




## Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate  
Seton Hall University

From: Katia Passerini, Ph.D.  
  
Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: *Memo re Online Executive MS in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice*  
2022-FS-53

Date: May 16, 2022

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We have received 2022-FS-53, *Memo re Online Executive MS in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice*, indicating that the Faculty Senate approved the proposal for an Online Executive Master of Science in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice at its April 22 meeting.

The School of Diplomacy Faculty has worked with staff from UNITAR (the United Nations Institute of Training and Research) to develop a new version of our Online Executive MS in International Affairs that will focus on international affairs and diplomatic practice. After the 12-credits that will be common to the existing Online MS in International Affairs, there are 9-credits of newly developed courses in Diplomatic Practice that utilize expertise from practitioners. This new program fits within the School's existing niche, given Diplomacy's longstanding relationship with the United Nations community. It underscores the standing of the School of Diplomacy as a professional school of international affairs, because UNITAR does not have any joint degrees with other institutions in the United States. And it supports the University's strategic goal to forge external partnerships with excellent organizations and our mission to train ethical servant leaders.

The choice was made to use an online format to attract mid-career professionals to pursue this degree without having to give up their jobs or relocate their families. The revenue-sharing arrangement has been approved by Diplomacy Faculty and the Letter of Agreement with UNITAR has been reviewed by the University. The proposal has been approved by the Department, the EPC, the Dean of the School of Diplomacy, and the APC. We appreciate that the Faculty and the Dean worked closely with our office to complete a financial proposal, to carefully structure the agreement, and to ensure that this will be a sustainable use of our resources.

The first students will be expected this upcoming academic year 2022-23, when the program proposers anticipate a total of 20 entering students. I approve this program because the program contributes to the mission and future growth of the University. However, my approval is conditioned upon the program meeting various targets at the completion of years three and five (AY 2025 and AY 2027), as determined by my office. In year three, the program must have at least 36 entering students. In year five, the program must continue to have at least 36 entering students, and at the conclusion of that academic year it must achieve at least a 60% positive direct margin. If any of these benchmarks are not met, then the program will be automatically sunsetted. In addition, in the event of any substantial deviations from the financial plan, I may determine an accelerated review process during the first five years to evaluate earlier action or interventions, including a possibility of suspending the program until enrollment is sustainable. Given the partnership agreement with UNITAR, the program directors will need to carefully consider this margin target as they allocate scholarships.

I thank the School of Diplomacy for its work on this innovative new offering, and I look forward to hearing about the successes of the students who will enroll. This program proposal will be submitted at the next meeting of the Board of Regents. The program proposers should work with the Office of Graduate Affairs to share information with the registrar, and the program description should be entered into Banner and featured on the website as soon as possible.