



INSIGHTS INTO

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

FOR ASPIRING GLOBAL LEADERS

Director of Academic Partnerships:

Sherri Greeves
sherri.greeves@foreignpolicy.com

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Editor:

Tara Shubbuck

Writers:

Greg Fitzpatrick
Veronica Gorodetskaya
Glen Justice
Seamus Roddy
Alecsa Stewart

Copy Editor:

Rachel McVeary

Designer:

Cinda Debbink

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GRADUATE PROGRAMS' DEFINING FEATURES SHAPE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Selecting which graduate school to attend is an important step that helps professionals build a meaningful career in international relations (IR). Sometimes, the weight of that decision can make it difficult to decipher which program is the right fit.

A key first step in narrowing down options is to identify each program's defining features. This might include course offerings, interdisciplinary approaches, experiential learning, or external partnerships. Knowing where schools invest their time and money helps provide an understanding of the type of experience students can expect and whether the program aligns with their career goals.

For this *FP Guide*, prestigious IR schools around the country were asked to speak to their strengths to help prospective applicants consider their options. Specifically, what is it about their graduate degree program(s) that stand out, and which types of applicants would benefit from their approach? A mix of responses arose, including:

- A signature capstone project well-known in the IR community
- Professional growth sessions with certified executive leadership coaches
- Close ties to the United Nations, granting students exclusive opportunities
- Fully funded fieldwork experience for up to six months

The features in this *FP Guide* provide an opportunity to hear directly from top-tier graduate programs about what their main differentiators are.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

‘Studying With Purpose’ in a Practical International Relations Program

“Students who have a passion for international affairs and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world are the ones who are more successful during the admissions process.”



–Richard O'Rourke, Director of Admissions, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

The Master of Arts in International Relations at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) is a very customizable program. From economics to climate sustainability to security, students can design their program to reflect the global challenges they are most passionate about.

“It is very much a practitioner's master's degree with a lot of flexibility,” says Director of Admissions Richard O'Rourke.

The traditional two-year program focuses on core courses in the first year, or what O'Rourke calls “the essential skills that every international relations practitioner needs and what employers are looking for.” In the second year, students choose a functional and regional focus area to build their expertise. In the end, no two students at Johns Hopkins SAIS wind up with an identical curriculum.

“Our guiding principle, which drives our culture, is the idea of studying with purpose,” O'Rourke says. “Students who have a passion for international affairs and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world are the ones who are more successful during the admissions process.”

The flexibility in the Master of Arts in International Relations extends to a capstone course, which allows students wide latitude to choose an experience that applies directly to their career focus. They may work on real-world issues with an external client organization or embark on study treks to hone on-the-ground research skills and gain new perspectives on global issues. “Getting students hands-on experience in real-life scenarios ... to give them real-world experience before they graduate is an integral part of the experience at Johns Hopkins SAIS,” O'Rourke says.



SAIS' New Home Provides Unique Student Experiences and Learning Opportunities

In fall 2023, Johns Hopkins SAIS will welcome students to its new home at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, DC. This state-of-the-art facility expands the school's capacity for both teaching excellence and evidence-based research

toward addressing global challenges. The building is minutes from the US Capitol, the White House, and Union Station.

Designed to foster community and collaboration, SAIS' new home boasts 38 high-tech classrooms,

a 375-seat theater and performing arts space, group and individual study spaces, lounges, and roof terraces with views of Pennsylvania Avenue and the Capitol. Student amenities include a library, coffee shop, restaurant, and fitness center. Event spaces will host prominent policymakers and global leaders. Other divisions of Johns Hopkins University will also have a presence in the building, providing unmatched opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

SAIS has campuses in Washington, DC; Bologna, Italy; and Nanjing, China. Just as the school's master's program is versatile, so too is the location where graduate students can study. For example, a student based in Washington, DC, can complete a certificate in China while making progress toward their master's degree. Or a student could spend their first year in Italy and the second in Washington, DC, where the campus is moving to a new building on Pennsylvania Avenue, just blocks from the US Capitol.

The average student is 25 years old, with two years of professional experience, and more than 40 percent come from outside the United States. Accordingly, the school matches current students with an alumnus in their functional and regional focus areas to offer career guidance and mentoring during their studies.

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Fully Funded Fieldwork Experiences for Aspiring Change Makers



“We help students get the field experience they need to go back into their communities and to make them better.”

–Bill Goldberg,
Program Director,
Master of Global
Affairs, Keough
School of Global
Affairs, University
of Notre Dame



Fieldwork experience is an integral component of global affairs study, allowing students to connect classroom-acquired skills and knowledge with on-the-ground realities.

While most schools have fieldwork as part of their curriculum, the responsibility of finding an opportunity and funding it often falls on the student. “One of our program’s biggest defining features is a fully funded field experience for all our students,” says Bill Goldberg, program director for the Master of Global Affairs at the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame.

Depending on their area of concentration—sustainable development, governance and policy, or international peace studies—students can spend up to six months in the field, working in multiple countries on group and individual projects. Support includes a living stipend, lodging and transportation costs, preparation and debriefing sessions, and placement with national and international partner organizations, such as Oxfam, Catholic Relief Services, Habitat for Humanity, Search for Common Ground, and World Hunger Relief, Inc.

“We want our students to concentrate on the field experience because that’s what’s really important,” Goldberg explains. “Finding a job that pays—and where students are not just interns making copies and getting coffee but working on real projects and getting tangible field experience skills—is difficult without the connections and help that we have to offer here.”

The school’s funding stream runs deep. “We have a lot of generous donors who support our mission of making the world a better place



so we can help the majority of our students,” Goldberg says. “This coming year, 90 percent of all students’ tuition costs and 50 percent of their living costs are covered by merit-based scholarships and fellowships.” For students who have their eye on the nation’s capital, the school also offers a fully funded immersion experience at its DC office to network with alumni and various local organizations.

Making education accessible aligns with the school’s overarching embrace of integral human development, acknowledging and respecting its students’ and staff’s complex cultural, economic, political, social, and spiritual backgrounds. In fact, the Keough School has the university’s most diverse student body, represented by more than 20 countries and numerous languages. Thus, applicants should have an appreciation for different cultures and perspectives and possess strong teamwork skills, in addition to some previous field experience. “The application isn’t the place to be humble, so hit the high points of your experiences,” Goldberg advises.

Personalized Support and Networking Opportunities Position Students for Success

The Keough School is dedicated to providing personalized support to each student, helping them make the most of the resources, networks, and opportunities available through the program and at Notre Dame. The school takes pride in

fostering connections, offering guidance, and instilling confidence in students as they strive to achieve their professional aspirations. Students have the opportunity to attend career fairs, employer information sessions, one-on-one career

counseling, and tailored workshops that equip them with essential skills for navigating the job market.

Furthermore, graduates can tap into Notre Dame’s extensive alumni association network, which stands as a testament to the loyalty and support of its members. The association facilitates connections through clubs, online platforms, and on-campus events, ensuring ongoing support and networking opportunities for both current students and alumni.

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Learning on the Cutting Edge of International Security



“What we try to do is combine theory and practice, integrating our academic disciplines and exceptional scholars with leading practitioners. We try to give students a balanced education.”

–Edward Wittenstein, Executive Director, International Security Studies, Jackson School of Global Affairs, Yale University

The study of international security occupies a special place at Yale University’s Jackson School of Global Affairs, which has assembled a powerful combination of programs and experts to analyze, understand, and explain a fast-changing global landscape and the threats it presents.

International Security Studies, a leading research institution for more than three decades, joined the Jackson School in 2021. Its focus on the intersection of history and political science explores important historical parallels to modern events. Initiatives like the Schmidt Program on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and National Power add a modern dimension, examining how technology is shaping global strategy.

The result is a one-of-a-kind, interdisciplinary approach designed to arm the next generation of scholars and practitioners with the latest thinking in international security.

“What we try to do is combine theory and practice, integrating our academic disciplines and exceptional scholars with leading practitioners,” says Edward Wittenstein, executive director of International Security Studies. “We try to give students a balanced education.”

At International Security Studies, education is not bound by classroom walls. Lectures, conferences, and workshops extend the conversation almost every day. “You learn just as much outside the classroom as you do in it,” Wittenstein says.

Major figures, like Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry and retired US Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, have lectured. Faculty and visiting scholars also offer deep experience, and Wittenstein himself is a former diplomat and intelligence professional.



Yale Alumni Support Extends Around the Globe

Yale University has tens of thousands of alumni, as one might expect of a more than 320-year-old institution. There are about 120 alumni clubs in the United States and another 40 overseas, with Yale alumni living in roughly 175 countries.

The Jackson School also has a rich alumni network and plenty of opportunities for post-graduation support. The school’s Career Development Office offers mock interviews, career conversation lunches, employer information sessions, one-on-one conversations with alumni, and other help.

“One of the main benefits of the Jackson School are the Yale alumni who’ve already distinguished themselves in global affairs and who are eager to give back and support the next generation,” Wittenstein says. “They don’t just give them advice, but occasionally interesting employment opportunities as well.”

“It’s not just about studying the current events, or the latest hot topic in the news,” Wittenstein says. “We have international historians, great-power historians whose writing, lessons, and theories on those topics are highly relevant to understanding contemporary security studies.”

The school’s two-year Master in Public Policy degree program and its one-year Master of Advanced Study for mid-career professionals both allow for a highly customized approach. “Students have a lot of flexibility to design their own program,” Wittenstein says. That includes having the run of Yale University, with many taking advantage of classes—and even dual degrees—at the law school or schools of management or public health, for example.

“We encourage our students to take courses from different perspectives, interact with classmates and faculty who come from different backgrounds, and to have a wholly formed view that can allow you to be a problem-solver in global affairs,” Wittenstein says.

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— ADAM HAMMER, M.A. '20

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Getting Students Behind the Closed Doors of International Affairs



“International affairs is a profession where you’re doing many different things in various settings, and the UN is an excellent experiential learning laboratory for that.”



–Courtney Smith, Dean, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University

A large part of international agreements, policies, and deals takes place behind closed doors. One recent example is Turkey’s surprise announcement to drop its long-standing opposition to Sweden joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

“In order for students to really understand—as opposed to read about—how agreements happen, they’ve got to talk to people who were in the room,” says Courtney Smith, dean of Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

The school’s close proximity to and partnership with the United Nations (UN) grants students exclusive access to individuals who are at the very center of global policymaking. The goal is to provide students with insight into and experience with international activity and processes, as well as to build bridges to the UN community in New York and beyond, including the United Nations Foundation, United Nations Academic Impact, and United Nations Economic and Social Council. “Our students are actually experiencing diplomacy while they’re studying,” Smith explains.

The UN has proven to be an excellent experiential learning laboratory for students, Smith says. It’s provided the opportunity for on-site classes, year-round internships, UN diplomats and staff members to teach courses, and on-campus events with high-ranking officials, which have included secretaries general, US ambassadors to the UN, and presidents of the General Assembly. Smith adds, “The UN is unique among international organizations because it’s broad in both membership and issue focus. Whatever interest or career path a student may have, whatever problem they want to help fix, it’s probably somewhere

on the UN’s agenda. It gives them a lot of flexibility, whether they’re ultimately interested in [working for] the UN or not.”

Seton Hall University’s mission is to develop servant leaders for a global society. An ideal candidate for the School of Diplomacy’s graduate and dual-degree programs (available on campus and online) will need to demonstrate an interest and passion for international affairs that go beyond personal career goals. The admissions office looks for a compelling narrative that shows a commitment to using the skills, knowledge, and experiences gained at the school to make a difference in the world, whether in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors. “Most applicants are good at telling committees, ‘This is why I want to study with you,’ but they should convince us that they’re going to be ready to work for real change,” Smith advises.

Empowering Students with Expert Career Support

The School of Diplomacy and International Relations provides comprehensive career support services to



both students and alumni, ensuring they find purposeful employment opportunities post-graduation. The school’s dedicated Office of Internships and Career Development offers personalized career counseling, workshops on resume writing, mock interviews, and job search strategies.

Working in collaboration with the university’s Career Center, the school organizes networking events and an annual Career Fair that connects students with potential employers. Students can likewise benefit from valuable networking opportunities within their field through the school’s alumni association. Diplomacy-related job opportunities can also be accessed through the College Central Network.

To further enhance students’ professional development and networking capabilities, the school plans to introduce additional networking and mentoring programs in the 2023-2024 academic year.

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Professor David Wood ventures into the world's most dangerous settings to help transform conflict and build peace. His visionary fieldwork with Seton Hall University alumni and students changes lives and strengthens communities in Yemen, Syria, and Libya, among other places. Leading the **School of Diplomacy and International Relations Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Middle East and North Africa program**, Professor Wood empowers students to find new ways to approach peacebuilding. The Center has become a creative hub that merges cutting-edge academic research, educational programs and practical initiatives that reduce violence, and build more peaceful societies. Whether inside the classroom or in the field, Professor Wood and his students and alumni are creating a world that is safer and more equitable.

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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND
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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Structured Flexibility Lets Students Craft Their Unique Story



“We want to create an impact not just for students of all backgrounds, but for our diverse global communities and the institutions that serve them.”

—Jia Jiang, Senior Director of Graduate Enrollment Management, School of International Service, American University



Graduates from American University’s School of International Service (SIS) work across all areas of international relations—in private corporations, government agencies, and international nongovernmental organizations—but what they have in common is an interest in serving the global community and a sense of purpose carefully crafted through their graduate studies.

“We encourage our students to think not only about their degree, but about how their academic training applies to a greater need in the world,” says Senior Director of Graduate Enrollment Management Jia Jiang. “Successful applicants know what they want to study and why they want to study it.”



The school offers what Jiang calls “structured flexibility,” which is designed to give each student a core set of principles and skills while allowing them to tailor the curriculum to match the story they endeavor to create through their work, career path, and personal life.

Students can enroll in courses from any of the SIS master’s degree programs to customize their graduate experience to their interests. One student might want to study peace and conflict resolution through the lens of natural resources. Another might choose to specialize in communications for international development in a particular region. Each degree becomes a statement of the student’s personal goals and intentions.

The new dean of SIS, Shannon Hader, is also renewing the school’s founding principle of “waging peace” by building new partnerships.

The former assistant secretary-general of the United Nations knows the importance of giving a wide range of voices a seat at the table.

For example, SIS has joined an existing partnership between the United States Institute of Peace and Black Professionals in International Affairs. This program supports students who may not have easy access to mentors in the peace-building field, including students of color, first-generation college graduates, and individuals who are the first in their family to pursue a career in international affairs. American University is also the first university to offer a renewable funding match for Tillman Scholars, who are exceptional military service members chosen by the Pat Tillman Foundation.

“Both partnerships speak to our core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion,” Jiang explains. “We want to represent students from across the spectrum and create access and opportunities they may not otherwise have so they can better represent and serve our global community.”

A Commitment to Lifelong Learning

The flexibility offered by the School of International Service extends far beyond graduation day. The program intentionally cultivates a lifelong

learning frame of mind among its students with career services available starting from their first day on campus to well into their career.

Before graduation, SIS students can apply for an alumni mentorship program. It provides a full year of mentorship with an SIS alumnus who can share the finer points of working in the student’s chosen field and connect them with people who can help them take the next step.

After graduation, SIS alumni have access to AU’s career services and reduced prices on academic courses. It’s AU’s commitment to making sure alumni can rely on their alma mater for lifelong learning opportunities.

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“Negotiation is not only about conflict; it’s really about decision-making and working through differences of point of view and opinion.”

–Eileen Babbitt, Professor of Practice of International Conflict Management, The Fletcher School, Tufts University



Regardless of the career paths international relations (IR) students may embark upon, acquiring negotiation and conflict resolution skills that enable them to navigate complex global challenges and foster cooperation remains indispensable. Innovative and forward-thinking, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy allows students to develop expertise in these areas in unique ways.

The school’s International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (INCR) program is rooted in interest-based bargaining that goes beyond negotiation skills to build processes by which differences can be examined, understood, and worked through. Students participate in lectures led by field experts with in-the-room experience, practical simulations, diplomatic exercises, and real-world case studies.

The Mediation Practicum brings students to a Massachusetts small claims court, where they develop a broader understanding of the complexities and nuances involved in mediation, training with local mediators and interacting with individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures to eventually work on cases independently. “You might think it has nothing to do with international relations, but you would be wrong,” explains Eileen Babbitt, professor of practice of international conflict management. “Even at the highest levels of international relations, it’s two human beings sitting down trying to figure something out.”

Babbitt adds, “Although it’s not a required course, it’s one that everyone is drawn to because negotiation is a key skill for decision-making for leadership and management, and our students take it into whatever careers or content area

they then pursue.” What’s more, the coursework helps students “sail through” the oral portion of the Foreign Service Officer exam. “The exercise is basically a simulated negotiation, and our students are completely prepared and know exactly what to do,” Babbitt points out.

The Fletcher School’s other standout area of study is human security, which isn’t offered by any other IR master’s program. Based on the notion that security is not only about the state’s military strength but also the well-being of its people and communities, the framework has gained traction in Europe, Asia, and Canada. Much like the INCR program, it relies on consultation, engagement, and listening skills to build security from the ground up, rather than from the top down.

The Fletcher School values applicants who demonstrate a willingness to reflect and learn from personal experiences, as well as those of their fellow students. Applicants can also gain an advantage if they’ve had opportunities to travel, reside, or work in other countries.

Far-Reaching Alumni Community Unlocks Professional Opportunities

The Fletcher School’s tight-knit alumni community supports graduates through regular symposia



and alumni events worldwide, where alumni hold leadership positions across various sectors. Students can attend both virtual and in-person networking events with alumni that are tailored to their career interests. The school’s

employer events offer informal networking opportunities, while student-led conferences include networking sessions with attendees. The Career Center organizes dedicated exploration days, career education sessions, workshops, one-to-one coaching, and career trips to Washington, DC.

The school has made investments in self-service resources, such as job board subscriptions and a searchable alumni database linked to the school’s career management system. Additionally, students can take advantage of the school’s summer internship funding.

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“We don’t believe there is a single ‘right’ or ‘cookie-cutter’ SFS student. We want to work with each student to unleash their unique potential.”

–Matthew Carnes, Associate Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University



At Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service (SFS), there’s no one set type of successful applicant or student. Instead, the SFS offers programming individually tailored to the needs, interests, and aspirations of those who want to make an impact on the world.

“We don’t believe there is a single ‘right’ or ‘cookie-cutter’ SFS student,” says Matthew Carnes, associate professor at the School of Foreign Service. “We want to work with each student to unleash their unique potential.”

To do so, the SFS offers a varied set of eight graduate programs, spanning diplomacy, security, and global human development. Over the course of the coming year, the SFS will begin to offer two new graduate programs: one in international migration and another in environmental and international affairs.

Carnes says that applicants need not feel overwhelmed by such options: “We have dedicated admissions staff in each program who work one-on-one with potential students to identify the best programmatic fit at the SFS.”

Finding a programmatic fit is step one of aligning with a students’ needs, interests, and career objectives. Next is the SFS’s dedicated faculty and staff in and out of the classroom, as well as robust leadership, internship, and capstone requirements in which students work with clients in the field. “This provides them experience in their chosen field before they graduate,” Carnes notes.

The SFS is committed to a diverse student body and tailored experience for each individual, but it also naturally attracts applicants with an interest in global experiences and studying in Washington, DC.



Lifetime Support and Real-World Experiences Lead to Post-Graduate Success

At the SFS, support for post-graduate life is provided both during and after students’ time on campus.



SFS students benefit from Georgetown’s Washington, DC, location and can intern and make contacts at organizations across the nation’s capital. The SFS prioritizes internships, assisting

with placements and helping to fund unpaid and low-paid opportunities. Capstones are often done through fieldwork with international organizations and other partners, and students engage with SFS alumni at Jumpstart January, an annual two-week event that is dedicated to networking and professional development.

Upon leaving Georgetown, graduates enjoy lifetime access to the career center and can subscribe to a weekly career bulletin. One piece of exceptionally good news from a recent bulletin: 2022 SFS graduates enjoyed a 98.43 percent job placement rate.

“Global experiences are the cornerstone of the SFS experience,” Carnes says. “Students use their summer experiences to gain important international experiences, brush up on their foreign language skills and make unforgettable memories to share with classmates when they return to campus.”

When the academic year is in session, SFS students aren’t sequestered on campus. “Georgetown’s location and convening power mean that our students engage directly with international leaders, activists, and scholars,” Carnes says. “Students intern during the semester at organizations such as the Department of Defense, USAID, the State Department, multilateral institutions, intelligence agencies, news and media outlets, corporate banks, research and policy centers, and numerous other relevant employers. The Georgetown name stands out locally and globally.”

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–Peter Vasher, Director of Career Services, Gerald R. Ford School, University of Michigan



With just 264 master’s degree students and 38 doctoral candidates, the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy offers a rigorous curriculum that ranks second nationally in public policy analysis; a small, personalized graduate learning environment; and the vast resources of the much larger University of Michigan.

Between the school’s two internationally focused research centers—Weiser Diplomacy Center and International Policy Center—students are given opportunities to engage with high-profile leaders from the foreign policy community and top scholars, travel the world with their classmates, and practice what they learn in the classroom through simulations, competitions, and the Ford School’s award-winning student-initiated research program.

“We offer students the opportunity to tailor their classroom, internship, and research experiences to build the skills and knowledge needed for a career of impact,” says Peter Vasher, director of career services at the Ford School.

Immersive for-credit experiences, such as annual travel courses, provide opportunities for Ford School students to analyze a country’s economic, social, political, health, and/or environmental policy challenges before meeting with representatives and experts on the ground. Approximately one quarter of graduate students focus on international issues during their required summer internship. Recent hosts include the United Nations, German Marshall Fund, China Development Research Foundation, NASA, and the World Bank.



Alumni Help Graduate Students and Networks Globally

The University of Michigan’s distinctive “M” logo can be found around the world. Its expansive alumni network of more than 600,000 is spread across 181 countries, and alumni regularly gather for networking and social events.

Many alumni participate in career-support programs for current Ford School students. For example, the alumni-in-residence program brings in select Ford School alumni to work with students on professional-development activities, such as resume reviews, mock interviews, career conversations, and office hours.

The Ford School provides a host of additional career services, such as employer information sessions, luncheons with Ford School alumni, and small-group peer sessions, where students share experiences and support each other as they navigate their internship and job searches.

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SCAN TO
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Holistic Admissions Approach Contributes to Diversity in the Classroom

“Our faculty bring their own professional experiences and connections, as well as real-world knowledge that prepares our students to address today’s most urgent policy challenges.”



–Kristina Bonfiglio, Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University

The student population at George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government is extraordinarily diverse across work experience, education, age, and interests. This is a result of the school’s holistic, practical-minded approach to reviewing potential students, which includes prioritizing individuality in a well-articulated goals statement and through strong recommendation letters. The GRE is not required for any of the school’s master’s or certificate programs.

“We’re looking for reasons to admit you,” explains Kristina Bonfiglio, director of graduate recruitment and admissions at Schar School. “Don’t feel like you can’t apply to a graduate program because your GPA from 10 years ago was less than stellar. We want to know what you’ve done since. What qualities do you bring to the table that set you apart from other applicants?”

This approach is a good fit for the Arlington, Virginia-based school’s teaching philosophy, which is focused on imparting real-world knowledge and applicable skills for a wide range of policy-related fields. And with flexible options for scheduling, course load, and modality—including online, in-person, and hybrid options—students can balance school with work and life.

Because Schar School degrees are career-focused, applicants benefit from knowing what they are hoping to get from graduate school, and why they are interested in a specific degree program and school. “Take advantage of meeting with admissions representatives and attending school-sponsored information sessions or open houses to home in on what you want,” Bonfiglio advises. “The Schar School offers numerous ways to get in touch and get your questions answered throughout the year—let us help you!”



Workforce Readiness Benefits for Life

Schar School graduates have lifelong access to top-notch career services. From their first day of class, dedicated career-advising staff support students with resume writing, networking events, internship and career

opportunities, and skill-building career-development workshops and webinars.

Likewise, students benefit from the school’s long list of established relationships with major employers in the Washington, DC, area. Students can also take advantage of paid internship opportunities with government agencies through a new initiative between the school and the Partnership for Public Service.

The school also boasts an alumni network of more than 17,000 graduates and an active alumni chapter with regular opportunities to socialize. Schar School graduates hold key positions in local, state, and federal governments, as well as nonprofits, organizations, and the private sector.

When you’re ready to apply, she suggests focusing your application on how your background and future goals align with a specific program. Bonfiglio also suggests sharing your goals with those who write your recommendation letters. “Talk to them about the schools or programs you’re applying to and why it’s of interest so that this person can articulate that, tangential to your experience with them and their recommendation, to help round out your profile.”

And for students living in Washington, DC, or Maryland, now is the perfect time to apply. Starting in fall 2023, incoming master’s and certificate students domiciled in those locations are eligible for an in-state equivalent tuition rate.

“We believe this will strengthen our programs and our alumni network even further,” Bonfiglio says.

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Ellen Laipson
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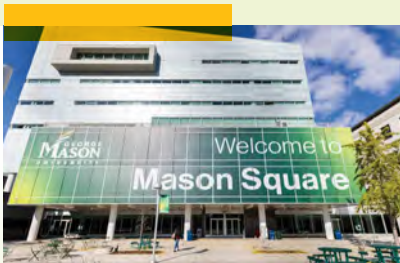
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Research Focused on Global Hotspots Enhances School's Career Training



"I think it is attractive for students to have a series of courses that looks at critical national security issues, such as Russian foreign policy and China's influence in different parts of the world."

—Edward Lemon, Research Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs, Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University



For students at the Bush School DC, robust curriculum offerings centered around developments in Eurasia—as well as other key global hotspots—provide the opportunity to focus on the most pressing geopolitical issues of the day.

At the core of the school's curriculum is research led by Department of International Affairs Research Assistant Professor Edward Lemon, a known specialist in regional studies of Eurasia. Lemon's work delves into security issues in Central Asia, global forms of authoritarianism, and ways in which authoritarian regimes circumvent regional security processes through transnational repression. "I'm particularly interested in China and Russia, and their influence globally," he says. "I think it is attractive for students to have a series of courses that looks at critical national security issues, such as Russian foreign policy and China's influence in different parts of the world."

Of course, Lemon is just one among a full roster of engaged faculty whose research spans a broad range of regional and international issues, such as nationalism in social media, international politics of the Middle East, and post-communist transformations in Ukraine and across Eastern Europe.

Lemon notes that the precise nature of the school's global affairs focus may change in accordance with world events and who leads the US administration. That variability in focus makes Lemon's research all the more interesting for prospective students. "Under the current administration, we've seen a real shift in focus



in US national security, away from terrorism and toward the issues related to China and Russia," he says. "These countries will continue to be important no matter what happens. Many students are coming into the program and wanting to have a better understanding of these countries."

Lemon is part of the team that reviews graduate applications, and has a keen eye for submissions that may be a good fit for the school, aligning with its mission and academic areas of expertise. "We are looking for students with both an excellent academic record and also a demonstrated interest in national security, intelligence, and international affairs," he says. "This could be professional experience working in these fields, a story about how their lives or outlook have been affected by international developments, or a personal connection to the world of national security. We recruit students who are committed to public service in its various forms, from working in government to the nonprofit sector."

Networking Opportunities Abound for Bush School DC Graduates

From monthly meetings with intelligence and national security organizations to events at think tanks and consulting firms, Bush School DC students are given a range of networking opportunities thanks to the school's strong ties with the Intelligence Community.

The Bush School DC offers personalized career coaching and assistance with resumes, cover letters, and salary negotiation, as well as informational interviews with alumni and current mid-career students. It also hosts an annual Career Fair that connects students with representatives from federal agencies, think tanks, consulting firms, and nonprofit organizations across the Intelligence Community.

Graduates become part of Texas A&M's extensive "Aggie" alumni network of more than 500,000 who live across 165 countries. Local Aggie clubs are invaluable resources for recent graduates, offering networking opportunities and professional support.

Contact

<https://bush.tamu.edu/DC>
BushSchoolDC@tamu.edu
202-773-0022



Texas A&M Plants Flag in Washington, DC

Texas A&M University has opened a new teaching site in Washington, DC featuring the Bush School of Government and Public Service, a graduate program founded by the nation's 41st president. **The Bush School DC offers a Master of National Security and Intelligence and a Master of International Policy.**

The Bush School DC is a state-of-the-art facility located in downtown DC within several blocks of the White House and other key government buildings.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

Both the Master of National Security and Intelligence (NSI) and the Master of International Policy (MIP) aim to strengthen students' ability to understand complex issues through rigorous coursework. Well-published scholars and seasoned practitioners from federal agencies lead in-depth classroom discussions, collaborate on research, and mentor students in and out of the classroom. The programs seek to expand students' worldview and prepare them to advance their careers in national security, intelligence and international affairs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Courses offered in the evenings
- Ideal location in downtown DC
- Small class sizes
- Highly qualified faculty of academics and practitioners
- **MIP Degree:** 30-credit no thesis degree designed for working professionals
- **NSI degree:** 42-credit degree for recent college graduates and early career professionals.



I chose the Bush School DC for my master's degree because I wanted a high-quality education while advancing my career in the nation's capital.

—**Erika**, Department of Homeland Security



I chose the Bush School in DC to learn from distinguished national security policy makers including CIA analysts and experts from DOD and the State Department.

—**Fabio**, Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers



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Powerful Commitment to Public Service Shines in Two New Initiatives



“We have renewed our international commitment and are proud to engage with and support policy in our home state. Whether domestic or internationally focused, it is an incredible time to be at SPIA.”



–Amaney A. Jamal, Dean, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) offers world-class scholarship and instills in students a strong commitment to public service. To renew and further its commitments, the school launched two new initiatives in spring 2023, spanning international and domestic policy in Washington, DC, and New Jersey.

“SPIA is an incredible community of students, staff, faculty, and alumni who work in the service of humanity around the world; these new initiatives build on our strong legacy of service and allow us to synthesize efforts and strengthen impact,” says SPIA Dean Amaney A. Jamal.

With the opening of SPIA in DC, students’ academic pursuits are enhanced by opportunities to gain real-world policy experience and develop well-connected professional networks. SPIA in DC organizes on-site public policy trainings and events for students and alumni and acts as a hub for public events that draw leading practitioners as speakers and guests.

“Being in Washington enables us to connect faculty members, researchers, and students directly with policymakers in ways we haven’t previously,” Jamal says.

SPIA believes that 21st-century policymaking requires not just a passion for service, but also for evidence-based analysis and a multiplicity of voices. SPIA in New Jersey is the embodiment of this. This unique state-focused initiative brings together faculty and students to work with strategic local partners and promote research-driven, nonpartisan policies.



Dedicated, Personalized Support Follows Graduates Throughout Their Careers

SPIA’s Career Development and Alumni Engagement teams provide one-to-one support during the degree program and beyond, from internship application assistance to long-term professional planning. Opportunities for networking events, coaching sessions,

internal job postings, professional development funding, and alumni talks, presentations, and mixers abound. In summer 2023, SPIA held two receptions in Washington, DC, welcoming more than 200 people to each event to exchange views and opportunities, and likewise hosted other alumni events in California and internationally.

Wherever an alum’s life takes them, Princeton-specific networking platforms and Princeton Alumni Associations worldwide ensure there is ongoing connection and support well after graduation.

Contact

<https://spia.princeton.edu>
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Skill-Based Global Experiences for Real-World Solutions

“I wake up every morning knowing that we’re bringing about the next generation of leaders we need to actually address global challenges.”



–Samuel T. Ledermann, Assistant Professor of the Practice of International Affairs and Director of the Global Capstone, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University

Reflecting on his graduate school days, Samuel T. Ledermann, assistant professor of the practice of international affairs and director of the global capstone at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, describes a pivotal frustration: “I was really good at critiquing things, but I didn’t have the skill set needed to do the work to improve the world or address global problems.” His pursuit of tangible solutions led him to the Elliott School, renowned for its leadership in professional international affairs education and resolute commitment to offering students a comprehensive curriculum that balances theory, policy, and hands-on practice.

The Elliott School’s signature Global Capstone project is an embodiment of the institution’s experiential learning approach to international studies. Students participate in pro bono consultancy, working with self-selected clients on issues close to their hearts. Students can also tap into the school’s vast alumni network and more than 200 past clients, including the US Department of State, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the World Bank, and nongovernmental organizations. Ledermann adds, “People still reach out to us as clients or new clients and explicitly say, ‘We heard about Capstone, and we want to work with you.’”

Spanning two semesters, the project starts with concentration-specific policy research and analysis, leveraging the school’s diverse expertise. Students identify the unique needs of their clients, negotiating and shaping agreements that will guide their work. International field research trips are also conducted before students formulate actionable recommendations that address their client’s specific needs.



Lifelong Support Empowers Graduates at Every Career Stage

The Elliott School organizes more than 300 events and panels annually, often allowing students to connect with potential employers across sectors and fields. The Graduate Student Services team offers specialized support, including mock interviews, cover letter reviews, employer site visits, and individual career coaching.

Flexible programming enables students to balance daytime work or internships with evening studies, capitalizing on the downtown DC location for real-world application of classroom learning.

The school’s global alumni network hosts events worldwide, while actively advising and mentoring students in Washington, DC. The online career database, Handshake, provides access to job and internship listings from more than 9,000 employers. Alumni retain lifelong access to all resources, ensuring continual assistance during career transitions.

Beyond the immediate experience, Ledermann says students learn valuable lessons about teamwork, resilience, and adaptability. This translates to a high demand for Elliott School graduates; the International Development Studies program, where Ledermann is a core faculty member, boasts a 100 percent hiring rate in its most recent cohort. The curriculum further enriches students’ workforce readiness with a long list of professional skills courses informed by employers in the field, including general proficiencies, like international affairs writing and negotiation, and specialized abilities, such as embassy work.

Because Elliott School graduates are well positioned to land leadership roles addressing global challenges, the admissions office wants to see a compelling narrative about how candidates plan to use their acquired knowledge and skills to make meaningful contributions in the field of international affairs. For recommendation letters, Ledermann suggests “finding people who actually understand you and your passions the most.”

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“We live in an environment of constant, intersecting crises, so we look for students with the potential to become what we think of as international civil servants who are equipped to manage crises that involve public health, natural disasters, and human-generated violence.”



–Bradford R. McGuinn, Director of the MA in International Administration program, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Miami



With its “Do Something That Matters” tagline and location in a dynamic, global city, the University of Miami’s MA in International Administration (MAIA) program seeks students who have the determination to tackle the large-scale crises that confront our world.

“We live in an environment of constant, intersecting crises, so we look for students with the potential to become what we think of as international civil servants who are equipped to manage crises that involve public health, natural disasters, and human-generated violence,” says Bradford R. McGuinn, director of the MAIA program.

McGuinn encourages applicants to submit personal statements that are “well-crafted stories” of their experience, academic interests and activities, and volunteer work. “Take yourself out of yourself and ask how you can use your time and talents for the betterment of others.”

The MAIA program offers an interdisciplinary curriculum that prepares students for careers in the administration of public and private organizations in the United States and abroad. Students take core courses in various aspects of international affairs that include economics, global health, migration, and geopolitics. Many courses include tabletop exercises designed by practitioners that put theory and research into practice—an important component of the program.

McGuinn’s “Disaster Response and Humanitarian Intervention” course includes a tabletop exercise designed by a security expert who has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It requires students to assume different roles and responsibilities in the management of a flood, tornado, or other natural disaster.

Leonidas G. Bachas, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, encourages applicants to be open-minded about the possibilities of an MAIA degree. “The MAIA program offers a range of compelling benefits that can significantly enhance your career prospects and personal growth,” Bachas says. “Irrespective of your future career path, students will engage with matters of security, sustainability, resilience, and recovery. These are concepts relevant across various fields and professions.”



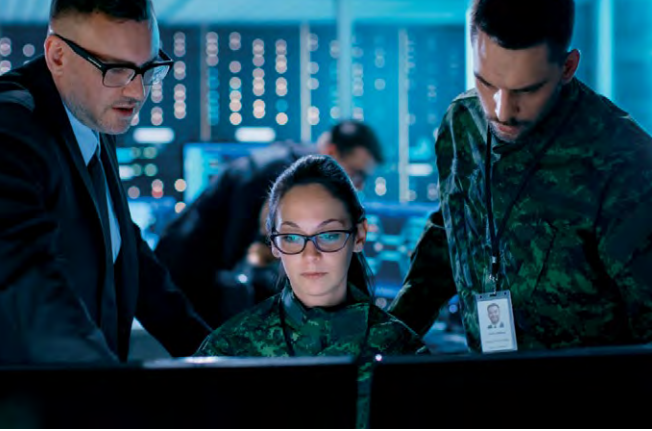
Intelligence Expert to Join MAIA Faculty

This fall, MAIA students have the opportunity to study with leading East Asia expert Katrin Fraser Katz, a former director for Japan, Korea, and oceanic affairs at the National Security Council. As a scholar-in-

residence, Katz will teach the “Intelligence and National Security” course and share her expertise in the interplay of cooperation and conflict in East Asia’s political, economic, and security dynamics. Previously, Katz served as a special assistant at the US Department of State and an analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Contact

<https://ips.as.miami.edu>
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