# MASTER’S THESIS PROJECT

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Semester: 4  
Academic Year: 2  

**Title of Diploma Thesis:**  
NATO Enlargement: Georgia’s Prospects of the Membership  

**Term of Thesis Defense (Semester / School Year):**  
Fall Semester/2016-2017  

**Thesis Supervisor:** Petr Andel  
**Thesis Seminar Tutor:** Milos Calda  

### Justification of the Topic Selection (one paragraph-maximum 5 sentences):  
NATO enlargement and the associated risks and benefits fall within the Transatlantic Studies framework. The admission of new members to the Alliance has been strongly debated by politicians, experts, and general public in various countries. This is especially true for Georgia’s case. The risks of adding Georgia to NATO are weighted against the benefits of having a strategic Western presence in the potentially volatile South Caucasus. The Warsaw Summit taking place in July 2016 is expected to be a milestone in Georgia’s pursuit of NATO membership.

### Main Aim of Thesis (one paragraph of text-maximum 5 sentences):  
Regardless of the ongoing debate about NATO’s relevance in today’s world, the Alliance is continued to be seen as a beacon of security and democracy for countries like Georgia. After announcing its intention to join NATO in 2002, the country has achieved significant progress in military and political reforms at home, while systematically contributing troops to global security. Fourteen years later, the nation still has not received the Membership Action Plan (MAP) despite all its efforts. This thesis aims to examine the key factors why Georgia is likely or unlikely to join the Alliance: troubling relations with Russia, occupied territories, Moscow’s threats; Georgia’s military contributions, its strategic location as an important East-West (Caspian Sea to Turkish and European markets) and North-South (Russia to Armenia and the Middle East) transportation corridor for gas and oil transit.

### Main Characteristics of the Topic (10 rows of text):  
- Comparative Analysis  
  - The first three post-Cold War enlargements will be examined to understand what international/domestic factors and processes were at play when new members were added to the Alliance  
    - Article V and collective security  
    - Georgia’s military contributions to Western security  
    - Georgia as a central part of the East-West energy and transportation corridor  
    - Russian Propaganda on Rise in Georgia.  
  - The following decline in general public’s pro-NATO aspirations  
    - Warsaw Summit in July 2016  

### Planned Structure of Thesis (10 rows of text):  
1. Introduction
2. Theoretical Framework/Literature Review
   - Role of international organizations explained by two major theories.
   - The Realist Perspective
   - The Neo-liberal Institutionalist Perspective
3. Historical Background on NATO
   a. Cold War Period
   b. Post-Cold War Period
   c. 3 Rounds of Enlargement
4. Russian Responses to NATO Enlargement
5. Case Study: Georgia
   - Review of recent history
   - Russia’s opposition: hard power + propaganda
   - NATO-Georgia Relations:
     • The country’s territorial integrity
     • Strategic importance of Georgia’s location
     • Georgia as a major transit corridor
6. Conclusion:
   - “Open Door Policy” vs strategic cost-benefit analysis
   - What are Georgia’s prospects of joining the Alliance?

Sources (10 main book titles):
1. NATO Homepage. Official Texts; Archives; Retrieved from http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts.htm

Student Signature and Date

Approved Date Signature
Thesis Supervisor
Thesis Seminar Tutor
Program Director