Successful applicants to international affairs graduate programs this unusual year must not only have a strong academic record and a passion for a global career—they also must demonstrate a commitment to public service and to “the formidable task of repairing the world,” according to admissions experts at leading schools in this FP Guide.

Requirements and strategies vary among schools, as described on the pages that follow. Some of this advice applies more generally:

1. Provide evidence of your commitment to public service through prior full-time professional work and evidence of your international experience through work, volunteering, or study abroad.

2. Show that you have persisted and succeeded in your life despite personal challenges.

3. If possible, accumulate at least two years of work or volunteer experience before graduate study. Schools consider it a bonus, because these students are able to weigh academic theories taught in the classroom against their own experience.

4. Use your personal statement to illustrate that you have mapped out a career path and that the knowledge and skills you gain from the program you apply to will help you reach your goals.
The programs at UC San Diego’s School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) are especially apt for issues affecting today’s world. All of the school’s degrees have options geared toward challenges that policy makers are facing in addressing COVID-19, racial justice and inequality, and sustainability.

**Master of Public Policy (MPP) specialization in Health Policy.** The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated more than any event in recent history how public policy and health policy are interlinked, says Sonja Steinbrech, director of admissions. “Informed by science, data, and health professionals, our graduates are prepared to lead the future of local, state, federal, and global health policy,” she says.

**MPP specialization in Inequality and Social Policy.** The school’s newest MPP has quickly risen to become its most popular track. “As inequality continues to rise in the United States and around the world, GPS students are learning how to design and implement policies that make our communities more equal and just,” says Wendy Hunter Barker, assistant dean responsible for equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts at GPS.

**Master of International Affairs specialization in International Development and Nonprofit Management.** The school believes that careers in international development and the nonprofit sector will be critical in the effort to help the world’s economy rebuild post-COVID. This degree focuses on how to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of development and nonprofit programs.

Furthermore, all four of the school’s master’s degrees have an environmental policy or sustainability track. GPS sees climate change and sustainability as central to policy discussions for corporations, local governments, and international organizations. A master’s degree that teaches the analytical skills of how to combat these global problems will be a strong asset in the job market.

**Graduate Degree Program Options**
- Master of International Affairs
- Master of Public Policy
- Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs
- Master of Advanced Studies in International Affairs
- PhD in Political Science and International Affairs

**Deadlines for Fall 2021**
**Application:** Rolling after January 15, usually closes in late June
**Financial Aid/Scholarships:** January 15

**Standardized Exam Scores:** The school will not require or consider standardized exams for admissions or fellowship funding. It will continue to require a language exam for students from countries where English is not the official language.

**Recommendation Letters:** Three are required. The school prefers a mix of professional and academic. Detailed, personal letters from people who know the applicant well (such as an immediate supervisor) are preferable to more generic letters (such as from a CEO). Applicants should provide letter writers with prompts, such as a résumé, a personal statement for school applications, or a reminder of projects worked on, skills gained, or research conducted.

**Application Checklist:** [http://gps.ucsd.edu/admissions/applying.html](http://gps.ucsd.edu/admissions/applying.html)
ADVANCING YOUR CAREER, ADVANCING OUR WORLD

The UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy provides analytical training for the next generation of policymakers, using the latest science and technology to solve the world’s greatest challenges.

Discover our degrees in International Affairs & Public Policy

The UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy provides analytical training for the next generation of policymakers, using the latest science and technology to solve the world’s greatest challenges.

gps.ucsd.edu
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

IN A TIME OF TURMOIL, FLEXIBILITY IS CRUCIAL

“Now more than ever before, our focus is to connect individually with prospective candidates. Whether by phone, e-mail, or through virtual events, our team is here to help you discover which program will best support your academic and professional goals.”

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

Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) is putting a premium on flexibility, in a world upturned by a pandemic layered atop widespread economic and social upheaval. As the school adjusts its programming, financial aid, and networking and advising opportunities to the new reality, it is encouraging prospective students to demonstrate their own resourcefulness.

“Be creative and show your individuality,” says Sidney T. Jackson, assistant dean for global enrollment and recruitment at Johns Hopkins SAIS, noting that evaluators scrutinize application essays for characteristics such as authenticity. “An application that will stand out from others is genuine and comes from a place of honesty.”

In addition to a strong academic record and a passion for a career in international relations, successful applicants show quantitative aptitude, some professional experience related to their area of interest, and international experience through work, volunteering, or study abroad.

Johns Hopkins SAIS—which has campuses in Washington, DC, Europe, and China—encourages candidates to research their options for academic programs as well as for financial aid. The school has increased its online admissions programming, such as student-led information sessions and mini-lectures hosted by faculty throughout the semester. The aim is to help admissions candidates connect with its tight-knit, collaborative community.

The cost barriers, especially in these tight economic times, often can be overcome with the array of scholarships available to eligible students, regardless of citizenship. College websites and financial aid webinars can help prospective students determine the actual cost of attendance and, importantly, the return on investment, Jackson says.

**Master of Arts in International Relations**

The school’s flagship Master of Arts in International Relations, along with the Master of International Public Policy for experienced professionals, will offer more flexibility for students to focus on their priority issues. Starting in fall 2021, the International Relations master’s program will make many former requirements optional and emphasize learning in the areas of leadership, decision-making, data analytics, economics, geopolitics, and research methods. The core curriculum will be function-based—for example, international economics and finance, or development, climate, and sustainability. The curriculum also offers students the ability to focus on a geographic area, such as Asia, or China specifically.

All that is rounded out by practicum projects, study trips, internships, practical research papers, language training, and opportunities for dual degrees and exchange programs.

Graduate Degree Program Options
- MA in International Relations
- MA in International Economics and Finance*
- MA in Global Policy (for experienced professionals)*
- MA in International Affairs**
- MA in European Public Policy**
- MA in Global Risk**
- MA in International Studies***
- MA in Global Risk (online)
- MA in Sustainable Energy (online)
- Master of International Public Policy (for experienced professionals)

The school also offers individual courses, graduate certificates, and doctoral programs.

*Based in Washington, DC
**Based at SAIS Europe in Bologna, Italy
***Based at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in Nanjing, China

Deadlines for Fall 2021
**Application and Financial Aid/Scholarships:** Early notification, November 1, 2020; regular, January 7, 2021

**Standardized Exam Scores:** The GRE or GMAT are optional for most degree programs. The TOEFL/IELTS may be required for non-native English speakers, if applicable.

**Recommendation Letters:** Two are required, with the option of a third.

**Application Checklist:** https://sais.jhu.edu/apply-today

See these schools and more online at https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply
The World Is Changing And So Are We

Today’s global challenges are complex. It is essential for leaders to understand how economics, geopolitics, security, health, and the environment are inextricably linked—exactly what you will learn as a student at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Join us for an upcoming information session and discover how our flexible graduate programs—including fully online courses and degrees—will help you to advance your career.

sais.jhu.edu/infosession
Virginia Tech’s School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) seeks applicants eager for the opportunity for service in today’s tumultuous world and willing to translate ideals and theories into practice. Successful applicants demonstrate the kind of commitment that reflects the university’s motto: “Ut Prosim,” which means “That I May Serve.”

“Given the urgency and complexity of the problems spurred by the pandemic, including economic uncertainty and political turbulence, the world needs leaders who can think strategically, interdisciplinary, and multinationally,” says Ariel I. Ahram, associate professor and chair of SPIA’s Government and International Affairs program. “Real-world experience is paramount. SPIA students are positioned to bridge the gap between theory and policy.”

Typically, half of SPIA’s graduate students attend full-time and half are working professionals who attend part-time—a combination that is integral to the success of the school. SPIA students embrace the breadth of Virginia Tech, working closely with the university’s Department of Political Science and its Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology, whose programs focus on the challenges of cybersecurity, autonomy, and resilience for the national security community.

In March 2021, SPIA will offer its inaugural National Security Executive Leadership Program, an intensive one-week professional development opportunity designed for mid-level national security professionals. Professors and policy experts, from uniformed services and federal agencies, will offer interdisciplinary instruction in the national security apparatus, instruments of national power, the appropriations process, gaming and simulation, and critical decision-making.

Today’s most urgent challenges, including the global public health emergency, demands for social justice, and climate change, defy traditional academic frameworks. To meet these challenges, we need to draw from across the natural and social sciences. Our Master of Public and International Affairs and PhD in Planning, Governance, and Globalization do just that.”

–Ariel I. Ahram, Associate Professor and Program Chair, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech

Graduate Degree Program Options
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Public and International Affairs
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- PhD in Planning, Governance, and Globalization
- PhD in Public Administration and Public Affairs

The school also offers more than 10 Graduate Certificates, including Homeland Security Policy, Middle East Politics and Society, and Security Studies.

Deadlines for Fall 2021 Application: For domestic students, August 1, 2021; for international students, April 1, 2021

Financial Aid/Scholarships: Priority for FAFSA, March 1, 2021; regular for fellowship consideration, July 15, 2021

Standardized Exam Scores: The GRE is optional; the TOEFL/IELTS is required for international students, if applicable.

Recommendation Letters: Three are required. At least one should be from someone who knows the applicant from an academic setting. Also helpful are letters from community leaders, religious or spiritual leaders, professors, and work supervisors.


See these schools and more online at https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply
Real-world experience is paramount given the urgency and complexity of today’s challenges. VT SPIA students are positioned to bridge the gap between theory and policy.

**THE VT SPIA DIFFERENCE**

**ACCOMMODATE YOUR SCHEDULE**
- PART-TIME & FULL-TIME OPTIONS
- EVENING & WEEKEND COURSES
- IN-PERSON, ONLINE & HYBRID LEARNING

**DON’T BREAK THE BANK**
NATIONALLY RANKED EDUCATION AT IN-STATE RATES OR WITH SELECT FELLOWSHIPS (FOR BOTH MASTERS & PHD STUDENTS)

**MASTERS**
- PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY
- URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING

**PH.D.**
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PLANNING, GOVERNANCE & GLOBALIZATION

**10+ GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**
- SECURITY STUDIES
- HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY
- MIDDLE EAST POLITICS AND SOCIETY

“Today’s most urgent challenges, including the global public health emergency, demands for social justice, and climate change, defy traditional academic frameworks. To meet these challenges, we need to draw from across the natural and social sciences.”

- Professor Ariel I. Ahrom, Chair, Government and International Affairs
“Do not overthink your graduate school application” is the advice of Daniel Kristo, assistant dean of graduate enrollment management at Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

“One once you have decided to apply, use the energy behind your decision to complete the application early,” Kristo says. “This may increase your chances for admission and scholarship consideration.”

Seton Hall encourages applicants to research the program details and admission requirements for the School of Diplomacy and International Relations and to identify a school point of contact who can help them throughout their application process and beyond. Applicants also should identify a support team that includes both academic and professional mentors who can write recommendation letters.

Every year, the school’s graduate admissions committee holistically reviews hundreds of applications from a diverse global pool of prospective candidates. There is not a unique applicant profile that fits all. However, the candidates who stand out are focused in their approach and intentional about their graduate studies plans, Kristo says.

A key application requirement is a one-page personal statement, which serves not only as a writing sample, but also as a reflection on the applicant’s readiness for graduate school and overall professional goals.

According to Kristo, one question that helps with the admissions thought process is: How will I leverage this graduate program as a bridge between my past accomplishments and future career goals?

The School of Diplomacy and International Relations has an exclusive alliance with the United Nations Association of the USA, which allows it special access to the UN community.

Global Health and Human Security

Master’s candidates create a niche professional profile by customizing their graduate studies through 13 functional and regional specializations, including Global Health and Human Security. This academic concentration, which explicitly addresses the international security and foreign policy aspects of health issues, is especially relevant during the ongoing global pandemic.

The concentration coursework transcends traditional models of interstate conflict and seeks to develop new tools of analysis in assessing the nature of global health threats and mapping out effective responses to them. It covers topics of biological weapons, new and re-emerging diseases, demographic and epidemiological transitions, and sustainable development.

Courses are taught by experts, including Dr. Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations. Huang has testified before the US Congress about COVID-19.
Whether he’s teaching students about global health, testifying before Congress on the economic impact of COVID-19, or talking to the New York Times about the World Health Organization’s response to the pandemic, Dr. Yanzhong Huang has helped his students, the public and international leaders better understand the forces shaping our world. A Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Professor Huang teaches at Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and directs the Center for Global Health Studies.

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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

CHANGE AGENTS WANTED, TO TACKLE GREATEST GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver understands that the world’s most vexing problems require solutions that cross different academic disciplines. In addition to traditional international affairs and public policy master’s programs, the school offers dual majors and certificate programs that allow students to delve into complex problems using multiple areas of study.

Examples of certificates that can be added to the Korbel School degree programs include Global Health Affairs and Humanitarian Assistance. Students work on “making the global economy more equitable and inclusive, responding to new and emerging security threats, advancing human rights and social justice, combating climate change, and promoting healthy democracy,” says Daniel Doerr, director of graduate enrollment at the Korbel School.

Successful applicants typically have experience working, volunteering, or studying abroad. “Rather than simply reading about an applicant’s passion for public policy or international affairs in a personal statement, we prefer to see a demonstration of commitment to such fields on one’s résumé,” Doerr says.

The personal statement is a key part of the application. It is a chance for candidates to detail how their life experiences have shaped their career goals and helped them build useful skills. Letters of recommendation should focus on an applicant’s ability to handle the coursework and also add personal insight. Professors and industry professionals are effective recommenders who can explain an applicant’s work ethic, intellectual capacity, and commitment to the field.

While some graduates take positions in Washington, DC, or abroad, others stay in Denver because of its quality of life and the many job opportunities there with nonprofits, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies.

Graduate Degree Program Options
- MA in Global Environmental Sustainability
- MA in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration
- MA in International Development
- MA in International Human Rights
- MA in International Security
- MA in International Studies
- Master of Public Policy (MPP)
- Dual degrees, including MA and Master of Social Work (MSW), MPP and MSW, MPP and JD
- PhD in International Studies
- MA students also may select from seven certificate programs to tailor their studies.

Deadlines for Fall 2021
Application: Rolling admissions
Financial Aid/Scholarships: Priority January 15, 2021, then rolling admission on a space-available basis
Standardized Exam Scores: The GRE is not required for master’s candidates, but it is for doctoral applicants.
Recommendation Letters: Two letters are required of applicants, although more may be submitted.
Application Checklist:
https://korbel.du.edu/admission-aid/graduate-applicants

During a time of pandemic, recession, and calls for racial justice, the school’s mission is critical, Doerr says. “We remain committed to holistic, student-centered practices, to fostering an equitable and inclusive learning environment, and to preparing students to address the great challenges of our time.”

For example, the new MA in Global Environmental Sustainability allows students to harness their passion for sustainability. The redesigned Master of Public Policy program prepares students to reshape national, state, and even local policy and to fight for inclusive democracies.

“Beyond a demonstrated record of academic, professional, and personal achievement, successful applicants are change agents looking for interdisciplinary solutions to today’s most pressing global issues.”

–Daniel Doerr, Director of Graduate Enrollment, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver
Inclusive Economic Growth
Security
Social Justice
Sustainability
Democracy

Find your cause.

At the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, we are taking on the great challenges of our time.

Today, our mission is more important than ever. We are forward thinking and world ready. The future is yours and it starts here. Join us.
Candidates for the Keough School of Global Affairs should highlight their professional experiences and demonstrate how this master’s degree in global affairs would be a natural stepping-stone in their overall career plans.

“Be candid and transparent about your professional experiences during the application process, so that others may recognize the value you bring to the program,” says Becca Méndez, associate director of the Keough School Master of Global Affairs program.

She recommends that applicants to the Master of Global Affairs program have at least two years of previous work or volunteer experience, because its curriculum focuses on the intersection of theory and practice. Students must be able to weigh academic theories taught in the classroom against their own experience.

Admissions candidates also should be proficient in English, have proficiency in a language other than English, and possess strong academic skills.

It is important that candidates identify with the Keough School’s mission of integral human development—the flourishing of whole communities and the whole person. The school’s scholars and practitioners are committed to addressing global problems from many different perspectives and disciplines and with a sensitivity to the cultures, religions, and histories of the communities where they engage.

Furthermore, the Keough School strives to create a diverse student body that includes all international, linguistic, socioeconomic, and disciplinary backgrounds. Admitting a large portion of international students always has been—and will continue to be—a priority for the school. Therefore, it continues to work with admitted international students to overcome the challenges of traveling to the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Those global pandemic underscores how urgently our world needs talented and compassionate people who are willing to dedicate themselves to the formidable task of ‘repairing the world’ and alleviating human suffering. We are more dedicated than ever to supporting students in their pursuit of a meaningful vocation.”

—Becca Méndez, Associate Director, Master of Global Affairs program, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame

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**Graduate Degree Program Options**
- Master of Global Affairs
- Master of Global Affairs and JD
- Master of Global Affairs and MBA

*Each degree offers three concentrations: Sustainable Development, International Peace Studies, and Global Affairs, with opportunities to specialize.*

**Deadlines for Fall 2021**
*Master of Global Affairs*
- **Application:** December 15, 2020
- **Financial Aid/Scholarships:** December 15, 2020

Applicants to the dual-degree MGA/JD and MGA/MBA programs must apply separately to each program, and they will be evaluated independently by each program. For detailed application requirements, see [https://keough.nd.edu/mga](https://keough.nd.edu/mga).

**Standardized Exam Scores:** The GRE will not be required for those applying to start the Master of Global Affairs in fall 2021. Non-native English speakers must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores, unless they have studied at least two years at a university where instruction is in English.

**Recommendation Letters:** Three letters of recommendation are required for the Master of Global Affairs. At least one letter should speak to the candidate’s academic ability, and one to their professional abilities. Letters attesting to the applicant’s character also are valued.

**Application Checklist:** [https://keough.nd.edu/master-of-global-affairs/apply](https://keough.nd.edu/master-of-global-affairs/apply)

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See these schools and more online at [https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply](https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply)
LEAD THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE.

Master of Global Affairs

Work directly with public and private sector leaders, meet with policymakers through our Washington, DC, office, and partner with international organizations tackling global challenges on the ground. Emerge with the skills you need to be an agent of change.

nd.edu/globalaffairs
Passion, curiosity, and independence are some of the key characteristics of successful applicants to the University of Kent’s Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS). Admissions staff look for signs of these traits as they scrutinize motivation letters, scouring for more than the minimum entry requirements in a candidate’s all-around profile to consider their work experience, volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.

Located in the Belgian capital, which is home to most of the European Union’s institutions, BSIS seeks students with a variety of backgrounds—in the social sciences, the classics, philosophy, languages, or history. Its aim for diversity is geographic, too. BSIS’s approximately 250 students hail from about 55 countries across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

“Our students are independent, curious, and like to challenge and question norms,” says Jeremy Carrette, the school’s academic head. “We are looking for motivated students who are passionate about international affairs.”

In addition to a range of Master of Arts (MA), Master of Law (LLM), and Master of Science (MSc) degrees, the school plans to offer a new MSc in Global Health Policy in the near future.

BSIS always has offered a degree of flexibility with its admissions criteria. Extensive work experience, for example, may compensate for gaps in a candidate’s academic background.

That will continue, but in consideration of the ongoing pandemic and economic recession, the school will be more flexible with deferral or delayed entry, Carrette says.

**Graduate Degree Program Options**
- MA in EU External Relations
- MA in International Political Economy
- MA in International Conflict and Security
- MA in International Development
- MA in Political Strategy and Communication
- MA in International Migration
- MA in International Relations
- LLM in Human Rights Law
- LLM in International Law
- MSc in Global Health Policy (new, pending)

**Deadlines for 2021**
- **Application:** For January 2021 entry, October 31, 2020; for September 2021 entry, July 31, 2021
- **Financial Aid/Scholarships:** For September 2021 entry, May 1, 2021
- **Standardized Exam Scores:** None are required.
- **Recommendation Letters:** One is required. Academic references are preferred, with exceptions for candidates who have been out of school for several years.
- **Application Checklist:**
  - https://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply

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“**Our students come from a variety of backgrounds, and we feel this enriches the school. They may come from a social science background, or perhaps philosophy, classics, languages, or history. This variety of subjects brings different perspectives to the classroom and energizes debates in seminars and tutorials.”**

–Jeremy Carrette, Dean for Europe, Brussels School of International Studies, University of Kent

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**UNIVERSITY OF KENT**

**BRUSSELS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**LOOKING FOR PASSIONATE, INDEPENDENT MINDS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION’S CAPITAL**

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

**MA in International Migration**

This program focuses on human migration and immigration as major global issues. The United Nations’ refugee agency estimates that currently, about 80 million people are forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide, due to conflict, persecution, or other crises. That’s more than 1 of every 100 people, and twice as many as a decade earlier.

Students in this program dive into the legal and moral aspects of migration and what it means to be a citizen in another country, focusing not only on those forcibly displaced inside their own countries or refugees abroad, but also on economic migrants. In a post-pandemic world, tensions surrounding migration may escalate again, as countries work to rebuild their economies. That makes this field ever more crucial in global discourse.

That will continue, but in consideration of the ongoing pandemic and economic recession, the school will be more flexible with deferral or delayed entry, Carrette says.

See these schools and more online at https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply
Postgraduate education in international affairs taught in English by world-leading academics and experienced practitioners.

- Conflict and Security
- EU External Relations
- International and Human Rights Law
- International Migration
- International Relations
- Political Economy
- International Development
- Political Strategy and Communication

T: +32 2 641 1721
E: bsis@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/brussels
When American University broke ground on its School of International Service (SIS) in 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was on hand to make remarks. The 34th president, once an Army general, spoke often in those days about the need to “wage peace.” That idea still thrives at SIS, which offers 20 graduate programs centered around the mission of service, many of which also focus on social justice.

“Our mission very much comes from our history,” says Jia Jiang, director of graduate enrollment management. “The history is waging peace. It’s about promoting cross-cultural understanding, collaboration, and dialogue before we think about dramatic actions. Waging peace versus war is always the harder thing to do. What this means for our students today is to strive to be advocates for social justice and to help build a more equitable society, through the skills and purpose that they’ve learned during their time at SIS.”

SIS’s international development program, one of the oldest in the world, sits at the critical junction of social justice, poverty alleviation, and increasingly, public health.

The school also has continued to innovate. In international affairs, SIS is home to one of the few global environmental policy programs in the United States. The program helps graduates navigate the intersection of justice, ecological well-being, and humane governance.

Graduate Degree Program Options
- MA in Ethics, Peace, and Human Rights
- MA in Global Environmental Policy
- MA in Intercultural and International Communication
- MA in International Affairs Policy and Analysis
- MA in International Affairs: Comparative and Regional Studies
- MA in International Affairs: Global Governance, Politics, and Security
- MA in International Affairs: International Economic Relations
- MA in International Affairs: Natural Resources and Sustainable Development
- MA in International Affairs: US Foreign Policy and National Security
- MA in International Development
- MA in International Economics
- MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution
- MA in International Relations (online)
- MS in Development Management
- MS in International Relations and Business (online)
- Executive Master of International Service (on campus or online)
- PhD in International Relations

The school participates in the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the matching program for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.

Deadlines for Fall 2021
(Application and Financial Aid/Scholarships)
Priority for master’s programs: January 15, 2021
Final for PhD program: December 15, 2020

Standardized Exam Scores: The GRE is not required for master’s degree applicants, but it is required for all PhD applicants. International applicants whose native language is not English must submit results of standard English proficiency tests, such as the TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo.

Recommendation Letters: Two are required for master’s programs, and three are required for the PhD program. Ideally, letters should come from individuals who know the applicant well and can elaborate on their past academic performance and potential to succeed in graduate school.

Application Checklist:
https://www.american.edu/sis/admissions/required-materials.cfm

See these schools and more online at https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply
At the School of International Service, we’re guided by an important principle: we need the world, and it needs us. Join our top-10 school of international affairs and turn your passion for challenging the status quo into a career of global leadership and service.
George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government provides its students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the constantly changing international environment, now racked by a pandemic and fraught with conflict.

Located in a public policy crucible bounded by the Pentagon, White House, and US Capitol, the Schar School offers students an academic crossroads where science and policy intersect. The Schar School’s graduate programs span the public policy gamut, allowing students to learn from professors with real-world experience and helping them gain the practical knowledge needed to lead government agencies and nonprofit organizations and develop public policies and programs.

For example, the MS in Biodefense, offered both on campus and online, trains students to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the full range of biological threats, from naturally occurring pandemics to deliberate threats from biological weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

“Today’s world is so interconnected that anywhere in the world is basically just a flight away from any outbreak or biological threat. To be prepared locally, we need to be prepared globally,” says Gregory Koblentz, associate professor and director of the graduate programs in biodefense. “We aim to produce graduates who can bridge the gap between science and policy.”

Preparing for a COVID World

While the Schar School’s admissions criteria have remained consistent throughout the ongoing crisis, it recognizes the profound public health challenges and economic disruption that its applicants face, Major says. For spring 2021 applicants, the school is waiving tuition deposits for students who are experiencing economic hardship, and it is making more scholarship funding available than ever before.

In evaluating applications, the school recognizes that while COVID-19 has been devastating for much of the world, global challenges like the pandemic can be a motivating factor for students who want a degree that can help them be a part of the solution. Therefore, the Schar School would appreciate seeing expressed in an applicant’s personal essay their desire to step up and help.

Students seeking admission to the Schar School must come prepared academically, and also have concrete ideas for a career path, so the knowledge they gain at the school will help them attain their career goals, says Travis Major, director of graduate admissions.

Graduate Degree Program Options

- MA in International Commerce and Policy
- MA in International Security
- MA in Political Science
- MA in Public Administration
- MA in Public Policy
- MA in Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics
- MS in Biodefense
- MS in Organization Development and Knowledge Management
- PhD in Biodefense
- PhD in Political Science
- PhD in Public Policy

Deadlines for Fall 2021

Application: Priority, February 1, 2021; regular, May 1, 2021
Financial Aid/Scholarships: Priority, February 1, 2021; regular, May 1, 2021
Standardized Exam Scores: Most graduate programs do not require test scores. A limited number of programs require the GRE or GMAT, but scores are one part of the overall application and do not dictate an admissions decision.

Recommendation Letters: Two are required, from either professors who have taught the applicant or professional colleagues who know the applicant and are familiar with their work.

Application Checklist: https://schar.gmu.edu/howtoapply
More Information: https://schar.gmu.edu/info
EARN YOUR MASTER’S IN
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
OR BIODEFENSE

PREPARE FOR
TOMORROW’S
THREAT TODAY

SECURE YOUR FUTURE
SCHAR.GMU.EDU
At Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, global professionals working across sectors converge in an educational environment rich in real-world experience.

The Executive Master of International Relations (EMIR) program brings together mid-career professionals from diverse fields, including foreign policy, diplomacy, trade, the environment, education, health, security, and cyber.

Committed to the public good and to tackling complex challenges, EMIR students gain insights from their classmates while establishing a network of like-minded changemakers, including 33,000 Maxwell School alumni around the world.

“While Maxwell offers a range of highly regarded professional master’s degrees, the EMIR is specifically tailored for the experienced professional who wants to advance to a higher level of executive leadership or transition into the international arena,” says Cory Meyers, director of enrollment management.

The EMIR degree program offers increased accessibility through an efficiently paced 30-credit (10-course) curriculum, scheduling flexibility, and options to complete courses either in Syracuse, New York, or Washington, DC. The school has a partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), in which Washington, DC, professionals take courses with Maxwell faculty and CSIS scholars in the evening and continue working during the day.

Mark Jacobson, a foreign policy scholar who also has extensive work experience in federal government and international organizations, leads the EMIR in Washington, DC, program.

“Our students not only bolster their academic grounding, but also examine cutting-edge issues by working with key policy practitioners in an environment where what led the news today may have been covered in our classroom the week before,” he says.

Work Experience is Essential

While the admission committee considers a candidate’s entire profile, including past academic performance, relevant work experience is by far the most important factor in admission decisions for the EMIR program. It requires a minimum of seven years of experience. Ideal applicants have held managerial positions in the public or nonprofit sectors, or have done related public policy work.

“The personal statement also is an important part of the application for admission,” Meyers says. “Applicants should take care to clearly demonstrate their understanding of the international relations field and how their career goals are aligned with the EMIR program.”
DRIVE CHANGE

with a mid-career degree from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University

The Executive Master of International Relations in Washington, D.C., will boost your ability to drive change across sectors. A unique partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), this highly flexible program combines the expertise and networks of two prestigious institutions. Take Maxwell classes tailored to your career goals at CSIS on Embassy Row, and immerse yourself in the world of international affairs.

MAXWELL.SYR.EDU/PAIA

#1 think tank in the United States
(University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index)

#1 school for public affairs
(U.S. News & World Report)

Syracuse University
Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs
Candidates for the Executive Master of Global Affairs and Management (EMAGAM) program at Arizona State University’s Thunderbird School of Global Management should tap their recent work experience to illustrate how they have acclimated to the ongoing pandemic, advises Sanjeev Khagram, the school’s director general and dean.

The EMAGAM, for mid-career professionals, prepares graduates for leadership positions within their existing organizations, or to make a bold move in their careers by switching industries entirely.

“At work, you have been adapting to new ways of doing things,” Khagram says. “Look for leadership opportunities in your community. If you can, step up into leadership roles during this time of crisis. Be a thought leader for your industry.”

Applicants to the EMAGAM should explore online courses and research different areas of expertise to get a sense of whether they are the right fit, as they plan the growth of their skill set and knowledge base.

Candidates for the program also must be receptive to opportunities for developing expertise and connections in other disciplines. For example, Thunderbird is seeing more attention on sectors such as health care—already one of the global economy’s biggest drivers—and how best to apply business skills and manage it.

“Keep networking,” Khagram advises. “Reach out to professional contacts if you have questions about what it’s like to work in different industries.”

Global Leadership and Management Program
Between the Fourth Industrial Revolution, climate change, and population growth, the 21st century is poised to see massive, complex disruptions that pose serious threats to our global civilization’s ability to prosper. Layered on top of that, COVID-19 has revealed a global need for expertise in managing systemic hazards. Thunderbird’s EMAGAM program, based in Washington, DC, is designed to teach just this type of expertise.

Mastering the ability to engage wide ranges of stakeholders in decision-making is key. The EMAGAM program offers multiple core and elective courses that cover techniques for facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement in the context of complex global systems. For example, a course on the craft of global networking teaches how and why to build resilient collaborations across borders and sectors, in issues ranging from health and human rights to the environment and terrorism.
Global Leadership for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Thunderbird is ranked #1 worldwide in management by Times Higher Education and Wall Street Journal 2019.

Thunderbird is ranked #1 in the U.S. for innovation by U.S. News & World Report ahead of Stanford and MIT in 2020.

Thunderbird is ranked #1 in the U.S. for global impact in research and stewardship by Times Higher Education, 2020.

Thunderbird is ranked #1 public university of choice for international students by Institute of International Education, 2018.

Learn how Thunderbird prepares global leaders for the Fourth Industrial Revolution:

Thunderbird.asu.edu/WashingtonDC
Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) cultivates graduates who will construct a more inclusive and equitable world. When building its student community, the school looks for excellence, diversity, and a dedication to public service.

"We are an inclusive and supportive community at Princeton, bound together by our commitment to public service—it's the single biggest thing we look for in our admissions process," says SPIA Director of Graduate Admissions Steven F. Petric. "We know that the best applicants do not all come from the same place. We care about the composition of our community."

This commitment to public service should not only serve as the impetus for career aspirations, but it should also be evidenced through prior full-time professional and volunteer work.

"We look for individuals working on behalf of their communities," Petric says.

SPIA takes a holistic approach to admissions that considers multiple indicators of success, beyond those measured on a transcript. Those markers include tenacity and an unflinching resolve to create solutions.

The school keeps its degree offerings simple: a two-year Master in Public Affairs (MPA), a one-year mid-career Master in Public Policy (MPP), and a five-year PhD in Public Affairs. The master’s curriculum offers four fields of concentration and three optional certificate programs. Petric notes the rigor of the school’s programs in preparing students for international and domestic policy careers.

"We are keen on people who have persisted and succeeded in their careers in spite of personal challenges, professional setbacks, or financial barriers," Petric says. "So, it's important to follow your passions, because by doing work you love, you will excel."

Graduate Degree Program Options
• Master in Public Affairs
• Master in Public Policy (for mid-career professionals)
• PhD in Public Affairs

Deadlines for Fall 2021
Application: December 1, 2020

Financial Aid/Scholarships: Princeton has one application deadline and one admissions cycle. All admitted students receive full financial support for tuition.

Standardized Exam Scores: The GRE is required for the MPA. The MPP and PhD programs are test-optional.

Recommendation Letters: Three are required.

Application Checklist: https://spia.princeton.edu/graduate-admissions/master-public-affairs/application

See these schools and more online at https://fpguide.foreignpolicy.com/2020-apply
Committed to dialogue and public service? Join us.

We believe that public policy in the 21st century demands a passion for service, a global perspective, and diverse voices.

Our community is dedicated to creating, leading, and analyzing innovative approaches to the most-pressing challenges of public and international affairs.

Add your voice to our conversation, and help change the world. How do you serve?

Learn more about our fully-funded graduate degrees at Princeton University. spia.princeton.edu
Successful candidates for the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University have advanced knowledge of at least one world language and are committed to a multidisciplinary approach to studying international affairs—or a particular area of the world.

One of the largest international affairs schools in the country, the Hamilton Lugar School leads “In making our admissions decisions, we look for intellectually curious leaders who are passionate about world languages, regional cultures, and global engagement, and are seeking a unique opportunity to develop deep expertise in their chosen field.”

–Shruti Rana, Assistant Dean for Curricular and Undergraduate Affairs, Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University

Graduate Degree Program Options
The school offers 12 master’s degree programs and four graduate certificates. It also collaborates with five other Indiana University professional schools to offer dual-degree master’s programs.

More information: https://hls.indiana.edu/academics/graduate/masters

Deadlines for Fall 2021
(Application and Financial Aid/Scholarships)
International applicants: December 1, 2020
Domestic applicants: December 15, 2020–January 1, 2021 (deadlines vary by program)

Standardized Exam Scores: GRE requirements vary by each program. The TOEFL/IELTS is required for non-native English speakers.

Recommendation Letters: Three are required.

Application Checklist: https://hls.indiana.edu/apply

Students graduate as emerging leaders and experts in their areas of study, with a remarkable depth of knowledge and experience in some of the most sought-after fields. Our graduates are among the top recipients of Boren Awards and other government fellowships, including Fulbrights. They hold positions in foreign, defense, and intelligence policy, and work at nongovernmental organizations, research organizations, and the private sector,” says Shruti Rana, assistant dean for curricular and undergraduate affairs and diversity officer.

Indian University
Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies

Languages and Social Awareness Combine to Train New Global Leaders

The Hamilton Lugar School’s MA and MS degrees in International Studies train students in developing real-life leadership and on-the-ground skills to prepare for careers of international scope in the public and private sectors. The program aims to increase social awareness, foreign language competency, intercultural sensitivity, and the ability to reason ethically. This helps students develop into principled, pragmatic leaders capable of addressing global and security challenges such as climate change, migration and population growth, food and financial crises, and conflict, with an approach that promotes multiple perspectives.

The United States in Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, with more than 80 languages offered at the school and Indiana University. The prestigious US Department of Education-funded FLAS fellowships carry generous stipends and tuition benefits and support the development of cultural fluency and global expertise in nearly every area of the world, including Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Russia and Central Asia.

With 46 pathways at the Hamilton Lugar School, including master’s degrees, certificates, and PhD programs, and dual-degree options with professional schools, students can create their own path.

Training the next generation of leaders committed to global engagement is the central aim of the school, named for former Rep. Lee H. Hamilton and the late Sen. Richard G. Lugar, both Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients and two of the most influential foreign policy voices of their generation.

“Students graduate as emerging leaders and experts in their areas of study, with a remarkable depth of knowledge and experience in some of the most sought-after fields. Our graduates are among the top recipients of Boren Awards and other government fellowships, including Fulbrights. They hold positions in foreign, defense, and intelligence policy, and work at nongovernmental organizations, research organizations, and the private sector,” says Shruti Rana, assistant dean for curricular and undergraduate affairs and diversity officer.
The Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies at Indiana University is a national leader in the study of international affairs and the languages, cultures, and perspectives shaping our world.

As a graduate student, you’ll take a multidisciplinary approach to your education with courses in international affairs, regional studies, hard skill acquisition, and languages. In fact, you have the opportunity to learn more than 80 languages—the most in the country—and take advantage of some 120 Foreign Language & Area Studies fellowships and other generous fellowship packages. That means you can focus on what matters: developing the global knowledge and regional expertise needed to tackle challenges on the world stage.

Learn more and apply at hls.iu.edu.
The Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs is small by design—about 30 MA in Global Affairs students and a handful in the Master of Advanced Study (MAS) program. Students graduate from the close-knit school with connections to colleagues throughout the world, in addition to enjoying broad flexibility in their studies.

“Jackson students create their own tailored curriculum, choosing courses from across the university,” says Asha Rangappa, director of admissions. “There is a way to tailor your course of study that is broader in the selection of courses and access to faculty than most policy programs, and much more specific to your area of interest.”

Most successful applicants to the Jackson Institute have worked for at least two years and shown an interest in global affairs in both their academic and professional experiences. The school looks for candidates who are clear about which global issues they want to focus on and which skills and knowledge they wish to gain from the program.

Three letters of recommendation are required, and at least one should come from a faculty member who knows the applicant well. Two academic references and one professional recommendation are preferred, although for those who have been out of school a long time, two professional and one academic reference is acceptable. Although the MA program requires a GRE score, grades and recommendations are also important.

“Students should use their personal essay to connect the dots from their academic, personal, and professional experiences to their future professional goals,” Rangappa says.
Define your path to global leadership.

STAreT HERe

Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs

The Freedom to Explore

The Jackson Institute’s M.A. in Global Affairs prepares students to impact the global community through an academically rigorous, yet flexible interdisciplinary program. Our M.A. program in Global Affairs allows you to design your own path through an individualized course of study. This intellectually demanding and diverse program will provide you with the theoretical foundations, analytical skills, and professional training needed to work within the complexity of today’s public, nonprofit, and private sectors worldwide.

Our students take courses in Yale’s world-class professional schools, including:

- Yale School of Management
- Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
- Yale Law School
- Yale School of Public Health

Every student builds a tailored curriculum to suit their interests and career ambitions.

Learn from Outstanding Scholars and Distinguished Practitioners

Chenye Yang, M.A. ’20:

“I like the freedom of curriculum selection since we can choose whatever courses at Yale besides the three mandatory courses. I took a Yale College seminar on Tibet, which offered quite a different perspective and helped me understand China’s position in the world and how the international institutions work.”

Jackson students have access to some of the world’s preeminent global affairs experts, including interdisciplinary faculty members from across Yale as well as outstanding practitioners, including retired U.S. ambassadors, former elected officials, journalists, policy advisors, business and nonprofit leaders, and retired military personnel.

jackson.admissions@yale.edu  jackson.yale.edu
## PROGRAM DIRECTORY

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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