

Development Strategy of the Department of Political Science and International Relations

(2025–2030)

I. Introduction

This document outlines the development priorities of the Department of Political Science and International Relations for the period of 2025–2030. The department currently offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in the following disciplines:

- Political Science
- International Relations
- Regional Studies

The main objective of this strategy is to improve the quality of teaching, strengthen scientific research activity, better prepare students for the labor market, and promote international academic integration.

II. Strategic Development Areas

1. Enhancement of Teaching Quality

- **Proposed updates to course content:** Inclusion of subjects aligned with labor market demands (e.g., analytical skills, research methodology, statistical software, academic writing and presentation skills).
- **Diversified teaching methods:** Expansion of seminar-style, analytical discussion, presentation, and case study sessions.
- **Language proficiency:** Implementation of additional training programs aimed at strengthening students' academic English (including terminology and writing).

2. Expansion of Research Activity

- **Research encouragement:** Support for faculty and graduate students to publish in local and international academic journals.
- **Scientific events:** Organization of regular seminars and conferences at the departmental and faculty level.
- **Strengthening Student Scientific Societies:** Engagement of students in basic research projects under the guidance of academic staff.

3. Capacity Building of Academic Staff

- **Development of early-career academics:** Transparent selection and motivation mechanisms to attract promising graduates from master's and doctoral programs into academia.
- **Professional development:** Annual participation of faculty in capacity-building and pedagogical training programs.
- **Increase in academic qualification levels:** Encouragement of advanced academic degrees among teaching staff.

4. International Relations and Academic Collaboration

- **Institutional partnerships:** Establishing cooperation agreements with regional universities and research institutions.
- **Mobility programs:** Facilitating participation in programs such as Erasmus+ and Mevlana through collaboration with university administration.
- **Virtual academic activities:** Promoting faculty and student participation in online webinars and international conferences.

5. Internships and Career Preparation

- **Professional placements:** Expanding internship opportunities with institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local municipalities, NGOs, and think tanks.
- **Career support:** Organizing workshops on CV writing, interview techniques, and career planning.
- **Graduate tracking:** Establishing a feedback mechanism through analysis of graduate career paths.

6. Digital Infrastructure and Educational Resources

- **Expansion of digital resources:** Uploading and managing educational content on platforms such as Moodle or Google Classroom.
- **Access to academic databases:** Providing students and faculty with access to scholarly databases (e.g., JSTOR, Scopus, EBSCO).
- **ICT training:** Offering training on research software and tools (SPSS, Zotero, MS Excel, NVivo).

III. Monitoring and Evaluation

At the end of each academic year:

- Student satisfaction surveys on teaching quality will be conducted.
- Publication and research project statistics will be compiled.
- Participation of faculty in professional development will be assessed.
- Employment outcomes of graduates will be analyzed in collaboration with the university's Career Center.

IV. Conclusion

This strategy has been developed based on the department's existing capabilities and current academic challenges. Its implementation is expected to result in:

- More content-rich and practice-oriented degree programs,
- A more research-active academic staff,
- Graduates equipped with relevant knowledge and practical skills,
- Realization of both domestic and international collaboration opportunities.

Development Concept of the Department of Political Science and International Relations

School of Political and Social Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Elnara Ghazizadeh	full-time faculty member	<p>1. Teaching Activities Alignment of course content with international academic and professional trends</p> <p>Implementation of innovative methods such as debate-based classes and case study analysis</p> <p>2. Research Activities Preparation of articles for publication in Scopus and Web of Science-indexed journals</p> <p>Application for scientific grants and participation in international research projects</p> <p>3. Student Engagement Encouraging publication activity among students under academic supervision</p> <p>Moderating and coordinating student scientific societies</p> <p>4. Professional Development Participation in international methodological training programs</p> <p>Enhancement of teaching through academic writing techniques and integration of digital tools</p>
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<p>Assoc. Prof. Adil Rail Safiyev</p>	<p>full-time faculty member</p>	<p>Research and Academic Activity Summary</p> <p>1. Regional Integrations in the Eurasian Space</p> <p>Research Topic: Regional integration models including the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), with a focus on Eurasia</p> <p>Research Period: 2021–2025</p> <p>Academic Engagement: Annual lectures at the University of Applied Sciences, Vienna</p> <p>Planned Publication: Academic article to be submitted in 2025</p> <p>2. Political Relations between Russia and Azerbaijan (Historical and Contemporary Perspectives)</p> <p>Focus: Bilateral political dynamics in both historical context and modern developments</p> <p>Recent Publication:</p> <p>Russian Analytical Digest, 2024 (peer-reviewed article)</p>
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Senior Lecturer Sabina Afer Manafova	full-time faculty member	<p>1. Teaching Activities Enhancement of courses on International Organizations (particularly the UN and specialized agencies)</p>

		<p>Development of interdisciplinary modules based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (e.g., “Social Policy in International Relations”)</p> <p>Organization of simulation exercises with students (e.g., UN Model, Human Rights Tribunal, etc.)</p> <p>2. Research Activities Research on the political impact of UN regional projects (especially in the South Caucasus and CIS regions)</p> <p>Preparation of analytical articles on social justice, women’s rights, sustainable development, and inclusivity</p> <p>Initiative for a scientific paper or monograph on “International Organizations and Social Transformation”</p> <p>3. International Cooperation Establishing cooperation with the UN Office in Baku, UNDP, UNICEF, and other relevant agencies</p> <p>Participation in joint projects with foreign universities, particularly in the fields of social policy and gender studies</p>
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		<p>Exploring opportunities for Erasmus+ exchanges in the field of social political science and related training programs</p> <p>4. Student Engagement Organizing a Young UN Volunteers Program or Social Change Club</p> <p>Supporting student involvement in international social projects and participation in internship programs</p> <p>Conducting scientific seminars on political analysis and public participation with students</p> <p>5. Professional Development Attending online courses and webinars organized by the UN and other international organizations (e.g., UN SDG Academy, UNITAR)</p> <p>Developing new courses such as “Social Political Science”, “Global Welfare Systems”, and “Gender Approaches in Diplomacy”</p> <p>Participating as an expert in open lectures and public discussions</p>
Elkhan Rahimov Rahim	full-time faculty member	1. Teaching Activities

		<p>Development of new course modules on Global Politics and Strategic Studies</p> <p>Implementation of interactive discussion formats with students</p> <p>2. Research Activities</p> <p>Deepening research on Caucasus and Central Asian politics</p> <p>Publication of research in international academic journals</p> <p>3. International Cooperation</p> <p>Establishing connections with specialized centers in the region</p> <p>4. Student Engagement</p> <p>Organization of training sessions and seminar-based classes</p>
Prof. Fikret Yaqub Sadikhov	full-time faculty member	<p>1. Teaching Activities</p> <p>Enhancement and/or restructuring of the course titled "Modern Diplomacy"</p>

		<p>Conducting classes based on real diplomatic experiences (examples from multi-year practice and diplomatic analysis)</p> <p>Providing practical examples and analysis of regional diplomatic events in Diplomacy and International Protocol courses</p> <p>2. Research Activities</p> <p>Preparation of scientific papers on the role of "soft power", multilateralism, and strategic communication in modern diplomacy</p> <p>Analytical reviews and conference presentations on "Diplomatic Strategies in Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy"</p> <p>Development of methodological papers on diplomatic analysis methods for young researchers</p>
Aida Magomedova-İnzibati işçi	Administrative Staff	<p>1. Teaching Activities</p> <p>Teaching of Geopolitics and Political Science with a focus on practical aspects</p>

		<p>Integration of contemporary political trends into the curriculum: enriching the courses with topics such as e-politics, social media, and politics</p> <p>Implementation of debate-based teaching methods and discussion forums with students</p> <p>2. Research Activities</p> <p>Preparation of scientific papers on the transformation of political ideologies and their impact on modern societies</p> <p>Conducting research on Political Culture and Civic Engagement</p> <p>Participation in local and international projects related to political awareness and the development of civil society</p> <p>3. Student Engagement</p> <p>Support and moderation of student debate clubs</p> <p>Preparation of teaching videos and interactive materials for political science courses</p>
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		<p>4. Professional Development</p> <p>Participation in online courses on Geopolitics and Civil Society</p> <p>Application of modern teaching technologies (e.g., LMS, interactive tests, etc.)</p>
Aytən Heydərli	Administrative Staff	<p>1. Teaching Activities</p> <p>Teaching of Geopolitics and Political Science with a focus on practical aspects</p> <p>Integration of contemporary political trends into the curriculum: enriching the courses with topics such as e-politics, social media, and politics</p> <p>Implementation of debate-based teaching methods and discussion forums with students</p> <p>2. Research Activities</p> <p>Preparation of scientific papers on the transformation of political ideologies and their impact on modern societies</p> <p>Conducting research on Political Culture and Civic Engagement</p>

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Aleksandr Nezdyurov	full-time faculty member	<p>Student Engagement</p> <p>Support and moderation of student debate clubs</p> <p>Organization of training sessions and seminar-based classes</p>