



BA-IR Admission Requirements¹

Age

There is no upper age limit to studying at the Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations (GSD). We recommend that you are at least 17 years old by 20 September in the year you begin your studies. International students who are under 18 at the start of their studies are required to provide details of a guardian/parent/carer who is to be your legal guardian for the duration of your studies at GSD.

GCE/GCSE

We have based our minimum entry requirements on the assumption that most schools and colleges will offer students at least four AS levels in Year 12 with three continued to A2 in Year 13. The minimum requirements are:

- five passes at GCSE grade C or above, including English Language or Use of English (IGCSE English as a Second Language, grade B), and at least two subjects at A level or
- three passes at GCE A level and a pass at grade C or above in GCSE English Language or Use of English.

Offers are normally based on the best 3.0 A level equivalents of achievement at Level 3 (A level equivalent). You must have a minimum of two A level equivalents at Level 3 in two subjects (i.e. two A2 levels or one vocational double award). We do not accept four AS levels as meeting our matriculation requirement and the University only counts subjects at one level.

We do not make unconditional offers on the basis of AS level grades alone. We base offers on a combination of GCSE/AS/VCE A level/A level/other qualifications or predicted grades, your personal statement and reference.

1. BA-IR admission requirements prepared by Jon-Hans Coetzer as part of GSD's OAQ Accreditation requirements. (Art 16 of the Guidelines of the Swiss University Conference for Academic Accreditation in Switzerland).

Subjects accepted for the General Entry Requirement

- GSD generally accepts any A or AS level syllabus approved by the AQA, OCR and EDEXCEL and CIE awarding bodies, though we regard some subjects as more suitable than others.
- We do not accept the more vocational subjects if offered as one of only two A level passes.
- We count subjects with a significant overlap as one subject.
- We may accept two mathematical subjects at the same level provided that the course syllabuses were substantially different, for example, a combination of Pure and Applied Mathematics or of Mathematics and Further Mathematics. We will accept papers in Mathematics and Further Mathematics set on the SMP syllabus. A level 'Use of Mathematics' is not accepted by some degree subjects as meeting requirements for a specific grade in A level Mathematics.
- We may take into consideration passes at Level 3 key skills in Communication and IT where you cannot meet the matriculation requirements for English and Maths at GCSE level.

GCE A level double award

- A level double award (two A level equivalents) and a pass in an approved English language qualification.

BTEC/OCR

- BTEC National Diploma (18 units) or Certificate (12 units) or OCR National Diploma (12 units) or Extended National Diploma (18 units) and a pass in an approved English language qualification.
- Higher National Diploma or Certificate and a pass in an approved English language qualification.

Access/foundation courses

All access applicants are considered individually. Candidates will be required to obtain/pass the overall Access to Higher Education Diploma and may also be required to obtain a proportion of the total level 3 credits and/or credits in particular subjects at merit grade or above. Please check with GSD before you apply that we will accept the Access/foundation syllabus you took.

New 14 to 19 Diploma qualifications (UK)

GSD welcomes the introduction of the new 14-19 Diploma qualifications. We will consider Diploma applicants for admission on a case-by-case basis where appropriate subjects have been taken.

International Baccalaureate Diploma

GSD welcomes applications from prospective students offering the full IB Diploma based on 33 points. We make offers solely on the basis of the IB marking scheme and not the UCAS tariff. Students offering a combination of IB certificates and other qualifications, such as A Levels or Advanced Placement Tests, will also be considered on their individual merits and should contact the Recruitment and Admissions Office for additional guidance.

Other qualifications

We are happy to consider other qualifications on a case-by-case basis, including the following qualifications, provided they reach a satisfactory standard and include a pass in English at the equivalent of GCSE:

- Scottish (SQA) higher/advanced higher qualifications
- Irish Leaving Certificate
- European Baccalaureate Diploma
- Certificate in Education
- University degree
- Advanced International Certificate of Education
- Advanced Placement (AP) – a minimum of two full APs is required
- Overseas certificates (including some other European Union countries)
- Higher School Certificate of Matriculation of approved overseas and EU authorities
- American High School Diplomas if accompanied by two full AP passes.

In addition, international students can also qualify with the following:

- School Certificates and Higher School Certificates awarded by a body approved by the University
- Subsidiary level credit or pass = pass at GCSE
- Higher School Certificate pass = pass at A level
- matriculation from an approved university, with a pass in English Language at GCSE/O level or an equivalent level in an approved English language test
- passing one of Kent's foundation programmes, provided that you meet the subject requirements for the degree course you intend to study
- an examination pass accepted as equivalent to any of the above.