SMALL-STATE STUDIES
SMALL STATES AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
SMALL-STATE STUDIES: Small States and European Integration

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

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 – 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 REYKJAVÍK?

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.

Programme structure

MANDATORY

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

Supervisor: Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair.

ASK101F European Security Institutions and Small States (6 ECTS).
Lecturer: Jóhanna María Þórdísardóttir.

STJ303M The Power Potential of Small States in the European Union (8 ECTS).
Supervisor: Baldur Thorhallsson Professor.
Lecturers: Tómas Joensen, Researcher at the Centre for Small-States Studies, and Maria Strömvik, senior lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Lund University.

RESTRICTED ELECTIVES:

ASK113F Small States and Arctic Governance (6 ECTS).
Lecturer: 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

STJ405F Small States in Europe: Towards 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. (Might not be taught summer 2019)

Applications

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. March / 1. May EEA citizens

Online application forms and further information can be found at: smallstates.hi.is

The director of the programme is Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor of Political Science. Website: http://uni.hi.is/baldurt/

For further information please contact the Faculty of Political Science, University of Iceland, smallstates@hi.is.