory courses and program learning outcomes

№	Subject	Course Status		Program learning outcomes									
				(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)
1.	Modern Political History of Eastern Europe	I	D	+	+								
2.	Political Systems of the Eastern European States	I	D	+	+	+	+						
3.	Political Economy of Eastern Europe	D		+	+		+	+					
4.	Foreign Policy of Eastern Europe: Modern Discussions	D		+	+		+	+			+		
5.	Military Readiness: Concepts, Choices, Consequences	D		+		+		+		+	+	+	
6.	Great Power Foreign Policy and Eastern Europe	D		+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	
7.	Russia's Foreign Policy and Security of Eastern Europe	D	P	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	
8.	"Gray Zones" and International Security Challenges in Eastern Europe	D	P	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	
9.	National Security and Defense Policy and Management	D	P	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	
10.	Academic Writing for Master's Students	D							+		+		+
11.	Qualitative Research Methods	D						+	+				+

12.	Quantitative Research Methods and Data Analysis using SPSS	D						+	+				+
13.	Master's Thesis	P	M	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Course Status

I – Introductory courses	D - Developing courses	P - Practical courses	M- Mastery courses

Map of learning outcomes for the program's mandatory and elective courses

№	Module/Subject	Competencies		
		Knowledge and Understanding	Skills	Responsibility and Autonomy
	Compulsory educational courses in the main field of study			
1.	Modern Political History of Eastern Europe	+	+	
2.	Political Systems of the Eastern European States	+	+	
3.	Political Economy of Eastern Europe	+	+	
4.	Foreign Policy of Eastern Europe: Modern Discussions	+	+	
5.	Military Readiness: Concepts, Choices, Consequences	+	+	+
6.	Russia's Foreign Policy and Security of Eastern Europe	+	+	+
7.	Great Power Foreign Policy and Eastern Europe	+	+	+
8.	"Gray Zones" and International Security Challenges in Eastern Europe	+	+	+
9.	National Security and Defense Policy and Management	+	+	+
10.	Academic Writing for Master's Students	+	+	+
11.	Qualitative Research Methods	+	+	+
12.	Quantitative Research Methods and Data Analysis using SPSS	+	+	+
13.	Master's Thesis	+	+	+
	Elective educational courses in the main field of study			

14.	Terrorism and Counterterrorism	+	+	
15.	Conflicts in Eastern Europe	+	+	
16.	Cybersecurity in the Context of Eastern European Security	+	+	
17.	Strategic Communication in the Context of Foreign Policy and National Security	+	+	
18.	Military Strategy and Campaign Planning in the Eastern Europe Security Context	+	+	+
19.	EU Association Agreement and European Integration	+	+	
20.	Ethnic Minorities and State Policy in Post-Soviet Georgia	+	+	
21.	Interest Groups and Lobbying	+	+	
22.	Georgian State Structure	+	+	
23.	Eastern Europe and Energy Security	+	+	
24.	Georgia-EU Trade and Economic Relations	+	+	+
25.	Public Finance and the Security Sector	+	+	
26.	Political Islam and the Modern World	+	+	+