



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

Strategic Studies Programme 2012

Master of Strategic Studies Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Strategic Studies

Victoria University's postgraduate programme in Strategic Studies is designed to offer students a deep understanding of today's leading strategic issues in their global, regional and New Zealand contexts. It is therefore suitable for individuals who are seeking to gain and build policy, analytical and research careers in many fields.

From 2012, the teaching of the Master of Strategic Studies, and the Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate in Strategic Studies takes place in the School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, the new home for the Centre for Strategic Studies.

Three postgraduate Strategic Studies qualifications are based around a series of 30-point courses which draw on the expertise of the Centre for Strategic Studies and which complement the offerings available in Political Science and International Relations. These 30-point STRA courses are taught in two main face-to-face forms of delivery: some courses are taught on a weekly basis in the evening and others are taught over a single week (with assignments due later in the given trimester). In 2012 two new Special Topics have been added to the curriculum: Civil-Military Relations (STRA 534) and Allies and Adversaries: Understanding Strategic Relationships (STRA 536). These accompany the core course in Strategic Studies (STRA 531) and the very popular Special Topic in Strategic Intelligence (STRA 535).

In addition to these 30-point STRA courses, and selected International Relations (INTP) 400-level courses, students are strongly encouraged to enrol in 15-point 500-level courses offered by the School of Government which emphasise a broader approach to strategy, and which are taught in modular format. Please see the listing of eligible courses below.

The total point requirements of the three qualifications offered in Strategic Studies remain unchanged (see below). Existing students who completed courses towards these qualifications (including 15-point STRA courses) before the change to 30-point courses in 2011 will still be able to count these earlier courses.

Admission

The standard entry requirements into these three programmes are a New Zealand Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent (including corresponding overseas qualifications) and at least two years' relevant work experience. The latter requirement may be waived by the Head of School, including for students with Honours-level qualifications. Potential applicants are invited in the first instance to contact Professor Robert Ayson (see contact details below) if they are unsure whether they will be eligible for admission. Some applicants may be advised to enter the Postgraduate Diploma in the first instance before proceeding to the Master of Strategic Studies (see the note below on Staircasing). The student body in Strategic Studies at Victoria is diverse, from recent Bachelors

and Honours graduates from universities to Defence Force Staff College graduates and experienced public servants so please do get in touch if you are interested.

Enrolment Applications

To enrol, go to our Online Enrolment System at <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz/oes/> . Fill out an application and submit all the required supporting documentation. Key dates are:

- Online Enrolment System opens for 2012 study: **1 October 2011**
- Application deadline for Limited Entry courses: **10 December 2011**
- Application deadline for all other courses and programmes: **10 January 2012**
- Trimester 1 begins: **5 March 2012**
- Trimester 2 begins: **16 July 2012**

Qualifications

1. Postgraduate Certificate in Strategic Studies (PGCertSS) – 60 points

Full-time students usually complete this qualification in one trimester, while part-time students usually complete in two consecutive trimesters over a single year. A student shall normally complete the PGCertSS within two years of first enrolling in it.

Part 1: STRA 531 (or STRA 501, 502)

Part 2: at least 30 points from STRA 532-589 (or 503-512, 522-525)

With the approval of the Head of School, up to 30 points may be substituted in Part 2 with postgraduate courses in Public Policy, Public Management and International Relations, or other approved subject areas taken at this or another university and not credited to another qualification.

2. Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Studies (PGDipSS) – 120 points

Full-time students usually complete this qualification in two consecutive trimesters over a single year, while part-time students usually complete in four consecutive trimesters over two years. A student shall normally complete the PGDipSS within three years of first enrolling in either the PGCertSS or PGDipSS.

Part 1: STRA 531 (or STRA 501, 502)

Part 2: at least 90-points from STRA 532-589 (or 503-512, 522–525)

With the approval of the Head of School, up to 60 points may be substituted in Part 2 with postgraduate courses in Public Policy, Public Management and International Relations, or other approved subject areas taken at this or another university and not credited to another qualification.

3. Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) – 180 points

Full-time students usually complete this qualification in three to four trimesters over one and a half to two years, while part-time students usually complete in six consecutive trimesters over three years. A student shall normally complete the MSS within two years (extend pro rata up to four years for part-time students) of first enrolling in it. Students may take up to 60 points of approved courses of supervised research (Research Essay, Project and Dissertation).

Part 1: STRA 531 (or STRA 501, 502)

Part 2: 150 further points from STRA 500 – 589 (or 503 –514, 521 – 525)

With the approval of the Head of School, up to 60 points may be substituted in Part 2 with postgraduate courses in Public Policy, Public Management and International Relations, or other approved subject areas taken at this or another university and not credited to another qualification.

Note: A student intending to progress to a PhD should consider including a course[s] from STRA 519, 526, 527 (see also p.4 of this document).

A student who has completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Defence and Strategic Studies at Massey University will be credited with STRA 531 and 90 STRA 500-level points and may complete the MSS with 60 further points from STRA 501-589 (or 503-514, 521-525)

Courses Offered in 2012

Course Code	Course Title	Points Value	Trimester	Class Details	Campus	Coordinator
STRA 531	Strategic Studies [core course]	30	1	Weekly: Mondays, 1740-2030	Pipitea	Prof Robert Ayson
STRA 534	Special Topic: Civil-Military Relations	30	1	Intensive: Monday 26 – Friday 30 March 0900-1700 (assignments due later in trimester)	Pipitea	Asia-Pacific Civil Military Centre of Excellence: Drs David Hyndman & Jim Rolfe
STRA 535	Special Topic: Strategic Intelligence	30	2	Intensive: Monday 13-Friday 17 August 0900-1700 (assignments due later in trimester)	Pipitea	Prof Robert Ayson
STRA 536	Special Topic: Allies and Adversaries: Understanding Strategic Relationships [new course under approval]	30	2	Weekly: Thursday, 1740-2030	Pipitea	TBA: (c/-Prof Robert Ayson)
INTP 442	Armed Conflict and Human Security in the Asia-Pacific Region [limited entry: early enrolment]	30	1+2	Weekly: Thursday 1000-1150	Kelburn	Dr Marc Lanteigne
MMPM 533	Special Topic: Strategic Analysis	15	1	Modular: Thursday 23 February + Thursday 19 April + Thursday 14 June 0830-1800	Pipitea	Dr Lance Beath
MMPM 534	Strategic Thinking	15	2	Modular: Tuesday 10 July + Tuesday 28 August + Tuesday 23 October 0830-1800	Pipitea	Dr Lance Beath
STRA 519	Research Essay	30	1+2 OR 2+3 OR 3+1	Supervised research course for MSS only	N/A	Prof Robert Ayson
STRA 527	Project	30	1+2 OR	Supervised research	N/A	Prof Robert Ayson

			2+3 OR 3+1	course for MSS only		
STRA 526	Dissertation	60	1+2+3 OR 2+3+1	Supervised research course for MSS only	N/A	Prof Robert Ayson

Important Notes

Staircasing

Staircasing allows students to progress through the Strategic Studies programme by studying for the PGCertSS, then the PGDipSS, then the MSS. When a qualification is awarded, the previous qualification is 'abandoned' in favour of the higher qualification. This option is particularly recommended for part-time students who may be unsure of their longer-term plans. Of course, if you know what your plans are, you can enrol directly into your desired qualification (i.e. enrol straight into the PGDipSS or MSS).

Substitute Courses

With the permission of the Head of School, a candidate may replace up to 60 points worth of optional courses in Part 2 with postgraduate courses in Public Policy, Public Management and International Relations, or other approved subject areas taken at this or another university and not credited to another qualification.

Exemptions

The School may exempt from any Part 1 course a candidate who has mastered the material covered in that course through previous study and/or practical experience. Credit may be awarded where the previous study involved postgraduate courses not credited to a completed qualification; otherwise, the candidate shall replace exempted courses with approved elective of equivalent points value. See also Massey Diploma under point 3 above.

Supervised Research Courses

Before enrolling into research courses (STRA 519, 526 or 527), MSS students shall normally have completed 120 points or be concurrently enrolled to do so. Students should discuss their research options with Professor Robert Ayson and are especially encouraged to consider topics of interest to the Centre for Strategic Studies. Those considering the possibility of proceeding to doctoral level study or a research Master's are advised to complete a research course.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are charged on a per course basis in terms of the number of points and the price for each point. Fees for each course are displayed on the Victoria University online course catalogue: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue.aspx> and search for Strategic Studies (STRA) courses. Please note that all students are also required to pay compulsory student fees as determined each year. Please note that per-point fees for STRA, INTP and MMPM courses are set at different levels.

Further Information

For further information, please contact:

- Professor Robert Ayson, Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies
Email: robert.ayson@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 6445
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Student and Academic Services Office
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