FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LIBERAL ARTS

SGT UNIVERSITY GURUGRAM

B.A. (Hons./Hons. With Research) – International Relations

1. Nature and Extent of the Program

The B.A. (Hons with Research) in International Relations is a comprehensive undergraduate program designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the global political landscape, the intricate systems of international governance, and the dynamics of world affairs. Rooted in interdisciplinary studies, this program integrates key concepts from political science, economics, history, and social sciences, offering students a holistic perspective on international relations and global issues. The curriculum aligns with the principles of liberal education, ensuring that students are not only skilled in political analysis but also well-versed in broader societal, cultural, and ethical dimensions of global challenges.

Distinctive Features

Interdisciplinary Approach: The program emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach that connects political theory with practical applications in global politics, security studies, diplomacy, and economics. Students are encouraged to explore the intersections between these fields, enabling them to understand international relations from multiple perspectives.

Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills: At the core of the program is the development of critical thinking. Students engage with complex global issues, learn to assess international relations theories critically, and analyse various international events and their implications. This approach helps cultivate not only academic rigor but also problem-solving abilities that are applicable in real-world diplomatic and policy-making contexts.

Global Perspective: The program integrates a global outlook, with a strong emphasis on understanding the interconnectedness of nations and their roles in shaping global security, economics, and governance. This perspective is enhanced by the study of key historical events, political systems, conflicts, and geopolitical dynamics.

Research and Analytical Focus: The B.A. International Relations program is research-oriented, culminating in a dissertation. This encourages students to engage with primary research, refine their analytical skills, and contribute to ongoing scholarly debates in the field. The research component ensures that students graduate with the capability to conduct independent inquiries and present well-argued, evidence-based analyses.

Ethical and Cultural Competence: A significant feature of the program is its emphasis on ethical reasoning and cultural awareness. Students explore the ethical implications of global policies, diplomatic relations, and international conflicts. The program fosters a strong sense of responsibility, encouraging students to reflect on the ethical dimensions of their work and its broader social impact.

Communication Skills: An essential outcome of the program is the development of effective communication skills. Students learn to articulate complex political concepts clearly, both in written and oral forms. This is especially important in diplomacy, policy-making, and academic discourse, where clarity and persuasiveness are critical.

Engagement with Contemporary Issues: The curriculum is designed to engage students with current global issues, including international security, climate change, migration, human rights, and international trade. Students are equipped to critically assess the ongoing global challenges and contribute to discussions on potential solutions.

Hands-on Learning through Internships: Practical learning is an integral part of the program. Students have the opportunity to undertake internships with governmental

bodies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Media organisations and think tanks. These internships provide real-world experience and help students apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings.

Communication Skills Generated

Written Communication: The program places significant emphasis on developing strong writing skills. Students are tasked with producing research papers, policy briefs, essays, and reports that demand clarity, coherence, and a deep understanding of international issues.

Oral Communication: Students develop the ability to present complex ideas in an accessible and engaging manner. Through seminars, debates, and presentations, students hone their skills in public speaking and argumentation.

Diplomatic Skills: Given the nature of international relations, students are trained in diplomatic communication, learning how to navigate discussions with stakeholders from different cultures, ideologies, and policy priorities.

Cross-Cultural Communication: Exposure to diverse political systems and cultures enhances students' ability to communicate effectively across cultural boundaries. This is crucial in diplomacy, international business, and global governance.

The **BA (Hons with Research) in International Relations** provides students with an opportunity to dive deeply into the field of international relations, with specializations in **Defence, Security, Strategic Studies, Human Rights, and Terrorism Studies**, culminating in a research-oriented program. Students can choose to major or minor in any of these areas. Furthermore, they have the flexibility to pursue minor specializations in courses offered by other university departments, subject to course availability and completion of the necessary 28-credit requirement.

The program includes options for **Generic Electives** (courses outside their primary discipline), as well as **choice-based Value-Added Courses (VAC)** and **Ability**

Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC), which are offered through the university's course catalogue. Students have the option to progress through various stages of the program, including earning a **Certificate**, **Diploma**, or a **three-year degree**, eventually completing a **four-year degree with research**, or even advancing into a **one-year Master's program** as recommended by the **National Education Policy 2020**. The program follows **Bloom's Taxonomy pedagogy**, ensuring that courses are designed with progressive levels of cognitive engagement, and that each course's outcomes are aligned with the overall program objectives.

The curriculum is structured in accordance with the **National Education Policy guidelines**, incorporating several unique features:

1. **Exiting the program** after accumulating 44 credits in the first two semesters results in a **Certificate in International Relations**. After completing 88 credits by the end of Semester IV, students earn a **Diploma in International Relations**. Completing 132 credits by the end of Semester VI qualifies students for a **Bachelor of Arts in International Relations**, with specified major and minor fields. If students continue to Semester VIII and complete 176 credits, they will graduate with a **Bachelor of Arts in International Relations (Honours with Research)**, provided they submit a dissertation, or a **Bachelor of Arts in International Relations (Honours)** if they do not. The specific major and minor fields will be noted, assuming the student has completed the required credits for each.

2. **Each year's curriculum** is carefully designed to ensure that, after completing each level, students will have a comprehensive set of academic competencies, building progressively as they advance through the program.

3. The program places a significant emphasis on **practical experience**, encouraging skill development through internships and specially crafted courses designed to apply theoretical learning to real-world scenarios.

2. PROGRAM EDUCATION OBJECTIVES (PEOs)

After completing B.A. (Hons/Hons with Research) in International Relations, students will be able to:

PEO No.	Education Objective
PEO1	Equip students with a thorough understanding of the key theories, concepts, and practical applications within **Defense, Security, Strategic Studies, Human Rights, and Terrorism Studies**, preparing them for successful careers in international relations.
PEO2	**Enable students to demonstrate advanced research, analytical, and communication skills, preparing them for leadership roles in global diplomacy, policy analysis, international security, and human rights.**
PEO3	**Ensure students maintain national and international standards of academic rigor, promoting global competitiveness and facilitating student mobility across borders.**
PEO4	**Provide higher education institutions with a reference point to design effective teaching-learning strategies, assess learning outcomes, and periodically review academic standards for continuous program improvement.**

1. GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Sl. No.	Attributes	Description
1	Professional / Disciplinary Knowledge	Capable of demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of one or more Global Development and Behavioural Science disciplines as part of the Liberal arts undergraduate program.
2	Practical skills	Empower graduates with transferable research and analytical skills. These skills include data analysis, research design, and critical thinking, preparing them to tackle complex problems across diverse careers in Global Development, Behavioural Science or choosing the field of specialisation

3	Communication Skill	Ability to develop adaptable communication skills. They can tailor their message (written, oral, or visual) to effectively engage diverse audiences, whether presenting research findings to academics, crafting policy briefs for government officials, or explaining complex social science concepts to the public.
4	Cooperation/Teamwork	Ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams; facilitate cooperative or coordinated effort on the part of a group, and act together as a group or a team in the interests of a common cause and work efficiently as a member of a team like in the field of conflict resolution, consulting and decision making.
5	Professional ethics	Ability to develop a solid ethical compass. They gain awareness of ethical dilemmas in the liberal arts and a commitment to responsible conduct throughout their careers.
6	Research / Innovation-related Skills	Ability to analyse, interpret and draw conclusions from quantitative/qualitative data and critically evaluate ideas, evidence and experiences from an open-minded and reasoned perspective.
7	Critical thinking and problem-solving	Capability to apply analytic thought to liberal arts fields; analyse and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims, and beliefs on the basis of empirical evidence; identify relevant assumptions or implications; formulate coherent arguments; critically evaluate practices, policies and theories by following scientific approach to knowledge development.
8	Reflective thinking	Critical sensibility to lived experiences, self-awareness, and reflexivity of self and society.
9	Information/digital literacy	Capability to use ICT in a variety of learning situations, demonstrate ability to access, evaluate, and use a variety of relevant information sources; and use appropriate software for analysis of data for understating issues in the social domain.
10	Multi-cultural competence	Possess knowledge of the values and beliefs of multiple cultures and a global perspective; and capability to effectively engage in a multicultural

		society and interact respectfully with diverse groups.
11	Leadership readiness/qualities	Capability for mapping out the tasks of a team or an organisation, setting direction, formulating an inspiring vision, building a team that can help achieve the vision, motivating and inspiring team members to engage with that vision, and using management skills to guide people to the right destination, smoothly and efficiently.
12	Lifelong learning	Ability to acquire knowledge and skills, including 'learning how to learn', that are necessary for participating in learning activities throughout life through self-paced and self-directed learning aimed at personal development, meeting economic, social and cultural objectives, and adapting to changing trades and demands of the workplace through knowledge/skill development/reskilling.

2. Qualification Descriptors

● Systematic knowledge and understanding of an academic field

Students will acquire a broad and deep understanding of the key concepts, theories, and frameworks that form the foundation of Defence, Security, Strategic Studies, Human Rights, and Terrorism Studies. They will be introduced to the fundamental issues that shape global political dynamics, including power structures, state sovereignty, conflict resolution, international law, and human rights advocacy. Students will also study how these fields interconnect, such as how security policies impact human rights and how strategic studies influence global governance. They will gain the capacity to critically assess complex global issues, drawing from historical, political, economic, and sociological perspectives.

● Procedural knowledge for different professions

The program provides students with hands-on skills that are directly applicable to various professional domains, including government agencies, international organizations, think tanks, NGOs, and diplomatic missions. Students will be trained in key methodologies used in their professional fields, such as policy analysis, security risk assessment, diplomatic negotiation, intelligence gathering, and humanitarian intervention strategies. Through case studies, simulations, and fieldwork, students will also develop practical experience in navigating international relations and

security issues, ensuring they are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to their chosen professions.

- Skills in areas related to specialization

The program offers specialized tracks in **Defense, Security, Strategic Studies, Human Rights, and Terrorism Studies**, allowing students to develop expertise in these critical areas. Students focusing on **Defense and Security** will explore military strategies, defense technologies, national security policies, and intelligence operations. Those specializing in **Strategic Studies** will examine long-term diplomatic, military, and economic strategies, and the complexities of military alliances and international treaties. Students focusing on **Human Rights** will study international human rights laws, global humanitarian policies, and the role of non-state actors in advocating for justice. **Terrorism Studies** will allow students to critically assess the causes of terrorism, counterterrorism strategies, and the impact of terrorism on international relations and global security.

Additionally, students will gain **hands-on experience** by working with **specific organizations** in their chosen fields. They will have the opportunity to intern with **think tanks**, **NGOs**, **media organizations**, and **diplomatic missions**. These internships will provide real-world exposure to the practical challenges of policymaking, global governance, and security strategies. By engaging directly with these organizations, students will learn how to apply theoretical concepts to current issues, analyze international relations and security frameworks in action, and contribute meaningfully to research, policy analysis, and global advocacy. This practical experience is designed to prepare students for successful careers in global diplomacy, security studies, humanitarian efforts, and international media.

- Comprehensive knowledge of scholarly materials

Students will be exposed to the latest academic research, scholarly journals, policy briefs, and case studies, equipping them with the tools to critically engage with and contribute to contemporary debates in international relations. They will be trained in advanced research methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative data analysis, policy analysis, and comparative case study approaches. Students will gain the ability to critically evaluate and synthesize scholarly sources, ensuring they can integrate academic theory with real-world application in their research and professional practices.

- Information gathering and data analysis

Students will develop strong research and analytical skills, focusing on how to gather and analyze qualitative and quantitative data relevant to international relations and security studies. This includes learning to conduct surveys, interviews, and field research, as well as utilizing data analysis tools such as SPSS, GIS software, and other

analytical methods. Students will also be trained in open-source intelligence (OSINT), cybersecurity data analysis, and the use of diplomatic reports and security briefings to support evidence-based decision-making. By the end of the program, students will be able to design and conduct their own research, interpreting data from diverse sources and using it to inform policy development, security strategies, and international negotiations.

- Critical thinking and problem-solving

The program emphasizes critical thinking as a core competency, equipping students to analyze complex global issues from multiple perspectives. Students will be trained to identify the underlying causes of geopolitical conflicts, security threats, and human rights violations. They will learn to challenge assumptions, evaluate the validity of arguments, and construct well-supported, reasoned conclusions. In practical applications, students will be tasked with solving real-world problems, such as developing strategies for peacekeeping missions, analyzing the impact of sanctions on global security, or evaluating the effectiveness of counterterrorism policies. They will develop the ability to make informed, strategic decisions in situations where multiple factors – including political, economic, and cultural dimensions – must be considered.

- Communication of research results

Graduates will be able to effectively communicate their research findings, analyses, and policy recommendations to diverse audiences. They will develop strong written and oral communication skills, allowing them to write comprehensive research papers, policy briefs, and reports, as well as deliver impactful presentations and briefings to policymakers, international organizations, and the public. Students will also be trained in using visualization tools and digital platforms to present complex data and make it accessible to a broader audience. Effective communication is central to careers in diplomacy, international law, humanitarian work, and government policy, and this program ensures students are prepared to articulate their ideas clearly and persuasively.

- Ethical and professional practice

Ethical reasoning and professional integrity are key components of the program. Students will explore the ethical dimensions of global security, counterterrorism operations, and human rights protection, learning how to navigate the moral complexities inherent in international diplomacy and military strategies. The program will emphasize the importance of adhering to international law, human rights conventions, and ethical guidelines in intelligence work, ensuring students understand the implications of their decisions on both national security and global stability. They will be trained to act with professionalism, cultural sensitivity, and integrity in all aspects of their academic and professional careers, making them responsible global citizens and leaders in the field of international relations.

3. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

PO No.	Attribute	Competency
PO1	Professional knowledge	Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the foundational theories, principles, and methodologies in Global Development, Behavioural Sciences or chosen fields, integrating them with liberal arts perspectives to analyse complex social phenomena.
PO2	Clinical/ Technical skills	Students will develop proficiency in various skills such as administering psychological assessments, conducting research methodologies, data analysis, economic modelling, and political analysis techniques.
PO3	Teamwork	Students will collaborate effectively within diverse interdisciplinary teams, leveraging their unique perspectives and expertise to address real-world challenges such as social policy, economic development, and psychological interventions.
PO4	Ethical values & professionalism	Students will adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and professionalism in their academic pursuits, research endeavours, and interactions with clients, colleagues, and communities, demonstrating integrity, respect, and cultural sensitivity.
PO5	Communication	Students will demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills, effectively conveying complex ideas, research findings, and policy recommendations to diverse audiences, including policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public.
PO6	Evidence-based practice/learning	Students will critically evaluate existing research, theories, and empirical evidence to inform their decision-making processes, practice interventions, and policy recommendations. This fosters a commitment to evidence-based approaches in their academic and professional endeavours.
PO7	Life-long learning	Students will cultivate a habit of continuous learning and intellectual curiosity, recognising the dynamic nature of knowledge and the importance of staying abreast of new developments, emerging trends, and evolving theories within their respective fields.
PO8	Entrepreneurship, leadership and mentorship	Students will develop entrepreneurial mindset, leadership capabilities, and mentorship skills, empowering them to initiate innovative projects, lead interdisciplinary teams, and mentor future generations of scholars and practitioners in liberal arts, psychology, economics, and political science.

4. PROGRAM SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

PSO No.	Competency
PSO1	Graduates will be able to critically evaluate theories, research findings, and policy implications within **Defense, Security, Strategic Studies, Human Rights, and Terrorism Studies**, synthesizing diverse perspectives to formulate informed judgments and solutions.
PSO2	Graduates will be equipped to analyze **international public policies**, advocate for **evidence-based interventions**, and provide solutions informed by insights from **global governance, international security, and human rights** fields, contributing to solving contemporary global challenges.
PSO3	Graduates will exhibit **leadership qualities** and collaborate effectively within **multidisciplinary teams**, leveraging diverse expertise to achieve common goals in addressing international challenges, such as **conflict resolution**, **diplomacy**, and **humanitarian efforts**.
PSO4	Graduates will adhere to **ethical principles** and **professional standards** in their academic work, research endeavors, and professional interactions, demonstrating integrity, respect for human rights, and a commitment to global peace and security.
PSO5	Graduates will possess advanced **research skills**, including the ability to **design, conduct**, and **interpret quantitative and qualitative research** studies, utilizing appropriate methodologies and analytical techniques relevant to **international relations**, **security studies**, and **human rights** research.

5. Course Structure: B.A. (Hons/Hons with Research) in International Relations

[Specialization: Security, Defense and strategic studies]

Note: Students in the International Relations (Defense, Security and Strategic Studies) Program can select courses from various categories. They may choose Value Added Courses (VAC), Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC), and General Elective (GE) courses from a range of university-wide options. In addition, students select Discipline Specific Core (DSC) and Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) courses to meet their required major or minor credit requirements. For a four-year program, students need 80 credits in their major, while a three-year program requires 60 credits. Students may opt to minor in either a second discipline or General Elective by fulfilling the necessary credits.

SEMESTER – I

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 1	Power, Politics, and Ideas: Indian and Global Perspectives	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC 2	Foundations of International Relations: Concepts and theories	3	1		4	60	40	100
MIC		3	1		4	60	40	100
MDC	Foreign Language	2	1		3			
AEC	Ability Enhancement Course			3	3			50
SEC	Content writing for social sciences				2			50
VAC 1	Value Added Course				2			
	Total				22			

Note – L: Lecture Hour/week, T: Tutorial Hour/week, P: Practical Hour/week, C: Credits, IAE: Internal Assessment Examination, ESE: End Semester Examination.

SEMESTER – II

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 3	Introduction to Globalization,	3	1		4	60	40	100

	Social change and culture:							
DSCC 4	Introduction to Indian Economy	**3**	**1**		4	60	40	100
MIC		**3**	**1**		4	60	40	100
MDC	Foreign Language:	**2**	**1**		3			
AECC	Ability Enhancement Course				2			
SEC	Digital storytelling			**3**	3			50
VAC	Value Added Course				2			
	Total				**22**			

Note – L: Lecture Hour/week, T: Tutorial Hour/week, P: Practical Hour/week, C: Credits, IAE: Internal Assessment Examination, ESE: End Semester Examination.

SEMESTER – III

Course Code	Course Title (Choose any two)	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC3	Philosophical Foundations of International Relations: Insights from Indian Knowledge Systems	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC4	Making of Foreign Policy and analysis	3	1		4	60	40	100
MIC		3	1		4	60	40	100
MDC	Foreign Language			3	3			
AEC	Ability Enhancement Course	2			2			50
SEC	SPSS				3			
IACP				2	2			
	Total				22			

SEMESTER – IV

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)	Marks Distribution

		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 5	India's National Security and Geopolitics: Strategic Dimensions and Challenges	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC 6	Making of Defence strategy	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC 7	Environmental Economics	3	1		4	60	40	100
MIC		3	1		4			
AEC	Ability Enhancement Course				2			
VAC	Value added course				2			
	Total				20			

SEMESTER – V

Course Code	Course Title (Choose any Four)	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 8	Foundations of Intelligence, Security, and Human Rights	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC 9	Understanding Political Violence and Extremism	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCE 10	Selected Issues in Human Rights	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCE 11	Ethical Controversies in Defence, Security, and Intelligence				4	60	40	100

DSCE 12	Intelligence sharing and Espionage	3	1		4	60	40	100
MIC		3	1		4	60	40	100
IACP	Internship			2	2			
	Total				22			

SEMESTER – VI

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 12	Global Hierarchies, Orders, and Rising Powers	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCE 13	AI and 21st-Century Security	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC 14	Governance, Ethics, and Global Leadership	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCE 15	Environmental Diplomacy and Climate Policy				4	60	40	100
MIC					4	60	40	100
	Total				20			

SEMESTER – VII

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 16	Counter Insurgency and Human Rights	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCE 17	Global Security and Organised crime: ISIS, Hezbollah, Boko Haram, JeM and LeT	3	1		4	60	40	100
DSCC 18	Advances research methods on Social Sciences research	3	1		4	60	40	100

DSCC 19	Literature Review, Citation Techniques, Research ethics and academic writing	3	1		4	60	40	100
MIC					4	60	40	100
	Total				20			

SEMESTER – VIII

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Distribution (Hours/Week)				Marks Distribution		
		L	T	P	C	IAE	ESE	Total
DSCC 20	Tools & Techniques of Data Collection: Field work and case studies	3	1		4	60	40	100
MIC					4	60	40	100
DSCC 21	DISSERTATION				12			
	Total				20			

Note – L: Lecture Hour/week, T: Tutorial Hour/week, P: Practical Hour/week, C: Credits, IAE: Internal Assessment Examination, ESE: End Semester Examination.

Discipline Specific Core Compulsory (DSCC)

Discipline-specific core courses refer to subjects that form the essential foundation of an academic program or major within a broader discipline. These courses provide students with the core knowledge, skills, and methodologies specific to their chosen field. It is because this program is multidisciplinary students need to have study courses from one more core discipline, which is part of the Program. DSC A denotes the primary core discipline, and DSC B Denotes the secondary core discipline.

Discipline Specific Core Electives (DSCE)
Discipline-specific electives (DSEs) allow students to delve deeper into their chosen field. Unlike core courses that provide foundational knowledge, DSEs enable students to explore specific areas of interest within their major. DSE A denotes electives from the primary core discipline, and DSE B denotes electives from the secondary core discipline.

Minor (MIC)

Multi-Disciplinary Course (MDC)

Value Added Courses (VAC)

Value Added Courses is credited and choice based. The students choose from a pool of VAC offered by the Faculty under the University. (Reference: University Umbrella Value Added Courses)

Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AEC)
Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses is credited and choice based. The students choose from a pool of AEC offered by the Faculty under the University. (Reference: University Umbrella Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course)

Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC)
Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses is credited and choice based. The students choose from a pool of AEC offered by the Faculty under the University.

OVERALL CREDIT DISTRIBUTION TABLE

SEMESTER	HOURS PER WEEK				Total Credit	Marks Distribution		
	L	T	P		TC	IAE	ESE	Total
SEMESTER – I					20			
SEMESTER – II					20			
SEMESTER – III					20			
SEMESTER – IV					20			
SEMESTER – V					20			
SEMESTER – VI					20			
SEMESTER – VII					20			
SEMESTER – VIII					20			
Total					160			

Note – L: Lecture Hour, T: Tutorial Hour, P: Practical Hour, TC: Total Credits, IAE: Internal Assessment Examination, ESE: End Semester Examination.