



RESEARCH PAPER IN HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Activity in lieu of internship - 6 Credits

As an alternative to an internship and/or for those who have difficulties finding an internship post in the current situation, World Politics and International Relations is offering the students the option of writing, submitting and presenting a research paper. This Research Paper option is supervised by Prof. Axel Berkofsky and the paper will have to deal with a topic covered within the course *History of International Relations* (Prof. Ilaria Poggiolini, Prof. Axel Berkofsky, Prof. Massimo Zaccaria). The Research Paper can therefore deal with a topic regarding the history of international relations in the Middle East & Africa, Transatlantic Relations, or Asia. As supervisor, Prof. Berkofsky will facilitate and coordinate the communication between the students and Prof. Poggiolini/Prof.Zaccaria should the topic not deal with the Cold War in East Asia.

This option, substituting an internship or training-course option, is not to be confused with the task of simply writing another student essay like those required in several existing WPIR courses (including the course in *History of International Relations*). Rather, the purpose is to go beyond essay writing and to learn something about how professional historians actually carry out, present, and defend their research.

The Research Paper should be 8,000-10,000 words long and its topic will be defined together with the supervisor. The research for the paper will have to include interview data, i.e. data obtained through interviews with academics & scholars who work on the topic in question. The paper's supervisor will help the students to identify relevant scholars and will through their contacts seek to facilitate the interviews. The number of conducted interviews should not be less than 5. Furthermore, the number of secondary sources will have to be significant and the sources – not least due to the fact that the paper will deal with the history of international relations – will have to include archive material (that is available online). The supervisors will assist the students in finding relevant archive sources.

The Research Paper will have to be presented before a committee (if necessary, online) and in addition to explaining the contents and the conclusions of the research, the student will have to explain the nature and quality of sources used for the Research Paper. The discussion of the Research Paper will be roughly one hour.