

Q+A Waivers

- Under what circumstances may I request a waiver for the Skills requirements? How do I go about it?

Students who have completed significant relevant coursework during their previous degree, and who have thus attained a very good level of understanding in the field may request a waiver. Students must demonstrate that they have covered significant material in the field at an undergraduate level in order to obtain a waiver for a graduate level requirement. Students who would like to request a waiver must write to their Academic Advisor before course registration explaining the situation and attaching the relevant syllabi and transcripts. Ultimately, this is your Academic Advisor's decision.

Dual degree students are responsible for making sure that this waiver is also acceptable to the partner university.

- If I obtain a waiver for a Skills course, can I take an extra core curriculum or concentration course as a replacement?

No. A waiver for a Skills course does not entitle you to an extra course from another section of your curriculum.

- If I obtain a waiver for a Skills course, will I get the 4 credits that go with the course?

No. A course that has been waived does not bring any credit and will not show on your transcript. Students must be aware that this will amount to 4 credits less in their total credits by the end of their studies.

- Can I request a waiver for the PSIA Fundamentals courses and/or cours d'offre commune?

No. Sciences Po's institution-wide [academic regulations](#) state that all Graduate program students must take and validate two courses from Sciences Po's "Offre commune", and these are fulfilled by PSIA's Fundamental requirements. These courses need to be taken during the first year of your degree. It is as such not possible to waive nor defer the 2 Fundamentals course requirement.

- I am a 1st year student and I'm registered for an annual ProjetCollectif/ Team Project. Can I request a waiver for a core curriculum course?

Yes, you may request a waiver (unless you are a dual degree student in which case you cannot waive any of your 6 required core courses). However, please note that students registered for an annual Projet Collectif during their first year of study can apply for a core curriculum course waiver in the Spring semester only. The Projet Collectif is credited in the Spring semester, and this is why it is only possible to request a waiver for this semester. In addition, in order to apply for a waiver in this context, students need to contact their Academic Advisor during the Fall semester, once Spring semester course offerings have been published, and provide details on the project undertaken. A waiver will only be approved if you can justify that the content of the Projet Collectif covers what would have been done in a specific core curriculum course offered in the Spring. The waiver will only apply to the course approved by your Academic Advisor, and cannot be used for another core curriculum requirement. Ultimately, this is your Academic Advisor's decision◀

- I am writing a Master's thesis towards my 3rd semester "hors les murs" requirement. Can I request a waiver for a core curriculum course in the Spring in order to have more time to dedicate to my thesis writing?

No. Students may not request a core curriculum waiver on the basis of their Master's thesis, which entitles the student to 30 ECTS only (as does the internship or semester abroad).

- What are the deadlines for requesting a waiver?

As a general rule, waivers must be requested AND approved 2 weeks before any given registration period. Students requesting a waiver after course registration for any given semester will not receive approval, it is essential that they anticipate.

- Am I entitled to request a waiver for one of the core curriculum courses, and how do I go about it?

No, waivers are not possible, as you must take all 9 courses that are requested per your Master program, and 3 courses for each concentration. However, if you would want to take a course outside of a given required "block" of courses, and replace it by another course in the same program, please contact your academic advisor.