The current economic downturn may be a wise time to consider graduate school, to position yourself for your ideal job when the market strengthens and geopolitical priorities and leadership remain critical on many fronts.

In the Summer 2020 FP Guide: Funding Your Graduate Education, we explore the “mosaic” of financial aid options available for several master’s degree programs in international affairs—and the return on investment for graduates.

You will read some inspiring profiles about current students and recent graduates who successfully financed their education, including one who landed a pre-graduation job at Google and another who is starting a career as a US Foreign Service officer.

The schools described here offer financial assistance to make their degrees affordable. Some examples:

- One hundred percent of tuition and required fees support, plus a need-based living stipend
- Graduate research assistant positions that include tuition support and a stipend
- Financial assistance for unpaid internships
- Scholarships funded by school partners
- Grants to support international research fieldwork and language immersion, to prepare graduates for global careers
- Special one-year grants because of the coronavirus pandemic
“Building your skill set and getting your credentials is the smart move now to position yourself for when the economy comes back.”

– Sidney T. Jackson, Assistant Dean of Global Enrollment and Recruitment, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

The current economic downturn may be “a great time to consider graduate school,” according to Sidney T. Jackson of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. “Building your skill set and getting your credentials is the smart move now to position yourself for when the economy comes back.”

To help prospective students afford the degree, Johns Hopkins SAIS seeks to understand each personal situation and develop an appropriate aid package, says Jackson, assistant dean of global enrollment and recruitment. “We don’t want to saddle students with debt that is going to take a long time to get out of.”

The aid includes a variety of scholarships, ranging from institutional aid to scholarships funded by donors. Some scholarships are funded jointly by Johns Hopkins SAIS and external sponsors.

In addition to financial aid, internships are a popular option for defraying educational costs while gaining valuable experience beyond the classroom. Each year at Johns Hopkins SAIS, approximately 75 percent of students in the Master of Arts (MA) degree program complete an internship during the summer between their first and second year. To facilitate internships in the public, nonprofit, and multilateral sectors, where positions can be unpaid, the school’s Summer Internship Fund provides financial assistance to students seeking these important experiential learning opportunities. Recent internships included positions at the International Trade Centre, The Nature Conservancy, South Africa’s central bank, and the UN Development Programme.

FROM LITTLE HAVANA TO THE US FOREIGN SERVICE

Gricelda Ramos, a second-generation immigrant from Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood, has landed a job as a US Foreign Service officer, thanks to a stellar academic career and a Johns Hopkins SAIS ‘20 MA degree. While earning her BA from Dartmouth College, Ramos studied at Japan’s Waseda University as a World Economic Forum Global Leadership Fellow. During her studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS, Ramos interned with the US Department of State. She funded her MA using a Pickering Fellowship from the State Department and a Dean’s Scholarship from Johns Hopkins SAIS.

Ramos says she is honored to be one of the few Honduran-Americans in the Foreign Service: “Students of color with similar backgrounds can see that pursuing a graduate degree and serving our country are experiences that belong to them as well.”

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Contact
saisfinaidinfo@jhu.edu
202-663-5706
The World Is Changing And So Are We

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Students at Notre Dame’s Keough School of Global Affairs benefit from generous grants that cover much of their tuition and living costs. This past academic year, grants met at least 65 percent of financial needs for all 70 students.

“We have generous donors who have provided funding devoted to student support,” says Ted Beatty, associate dean for academic affairs. “The basic foundation for financial aid is very strong here.”

Besides funding for tuition, the school has special grants to support the travel or research fieldwork that is needed to graduate. Like many other two-year global affairs programs, Keough requires that students complete a professional internship, Beatty says. “At Keough, we are able to fund students for international work, either during the summer between their two years or during their third semester, as part of their practicum experience.”

Students also may receive funding for Keough’s language immersion requirement, and more modest financial support for professional development conferences.

The school emphasizes these training opportunities to prepare students for work in global affairs at nongovernmental organizations, and in the public and private sectors, with a particular focus on development and peacebuilding.

“We are interested in attracting the most promising candidates from around the world,” Beatty says. “So we don’t expect students to be able to pay for their education in full or repay a lot of loans that could prevent them from pursuing their professional calling. We have made affordability a priority.”

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**SCHOOL RESEARCH PORTFOLIO HELPED HIM LAND A POST-GRADUATE JOB**

Mian Moaz Uddin, Master of Global Affairs ‘19, has been busy assessing the transportation policies proposed by the Democratic candidates for the 2020 US presidential election. This is part of his job as a public policy fellow for the International Council on Clean Transportation in Washington, DC, where he analyzes developments in transportation policies and technologies and authors white papers and briefings.

A portfolio of research and policy projects that Uddin completed at the Keough School was instrumental in helping him secure the job. “I was able to demonstrate that I could knowledgeably conduct research on transport and energy and synthesize that information into policy recommendations,” he says. “The Keough School’s generous financial support made it possible for me to pursue a world-class graduate degree in a field I am passionate about,” Uddin says.

---

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT: COVERDELL PEACE CORPS FELLOWSHIPS**

The Keough School partners with the Peace Corps to offer support to returned Peace Corps volunteers through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program. Returned volunteers admitted to the Master of Global Affairs and selected for the Coverdell Fellowship will receive a full-tuition scholarship for the two-year program.

---

**Financial Aid**

https://keough.nd.edu/master-of-global-affairs/scholarships-and-stipends

**Contact**

https://keough.nd.edu/master-of-global-affairs/apply
keough-admissions@nd.edu
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A “mosaic” of funding allows students to afford UC San Diego’s School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), according to Sonja Steinbrech, director of degree program enrollment. It helps that GPS’s tuition and fees are a value compared with private schools, and that students can become California residents and be eligible for a $12,000 discount during their second year at the school.

“Often, students fund their education with a combination of resources,” Steinbrech says. Some GPS students win a paid, private-sector internship. However, those who have an unpaid internship in the public sector or with a nonprofit are eligible for aid from the school. About 40 percent of the students hold teaching assistant or research assistant positions on the campus, and if they work at least 10 hours a week, a portion of their tuition and fees is waived.

“Often, students fund their education with a combination of resources. It’s really a patchwork.”
—Sonja Steinbrech, director of degree program enrollment, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

About 25 percent of GPS students get fellowships. In awarding this merit aid, the school considers factors such as their academic record and experience. “We also look at overcoming adversity and a commitment by an individual to helping communities overcome adversity,” Steinbrech says. Most US students who don’t receive fellowships take out federal student loans.

GPS also proves its value when students graduate. The California location provides attractive private-sector opportunities. Ninety percent of students are employed within eight months of graduation.

“We’re very proud of that number. In comparison to peer schools, we are in the upper portion,” Steinbrech says.

FELLOWSHIP AND RESEARCH WORK
FINANCE DEGREE

Lily Folkerts, Master of Public Policy ’21, has a fellowship from the Robertson Foundation for Government that covers all of her GPS costs and provides a stipend. Folkerts also works as a researcher for UC San Diego, which assists in defraying her living costs. She worked previously at the Latin America Working Group in Washington, DC, as a program associate, concentrating on human rights issues in Mexico and the Northern Triangle of Central America. Her Robertson fellowship requires recipients to work for the federal government for three of the first seven years after graduation. The Robertson Foundation—one of many organizations that GPS collaborates with to help students fund their education—also hosts networking events for students and alumni to connect with potential government employers.

Federal loans, assistantships in teaching and research, and merit-based fellowships are just a few of the ways that GPS students pay for their education.

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gps.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego
Full Tuition Funding Frees Graduates to Pursue Public Service Careers

Princeton offers a fully funded graduate education at its School of Public and International Affairs for all students, launching them into post-graduate life without the weight of student loans.

“All students receive 100 percent of tuition and required fees support,” says Steven F. Petric, director of graduate admissions. “Anybody who is admitted should be able to attend, irrespective of ability to pay. That’s a Princeton philosophy.”

This opens Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs to everyone, including first-generation and low-income students, and those from families whose finances were shaken by the coronavirus economic downturn.

Students also are eligible for a need-based living stipend. Petric says this means they can be more engaged with learning and all that Princeton offers. “We think of it as an investment in future public servants,” he says. “Other schools ask you to invest in your education. At Princeton, we invest in you.”

In any given year, about 80 percent of the School’s graduates choose jobs in the public sector, including government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Approximately half of each graduating class focuses on domestic issues, and the other half is engaged internationally.

Students also have the advantage of access to a robust network of Princeton alumni dedicated to service and to the broader community.

“Other schools ask you to invest in your education. At Princeton, we invest in you.”

–Steven F. Petric, Director of Graduate Admissions, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

“Our graduates recognize the investment the school made in their educations and lives and are eager to pay that forward,” Petric says. “This is a community that extends far beyond campus.”

TYPES OF FUNDING

All students receive 100 percent of tuition and required fees support. All students are eligible for generous need-based living stipends.

SCHOLARSHIP OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

Full funding and not having to work during graduate school opened up opportunities for Marcelo Norsworthy, Master in Public Affairs ’18. While at Princeton, Norsworthy pursued a Certificate in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy and served as co-chair of the annual Students and Alumni of Color Symposium, where he focused on building inclusive movements and strengthening intersectional coalitions.

Norsworthy received full tuition and fees support and a living stipend to cover expenses during his two-year program. In addition, the school financially supported his public-sector summer internship.

Norsworthy now works in Washington, DC, for the US International Development Finance Corporation. “My education at Princeton helped me become more effective and rigorous in public affairs, and the funding gave me the ability to focus my career on public service,” he says.

Financial Aid

Full tuition funding for all students
https://spia.princeton.edu

Contact
spetric@princeton.edu
609-258-4836

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Learn more about our fully-funded graduate degrees at Princeton University. spia.princeton.edu
Robust Online Portal Aids Students in Search for Financial Aid

In uncertain times, when enrolling in graduate school may seem like a luxury, the Office of Financial Aid at Florida International University (FIU) is well-equipped to assist students who want to pursue a master’s degree at the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

"Feel free to reach out," says Jessica Ly, FIU financial aid officer. "We have established channels for financial aid and we’re working hard to constantly update the information on our website."

The key to a student’s financial aid search is the webpage https://onestop.fiu.edu. The online portal provides information about resources that include scholarships, federal and private loans, work-study positions, and paid internships.

The portal also offers information about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provides funding that can be used to cover certain expenses, including housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

There are two other options for some Florida residents. Residents who attended public in-state universities and received monetary awards from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program as undergraduates can use leftover funding to cover costs of one semester of graduate school. Residents who are both FIU employees and students may qualify for a tuition waiver that covers the cost of two courses (six credits) per semester.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the financial aid office cannot offer in-person service, but the staff is “working remotely and as quickly as possible to help students in any way we can,” Ly says.

TOP TYPES OF FUNDING

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<tr>
<th>BY CONDITION</th>
<th>BY PROGRAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need Based</td>
<td>Grants $.53 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Need Based</td>
<td>Loans $6.97 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scholarships $.60 Million</td>
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Several Green School scholarships acknowledge students’ interest in politics, history, international relations, Cuban American studies, and more, and can be searched online at fiu.academicworks.com.

Financial Aid
https://onestop.fiu.edu/finances
onestop@fiu.edu
305-348-7272
Contact
https://sipa.fiu.edu

PAYING FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION WITH A LOAN, JOBS

Motivated by her interest in Korea and Japan, Amaya Bueno pursued several avenues to finance her graduate education at FIU’s Green School. She took out a loan to pay for her first semester and then landed a graduate assistantship, which covered her second-semester tuition and provided a stipend. In her third semester, she was hired for a job in the school’s Asian Studies Program. Using savings and the salary from her job, she was able to pay the tuition for her last two semesters. Bueno’s hard work earned her a service award, as well as a full-time job as an academic adviser at the Green School, shortly after she completed her Master of Asian Studies degree in 2019.
“The Master of Arts in Global Affairs Program helped me develop the professional skills I use in the field every day. Speaking at an international conference, interning in D.C., and completing a capstone project with the U.S. State Department all made this graduate school experience unforgettable.”

Johana Ravelo, M.A. in Global Affairs ’16
Guidepost Solutions

At a time when the challenges facing our world are increasingly complex, the work being done at FIU’s Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs is more critical than ever. Our graduates combine what they have learned in the classroom with immersive experiences like study abroad, internships and fellowships, and secure top positions at major public, private and non-profit organizations in the U.S. and around the world. The university’s location in Miami – the gateway to the Americas and a vibrant global city – combined with its fresh entrepreneurial approach, make studying global affairs at the Green School a unique experience.

Set your future in motion by applying to Miami’s Top 50 public university*

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*FIU has more than 45 programs in the top 50 among public universities in U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 rankings.
George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government offers an enticing opportunity for funding a graduate degree: graduate research assistant (GRA) positions that are research partnerships with professors. In exchange for their work, students receive tuition support, an annual stipend, and health insurance.

“It is the best strategic decision you can make financially, if you have the opportunity,” says Tonya Thornton Neaves, director for extramural projects and assistant professor in the Master’s in Public Administration program at the Schar School. “A GRA position allows your education to be squarely paid for by the school.”

The GRA program pairs students with professors on important research projects—including some that are particularly relevant in the age of COVID-19. The funded projects give students real-world experience in vital areas, leading to a more defined job search and a better return on their investment in the degree. Another benefit is mentoring by faculty members who are experts in their fields.

“GRAs are such an important partnership,” says Gregory Koblentz, director of the school’s biodefense graduate programs. “The students are not just mining data; they are not just worker bees.”

Koblentz notes that he has recently benefited from the GRA program, for example, by partnering with a South Korean student, Hyun Jung “Henry” Kim, who has expertise in military intelligence and national security. Meanwhile, Koblentz’s focus on global health security allows his research assistants to broaden their knowledge of biological threats, including biological weapons—and pandemics such as COVID-19.

PAIRING EXPERTISE TO ADVANCE RESEARCH IN BIODEFENSE

A former intelligence officer in the South Korean army, Hyun Jung “Henry” Kim is studying for his PhD in Biodefense at the Schar School, focusing on the use of unapproved medical countermeasures in response to public health emergencies. Leveraging his language skills and background, Kim and biodefense program director Gregory Koblentz are rewriting the history of Japan’s World War II-era biological warfare program. Their research determined that Japan’s biological attacks inside of China were correlated with Japan’s military operations on the ground, indicating that Japanese biological warfare was far more integrated into military planning than previously believed.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH A RETIRED AMBASSADOR

Charles “Tyler” Goodwin, Master’s in Public Administration ’21, has an interest in human rights issues and wants to pursue a career in public policy in Washington, DC. The Schar School’s location, close to downtown Washington, made it an obvious choice. Goodwin’s research included a project connected with the Department of Homeland Security that taught him how a government agency works. Also, one of his research professors, Richard Kauzlarich, is a retired US ambassador. Tonya Thornton Neaves, assistant professor, says, “Imagine the value of that letter of recommendation once he is looking for a job.”

Contact

Schar School Admissions:
https://schar.gmu.edu/prospective-students
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Like Its Namesake, School Promotes Public Service

The Bush School of Government and Public Service offers an avenue to an affordable, world-class advanced degree that encourages graduates to follow the vision of public service embodied by its namesake, President George H.W. Bush.

“We are very much committed to the idea of public and government service for our graduates,” says Dr. F. Gregory Gause III, head of the Bush School’s Department of International Affairs.

To that end, the school offers financial support that make its competitive curriculum, small class size, and relatively low-cost tuition even more attractive.

“Every full-time Master of International Affairs (MIA) student receives some amount of scholarship,” Gause says. “Additionally, those who enroll from out-of-state pay Texas rates, because we issue nonresident waivers to these competitive students.”

As a premier public institution, Texas A&M University also offers affordable rates. Current annual tuition costs are $13,200 for residents—which all students qualify for with the nonresident waivers—and living expenses are an additional $21,000. The MIA provides scholarships that range from $1,000 to more than $30,000 per year, with an average of $5,000.

Second-year Bush School students can either renew their scholarship or apply for a graduate assistant position. Graduate assistants earn partial tuition support and an hourly wage, working 20 hours per week for faculty or staff (totaling more than $14,000 annually).

These financial opportunities help students participate in their education without accumulating excessive debt. And that is critical for students looking to pursue careers in the public sector.

The most important thing about the Bush School is that every full-time Master of International Affairs student receives some amount of scholarship.”

–Dr. F. Gregory Gause III, Head of the Department of International Affairs, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

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A Bush School scholarship and, later, a graduate assistant position helped Weirich, of Olive Branch, MS, cover much of the cost of his MIA degree. He graduated this year and now works as an international tax consultant for a Dallas-based company.

“My experience at the Bush School was a positive one,” Weirich says. “It was exactly what I was looking for.”

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Dean Mark Welsh
20th Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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bushschooladmissions@tamu.edu
Storied University Offers Less-than-Lofty Tuition and a Range of Aid

As part of a storied university with a history dating to 1872, the 10-year-old Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po has relatively affordable tuition of 14,700 euros (about $16,000) per year. This reflects the university’s strategic choice to enable the best students to access a world-class education. The school mixes social sciences and hard sciences and is guided by professors and high-profile practitioners—such as former ambassadors and ministers—says Dean Enrico Letta, himself a former prime minister of Italy.

Sciences Po provides about 11 million euros ($12.1 million) per year in financial aid. In 2019–2020, 90 PSIA students from outside the European Economic Area received the Emile Boutmy Scholarship, named after the university’s founder. Based on academic excellence and financial need, this institutional scholarship helps reduce tuition.

Public- and private-sector partners of Sciences Po provide further awards—the Mastercard Foundation Scholarship, the Eiffel Scholarship, the Rene Seydoux Scholarship, among others—based on academic achievement, socioeconomic background, and course of study. The French government offers scholarships and other aid to attract students from around the world, and students from the United States often use US federal loans.

Internships and institutional work-study arrangements provide an additional financial boost and critical experience for PSIA students. French law requires that internships longer than eight weeks be paid, and 85 percent of PSIA students spend their third semester in an internship.

“Over the years, Sciences Po has substantially reinforced its financial aid policy, working closely with its own community and external partners.”

—Catarina Laranjeira, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po

Institutional scholarships make up the biggest share of financial aid offered at Sciences Po, including for PSIA students.

“Working close to his academic home

Coming from Cremona, Italy, Michele Bellini was able to pay tuition based on his family income, a benefit offered to residents of the European Economic Area. He covered some expenses as a paid trainee at the European Parliament his third semester, worked part-time for PSIA his last semester, and was one of 60 students who each year organize the school’s flagship event, the Youth and Leaders Summit.

“The fast-paced environment, the mix of theory and practice, and the required ability to connect core issues of policy into a coherent picture is very close to the situations we face in the ‘real world,’” says Bellini, a 2017 summa cum laude Master in International Public Management graduate. Like 83 percent of PSIA students, he found a job within six months—joining PSIA as executive officer, where he works with the dean on strategic projects.

Financial Aid

Contact
Catarina Laranjeira, Assistant Dean for Admissions: catarina.laranjeira@sciencespo.fr
+33 145497237

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Funding Your Graduate Education in International Affairs

**PROGRAM DIRECTORY**

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**Contact**
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**Financial Aid**
https://keough.nd.edu/master-of-global-affairs/scholarships-and-stipends

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**UC San Diego, School of Global Policy and Strategy** [https://gps.ucsd.edu](https://gps.ucsd.edu)

**Financial Aid**
https://gps.ucsd.edu/admissions/tuition/fellowships-financing.html, gps-apply@ucsd.edu, 858-534-5914

**Federal Loans**
https://fas.ucsd.edu, finaid@ucsd.edu

**Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs** [https://spia.princeton.edu](https://spia.princeton.edu)

**Financial Aid**
Full tuition funding for all students, https://spia.princeton.edu

**Contact**
Steven Petric, Director of Graduate Admissions, Global Partnerships and Outreach: spetric@princeton.edu, 609-258-4836

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**Contact**
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**Texas A&M University, The Bush School of Government and Public Service** [https://bush.tamu.edu](https://bush.tamu.edu)

**Contact**
https://bush.tamu.edu/prospective, bushschooladmissions@tamu.edu, 979-862-3476

**Sciences Po, Paris School of International Affairs** [https://www.sciencespo.fr/psia](https://www.sciencespo.fr/psia)

**Financial Aid**

**Contact**
Catarina Laranjeira, Assistant Dean for Admissions: catarina.laranjeira@sciencespo.fr
+33 145497237

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• Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs
• Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
• Tufts University, The Fletcher School

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