

Department of Political Science and International Relations

ANNUAL REPORT

1 September 2017 – 31 July 2018



Contents

Organization & Management	3
Study programs offered by the Department	4
Resources.....	5
Finance	6
IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources.....	7
The Curricula.....	8
Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research	16
List of Incoming & Outgoing Students	17
Research Areas and Research Groups	18
List of Publications.....	20
Student clubs	23
List of Students' Internships.....	24
Office Holders	25
Acknowledgements	26

Organization & Management

The Department of Political Science and International Relations (henceforth PIR Department) awards university degrees by providing advanced academic training to students and promotes research at the highest level. The PIR Department is a basic unit of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of Epoka University.

The mission of the PIR Department and of its study programs is to train leaders who possess all necessary skills by setting standards in academic content and quality of teaching. In this light, the PIR Department is committed to:

- equip students with the skills they need to deal with contemporary issues,
- provide advanced academic training to students, and
- promote research at the highest level.

With its existence, PIR Department sets standards: in academic organization, in content and quality of teaching, and not least in collaboration with the society. The Department provides its students with qualifications needed in the increasingly interlinked world. Department graduates find career opportunities at home and abroad in the private as well as the public sector, particularly in organizations affiliated with the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, regional inter-governmental organizations, in the ministries, in universities and the media, and in private companies. As this range of career options indicates, the Department's educational philosophy is to provide students with intellectual depth and with the necessary tools to think independently, to question and criticize, engage in collaborative work and be open-minded about alternative points of views. The PIR Department has therefore adopted an interdisciplinary perspective and a multidimensional approach to the accumulation of knowledge.

By 2022, PIR Department aims to significantly advance its student numbers and teaching, learning environment, research and management of the department. In doing so, PIR Department aspires to become a venue for the study of political science and international relations in Albania and wider in the region of Western Balkans. To achieve this vision, PIR Department commits itself to increase student numbers, maintain and increase the quality of enrolled students, internationalise student body further, strengthen the quality of teaching, learning and research, and increase the satisfaction of our students and staff.

Achievements have been made in the students, staff, networks, teaching, research, and brand/market standing. The PIR study program graduates and alumni have had good employability rate. PIR Department's staff members have grown in number and quality. New faculty members have been hired and existing lecturers with masters have obtained their doctorate degrees and a professor with doctorate degree has obtained his associate professorship.

Study programs offered by the Department

The PIR offers degrees in three study cycles, including Bachelor, Master, and PhD. The language of all study programs is in English. The studies are fully compliant programmes with the requirements of the higher education in Albania as well as with the Bologna process and European Credit Transfer System.

a. Bachelor of Science in Political Science and International Relations: Bachelor program in Political Science and International Relations is a three year English taught program. It covers the four major sub-fields in the discipline: comparative politics, international relations, political theory and Albanian politics. The program's main objective is to provide a balanced education. In addition to courses that orient them to the field, students are given the opportunity to conduct extensive research on such contemporary issues as the European Union, political economy, democratization, human rights, gender and identity politics. The program offers a wide range of elective courses in order to allow students to specialize in various areas. The program consists of 180 ECTS including the graduation project thesis or final comprehensive exam.

b. Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations: Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations offers a two year advanced academic training at the Master's level. The language of the program is in English. Some of the main modules are Academic Reading and Writing, Economic and Political Integration and EU, Nationalism and Ethnic Studies, Issues in Political Theory, Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions, Political Theories, and several other subjects included in a pool of elective courses. The last semester is devoted to thesis preparation. Master of Science programme includes 120 ECTS and runs for 2 years and it admits students who have a three-year Bachelor's degree. It includes 4 semesters with 3 semesters of study and the fourth semester for writing of the Master thesis. With the graduation, students earn Level 7 of General Qualification in accordance to the European and Albanian Qualifications Framework.

c. Professional Master in Political Science and International Relations: Professional Master in Political Science and International Relations offers one year academic training at Master's level. The language of the program is in English. The Professional Master's degree program is an interdisciplinary program of study with a concentrated time for completion in a year time. The academic program in the first and second semester includes courses on comparative politics, international relations, public administration and political theory. The second semester is also devoted to master thesis preparation. Professional Master program includes 60 ECTS. It includes two semesters, and the thesis is written in the second semester. With the graduation, students earn Level 7 of Vocational Qualification in accordance to the European and Albanian Qualifications Framework.

d. PhD in Political Science and International Relations: The aim of the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations is to prepare academicians and experts with specialized knowledge in their fields of interest. The Program urges them to develop critical thinking towards their expected works in these areas. PhD programme includes 180 ECTS and runs for at least three years. It includes at least 6 semesters with 2 semesters of study and four semesters for writing of the PhD thesis. During the first year of Ph.D., it is required to complete 6 courses (60 ECTS) and during the next two years, thesis work or final dissertation (120 ECTS) should be submitted, and this will result in the completion of a total of 180 ECTS. With the graduation, students earn Level 8 of General Qualification in accordance to the European and Albanian Qualifications Framework.

Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff:

Dr. Islam Jusufi - Head of Department

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan - Lecturer

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti - Lecturer

Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj - Lecturer

Dr. Niuton Mulleti - Lecturer

Dr. Reina Zenelaj Shehi - Lecturer

M.Sc. Jubjana Vila Zeka - Assistant Lecturer

M.Sc. Eglantina Farruku - Assistant Lecturer

Part time Academic Staff:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglantina Gishti - Lecturer

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ardiana Braja - Lecturer

M.Sc. Arian Shahini - Lecturer

Teaching assistants:

Ajsela Toci

Anisa Berisha

Sabina Gjylsheni

Jona Koprencka

Shpat Blakcori

Administrative Staff:

Ervin Sulika – acting Department Coordinator.

Finance

The PIR Department costs and expenses are funded from the tuition fees paid by the students. Income generated from tuition fees represents the largest source of funding. In terms of financial control, the institution is regularly audited each year by an external audit company.

According to the estimates of the Epoka's Finance Office, the PIR Department stands to be sustainable in terms of financing.

Management and financial issues are coordinated by the Finance Office at Epoka University.

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

The PIR Department benefits from Epoka's modern infrastructure. The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process.

For departmental activities and events, the PIR Department extensively uses the meeting rooms as well as the Conference hall which has a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used for PIR Department's social, cultural and various national and international forums and conferences.

Students and staff also benefit from IT resources as well as from Library that is very rich in terms of resources for the needs of the students and staff of PIR Department.

The Curricula

Curriculum of Bachelor of Science in Political Science and International Relations

First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 111	Introduction to Political Science	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 133	Political and Diplomatic History	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 105	Introduction to Law	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 103	Introduction to Political Sociology	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 131	Introduction to International Relations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
*ENG 107 *ENG 109	Core English Developing Reading and Writing Skills	E	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
* According to entry test APTIS proficiency level.															
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 105	Theories and Concepts of Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 135	Introduction to International Development	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 107	Historical Approaches to the Study of Politics	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 102	Political Communication	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 104	Key Themes in the History of Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 116	Constitutional Law	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 132	Introduction to International Security	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 162	Introduction to Public Administration	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
*ENG 106 *ENG 109	Advanced English Developing Reading and Writing Skills	E	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
* According to entry test APTIS proficiency level.															
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 134	International Relations in Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 108	Empire and Modern Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 164	Public and Government Relations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 136	States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Third Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 201	Research Methods in Social Sciences	C	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5

PIR 261	Government, Politics and Public Policy in Albania	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ECO 101	Introduction to Economics I	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 203	Politics and Institutions in the EU	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 205	Introduction to Comparative Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective I (Foreign Language)	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
FL 201	Turkish I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 203	German I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 205	Italian I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 207	French I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 235	Europe: Politics and Ideas	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 207	Introduction to Game Theory with Political Applications	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 263	Public Opinion Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 231	US Foreign Policy	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 233	Politics of the USA	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 202	Modern Political Thought	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 204	Politics and History of the Balkans	A	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
BAF 222	Public Finance	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 206	Parties, Elections and Policy Making	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
ECO 102	Introduction to Economics II	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective I (Foreign Language)	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
FL 202	Turkish II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 204	German II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 206	Italian II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 208	French II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 230	Ethics and International Affairs	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 208	Political Psychology	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 260	Government Administration	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Third YEAR															
Fifth Semester															

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 311	Democracy and Democratization	A	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 361	Public Policy Making and Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 333	Foreign Policy Analysis	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
XXX	Elective I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
Elective Courses															

BUS 335	Human Resources Management	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 303	Political Leadership	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 331	Theories of International Relations	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 301	Political Ideologies	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 305	Environmental Politics	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 301	Turkish III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 303	German III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 305	Italian III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 307	French III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Semestral Pool of Courses

PIR 337	Regional Development and Governance	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 335	International Organizations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 307	Information, Technology and Political Power	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Sixth Semester

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 300	Graduation Thesis	F	Compulsory	3	4	0	7	5	48	64	0	30	8	150	6
PIR 338	Diplomatic Correspondence	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 362	Public Administration in Democratic States	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	80	6	150	6
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
XXX	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	350	80	750	30

Elective Courses

PIR 304	International Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 336	Crisis Analysis and Management	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 366	State and Local Government	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 340	Global Governance	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 310	Political Behavior	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 364	Urban Policy and Politics	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 342	International Terrorism & Threat Perception	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

Curriculum of Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations

First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ENG 401	Academic Reading and Writing	E	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective III	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective IV	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				15	0	0	15	15	240	0	0	400	110	750	30

Elective Courses															
ECO 421	Development and Growth I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
ECO 433	Economic Integrations and EU	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 467	Governance and Public Management	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 423	Theories and Policies of Development Governance	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 461	Effective Management in the Public Service	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 431	World Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 463	Public Administration and Policy Process	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 465	Economics and Politics of Public Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 471	Politics of Policymaking in 'Advanced' Democracies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 473	Budgeting and Financial Management for Government	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 475	Financing Government Services	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 481	State and Local Management	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 483	Ethical Issues in Public Policy	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 462	Current Issues in International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective III	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective IV	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				15	0	0	15	15	240	0	0	400	110	750	30

Elective Courses															
BUS 426	Strategic Management	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
ECO 422	Development and Growth II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BUS 432	Advertisement Management and Creativity	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 464	Strategic Planning and Management	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 406	Political Economy of Europe	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

PIR 408	Organizations, Power and Leadership	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 410	Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches and Policy Analysis	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 430	Human Resources/ Managing People in Times of Global Change	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 466	Rural Poverty and Development	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 468	Social Analysis of Inequality, Poverty and Development	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 470	Economic Policy Analysis	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 472	Public Management: Strategy, Innovation and Delivery	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 474	Welfare Analysis and Measurement	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Third Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.		Other
AAA	Compulsory I	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
AAA	Compulsory II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective III	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
				15	0	0	12	12	240	0	0	400	110	750	30
Compulsory Course Pool															
PIR 501	Research Methods in Social Sciences	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 591	Political Theories of International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 561	Comparative Public Administration	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 567	European Public Policy	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

Elective Courses															
PIR 517	The Political Economy of Taxation	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 513	Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 515	Democracy: Theory and Practice	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 519	Politics and Markets	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 523	European Union Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 527	Political Economy of Civil War and Terrorism	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 531	Issues in the Study of Forced Migration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 535	Displacement, Refugees and Ethnic Cleansing	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 537	European Political System	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 541	Political Economy of Natural Disasters	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 545	Comparative Welfare Policy and Analysis	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 547	International Environmental Policy and Governance	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 549	Ethics of Humanitarian Intervention	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 551	The Politics of Human Rights	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 565	Corruption in Comparative Perspective	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	

Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Field S	Other	Total	
PIR 500	Thesis	F	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	96	0	0	400	252	750	30
Semestral Total				3	0	0	3	3	96	0	0	400	252	750	30

Curriculum of Professional Master in Political Science and International Relations

First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ENG 401	Academic Reading and Writing	E	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective III	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BBB	Elective IV	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				15	0	0	15	15	240	0	0	400	110	750	30
Elective Courses															
ECO 421	Development and Growth I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
ECO 433	Economic Integrations and EU	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 411	Political Behavior and Participation	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 413	Nationalism and Ethnic Studies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 415	Issues in Political Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 417	Justice, Democracy and Citizenship	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 419	Political Integration and the European Union	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 421	Political Parties in the Developing World	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 431	World Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 433	Politics, Religion and Globalization	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 435	International Institutions	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 443	Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 449	Conflict Resolution & Diplomatic Language	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 461	Effective Management in the Public Service	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 463	Public Administration and Policy Process	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 465	Economics and Politics of Public Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 462	Current Issues in International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 400	Micro Thesis	F	Compulsory	6	0	0	6	6	96	0	0	160	44	300	12
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

BBB	Elective II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				15	0	0	15	15	240	0	0	400	110	750	30
Elective Courses															
BUS 426	Strategic Management	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BUS 432	Advertisement Management and Creativity	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 432	Language, Nationalism, and Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 404	Ethics in the Age of Globalization and Multinational Corporations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 428	Border Politics and Immigration Policies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 434	Politics of Development: Middle East & Africa	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 436	Politics of Development: Eurasia & Far East	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 448	International Politics of Environment	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 460	Public Management and Administration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 430	Human Resources/ Managing People in Times of Global Change	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

Curriculum of PhD in Political Science and International Relations

First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total		Lecture	Practical	Lab	Site W.	Other	Total	
XXX xxx	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective III	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
Semestral Total				9	0	0	9	9	144	0	0	306	300	750	30

Elective Courses -First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total		Lecture	Practical	Lab	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 801	Research Methods in Social Science	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR811	Political Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 815	Democracy Theory and Practice	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 821	World Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 823	The United Nations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 825	International Relations Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 833	Democratization in the Europe	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 835	Comparative Political Studies on the Balkan Countries	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 843	International Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 863	European Security and Defense	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10

Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total		Lecture	Practical	Lab	Site W.	Other	Total	
XXX xxx	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10

XXX xxx		B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
Semestral Total				9	0	0	9	9	144	0	0	306	300	750	30

Elective Courses -Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total		Lect	Pract	Lab	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 814	Comparative Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 826	International Terrorism	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 830	Nato in the 21st Century	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 832	The United Nations: Human Rights, Peace and Security and Development Policies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 838	Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 844	Politics of European Integration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 848	European Union Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 860	International Organizations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 882	Economic Development Policy Analysis and Industrialization	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 884	Political Economy of Western Europe	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10

Writing of the Desertation Stage															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total		Lect	Pract	Lab	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 800	Thesis	F	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120
Semestral Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120

Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Undergraduate and Graduate Students' List of Theses

No.	Study Program	Thesis title - English	Thesis title – Albanian
1	MSC PIR	Human Resource Management in Albania: INSTAT 2000-2015	Menaxhimi i Burimeve Njerëzore në Shqipëri: INSTAT 2000-2015
2	MSC PIR	Albanian Elections 2013: Political Behaviour Characteristics of Albanian Electorate Based on Political Parties' Identity and Activities	Sjellja Politike dhe Zgjedhore e Elektoratit të Tiranës: Zgjedhjet Parlamentare në Shqipëri, 2013
3	MSC PIR	Vocational Education and Training and Businesses in Albania: A Situation Analysis	Arsimi dhe Formimi Profesional dhe Bizneset në Shqipëri: Një Analizë e Situatës
4	BA PIR	Terrorism and Populism: The Influence of terrorism on Extreme Right Populism in the Western Europe	Terrorizmi dhe Populizmi: Influenca e Terrorizmit në Rritjen e Populizmit të Ekstremit të Djathtë në Evropën Perëndimore
5	BA PIR	Political Tourism in Albania	Turizmi Politik në Shqipëri.
6	BA PIR	The Role of European Union Member Countries into the Process of Albania's Integration to European Union: The Case of Austria and Italy	Roli i vendeve anëtare të Bashkimit Evropian në procesin e integritetit të Shqipërisë në Bashkimin Evropian: Rasti i Austrisë dhe Italisë.
7	BA PIR	Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline Project in Albania	Ndikimet Mjedisore, Sociale dhe Ekonomike të Projektit të Gazsjellësit Trans Adriatik në Shqipëri
8	BA PIR	'Excellent' Bilateral Relations between Albania and Turkey: Perception or Reality? An analysis from 2002 until nowadays	Marrëdhëniet "e shkëlqyera" dypalëshe ndërmjet Shqipërisë dhe Turqisë: Perceptim apo realitet? Një analizë ngaviti 2002 deri në ditët e sotme
9	BA PIR	The Role of NGO-s in Integrating Women in Albanian Politics after Communism	Roli i OJF-ve në Integrimin e Grave në Politikën Shqiptare pas Komunizmit
10	BA PIR	How Ethical is the Position of Albania in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Sa etik është pozicioni i Shqipërisë në konfliktin Izraelo-Palestinez
11	BA PIR	Local Democracy and Decentralization in Albania and Kosovo	Demokracia Lokale dhe Decentralizimi në Shqipëri dhe Kosovë.

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

Currently active exchange programs specifically for PIR students:

1. Bilateral exchange programs: <http://iro.epoka.edu.al/cat-partner-universities-1061.html>.
2. Erasmus exchange programs:
 - a. Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. (PIR Masters students or PIR Bachelor students who are very good and in their last year)
 - b. University of Oradea, Oradea, Romania. (PIR Bachelor students).

As these exchange programs have become available starting from 2018-2019 academic year, there was no Incoming & Outgoing Students during 2017-2018 academic year.

Research Areas and Research Groups

The research at the Department covers major sub-fields: International Relations, Political Science, European Studies, Balkan Studies and Albanian Politics. The Department's main research objectives are to provide well evidenced research on the developments in Albania and wider in the Balkans and Mediterranean regions. The Department's academic staff conducts research on contemporary issues such as democratization, security politics, human rights, regional integration, political economy, environmental politics, peace studies, gender and identity politics, and several other subjects. The aim of the research in the Department is to prepare academicians and experts with specialized knowledge in their fields of interest. The Department supports the scientific publications of its lecturers and encourages conduct of joint research activities. Epoka University's platforms, such as forums, talks, lectures and symposia offer ample space for scientific exchange and the transfer of knowledge.

Currently, the PIR department is engaged in following research topics:

I. Political Perceptions and Participation of University Students in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia: The overall goal of the project is to provide first large survey on the opinions and political participations of university students in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia. The project is further motivated by the need to democratize the process of formulation, conduct and implementation of Albanian public policy regarding youth and higher education by taking into consideration the real opinions of University students in these countries. To this end, the project aims to be unique in providing a platform that determines the impact of socio-cultural and religious identities on the views and behaviours of Albanian students on political participation. The project employs a scientific methodology based on surveys carried out from February 2014 through June 2015 with a valid representation sample of 700 to 1000 university students above the age of 18 in each country. This survey will hopefully assist scholars, policy-makers and the general public in understanding the opinions, hopes and concerns of the Albanian students on general political issues and in their political and voting behaviours.

Contacts: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan, sozcan@epoka.edu.al.

II. State of democracy in the western Balkan countries: This research studies the state of democracy in the western Balkan countries. It is composed of four different sections:

1. Comparative research on the state of democracy in the western Balkan countries: This section is about conduct of comparative research on the state of democracy in the western Balkan countries, a quarter of century after transition started. It focuses on the causes, ongoing, conditions, and outcomes of democratization in those countries.

Research section contacts: Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj, asmajljaj@epoka.edu.al.

2. Impact of the EU conditionality on Western Balkan countries: This section focuses on inquiring the factors that have an impact on the strength of the conditionality that the EU has exercised on Western Balkan countries aiming at joining the organization. Practically the EU has made the progress of candidate countries at the various stages that would ultimately lead to EU full membership conditional on the proper fulfilment of political, economic, legal and administrative reforms leading to full compliance with the Copenhagen criteria for EU membership. The effectiveness of this conditionality rests firstly on the credibility of the EU 'anchor', i.e. the credibility of the EU membership prospects on one hand, and on the commitment of the national political class to conduct the necessary reforms, on the other hand. The Europeanization literature that has developed during the last decade has also provided a well-established theoretical framework to this new scholarly area. This research section carries

an inter-disciplinary dimension also including issues that relate to political economy, democratisation, ethnic conflict and crisis management, geopolitics as well as the development of European security institutions and their policies towards the Western Balkans.

Research section contacts: Dr. Niuton Mulleti, nmulleti@epoka.edu.al.

3. Peace education and Conflict transformation in Balkans: The research looks to the issue from different perspectives. Peace Studies - How do states define inner and outer peace? How can we teach peace at university level? How can social science curriculums increase awareness of peace and stimulate civic involvement in national and international peace projects?. Conflict Analysis - What enforces and what weakens social cohesion? What role do identities, emotions, and relationships play in determining conflict dynamics? How much are conflicts about power, status, and development and how can justice intervene in the conflict resolution process?. Ethnic Politics - What are the political implications of ethnic cleavages and ethnic conflicts in the Balkan region? How does ethnicity matter in determining social and political behavior of groups and states? Does understanding ethnic diversity help manage violent conflicts?

Research section (Peace education) contacts: Dr. Reina Shehi, rshehi@epoka.edu.al.

Research section (Conflict transformation) contacts: MSc. Jubjana Vila Zeka, jvila@epoka.edu.al.

4. Two nations, four states compared: Austria and Germany, Albania and Kosovo: This research section compares the relationship between Germany and Austria on the one hand, and between Albania and Kosovo on the other. The model of relationship between Germany and Austria is important to consider for another pair of states Albania and Kosovo. This research project researches particularly on how engagement with the European Union (EU) has changed the nature of relationship between the two separate states from the same nation. It examines developments between 1995 and 2016 in four European countries (four states – two nations), whose engagement with the EU is at different stages: one state that has been a founding member of the EU (Germany); one that joined in 1995 (Austria), one projected to join (Albania); and one moving to integration (Kosovo). Relationships among these countries have been driven by the EU and there has been substantial procedural and institutional change. The relationships have changed as more actors and factors have become engaged. In this light, the research explores the interaction of the relationships among these states and assesses the degree to which the engagement with the European Union has changed the relationship among these states. The relationship between Austria and Germany is central to what Albania and Kosovo are and aspire to become, and goes to the heart of many of the key issues confronting the EU and the Balkans region. The research draws on interviews to explore actor motivation, preferences and perceptions. The research considers broader relations between Austria and Germany at a time when the EU's effectiveness is under close scrutiny as regards the relations between Albania and Kosovo. The research is of interest to students and scholars of foreign policy, European politics, public policy, governance.

Research section contacts: Dr. Islam Jusufi, ijusufi@epoka.edu.al.

III. Progress of Albania as regards the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals: the focus on children: The research reviews in general the progress that Albania has achieved as regards the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, it focuses on children.

Contacts: M.Sc. Eglantina Farruku, efarruku@epoka.edu.al.

List of Publications

The list of PIR Department's scientific works for 2017/2018 academic year published under the name of Epoka University:

Name Surname: Dr. Islam Jusufi

No	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities
1	Jusufi, Islam. (2018). Aid and its impact on domestic change: the case of police reforms in Macedonia. Development Policy Review. DOI: 10.1111/dpr.12343 (Impact factor:1.403). https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/dpr.12343 .
2	Jusufi, Islam. (2018). Clientelism and informality in Albania. Eastern Journal of European Studies, 9(1). http://ejes.uaic.ro/current_issue.htm .
3	Jusufi, Islam. (2017). Performing Nostalgia. Migration Culture and Creativity in South Albania. Südosteuropa. Journal for Politics and Society, 65(4), pp. 709–711. DOI: 10.1515/soeu-2017-0047. https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/soeu.2017.65.issue-4/soeu-2017-0047/soeu-2017-0047.xml?format=INT .
4	Jusufi, Islam. (2017). Protest in Putin's Russia. Europe-Asia Studies, 69(10), pp. 1674-1675. DOI: 10.1080/09668136.2017.1401820. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09668136.2017.1401820 .
5	Orji, A., & Agu, C. (2018). Analysis of Migration, Regional Characteristics, and Socioeconomic Outcomes in Developing Economies: Empirical Evidence from Nigeria. Journal of International Migration and Integration, 1-17.
6	Jano, M. (2017). Foreign Aid Effectiveness: Education (Doctoral dissertation, Webster University).
7	Young, T. D. (2017). The failure of defense planning in European Post-Communist Defense Institutions: ascertaining causation and determining solutions. Journal of Strategic Studies, 1-27.
8	Gurashi, R. (2018). The Mutation of Albanian Society During the Economic Transition from Communism to Liberalism.

Name Surname: Dr. Reina Shehi

No	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities
1	Reina Zenelaj Shehi, Salih Ozcan, Timothy Hagen, "The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Building a Culture of Peace: An Albanian Case", Journal of Peacebuilding & Development, online, Volume 13, 2018 - Issue 1, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15423166.2018.1427136 .

Name Surname: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Ozcan

No	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities
----	---

1	Reina Zenelaj Shehi, Salih Ozcan, Timothy Hagen, “ <i>The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Building a Culture of Peace: An Albanian Case</i> ”, Journal of Peacebuilding & Development, online, Volume 13, 2018 - Issue 1, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15423166.2018.1427136 .
---	--

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

The PIR Department’s academic staff are active in research. The staff has received remuneration for each publication published in reputable publishing houses and in indexed journals. The staff has also benefited from financial support for the participation in conferences and scientific activities, organized inside and outside the country.

In order to enhance the quality of research, Epoka has also organized trainings for its academic staff. In this light, the most recent research training workshop was held on 9 October 2017 at Epoka campus. The training constituted of a series of talks on qualitative research demand and supply offered by distinguished international speakers. The training focused on the business of academic publishing, on knowledge management, and on how to approach qualitative journals and practical tips on publishing.

The PIR Department’s staff have taken part in projects managed by Epoka University.

Given the link between scientific research and teaching, students are constantly encouraged to undertake scientific research in collaboration with their lecturers and supervisors. The result has been publication of articles by the students as well as their participation in various conferences.

Academic Events organized by PIR Department

The PIR Department organizes or co-organizes conferences and scientific activities at an international level, which is another important dimension of the research policy of Epoka University (<http://conf.epoka.edu.al/>). In this direction, the Department of Political Science and International Relations, in collaboration with the Centre for European Studies, organized bi-annual academic conference titled “International Conference on European Studies”. Its most recent edition was held on 5-6 November 2017 in Tirana, where academics from Albania and from abroad attended and presented their academic works. More details can be found at: <http://ices.epoka.edu.al>.

In spring semester of 2018, PIR organized series of workshops that addressed today’s real challenges and major issues of today's world politics.

The PIR workshops included the following:

1. Study Visit 2018 (for Epoka PIR students and staff only): <http://pir.epoka.edu.al/home-study-visit-2202-2314.html>.
2. Leading the Future workshop, 18 April 2018 (for all high school students): <http://pir.epoka.edu.al/news-leading-the-future-workshop-18th-of-april-2018-3727.html>.
2. Graduate Student Workshop, 4 May 2018 (for all master and PhD students): <http://pir.epoka.edu.al/home-graduate-student-workshop-2202-2248.html>.

3. Convention, 11 May 2018 (for all bachelor students): <http://pir.epoka.edu.al/home-convention-2202-2249.html>.

Hosted by the PIR Department, the workshops featured students and practitioners from across Albania and the world. Each workshop had its own specific eligibility rules.

Study Visit to Kosovo: PIR Department on 13-14 April 2018 organized an annual Study Visit to Kosovo. The visit was designed to expose Political Science and International Relations (PIR) students to the world of policy practice. The study visit was attended by PIR students, with the participation of the academic staff of the PIR Department. The visit consisted of intensive two days of cultural visits and meetings with officials from Municipalities of Prizren and Pristina. In Prizren, the group was welcomed by Mr Artan Abrashi, the Head of Municipal Assembly of Prizren Municipality. In Pristina, the group was welcomed by Mr Shpend Ahmeti, the Mayor of Pristina. During each meeting, the hosts delivered a short presentations about their activities, followed by an informal exchange when students were able to comment and ask relevant questions. Following the meetings with institutions, the visit was followed up by cultural visits to Mitrovica, Prekaz, Peje, and Gjakova.

Leading the Future workshop: The PIR Department on 18 April 2018 organized an annual Leading the Future workshop devoted on building leadership and peacemaking skills. It was one-day workshop for high school students. The workshop programme includes two modules: conflict resolution and United Nations Security Council. All participants received certificates for their participation to the workshop.

Graduate Student Workshop: The Workshop was held on 4 May 2018. It is an annual event, bringing together Master and Doctoral students. It featured papers from Albania, Spain, Netherlands, Bosnia, etc.

Convention on World Diplomacy Dialogue: The PIR Department on 11 May 2018 held an annual Convention titled "World diplomacy dialogue". It is annual student-run international diplomacy convention. Each year, the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow come together in Tirana, Albania and join a cross-generational and cross-cultural discussion. In this annually organized congress students from all over the world had the opportunity to exchange ideas, catch up with the latest developments and make new contacts as well as broaden their perspective in this unique experience. The students had opportunity to meet and listen to high-profile speakers, like: Leka Zogu II, Crown Prince of Albania; Ambassador Dewi VAN DE WEERD, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Tirana; Ms. Paridhi Singh, Accenture, UK; Ambassador Johan NDISI, Embassy of Sweden, Tirana; Mr. Aldo Bumci, Member of Parliament and former Foreign Minister, Republic of Albania; Ms. Armela Pengili, Act for Society Centre, Tirana. The Convention enabled students to become the game changers of tomorrow. It inspired students through the intense dialogue on how to make the world a better place through talks and panels. It also provided possibility for networking with other students and speakers and to learn and experience new concepts to act successfully.

Student clubs

The PIR Department's club is Conflict Resolution Club. The mission is to raise awareness about the different conflicts surrounding us and trying to solve them in the best possible way. More info at: <https://clubs.epoka.edu.al/conflict-resolution-club/>.

List of Students' Internships

In support of the students, Epoka University and PIR Department have established a wide network of cooperation with various institutions, both within and outside the country, which provides opportunities for internships and traineeships in the respective institutions. The PIR Department has assisted students in selecting the institutions in which they will develop professional practice, sending specific requests to each institution within the country and abroad. Students of PIR Department have been conducting their internships in public institutions like the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, Municipalities and Ministry of European Integration (now merged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Also, they have participated in internship programs in research centers and NGO-s like the Albanian Institute of International Studies, Albanian Diplomatic Academy, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Atlantic Council of Albania etc. Internships are formal programs within public/private, non-governmental or research institutions/organizations designed with the purpose of offering practical work experience to the students that are new to the field of Political Science and International Relations. Internships give students a taste of their profession; offer them the chance to practice their knowledge in the field; helps them to get equipped with visible work experience, build their resume and meet people who can help them in their future career.

Internships held in 2018:

- Ines Tugu, Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- Tea Hodaj, Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- Megi Hakrama, Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- Kristian Kota, Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- Agi Deda, Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- Klajdi Kaziu, Parliament of the Republic of Albania.
- Ermira Hupi, INSTAT.
- Klea Vogli, INSTAT.
- Megi Hakrama, INSTAT.
- Ajla Maksuti, Tirana Municipality.
- Tea Hodaj, Tirana Municipality.
- Kelvisa Hidershaj, Tirana Municipality.
- Anda Kruetani, Albanian Institute of International Studies (AIIS).

Office Holders

The PIR department would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution to teaching, administration and management over the past year:

- Dr. Islam Jusufi - Head of Department
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan - Lecturer
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti - Lecturer
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj - Lecturer
- Dr. Niuton Mulleti - Lecturer
- Dr. Reina Zenelaj Shehi - Lecturer
- M.Sc. Jubjana Vila Zeka - Assistant Lecturer
- M.Sc. Eglantina Farruku - Assistant Lecturer
- Ervin Sulika – acting Department Coordinator.
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglantina Gishti - Lecturer
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ardiana Braja - Lecturer
- M.Sc. Arian Shahini - Lecturer
- Ajsela Toci
- Anisa Berisha
- Sabina Gjylsheni
- Jona Koprencka
- Shpat Blakcori

Acknowledgements

In addition to the Office Holders listed above, the department would like to thank all the units of the University and all University colleagues who contributed to the success of the PIR Department.

**Department of Political Science and
International Relations**

Epoka University

Rr. Tirane- Rinas, Km. 12 , 1039, Tirane/Albania

Phone: +355 4 2232 086

Fax: +355 4 2222 117

Email: pir@epoka.edu.al