



# Small-State Studies: Small States and European Integration

Faculty of Political Science



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

2017-2018

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## Small-State Studies: Small States and European Integration

The Faculty of Political Science and the Centre for Small States at the University of Iceland offer a graduate diploma (30 ECTS) in Small-State Studies with a special focus on small states in Europe.

**Aim of the diploma:** The diploma offers a detailed study of small state theories based on the literature on the state and the international system. It also emphasizes the opportunities and constraints facing small states in Europe, i.e. how they are affected by and have responded to the process of European integration, new security threats, globalization and other domestic and international challenges. Special attention is devoted to the Nordic states and their reactions to European integration. Another particular focus will be on Iceland's position - as a small state - in the international system. A detailed study of small states in Europe and internationally has never been so important. A vast majority of member states in today's European Union are most often categorised as small states, i.e. 22 states out of 28 members – and the same applies to a majority of member states of the United Nations.

**Learning outcome:** At the end of the diploma students should have a solid knowledge of the position of small European states in the international system and in the context of ongoing European integration; a clear picture of the opportunities and constraints which small states face both domestically and internationally; and an understanding of how the European small states have responded to international challenges.

**Why Reykjavik?** The Centre of Small States at the University of Iceland has already established itself as one of the main institutes in research and teaching on small states. The Centre can draw upon a network of academics from all over the globe studying in this field. The Centre has, with several European Universities, held an annual Summer School on Small States in Europe – funded by ERASMUS - since 2003. It has published a number of books and papers on small states and held conferences and seminars in Iceland and abroad.

# Small States Summer School June 18-30 2018

Centre for Small-State Studies  
University of Iceland

## Programme structure

The diploma consists of four courses in the autumn semester, starting at the end of August and running to mid December.

### Mandatory:

**STJ301M** *Small States Theory: Opportunities and Constraints of Small States in the International System.* (6 ECTS).

Supervisor: Dr. Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair.  
Sverrir Steinsson, Lecturer

**ASK101F** *European Security Institutions and Small States* (6 ECTS).

By Gustav Pétursson and Jóhanna María Þórdísardóttir, Lecturers.

**STJ303M** *The Power Potential of Small States in the European Union* (8 ECTS).

Supervisor: Dr. Baldur Thorhallsson.

### Restricted electives:

**ASK113F** *Small States and Arctic Governance* (6 ECTS). By Page Louise Wilson, Associate Professor.

**STJ312M** *Term Paper in Small States Studies* (4 ECTS). Students who wish to complete the diploma in one semester must write an extra paper in relation to the course Small States Theory: Opportunities and Constraints of Small States in the International System.

or

**STJ404M** *Small States in Europe: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach* (8 ECTS). Two week summer school hosted by the Centre for Small States in Reykjavik - taught by leading experts in the field of small states from University of Copenhagen, University of St. Andrews, University of Vilnius, Tallinn University of Technology and University of Malta.

**STJ441M** *Term Paper: Small States in Europe: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach* (2 ECTS). Students who wish to complete the diploma by taking the summer course must write an extra paper in relation to the course Small States in Europe: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach.

The director of the programme is Dr. Baldur Thorhallsson, Head of the Faculty of Political Science.

### Admission requirements:

The diploma is open to all students who have completed their undergraduate studies.

Students can apply specifically for the diploma at the University of Iceland, or take the courses as part of their 'semester abroad', as exchange students.

Students can also take individual courses from within the diploma programme, and gain the credits for these courses, without necessarily having to complete the full programme.

### Application deadlines:

International Students: 1 February.

Students from the Nordic countries and Iceland: 5 June.

Exchange students: 1 May.

**Application forms and further information can be found at:** [smallstates.hi.is](http://smallstates.hi.is)

For further information please contact the Faculty of Political Science, University of Iceland, [smallstates@hi.is](mailto:smallstates@hi.is).

## Semester abroad

"I feel like I'm learning everything there is to know about small states in the international system – a very good grounding to work from in the future!"

"The atmosphere at the University of Iceland is fantastic – friendly and very rewarding."

"The programme is very comprehensive and the level of studies is high."

"The calibre and quality of the instruction is world class."

"The professors really encourage you to take an active role in the engaging discussion about the role of small states and other actors in contemporary politics."

"Living in Iceland has been a unique and unforgettable experience."

