

# IRSP

International Research by Students Programme



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rijksuniversiteit  
 groningen

## Introduction

Dear reader,

Hereby I would like to introduce you to the International Research by Students Programme (IRSP). The IRSP is all about providing research experience for students and providing high quality and personalized research for companies, non-profit organizations, and government institutions. The IRSP Board consists of eight highly motivated students of International Relations and International Organization at the University of Groningen. We link master students of IRIO to researches for you to have your questions and problems solved at a low price.

Wondering why our students would be beneficial for your corporation or organization? Students of IRIO receive an interdisciplinary education and their courses exist of, inter alia, economics, international and European law, and politics from an international perspective. Due to the multidimensional character of the studies, students are able to conduct research from multiple perspectives and in multiple fields. This is why the IRSP is qualified to do research for you.

Established in 2004, the IRSP has since conducted several high quality researches for, among others, UNICEF, KLM, the Dutch Ministry of Education, and the IAEA. To give you a better idea of what some researches have entailed, please see the rest of this brochure where you can find more extensive descriptions of some past researches. If you are interested in a co-operation with IRSP for the upcoming year, do not hesitate to contact us via [irsp@clio.nl](mailto:irsp@clio.nl). Furthermore to find more information on our researches and the students conducting them, I invite you to visit our website [www.irsp.nl](http://www.irsp.nl).

Sanna Hyötyläinen  
Chairwoman IRSP 2016/2017



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## The International Research by Students Programme

The International Research by Students Programme (IRSP) is an initiative of Clio, the Study Association of the International Relations and International Organization (IRIO) programme. This Bachelor and Master programme is provided by the University of Groningen.

The IRSP was founded in 2004 and is now entering another year of existence. The purpose of the programme is to offer senior students the possibility to conduct practical research. The research is offered by the IRSP, which in turn acts on behalf of companies, governments, or non-governmental organisations. It gives the students the opportunity to test their capabilities in a professional atmosphere.

The students are selected by the IRSP Board. We assess the capabilities of the applicant by means of an interview. Attention is paid to the student's resume, grades and motivation. Students can also be selected on a number of capabilities that the partner has requested. Research is conducted in **small groups**, consisting of four to six senior students. Besides the supervision of the client, the students are also **supported by university lecturers** and the Board of the IRSP.

The IRSP is looking for partners who are in need of a research to be conducted by professional and talented students, and who are also willing to offer students a practical learning experience.

## What can the IRSP offer to its partners?

The International Research by Students Programme offers a great opportunity for companies, organizations, or institutions to have a research conducted by students with a unique set of skills. IRIO students take courses in **economics, law, political science, and history**. For more information on the study of IRIO itself, please see the last page of this brochure. The study of IRIO has a strong multidisciplinary character, embracing the idea that all aspects of society are interrelated. This means that students of IRIO are not only able to look at issues from a broad perspective, but they also have the capabilities to approach an issue from different angles.

Defining the goal and the set-up of the research is done in **close consultation** with the client. In the early stages of the process the Board and the partner will discuss with each other the content, scope, and length of the research. The research thesis will then be further developed into an academic research by the students under supervision of a university lecturer and the Board. Both the selection procedure and the close supervision of the lectures and the Board will result in analytical and high-quality results.

The IRSP is not looking to make a profit. The only financial goal of the IRSP is to cover its expenses. Since the IRSP does not have any personnel costs, it is able to offer a **low cost** package deal.

## Previous Research

The International Research by Students Programme has produced multiple interesting researches in the past seven years. A short selection of assignments the IRSP has had over the last years can be found below.

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Tracking Development**

This has been a comparative research on diverging development of Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa over the past 50 years. In order to create effective policy initiatives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned a research to gain insight into the diverging development of the above-mentioned regions. A comparative study of Ethiopia and Thailand was made, based on macroeconomic stability, rural bias, and market liberalization. It was concluded that the governmental and institutional structure played a determining role.

### **Embassy of Rwanda – A Strategy to enhance Dutch FDI in Rwanda**

The embassy of Rwanda in the Netherlands asked the IRSP to conduct a research on the investment possibilities of Dutch companies in Rwanda. Students went to Rwanda to identify important and interesting sectors for Dutch companies to invest in, and they looked at the barriers and opportunities that existed in Rwanda. Furthermore, they made a number of recommendations to the Embassy concerning the type of companies that could be approached.

### **TNT Post (PostNL) – TNT Post in the Changing Postal Landscape**

For TNT Post, which during the research changed its name to PostNL, the IRSP conducted a research concerning the changing European postal market. The EU postal market is liberalizing, but at the same time postal volumes are declining. How can TNT Post deal with this situation? Students have looked at the European Framework and furthermore visited the United Kingdom, France and Germany to talk to stakeholders and to take a close look at the postal market there. Finally, they made a number of recommendations to TNT Post on how to deal with the declining volumes of post and how to deal with postal markets in the Netherlands, Germany, France and the United Kingdom.



## **International Relations and International Organization**

The study International Relations and International Organization (IRIO) is based at the University of Groningen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) and is affiliated with the Faculty of Arts. IRIO has a unique position in the Netherlands, as this course is only being taught at the University of Groningen. IRIO students acquire a set of skills and knowledge, which enables them to adequately deal with international affairs.

The curriculum is interdisciplinary, combining political science, history, economics, and law. The main focus is, however, on international relations. Courses that are taught within the curriculum include, among others, International Law, European Law, International Economics, European Integration, Theory of International Relations, International Politics, History of International Relations, and Methodology of International Relations.

Next to a broad knowledge of these different aspects of international relations, students of IRIO learn a foreign language. They become near-native speakers in English, German, French, or Spanish. In addition, the programme offers many possibilities for specialization in the different disciplines.

Students of IRIO are characterized by being analytically strong, having a critical view, taking given information not for granted, and being able to combine different disciplines. Throughout the programme much attention is paid to the development of the students' academic writing skills. From the first year onwards, students are assigned to conduct research in the field of International Relations and to develop their position on international issues.

