



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

Strategic Studies Programme 2013

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. It attracts a diverse student body from those who have recently completed university study in a range of areas studying on a full-time basis to early and mid-career professionals from a range of organisations studying on a part-time basis.

Since the start of the 2012 academic year the teaching of the Master of Strategic Studies, and the Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate in Strategic Studies has been taking place in the School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, the new home for the Centre for Strategic Studies. Students undertaking Strategic Studies in 2013 will notice they have a wider range of relevant courses to choose from reflecting the shared interests in the study of questions of security amongst scholars in both International Relations and Strategic Studies within the School.

All three postgraduate Strategic Studies qualifications feature a series of 30-point courses which draw on the expertise of the Centre for Strategic Studies (designated as 'STRA' prefixed courses). Students are also able to undertake a number of points from offerings in International Relations (designated as 'INTP' prefixed courses) and elsewhere, including relevant 15-point courses available in the university's School of Government. (See Qualifications and Important Notes below for substitution details.)

The 30-point STRA and INTP courses are taught on a weekly basis in either in the evening or during the day. All of the STRA courses and a number of the INTP courses are offered in a single trimester and some INTP courses are offered over the full academic year (both trimester one and two). Students should wherever possible seek to maintain an even spread of course load across the academic year: normally on average 60 points per trimester for full-time students, and up to 30 points per trimester for part-time students.

Existing students who have completed courses towards Victoria Strategic Studies qualifications before the change to 30-point courses in 2011 will still be able to count these earlier 15-point STRA courses towards their qualifications. Students undertaking the 180-point Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) degree continue to be

able to select supervised research courses as part of their studies, including the 30-point Research Essay (STRA 519) and, given a B+ average in their MSS studies to that point, the 60-point Dissertation.

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, double degrees and postgraduate diplomas in other subjects.

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).

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 2013 study: **1 October 2012**
- Application deadline for Limited Entry courses: **10 December 2013**
- Application deadline for all other courses and programmes: **10 January 2013**
- Trimester 1 begins: **4 March 2013**
- Trimester 2 begins: **15 July 2013**

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 or 527.

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 and Recommended in 2013

Course Code	Course Title	Points Value	Trimester	Class Details	Campus	Coordinator
STRA 531	Strategic Studies	30	1	Weekly: Tuesdays, 1740-2030	Pipitea	Prof Robert Ayson
STRA 534	Special Topic: Interventions: Wars, Disasters and Other Crises	30	1	Weekly: Thursdays, 1710-2000	Kelburn	Dr Jim Rolfe
STRA 535	Special Topic: The Contemporary Security Environment and New Zealand's Response	30	2	Weekly: Wednesdays, 0900-1150	Kelburn	Dr Jim Rolfe
INTP 442	Asian Security	30	2	Weekly: Wednesday, 1710-2000	Kelburn	Dr Alexander Bukh
INTP 444	China and the World	30	1	Weekly: Monday, 1310-1600	Kelburn	Prof Xiaoming Huang
INTP 451	Special Topic: New Zealand Diplomacy	30	2	Weekly: Tuesday, 1710-2000	Kelburn	Dr David Capie
INTP 452	Special Topic: Politics of Statebuilding	30	1+2	Weekly: Thursday, 1310-1500	Kelburn	Dr Jon Fraenkel
INTP 427	Special Topic: War and its Aftermath	30	1+2	Weekly: Friday, 1310-1500	Kelburn	Dr Kate Schick
MMPM 533	Special Topic: Strategic Analysis	15	1	Modular: Friday 26 April +Thursday 13 June 0830-1800	Pipitea	Dr Lance Beath
MMPM 534	Strategic Thinking	15	2	Modular: Tuesday 16 July +Tuesday 27 August +Tuesday 22 October 0830-1730	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 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 (for the MSS and Postgraduate Diploma) 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 ([not offered 2013](#))), 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 www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue 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 courses have for 2013 been brought into line with INTP fee 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
Email: fhss-enquiries@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5745