University of Tehran

Faculty of Law and Political Science

Department of Regional Studies

Middle East Studies MA Program

Graduate Prospectus
Fall 2019
University of Tehran
A Well-Known Brand
of Education in Iran and Beyond

Founded A Century Ago
About the prospectus

This prospectus is for people interested in applying for the Middle East Studies Program at the Department of Regional Studies (DRS), Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran.

The first section introduces the Faculty of Law and Political Science, including its facilities and other relevant information and provides information on how to apply for admissions to the Middle East Studies Program for fall 2019.
Welcome to DRS

For decades, the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), University of Tehran, has nurtured generation after generation of students from Iran and beyond. As one of the Middle East’s leading faculties for the DRS of political sciences, we attract talented students across the world and regional countries in particular.

Our students are taught by scholars and professors whose knowledge and expertise is called on by governments, private sectors and media in Iran and across the Middle East.

Our commitment to excellence in education, learning and research as well as objectivity in understanding developments around the world is uncompromising and lived out in practice every day in our classes, lecture theatres, libraries, etc.

Due to our valuable experience and expertise, the Department of Regional Studies (DRS) at the FLPS, is commencing a new Middle East Studies program exclusively for non-Iranian students. We think Middle East Studies needs a new approach and that regional developments should be seen from a neutral but scientific position; therefore, we can help you see the region first hand and from a methodological approach.

This however is not a one-way street. At the DRS, we continue to reach our hands outward. As we do so, we welcome diverse students who have the desire and ability to produce new insights that shift our understanding of the region around us, to join us.

Elaheh Koolaee
Professor of Regional Studies
Director
A year at UT is more than just a year of DRS at one of the most renowned universities in the Middle East. It’s a year to see Iran firsthand; a year to learn about the region up-close. But more importantly, it’s a year to make new friends and build a bridge between your community and Iran.
About the FLPS

The Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) at the University of Tehran is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in Iran. It was initially established as the School of Politics in 1899 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Later in 1926 it was joined by the school of Law (est. 1919) and in 1930 by the School of Commerce (est. 1925) and in 1934 the School of Law, Politics, and Commerce became a part of the University of Tehran as the Faculty of Law, Political Science, and Economics. After the formation of the Faculty of Economics in 1961, it was renamed as the Faculty of Law and Political Science. The Faculty is known to be the most prestigious faculty of law and political science in Iran and has trained most of the country’s prominent lawyers, judges, diplomats, and civil servants, many of whom have been very influential in the political life and the judicial system of the country. Alumni include high-ranking politicians and statesmen as well as high-profile legal scholars who have engineered the legal developments of modern Iran. The Faculty offers two undergraduate programs in Law and Political Science. Over time, it has developed graduate programs in Criminal Law and Criminology, Islamic and Civil Law, Public Law, Political Science, and International Relations. More recently, Regional Studies, Public Policy, Human Rights, Intellectual Property Rights, International Trade and Economic Law, Oil and Gas Law as well as Medical Law and Aviation Law have been added to the existing programs.

Faculty members are actively involved in teaching, research, and supervising theses and dissertations. Faculty members are also pioneers in the publication of scholarly books and articles, and are active in various legal and political research institutes affiliated with the Faculty.

The Faculty admits the most talented students at the BA, MA, LL.B., LL.M., and Ph.D. levels and prepares them for a dynamic and competitive job market.

The Middle East as a dynamic region has attracted the attention of many scholars from various disciplines for decades. Both its history and its current conditions can be regarded as a test for different sociological, political, and IR theories. Living and DRSing in an important country of the region gives one the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to firsthand understanding of the realities of the region.

Homeira Moshirzadeh
Associate Professor
Department of International Relations
Assistant Dean for International Affairs
Facilities in the FLPS

**Research Centers**
- Center for Graduate International Studies (CGIS), established in 1965
- Institute of Criminal Science and Criminology (ICSC), established in 1966
- Institute of Comparative Law (IICL), established in 1974
- Institute for Public Law Studies, established in 2006
- Center for Central Eurasian Studies, established in 2017 (Formerly Eurasia Program established in 2005)
- Public Policy Studies Institute
- Center for Energy Law Studies

**Journals**
1. Central Eurasia Studies
2. Iran and Central Eurasia Studies
3. Comparative Law Review
4. Law Quarterly
5. Political Quarterly
6. Public Law Studies Quarterly
7. Public Policy
8. Quarterly of Criminal Law and Criminology Studies

**Educational and Research Facilities**

**Libraries**
1. Main Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Books (volumes)</th>
<th>Journals (titles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>54,790</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>25,130</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>33,640</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. CGIS Library with more than 40,000 books and dozens of journal titles
3. IICL Library with more than 60,000 books and dozens of journal titles
4. UN Depository Library including thousands of UN Documents

**Auditorium**
Sheik Mortaza Ansari Hall with 250 seats
About DRS

Regional Studies academic programs have gained increasing importance in the last half-century at universities and research centers around the world. Regional Studies program, as a subdiscipline of political science, is one of the most practical programs of this field. In Iran, regional studies program was initially established in 2001 as a subfield of the International Relations program at the University of Tehran’s Faculty of Law and Political Science. In 2007, with the formation of the Department of Regional Studies, the academic program was formally and independently established. The department is the first and only regional studies department in Iran. Today the department offers Master’s and Ph.D. programs in the following four areas: Middle East and North African Studies, North American Studies, European Studies, Central Asia and Caucasian Studies; as well as a Master’s program in Southeast Asian Studies.

Iran is situated at the center of the new Middle East, while the University of Tehran, as the nation’s first and the oldest modern university over the years, ranked as one of the most prestigious universities in Middle East. A master’s degree in Middle Eastern studies focuses exclusively on West Asia and North Africa. If you’re interested in pursuing an MA in Middle East studies, then start searching online right now!

Seyed Mohammad Houshisadat
Assistant Professor, Regional Studies Department

Ph.D. Programs

- Middle East and North African Studies
- North American Studies
- European Studies
- Central Asia and Caucasian Studies

MA Programs

- Middle East Studies (in English)
- Middle East and North African Studies
- North American Studies
- European Studies
- Central Asia and Caucasian Studies
- Southeast Asian Studies
About the Middle East Studies MA Program

The MA in Middle East Studies at the Department of Regional Studies is the only program in the Iranian universities and research centers offered in English. The two-year program is exclusively for non-Iranian students who are interested in DRSing the Middle East firsthand and up-close. This program will give you access to distinguished Iranian professors and experts with diverse but systemic perspectives. The main purpose of the newly-established Middle East Studies program is to guide you in a right direction to better understand the region.

For queries or to apply for admission to the Middle East Studies Program, please contact mames.lawpol@ut.ac.ir or visit https://lawpol.ut.ac.ir/en/admission.
Professors in the Middle East Studies Program

Faculty Members

Elaheh Koolaee
Professor at the faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran. She is currently director of Department of Regional Studies (DRS), director of Center for Central Eurasia Studies and chair of the Iranian Regional Studies Association. She was a visiting professor at East Carolina University (USA) in 2012. Professor Koolaee has written many books and articles about Central Eurasia, Iran’s Foreign Policy and women issues. She was a member of Iran’s Islamic Parliament (1999-2003) leading Iran-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group and being spokesperson of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Commission.

Hamed Mousavi
Assistant professor at the Department of Regional Studies, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran. Prior to that he was an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. His research interests include international security, US foreign policy, Israeli foreign policy and Middle East politics. He is currently writing a book on the role of ideology in Israeli foreign policy. Dr. Mousavi regularly appears as a political analyst on various news channels including CNN, BBC, Aljazeera, CCTV and RT.

“Because of its global credibility, I chose the University of Tehran to continue my graduate studies. Before enrolment in the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran, I reviewed the CVs of its scholars and professors and I understood that they studied in top universities in Iran and in the world and have published valuable and highly-cited monographs and academic articles. All in all, I am quite satisfied with my decision.”

Merve Kaya (from Turkey)
PhD student in Middle East Studies
Seyed Mohammad Houshisadat
Research Scholar at the State University of New York, the United States of America, and the University of Toronto, Canada. He held his doctorate degree in Middle East Politics from the Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Durham University, England, in August 2013. He is the author of several scholarly books and academic articles both in English and Persian.

Mohammad Jamshidi
Assistant professor at the Department of Regional Studies, University of Tehran. His teachings, writings and research interest focus on U.S Foreign Policy especially regarding Middle East, U.S- Iran Relations, Iran Foreign Policy, International Security. He is now focused on a new book on US- Iran relations from Obama to Trump. He has been the director Foreign Policy at the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Parliament Research Center from 2005 to 2012. He has been a member of Iran’s nuclear negotiating team from 2010 to 2013.

Seyed Hamzeh Safavi
Assistant professor at the faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran and currently, is the deputy director of Department of Regional Studies (DRS). He holds a Ph.D. in Political Sociology and teaches PhD & M.A courses on Middle East Issues. He is a specialist in Iran’s foreign policy, the relation between Middle East countries and politics and security in the Middle East. Dr. Safavi has authored several books on the comprehensive DRS of Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and etc
Cross-Appointed Faculty Members

Homeira Moshirzadeh
Associate professor at the Department of International Relations, University of Tehran. She is currently assistant dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran. Her main scholarly interests are IR theory, theories of social movements, and Women’s Studies. She has published many books in Farsi. Some of her articles have been published in English in Security Dialogue, International Political Sociology, and the Iranian Journal of International Affairs. Her articles on IR theories, dialogue of civilizations, cultural studies, and Women’s Studies have appeared in edited volumes in Persian and English.

Saideh Lotfian
Professor of political science at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran. She is the women’s affairs adviser to the University of Tehran’s Chancellor. She has been the chair of the International Pugwash Council since 2007. She received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in political science, and taught at the University of Iowa, TCU and Boston University from 1985 to 1991. Professor Lotfian has written on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in the Middle East, security of the Persian Gulf and Central Asia, foreign and defense policies of Iran.

“As an Iraqi national, I decided to continue graduate education in Middle East Studies so that in the future I could help resolve my country’s problems and decrease tensions between Iran and Iraq, if any, through proposing practical and academic recommendations”
Masoumeh Abu-Haroun (Iraq)
MA in Middle East Studies
Farhad Atai
Professor of regional studies at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran. He held a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from UC Berkeley in 1992. Professor Atai was honorary fellow at Harvard’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies in 2000-2001. He has taught graduate courses and seminars on government and politics, history, and political economy of Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Middle East regions. His recent works include “Turkey and Iran in Post-Soviet Central Asia” (Seoul, 2016), “Soviet Cultural Legacy in Tajikistan” (Oxford, 2012) and “The Energy Factor in Iran-Turkmenistan Relations” (Oxford, 2012).

Hamid Ahmadi
Professor of political science at the University of Tehran. He got his Ph.D. in Carleton University in 1995. He has been a visiting professor of political science in Middle East technical University (METU) in Turkey (2003-2004) and a visiting professor of political science in Carleton University (2011-2012). Hamid Ahmadi’s area of studies and research includes Middle Eastern and Iranian politics. His main concentration is ethnicity, nationalism and identity.
Middle East Studies Curriculum

Core modules:

• Research & Method in Regional Studies;
• Theories of International Relations, Globalization, & Regionalism;
• International Politics;
• International Political Economy;
• History of Socio-Political Development in the Middle East and North Africa;
• Government and Politics in the Middle East and North Africa;
• The Middle East and North Africa Economic Issues;
• Elementary Arabic;
• Dissertation.

Six Options (may include the following):

• Relations between Iran and Middle Eastern and North African Countries;
• Energy and Natural Resources Economics in the Middle East;
• Regional Organizations of the Middle East and North Africa;
• Culture, Nationality, and Identity in the Middle East and North Africa;
• Middle Eastern and North African Security Environment;
• The Political Geography of the Middle East and North Africa;
• Seminar on the Current Developments of the Middle East and North Africa;
• Advanced Arabic Language;

MA student in La “The University of Tehran enjoys high prestige and standards and its certificates and degrees are valid in other universities across the world. Usually, Iran’s top and distinguished scholars in political science and international relations are teaching at the Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran. As far as I know, the UT’s syllabi and teaching methods are more up-to-date compared to other Iranian universities.”

Ahmad Haroun Najm-Pour
(Afghanistan)
PhD candidate in International Relations
Entry Requirements

- A filled out application form
- This program is only offered to non-Iranian candidates under the age of 45.
- A detailed letter of motivation (no longer than 1000 words)
- Scanned copy of passport
- Scanned copy of previous academic certificate(s)
- Scanned copy of academic transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation from previous lecturers attesting to the applicant's qualifications (the letters must be sent directly to the program director by email)
- A curriculum vitae, including detailed information about previous educations as well as academic publications or work experience (if any)
- Students for whom English is not their first language must have at least IELTS 6.5 or equivalent in English
- A recent colour photo (scanned and small-sized)
- Any additional supporting material that you may prefer to include in your application
Contact

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