“When you apply to graduate school, you’re not always thinking about the value of career services, but that’s where I got much of the value in pursuing my MA,” says Xian Zhang, a 2013 graduate of the University of Denver’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Through alumni and employer contacts facilitated by the school’s Office of Career and Professional Development, Zhang landed a paid summer internship at the U.S. Embassy in Namibia. Her experience led to other high-profile internships: a month at the White House; four months at the U.S. Department of State, and eight months with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Now, as a new business development associate at Chemonics International, Zhang is focusing on southern Africa.
International affairs students have extremely diverse interests, observes Jean-Amiel Jourdan, director of global career services at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). “You don’t need to know exactly what you want to do before starting grad school, but you need to begin thinking about it,” he says. For starters, it helps to think about why you want to pursue an MA in international affairs rather than the more conventional path of an MBA or JD degree. Jourdan notes that once classes begin, the academic side can be so demanding that it’s very easy not to take enough time to think about your career goals and strategies.

“I found it well worth taking full advantage of career services,” says Matthew Roscher, who received his MA in 2013 from the American University School of International Service (SIS) and is now a Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Roscher was working in the public policy arena when he decided to apply to graduate school to pursue a career in international affairs focusing on the Middle East. During his first week at SIS, Roscher decided to meet with one of the school’s career advisers. It turned out to be one of the best choices he ever made. From the one-on-one discussion with a career adviser, Roscher received invaluable suggestions of fields to explore, internship possibilities, and ways to draw on the school’s strong alumni network.

**7 BASICS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

What are the signs of a cutting-edge career services program? Schools offer a combination of one-on-one counseling, group workshops, and online resources. Look for these seven basics:

1. **UNDERSTANDING YOUR INDIVIDUAL BACKGROUND AND GOALS**
   
   Career coaches need to understand each student’s experience and interests. Programs also need to serve students’ different ages and career levels, from recent college graduates to mid-career professionals.

   “We work with each student as an individual, get to know them, and help them figure out what their path should be,” says Rae Ann Bories-Easley, director of career and professional development at the Josef Korbel School. In 2014, her staff handled more than 1,750 one-on-one advising appointments with 427 students and recent alumni. Incoming students also take a four-hour course focusing on self-assessment and career fit.

   In a professional development course during the first week of their first term, Johns Hopkins SAIS students set career goals by looking at work-life balance and location, in addition to job content. Students also examine career and growth potential within their targeted organizations.

   “I think career coaching is critical not just for finding employment, but also for career satisfaction,” says Jourdan. “Career coaches need to feel the passion of the student. We’re not here to tell people what to do, but to help them manage their careers.”

2. **DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SKILLS**

   Programs offer workshops, online resources, and individual coaching to help students develop crucial skills such as interviewing, networking, and negotiating salaries.

   In addition to addressing those basics in its professional development course for new students, Johns Hopkins SAIS offers short, noncredit courses throughout the year focusing on marketable skills identified by employers, from financial accounting to spreadsheet tools to media skills, for example.

   Students in the New York University School of Professional Studies (NYUSPS) MS in Global Affairs program receive individualized career coaching in areas such as developing and refining a professional brand, understanding how to create authentic relationships with industry to build and maintain a professional network, creating a strategic job search, and more.

   “Our philosophy is to begin working with a student on day one and to continue that process throughout their program of study,” says Jeannie Liakaris, assistant dean of the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development at NYUSPS. Students may meet with a career coach as often as they wish—ideally, at least twice per semester.

   In Webster University’s Global Master of Arts in International Relations program (GMAIR), each participant studies at five locations around the world. The program at each student’s first four locations includes a Professional Seminar with lectures, site visits, and workshops on skills such as résumé-building and networking.
David Barno and Nora Bensahel of American University’s School of International Service are at the forefront of global security conversations—and solutions. Learn from SIS faculty as they combine leadership experience from the front lines with defense policy expertise.

Great challenges of our time demand a global perspective.

Learn more at american.edu/sis
Connecting with Faculty

“Find out how a school’s career-advising team interacts with faculty,” suggests Brian Rowe, who directs American University’s career-advising program for graduate students at SIS. “Academic program directors often have great relationships with their students,” he says, so it can be helpful for career advisers to have a sense of who the faculty members are.

Schools have different ways of facilitating connections between faculty and career services staff. At AU, SIS offers a practical program in which graduate students work with an external client and receive coaching from a career adviser as well as a faculty member. At the Wasserman Center at NYUSPS, each staff member has specialized areas of knowledge for which they maintain contact with faculty members as well as employers.

Connecting with Alumni

“Every school says students have easy access to alumni. Look closely at how you will gain access beyond public information on LinkedIn,” advises Jourdan. In addition to its active LinkedIn community, student-alumni connections at Johns Hopkins SAIS are especially notable for their depth. Thousands of alumni are accessible for direct student contact and even more are available for outreach through Career Services.

At the Josef Korbel School, Bories-Easley says the keen sense of community on campus leads to “a super-strong community of alumni who are more than willing to give back to students and recent graduates.” The school has a particularly active alumni community in D.C., she notes.

Connecting with Employment and Internship Opportunities

How do programs work with employers?

“In everything we do at the Wasserman Center, we have employers involved,” says Liakaris. “The Center has very close ties with industry, which allows staff members to understand employers’ talent needs.” Each year, the Wasserman Center offers 11 career fairs and five industry expos, plus weekly employer-specific and industry-specific workshops, mock interviews, and networking events. Students have access to more than 1,600 employers and alumni through the NYU mentor network.

At AU SIS, each year before the start of the fall term, students go on site visits to D.C.-area employers, which are often hosted by SIS alumni. “We take advantage of being in Washington every chance we get,” says Rowe.

In the popular SIS practica program, students work in small, faculty-led teams with government agencies, nonprofit and multilateral organizations, or corporations to conduct forecasting, policy analysis, strategic planning, and other projects in Washington, D.C., and abroad. Career advisers guide the students in selecting practica and communicating their experiences. SIS also has an employer-in-residence program that brings selected employers to the AU campus.

One of several ways that Johns Hopkins SAIS students network with employers is through student-led “career clubs” focusing on particular employment sectors. The career services office assists clubs with gaining access to employers and alumni and in planning seminars and workshops.

Maintaining a Global Footprint

Career services at schools of international affairs often help connect students with job opportunities around the world. Some schools also have a presence abroad that can increase students’ international career exposure.

Webster University’s GMAIR program is all about international exposure: Students spend 11 months visiting five countries, where they attend classes and visit international organizations. Locations include Webster University campuses in Accra (Ghana), Athens, Bangkok, Geneva, Leiden (Netherlands), Vienna, and Washington, D.C. In Beijing and Havana, students attend classes at a local partner university.

GMAIR site visits often include informal career networking opportunities. For example, all students spend a term in Geneva, where they visit the World Trade Organization, United Nations, International Committee of the Red Cross, and various NGOs. The term in Havana includes meeting with local artists, business owners, and journalists to help understand political and economic differences in Cuba.

“This program is partly about learning your options and opportunities for career paths, as we visited a great variety of organizations in every city,” says Anna Feigum, GMAIR 2012.
STUDY WITH PURPOSE

Build your career with a world-class graduate education in international relations.

JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

EUROPE • WASHINGTON • CHINA

www.sais-jhu.edu/admissions/fp
Johns Hopkins SAIS offers two especially distinctive forms of exposure to employers abroad: campus locations on three continents, and career treks. Students have access to career services offices in Washington, D.C.; at SAIS Europe in Bologna, Italy; and at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in Nanjing, China. Staff members at each of the three locations organize sector-focused career treks to Shanghai, Hong Kong, London, Brussels, Geneva, New York, Silicon Valley, Houston, and other cities. The treks give students opportunities to visit employer sites, hear alumni speak about their careers, and gain insight into the hiring requirements of key employers.

Michelle Thompson, class of 2014, spent her first year at the Bologna campus. On a career trek to Brussels, her group visited the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, European international affairs institutions, consulting firms, NGOs, and think tanks.

“I was particularly excited to learn about International Crisis Group and the niche it had carved in conflict response field work and advocacy,” says Thompson. “Because of the career trek, I found a new interest.” That discovery helped lead to Thompson’s first job after receiving her MA in 2014, in the field of NGO coalition-building and humanitarian advocacy. Her employer, Crisis Action, often partnered with International Crisis Group. Thompson is now with Chemonics International as a program management associate for the Middle East.
TO UNDERSTAND GLOBAL ISSUES, YOU MUST BECOME PART OF THEM.

The growing influences of new world powers, emerging states and non-state actors, socioeconomic transformation, and cross-border crises have reshaped the field of global affairs. Those pursuing careers in this area must not only study the issues, they must be deeply involved in them. The MS in Global Affairs, offered by the NYU School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs, positions you in the heart of the international community of NYC, providing you with the contextual perspectives you need to become an effective problem solver and innovator. Global field intensives, exposure to renowned expert practitioners, and challenging projects form the basis of an education that allows you to live what you learn—anticipating the next global challenge.

VISIT: sps.nyu.edu/cga/programs1a  CALL: 212-998-7100
REQUEST INFO./APPLY TODAY: sps.nyu.edu/gradinfo12a

MS in Global Affairs
CONCENTRATIONS:
Environment/Energy Policy
Global Gender Studies
Human Rights and International Law
International Development and Humanitarian Assistance
International Relations/Global Futures
Peacebuilding
Private Sector
Transnational Security

Graduate Certificates in:
Global Energy
Peacebuilding
Transnational Security
“The advice and mentorship I received post-graduation was invaluable,” says Thompson. “Many of the positions I had gravitated toward called for more work experience than I could offer. The Career Services staff continuously passed along interesting opportunities in my desired field that were geared toward those with limited work experience. Staff also acted as a valuable sounding board as I worked to craft an application narrative that underscored the depth of my experiences, not the length.”

For NYUSPS students as well as alumni, the Wasserman Center offers numerous workshops on using LinkedIn. “It’s important that people understand who you are and what you do,” says Liakaris. “It matters how you position your brand and use tools like Twitter and LinkedIn.”

“For Johns Hopkins SAIS, I found the Career Services staff in both Italy and Washington deeply invested in my development and growth as a professional at every stage, from initial career mapping to post-graduation mentorship,” says Michelle Thompson, class of 2014.

“Your career strategy shouldn’t stop once you start a job,” says Liakaris. “It really is continual. It’s not only about building a professional brand, but about how to keep that brand fresh while keeping your network up-to-date. It’s about creating authentic relationships—not just passing out business cards, but understanding how to add to your network and continue a relationship.”

---

**SCHOOL OR PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American University (AU), School of International Service (SIS)</th>
<th>Johns Hopkins University (JHU), School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)</th>
<th>New York University School of Professional Studies (NYUSPS), Center for Global Affairs (CGA)</th>
<th>University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies</th>
<th>Webster University Global MA in International Relations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**CAREER SERVICES CENTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AU Career Center (includes career advisers who meet solely with SIS graduate students)</th>
<th>JHU SAIS Career Services</th>
<th>NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development at NYUSPS</th>
<th>Office of Career and Professional Development</th>
<th>Career services worldwide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**CONTACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brian Rowe, Director of Experiential Education, AU Career Center</th>
<th>SAIS Washington <a href="mailto:sais.dc.careers@jhu.edu">sais.dc.careers@jhu.edu</a></th>
<th>SAIS Europe <a href="mailto:sais.eu.careers@jhu.edu">sais.eu.careers@jhu.edu</a></th>
<th>Cynthia Perez, Director of Admissions <a href="mailto:sps.gradadmissions@nyu.edu">sps.gradadmissions@nyu.edu</a></th>
<th>Sarah Nandor, Associate Director for Graduate Admissions 314-246-7109 <a href="mailto:gadmit@webster.edu">gadmit@webster.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:browe@american.edu">browe@american.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hopkins-Nanjing Center <a href="mailto:hncareerservices@hnc.nju.edu">hncareerservices@hnc.nju.edu</a></td>
<td>212-998-7100</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gadmit@webster.edu">gadmit@webster.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

The articles in this supplement were prepared by Nancy Henderson, an independent education writer based in Washington, D.C., in connection with the business department of FOREIGN POLICY, and did not involve the editorial staff of this magazine.

© 2015 THE FP GROUP, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
Kyleanne Hunter is a former officer in the United States Marine Corps, serving as an AH-1W Super Cobra attack pilot. Now she’s a Sié Fellow at the Josef Korbel School’s Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security & Diplomacy. As such she’s working alongside world renowned faculty doing relevant research on today’s most pressing global issues.

To learn more about our master of arts programs and our two-year full tuition scholarship, the Sié Fellowship, call 303.871.2544 or email korbeladm@du.edu.

www.du.edu/korbel/info