



**ASERI**  
ALTA SCUOLA DI ECONOMIA  
E RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI

Master's Course in

# Middle Eastern Studies

January-December 2015

**Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore**

ASERI-Graduate School of Economics and International Relations

Via San Vittore, 18 - Milan, Italy

Master  
2014 - 2015



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

# MIMES - Master in Middle Eastern Studies

## Overview

This new Master is specifically tailored for graduates of various disciplines and backgrounds, who are interested in obtaining a better knowledge of the Middle East region, taking into account its social-historical complexity and cultural plurality. The program aims to offer solid historical, political and institutional perspectives of the current domestic, regional and international dynamics affecting the stability of the region, as well as a critical outlook on current debates over the Middle East.

Renowned professors from the Middle East and from other countries are part of its distinguished international Faculty, whose members have generally a long experience as field-researchers or *in situ* professionals.

## Goals

This innovative program aims to guide the students across this diverse and fascinating region, which, since decades, is at the core of the geostrategic interest of the international system. The program mainly focuses on the contemporary period, through a multi-disciplinary approach ranging over international relations, geopolitics, conflicts and security, economy and energy. Nonetheless, specific sections are devoted to the analysis of the historical and religious foundations of the modern Middle East, from the birth of Islam to the evolution of Islamic thought, law and economy. MIMES analyses in details infra-regions and inter-regions peculiarities and relations, from Maghreb to Central-Southern Asia, encouraging a comparative and holistic area studies approach.

## The ASERI difference

### *ASERI*

The Graduate School of Economics and International Relations combines quality courses with strong connections to the business world. Courses are taught by academic professors, business professionals and leaders from all over the world.

### *A center of excellence*

Since its foundation in 1995, ASERI, a center of excellence, has and continues to respond to students' needs and exposes them to a rewarding learning environment. Additionally, strong collaboration between students, faculty and professionals opens doors of opportunities and creates a valuable network which is fundamental in the professional world.

### *Innovative methods*

ASERI's high quality teaching approach provides students with a strong and functional depth to international issues and processes, as well as an in-depth scientific study of methodologies, disciplines and career training. Students also become accustomed to peer-based learning which challenges their knowledge and opinions, providing efficient dialogue.

# Placement opportunities

MIMES provides graduate students with a detailed, comprehensive knowledge of the wider Middle East, beneficial to undertake a number of different careers, consistently with their previous training and experience, within international institutions, private companies, NGOs, research centers and area studies, media networks, etc.

## Participants profile

The Master’s program is designed for:

- **Young graduates** throughout the world with a strong interest in the wider Middle East and willing to specialize their competences.
- **Persons with a professional background** who aspire to deepen their knowledge on Middle East socio-cultural peculiarities and its political-economic dynamics.

The maximum number of admitted students is limited to 25, to ensure the high quality of learning and interaction.

## Curriculum

MIMES is articulated in five complementary levels, fostering multidimensional training and cross-fertilization, integrating scientific methodologies and operative competences.

### 1<sup>st</sup> level: THE CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

|                             |                            |  |                         |  |   |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|
| Methodological introduction | History of the Middle East | Religion, society and thought in the Islamic Middle East | Islamic law and economy | Political and juridical terminology-glossary in Arabic | Middle East within the 20 <sup>th</sup> century international order |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|

### 2<sup>nd</sup> level: SUB-REGIONAL CONTEXTS

|         |         |                    |                              |                       |
|---------|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Maghreb | Mashreq | Sub-Saharan Africa | South-West Asia and the Gulf | Central-Southern Asia |
|---------|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|

### 3<sup>rd</sup> level: THEMATIC AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

|                                      |                 |   |  |                                     |                              |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Politics in contemporary Middle East | Global security | Institution-building and human security | Gender, ethno-religious diversity and pluralism in the Middle East | Energy and geopolitics of resources | Contemporary economic trends |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|

### 4<sup>th</sup> level

|                  |
|------------------|
| RESEARCH PROJECT |
|------------------|

### 5<sup>th</sup> level

|            |
|------------|
| INTERNSHIP |
|------------|

### *1<sup>st</sup> Level. Propaedeutic Phase: history, power and institution. The conceptual foundation of the Middle East*

The first level provides students of different academic backgrounds with a broad knowledge of the Middle East, the rise of Islam and its characteristic, and with an accurate analysis of the historical evolution of the region and its role within the international system. A dedicated course will offer a linguistic analysis of the political and juridical terminology and a glossary in Arabic.

- Methodological premise: discourse and debate on the Middle East
- History of the Middle East
- Religion, society and thought in the Islamic Middle East
- Islamic law and economy
- Study of political and juridical terminology glossary in Arabic
- Middle East within the 20<sup>th</sup> century international order

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Level. In-depth Analytical Phase: sub-regional contexts*

Students, during the second level, acquire a detailed knowledge of different sub-regions of the wider Middle East, focusing on their peculiarities and connections with regional and international geopolitical trends. The program encourages the adoption of a comparative methodology, emphasizing the conceptual dichotomy continuity/change, within an historical-political narrative.

- Maghreb
- Mashreq
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South-West Asia and the Gulf
- Central-Southern Asia

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Level. Thematic and Contemporary Issues*

During the final class term, the program offers a wide portfolio of specializing courses on the most relevant political, geoeconomic and security events and dynamics contributing to the current Middle Eastern unbalances. The program aims to underline in particular the role of the region within the larger international system, and the lessons learnt during the post-Cold War period.

- Politics in contemporary Middle East and the current International Relations context
- Global security: jihadism, violent activism, conflicts and nuclear proliferation
- Post-conflict institution-building and human security
- Gender, ethno-religious diversity and pluralism in the Middle East
- Energy and geopolitics of resources
- Contemporary economic trends

### *4<sup>th</sup> Level. Research Project*

Students are required to develop a personal research project on an topic related to Middle Eastern affairs, under the supervision of a MIMES professor and/or a professional from a partner institution. It is suggested to connect the research project to the internship experience.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Level. Internship

The Master's program is completed with an internship in Italy or abroad within one of the ASERI partner institutions or other entities whose mission and activities are consistent with the Master's program. This gives the student the invaluable opportunity to test and strengthen the competencies acquired during the Master's program. As an alternative, students who do not carry out an internship may choose to attend an Arabic language course. In any case, the course will have to be positively evaluated by the Master's Direction (additional fee depending on the organizing institution may occur).

## Academic faculty

The Master in Middle Eastern Studies offers high quality training to students from all over the world. Students will take part in team projects with the guidance of important scholars and leading professionals from the Middle East as well as from Europe and the U.S.

Among the faculty members:

- Prof. Riccardo Redaelli, MIMES Director, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Prof. Martino Diez, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Prof. Wael Faruq, The American University in Cairo
- Prof. Mehran Kamrava, Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Prof. Bahgat Korany, The American University in Cairo
- Prof. Vittorio Emanuele Parsi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Prof. Mahmood Sariolghalam, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran

## Calendar

Classes will take place at the ASERI campus from January to June 2015, from Monday to Friday. During the period July-December 2015 students will have the opportunity to attend an internship (or an Arabic language course) and work on their research project.



# Final Diploma

The Master's Course (*Master universitario di I livello*) will be granted by the Università Cattolica after the achievement of at least 60 credits gained through the attendance to the Master's activities and the successful completion of all examinations.

## Tuition fees & scholarships

Tuition fee: € 7,500. The fee covers tuition, tutoring service, school's facilities and teaching material. Partial tuition fee scholarships are available. All scholarships are assigned on a merit basis and most of them will be assigned to students who apply by the priority deadlines. Some scholarships may also target specific geographic regions. Updated details on the aforementioned scholarships are available at: [www.ucscinternational.it/graduate-programs/tuition-scholarships-master](http://www.ucscinternational.it/graduate-programs/tuition-scholarships-master).

## Application deadlines

Applications will be received from February to November 1<sup>st</sup> through an ongoing process. Therefore the earlier applications have more chance of being accepted.

**Priority consideration deadline:** June 30, 2014

**Deadline 2:** September 15, 2014

**Deadline 3:** November 1, 2014

## How to apply

Applicants are required to submit an online application form along with their supporting documents.

- **Applicants with Italian nationality or academic title issued by an Italian University**

More information at the web page *How to apply* of the Master in Middle Eastern Studies (<http://aseri.unicatt.it/>).



- **International applicants**

The online application form, applications instructions, and full admission guidelines are available at [www.ucscinternational.it](http://www.ucscinternational.it).

### **Required documents**

- Copy of Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree
- Transcripts of Bachelor or Master's Degree (accepted in English, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish)
- Updated CV
- Application essay (available online at the web page *How to apply*)
- At least one academic letter of reference
- Copy of Passport

## **Entry requirements**

- Candidates for the program may have a background in Political Science, Economics, Law, Humanities, Education, Foreign Languages, Psychology, Social Science, Engineering, Nursing Science, Agronomy, Environmental Science. This Master is also open to all graduates from other faculties.
- Completion of an undergraduate degree, obtained after a minimum of 3 years of study (180 ECTS).
- The undergraduate degree must be obtained before the start of the program. ASERI will evaluate candidates' academic and personal background and decide if they meet the specific conditions for admission.

For applicants whose first language is not English, one of the following certificates will be considered a preferential requirement:

- TOEFL/IBT or Academic IELTS.
- Completed a degree program entirely taught in the English language.



# SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASERI MASTER'S STUDENTS

## Orientation

For those who are considering the opportunities for their professional future ASERI offers individual counseling services.

## Support services

ASERI has a dedicated office to follow students in their application process.

## Tutoring service

During their stay at ASERI, all Master's students benefit from:

- individual and group support during the academic activities.
- a dedicated staff to supervise their internship choice.

## Accommodation

For those who need to find an accommodation in Milan, ASERI suggests Milano International Living Service (MIL Service- [www.milservice.com](http://www.milservice.com)), a student housing company dedicated to the coordination of all aspects of apartment housing needs. Possibility to organize pick-up services from the University to the accommodation.

Program fee does not include room and board.





# Facilities

Within the ASERI building, the following facilities are available for Master's students:

- study and reading-rooms;
- a computer lab equipped with Internet connection;
- wireless network;
- a specialized library in economics and international relations;
- a conference room;
- a canteen;
- tutoring and administrative services.

As students of the Università Cattolica, ASERI students can also benefit from all the services in the University main building (Largo Gemelli):

- a big interdisciplinary library;
- computer labs;
- a canteen;
- a health service.



# UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE

Established in 1921, it operates in the fields of higher education, scientific research and permanent training. Its activity is carried out at the campuses of Milan, Brescia, Piacenza-Cremona and Rome with 12 faculties, over 1,400 Faculty members and more than 42,000 students.

Cattolica has a strong academic profile, one that is reflected by its ranking, reputation and global contacts.

The University is part of a worldwide academic network and promotes frequent scholarly exchanges for conferences and seminars. In order to promote and improve international cooperation, the Università Cattolica has joined various consortium and associations.

## ASERI, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ASERI, Graduate School of Economics and International Relations, is a unique education and research center, born to adhere as well as challenge the economic and political changes that are subsequently connected to the complex phenomena of globalization.

ASERI was founded in 1995 as a joint initiative between the Faculty of Political Science of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and the Milan Chamber of Commerce. Its students experience the new global reality through a unique combination of prestigious international Faculty, meetings with senior executives, multicultural classes, flexible modular-format English-taught courses, and international internships.

Given its expertise and multi-disciplinary nature, the ASERI approach offers a strong functional understanding of international issues and processes, as well as an in-depth scientific study of methodologies, disciplines and career training. This method prepares students to operate at a high level within international organizations, multinational companies, banking and financial institutions, as well as NGOs and supranational Public Administration.

ASERI responds to the current job market demands with a strong focus on the individual.

Students are required to make direct comparisons with theoretical topics. This compels them to form a practical and highly professional perspective.

ASERI attracts individuals from different countries and educational backgrounds, opening its doors to graduates:

- with a strong interest in the field of international studies;
- who have already started a professional career and wish to broaden their skills and knowledge in order to adapt to an international context.



## Information

**UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE**

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