



HOW TOP SCHOOLS INVEST IN STUDENT SUCCESS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERDISCIPLINARY
CURRICULUM

PERSONALIZED CAREER
GUIDANCE

GLOBAL FIELD
EXPERIENCES

GRADUATE EDUCATION FALL 2024

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Partnerships:**

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Those seeking to make a meaningful impact on the world through the field of international relations understand the importance of attending graduate school. This competitive and ever-evolving field demands that the next generation of leaders be equipped with the tools that a graduate education provides: a theoretical foundation from which to analyze complex global issues and practical experiences that hone one's skills.

Prospective students also seek a tangible return on their educational investment that extends beyond these fundamental tools, including real-world training, professional development opportunities, industry networking events, and extensive career support — all of which improve job prospects and the potential for career success.

Preeminent international affairs schools offer students ample opportunities to meet these expectations, from crisis simulation exercises to global field experiences and personalized career guidance. These programs and initiatives also help define each school's competitive edge and demonstrate how faculty and staff are shaping the next generation of international relations professionals.

In this special *FP Guide*, leaders at universities across the country discuss some of the distinctive offerings of their school's master's degree programs that are preparing students to excel in their chosen careers.

Embracing Technology and Experiential Learning in Global Dynamics

“Our goal is to equip students with skills to navigate uncertainty, including strong analytical abilities, ethics, leadership, and a deep understanding of regions and aspects of international relations.”



–Brian McEntee, Director of Graduate Education, Academic Affairs, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

Director of Graduate Education Brian McEntee exudes palpable enthusiasm when discussing the latest developments at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). “Our recent and most exciting initiatives are all focused on technology and international relations,” he explains. “It’s an area with a lot of relevance and importance right now.”

The curriculum covers critical and contemporary topics, such as human rights, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and internet trust and safety, reflecting the significant impact of the digital era on global dynamics. “We are incorporating new efforts in these areas because that’s where international relations professionals will be focusing ... and we feel our students need to be prepared for that environment,” McEntee explains.

This new emphasis strengthens the institution’s well-established reputation for providing a strong foundation in international economics, quantitative analysis, and security studies. SAIS graduates emerge with notable expertise in conflict management, cybersecurity, and strategy.

Leveraging its Washington, DC, location, the school brings expertise from leading practitioners and policymakers directly into the classroom. “In the last year or two, AI and cryptocurrencies have become significant aspects of international relations,” McEntee notes. “Our ability to take advantage of the practitioners in the DC area who are on the cutting edge and bring them into the classroom is exciting.”

He also highlights the school’s practical experience opportunities. An upcoming study trip to Rwanda will explore technology and its ethical deployment in Africa. Meanwhile, the



A YEAR OF GLOBAL EXPLORATION AND LEARNING

In 2023-2024, around 200 Master of Arts in International Relations students took part in SAIS-supported travel, with 19 trips spanning five continents. Destinations included Brazil, Colombia, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Taiwan, South Korea, and Switzerland. These study trips and practicum courses

addressed pressing global issues, such as climate change, human rights, and emerging technologies. By engaging with policymakers, diplomats, and regional experts, students gained hands-on experience and invaluable insights, enriching their studies and preparing them for influential careers on the global stage.

Staff Rides initiative provides opportunities for students to analyze historic military campaigns from the perspective of key decision-makers. Previous excursions have included important sites in London, Gibraltar, Morocco, France, and Washington, DC.

Practicum courses, such as the International Development practicum and SAIS Women Lead, involve students tackling real business problems in developing countries. The crisis simulation seminar immerses students in high-pressure scenarios to enhance their decision-making and critical-thinking skills. “These active experiences help students understand live issues in international relations, aligning their academic ideas with real-world practices,” McEntee emphasizes.

The school’s degrees balance interdisciplinary study with customization. The Master of Arts in International Relations, the school’s largest degree program, requires students to specialize in both a functional area — such as strategy or sustainability — and a regional focus — like Latin America or Asia. McEntee says this ensures “expertise across both regional and functional dimensions, which we think is important for an interdisciplinary approach to international relations.”

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High-Value Experiential Learning Opportunities Prepare Students for Career Success



“We continue to include experiential learning in our curriculum because that adds to the value of the degrees. Employers expect that graduates have work experience and professional skills.”

–Catherine Ruby, PhD, Assistant Dean of Graduate Enrollment Management, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University

The master’s degree programs at Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and International Relations are designed to ensure that students achieve a high return on their educational investment. One of the most impactful ways the school prepares students for career success is through experiential learning opportunities where students develop practical skills and strengthen their professional portfolio.

“We continue to include experiential learning in our curriculum because that adds to the value of the degrees,” explains Catherine Ruby, PhD, assistant dean of graduate enrollment management. “Employers expect that graduates have work experience and professional skills.”

The school offers a semester to study and intern in Washington, DC; international study seminars that take students overseas; a world leaders forum that features distinguished guests; and four research centers, run by faculty members who are experts in their field, where students can hone their research skills. Students can also engage with experts in the field through the visiting scholars program.

Each year, approximately 10 students are selected to participate in the National Security Fellowship Program, led by Seton Hall alumnus Mohamad Mirghahari, a former presidential appointee under the Obama administration and current special advisor to the Department



of Defense. This cohort of students acts as a consulting group for a selected US government agency, completing operational research for the client’s foreign policy problem, developing a recommended solution, and presenting their findings to government officials in the requesting agency.

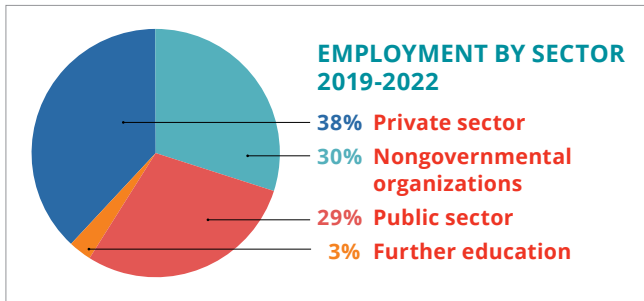
“The program offers incredible exposure for the students in their client’s sector,” Ruby says. “Students demonstrate their ability to analyze geopolitical threats and opportunities, identify US objectives, and they really learn how to develop, present, and write operational policies. It’s really a wonderful professional development tool.”

Courses in the MA in Diplomacy and International Relations program average 20 students and allow for flexible scheduling, with online, in-person, and hybrid options. Students select two concentrations and choose from a range of functional and regional specializations. “There’s a real opportunity to personalize the degree and develop a portfolio that is unique to each student’s career interest,” Ruby explains.

There are also several degree programs for mid-career professionals, such as the Online Executive MS in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice. In this unique program, specialization courses are taught by diplomacy faculty, while module courses, which are focused on professional skill development, are taught by trainers from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). “We’re the only school in the US that offers that,” Ruby notes.

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CHOOSE A CAREER THAT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT

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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.

David Wood is part of a dynamic, close-knit international community that inspires students to apply what they're learning to address the world's most complex issues.



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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND
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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

A Tailored Curriculum and Real-World Mentors Empower Students



“The idea is to break down silos between academic disciplines, understanding that global challenges span different areas and students can benefit by cross-pollinating with those areas.”

–Asha Rangappa, Assistant Dean of Admissions, Jackson School of Global Affairs, Yale University

There is a reason why the students who enroll in the two-year program at Yale University’s Jackson School of Global Affairs have several years of work experience. “We look for people who are self-directed and entrepreneurial,” says Asha Rangappa, the school’s assistant dean of admissions, “because they’ve been on the ground, have a clear idea of where they are, where they want to go, and the delta between those points.”

Accordingly, the Master in Public Policy in Global Affairs (MPP) has just four required core courses, to which students add other Jackson School courses; beyond those, students can choose from courses offered across the university in subjects ranging from business to law to public health. This cross-pollination, Rangappa says, enables students “to build their own toolkit for the area and career they want, while having access to the best expertise and scholars at Yale.”

But they are not flying solo. Because each Jackson class is small, at roughly 35 students, “they get to know each other and bond closely,” Rangappa says. They also receive individualized counseling from deans who help them design their curricula and prepare for careers, which includes choosing a required graduate summer internship with a company, nongovernmental organization, or government agency. “The summer experience allows students to get hands-on, practical experience in whatever policy area they choose,” Rangappa explains.

In addition, the school brings on Senior Fellows, real-world practitioners who mentor students and teach classes. “Our Senior Fellows have included [retired US Army Gen.] Stan McChrystal, a senior



MULTIPLE FUNDING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDE SUPPORT

Focused on making its Master in Public Policy program accessible, the Jackson School guarantees 100 percent coverage of tuition for every student who requests and qualifies for financial aid. This past year, that translated into an average of \$68,000 per student in merit-based scholarships. Half of each cohort also receives a full cost-of-living stipend, meaning the entire cost of attendance is covered.

The Jackson School also offers students paid teaching and research opportunities, and up to \$6,000 for its required graduate summer experience, which students use to pursue internships and research projects.

member of the World Bank, a UN Climate envoy — people who’ve done things our students hope to do,” Rangappa says. The school also hosts 16 World Fellows each year, who are movers and shakers from around the globe and spend four months in residence in New Haven, Connecticut. Past fellows include the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, and Rema Rajeshwari, the first female superintendent of the Indian Police Service.

Over the past three years, 100 percent of Jackson’s graduates have either enrolled in further study or found employment at prestigious organizations within six months. The university’s alumni network — 187,900 members in 160 countries — continues to provide both support and global networking after graduation that help facilitate student success.

Whatever route they choose, graduates have benefited from MPP’s evidence- and ethics-based curriculum. Jackson graduates, Rangappa says, “must move nimbly between different perspectives and disciplines. They must understand economics, history, political systems, and languages. We’re helping them become global citizens.”

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— ADAM HAMMER, M.A. '20

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ACCESS

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.



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Holistic Approach Prepares Students for Specialized Careers in International Affairs

“One faculty member took five students on a research trip to Taiwan, and each was listed as a coauthor of the published monograph at the end of the project.”



–Ellen Laipson, Director of the Master of International Security Program, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University

A successful academic journey is more than just ticking boxes. “We deploy a developmental advising model — we guide students on academic requirements and policies, but we also want to dive into students’ overarching goals and give them the resources to achieve them,” explains Jill Deering, senior assistant dean of student and academic affairs at George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government. The result is an individually tailored graduate experience that combines an interdisciplinary education, co-curricular programming, and opportunities for real-world applications.

Each master’s degree program at the Schar School offers a unique lens through which to study the complexities of international affairs. For example, the Master of Global Commerce and Policy looks at the field from a business and economics perspective, while the Master of Biodefense bridges the gaps between science, security, and policy. Courses are taught by a diverse faculty — including economists, social scientists, historians, and international relations theory experts — to help students understand the global landscape from multiple angles.

Co-curricular programming is extensive, with opportunities ranging from Schar School research center positions to a program with the Partnership for Public Service that places students in federal internships. The school’s 14 research centers engage students with experiences like speaking events and conferences, in addition to hosting student research fellows who conduct original research and help organize events that hone skills and strengthen problem-solving, such as war games and crisis



FEATURED COURSE: ETHICS AND THE USE OF FORCE

Explore ethical decisions and actions in war and the consequences of those actions in this graduate course taught by Assistant Professor of International Security and Law Meghan Garry.

“There is no shortage of material regarding ethics and the use of force, and it’s important that we critically analyze historical events and ones unfolding today,” Garry explains. “The ethical decision-making frameworks introduced, and the historical contexts analyzed in the course, allow students to develop their own approach to ethically responding to the international security issues most relevant to their work and interests.”

simulations. These activities allow students to role-play as the various actors in a national security crisis.

This hands-on approach is mirrored by faculty mentorships and support that extend well beyond the classroom. “Today I met with a student to guide him on how to convert a research paper into a publishable analytic piece,” explains Ellen Laipson, director of the Master of International Security program. “One faculty member took five students on a research trip to Taiwan, and each was listed as a coauthor of the published monograph at the end of the project.”

Faculty also support students with internship and career opportunities through their network, and that is in addition to the Schar School’s robust in-house career services and professional development resources, which cover everything from salary negotiations to gaining security clearance. “We have all of the benefits of a large university, plus the tailored support of a close-knit graduate school,” says Deering.

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Investing to Create a Continuum Between Scholars and Practitioners



“Our average class size is 16, which means your professors and classmates know you and really care about your success. They’re your future colleagues.”

–Shannon Hader, Dean and Professor, School of International Service, American University



At American University’s School of International Service (SIS), the process of investing in student success is what Dean and Professor Shannon Hader describes as “creating a continuum between scholars and practitioners.”

Creating a continuum between scholarship and real-world practice starts with SIS’s innovative frame of understanding the world, Hader says.

“The frame we embody, invest in, and teach from is a unique frame of the world,” says Hader. “We like to say that we do global differently. Our departments are organized to go beyond multidisciplinary so that students are valuable, nontraditional thinkers in whatever career they pursue.”

In practice, this might look like a student interested in climate policy also being exposed to courses and field experiences in anti-poverty and health. “If you want to be cutting-edge and offer big, innovative ideas, you need to understand the intersection of issues,” Hader says. “We want to empower students to leave with more than just the basics.”

With almost all SIS graduate courses being held in the evening, students can gain practical field experience during the day in government, nongovernmental organizations, corporate, and other settings in Washington, DC, while designing a course schedule that is tailored to their unique goals.

The curriculum offers plentiful ways for students to gain practical experience. Hader points to opportunities for SIS students to receive credit

for practica in which the US Department of State, think tanks, private sector consultancies, and other organizations request a consultancy project. “Students learn to work as a team, crafting consultancy-level solutions with the presentations, pitching, and responsiveness that clients expect in the workplace,” Hader says.

SIS has invested in recent years to ensure that its blend of scholarship and real-world practice is accessible to graduate students from different backgrounds. That includes a partnership with the Pat Tillman Foundation, meaning that any SIS student selected as a Tillman Scholar receives a \$5,000 funding match. Twenty percent of SIS students are first-generation college students, an accomplishment that Hader says has been made possible by an alumni fund that also provides direct emergency aid, such as when a student recently lost her home and belongings in a fire.

Throughout and beyond their time at SIS, Hader says students have access to robust career services, resulting in 91 percent of students being employed or in another degree program within six months of graduation.

BRIDGING CLASSROOM TO CAREER WITH PRACTICUM AND SKILLS INSTITUTES



SIS degrees are intentionally designed to give students the tools they need to deal with real-life situations. These include the practicum, a consulting project that works with real-world clients, and the skills institutes, which are crash

courses taught by practitioners from the field. Sample practica include **Alternative Strategies; Maintaining NATO’s Competitive Advantage; Conflict and Climate Migration; Intelligence and Analysis; and Peace and Security in the Middle East and Africa.** Sample skills institutes include **Briefing Policymakers; Building Cross-Sector Partnerships; Cultural Diplomacy and Protocols; and Data Visualization.**

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Empowering Students Beyond the Classroom



“By supporting our students’ pursuits of external opportunities, we’re investing in their holistic growth and preparing them to be changemakers in the global arena.”



–Adam J. Herman, Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

At The Fletcher School, the graduate school of global affairs at Tufts University, celebrating 90 years of excellence means more than just honoring the past; it’s about investing in the future. Over the past year, Fletcher hosted global leaders — like Winston Lord, a Fletcher alum and former ambassador to China; Jacinda Ardern, former New Zealand prime minister; and Ajay Banga, president of the World Bank — to engage with students on pressing global issues. But these aren’t just special occasions; they’re part of a bigger commitment to student success.

Fletcher offers a dynamic range of enrichment activities that go beyond textbooks and lectures. Take the signature student-led conferences, for example. These conferences are transformative for everyone involved. “They focus on professional empowerment, exploration, and outcomes for the students,” says Adam J. Herman, Fletcher’s associate dean of admissions and student affairs. “For the student leaders, it’s a chance to build networks, engage with distinguished guests, and create memorable events for the community.”

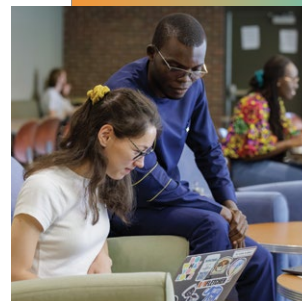
These conferences aren’t just about listening; they’re hands-on experiences. They offer a “safe, secure, exploratory environment” where students can hone their networking and communication skills, setting the stage for professional success.

Central to the Fletcher experience is building global connections and understanding, with events like Culture Nights highlighting the diverse student body — 50 percent of whom are international — and more than 30 clubs and organizations to join. Fletcher’s vibrant community helps students form meaningful relationships that last a lifetime.

Students also venture beyond the classroom through field-based activities supported by the donor-backed Fletcher Educational Enrichment Fund (FEEF). This fund provides grants for students to attend conferences, participate in competitions and conduct research. “FEEF recognizes that learning isn’t limited to the classroom,” says Herman. “By supporting our students’ pursuits of external opportunities, we’re investing in their holistic growth and preparing them to be changemakers in the global arena.”

Through FEEF, students have the chance to engage in real-world experiences that enrich their education and expand their professional horizons. Additionally, student-led treks abroad connect students with Fletcher alums working in their fields of interest.

These enrichment offerings complement classroom learning. With 11 fields of study at Fletcher, students can customize their degree to fit their career goals. “All these opportunities help students achieve the return on investment they seek when coming to graduate school,” Herman says. And the results speak for themselves: 96 percent of Fletcher’s 2023 graduates landed jobs within six months of graduation.



WHY CHOOSE FLETCHER

Fletcher is the place for ambitious, intellectually curious individuals driven by a passion for global issues. Students are collaborative thinkers who thrive in an interdisciplinary environment and

are eager to tackle complex challenges. They come with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, ready to engage with a global community and leverage their education to make a meaningful impact. “If you’re committed to integrating knowledge across disciplines and leading in an interconnected world, Fletcher is the place for you,” Herman says.

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“The global environment is a constantly changing, ever-dynamic system, like a raging river that with the right skills and training, you can master and navigate. That’s what we’re trying to teach students in SFS.”



–George Shambaugh, Professor and Director, Master of Science in Foreign Service, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

At Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS), student success is achieved by combining pedagogy and a strong sense of community. The faculty of the school’s postgraduate programs consists of academic experts and seasoned practitioners who are passionate about sharing their skills and experience. Practitioners and alums are invited to lecture, which helps contribute to students’ understanding of their career and service opportunities.

Professor George Shambaugh, director of the Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) program, explains that alums who serve as practitioner lecturers represent a variety of fields, from business development to investment banking. Their experiences help students think beyond policymaking in terms of the types of professions their degree can lead them to. It’s an “extraordinarily eye-opening experience,” Shambaugh explains. “We’re not a business school, but global business is international affairs. You can’t think about global networks without thinking about business and politics.”

Outside of the classroom, faculty members leverage their professional networks to help students build relationships in the field and participate in experiential learning opportunities. Recently, students have toured Japanese governmental facilities; met with Qatari negotiators working with Jordan, Egypt, and the United States on a ceasefire solution in Gaza; and attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) to observe the meetings.

Through its Practitioners in Residence program, SFS further promotes interactions between students and leading practitioners. Every year, a handful of professionals — often SFS alums — volunteer to mentor students, offer

career guidance, and conduct skills clinics and seminars. “What we’re really trying to do with alums, faculty, and practitioners is to use our networks to better engage the students, teach them how to ask difficult questions, and refine their thinking,” Shambaugh says.



A RANGE OF PROGRAM OFFERINGS FOR SFS STUDENTS

In addition to their primary program of study, students may also pursue a range of thematic and regional graduate certificates while fulfilling their program requirements.

Regional Programs

- Arab Studies
- Asian Studies
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- Latin American Studies

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Students are also connected to the wider Georgetown community, from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Schools of Law or Business, where they can take additional courses, deepen their research, and debate with colleagues. The nature of SFS programs “allows students to connect outside the classroom as well as in it ... creating a strong community and learning from it,” Shambaugh notes.

The school’s holistic approach leads to successful student outcomes, as evidenced by SFS being a top producer of finalists for the Presidential Management Fellows Program and Fulbright scholar awardees (for which Georgetown ranked number one for the second consecutive year). Additionally, more than 96 percent of SFS graduates find employment within six months of graduation.

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–Abbey Godley, Assistant Dean for Student Programs, School of Social Sciences, Rice University



Rice University’s Master of Global Affairs (MGA) program is co-sponsored by the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and the School of Social Sciences. On a wall at the Baker Institute is a quote that distills the MGA program’s ambition and approach to investing in student success: “A bridge between the world of ideas and the world of action.”

Abbey Godley, assistant dean for student programs at the School of Social Sciences, says that the MGA program serves as a bridge to the world of action through a holistic approach to student goals, program-level career support, ample opportunities in Houston, and global partnerships. “Our program is designed so that our students have a high propensity for impact when they graduate,” she says. “That means we don’t take a one-size-fits-all approach to our students.”

A holistic approach to student goals starts early, before orientation, in which incoming MGA students complete career and goal assessments before even arriving on campus. “From the start, we’re intentional with meeting students where they are,” Godley says.

Currently, the MGA program has 46 students, and each receives individualized, program-level career support. As part of the two-year program, students complete four sessions of a strategic career-planning workshop in their first year and work with staff to find a required graduate field internship (GFI) in their final spring semester of the program.

Accompanying the MGA program’s career support is a \$500 professional development fund and a \$4,000 stipend for students with an

unpaid GFI. Paired with the convenience of Rice’s location in Houston — the world’s energy capital, site of NASA’s headquarters, and home of the third-largest consular corps in the United States and 26 Fortune 500 companies — the school’s resources help students navigate into professional opportunities both in Houston and abroad. In recent years, Godley says, a former student was introduced by a Baker Institute fellow to contacts at NASA. The student used his GFI to intern at NASA in Houston, launching a career in space policy.

For students with global ambitions, Godley points to the MGA program’s new partnership with the Institute for Global Negotiation for a one-week international simulation experience at Rice’s Paris campus. The simulation will focus on real-world applications of energy policy negotiation, offering a global training ground for MGA students. “Like Houston, Paris is an authentic skill lab for understanding how corporations, governments, and NGOs can work together,” Godley says.

APPLICANTS SHOULD CONSIDER PROGRAM CONCENTRATIONS WITH A SENSE OF PURPOSE

Rice University’s Master of Global Affairs has three program concentrations: International Political Development, International Political Economy, and International Security.



Applicants are evaluated on various factors, such as having strong analytical skills. Another consideration is work experience, or having had significant international experience as an undergraduate, including study abroad, research work, or internships.

For all applicants, excellent letters of recommendation and a clear sense of purpose and direction for pursuing graduate education at Rice are also admissions must-haves.

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Diverse Campus, Flexible Curriculum Prepare Graduates for Fulfilling International Careers



“SIPA’s interdisciplinary curriculum and emphasis on practical skills development prepare graduates for diverse career paths in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, both domestically and internationally.”

–Grace Han, Executive Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Diversity is at the heart of Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), both in its student body and graduate program learning pathways. Students hail from nearly 100 countries, with more than 50 languages spoken on campus. SIPA’s interdisciplinary, flexible curriculum includes rigorous academic study and contextual learning experiences. The combination of these elements helps foster a deeper understanding of today’s pressing global issues, from geopolitical stability to preserving democratic governance to technological innovation and its impact on people.

Students can pursue a Master of International Affairs (MIA) degree or Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree, both of which are 21-month programs that are well suited for early-career professionals.

“SIPA’s MIA and MPA programs each feature a core curriculum that provides a firm grounding in economics, quantitative analysis, and management,” explains Grace Han, executive director of admissions and financial aid. “In addition to these requirements, students pursue a more flexible curriculum to gain more specialized knowledge in one of several concentrations, with opportunity for additional elective study as well.”

There is a broad range of program concentrations, which include: International Security Policy, International Finance and Economic



Policy, Economic and Political Development, Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy, Energy and Environment, and Urban and Social Policy.

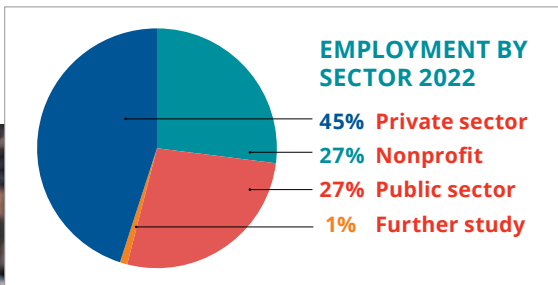
A required capstone workshop elevates and distinguishes SIPA’s MIA and MPA programs from others. During this experiential learning opportunity, teams of students are positioned as consultants for real-world organizations to solve current problems.

SIPA students graduate prepared to work in a diverse range of organizations across sectors, but Han notes a specific trend that has taken shape in recent years. “Some are surprised to learn how many SIPA graduates enter the private sector—more than 45 percent of the members of SIPA’s class of 2022, for example, versus about 27 percent each for the public and nonprofit sectors,” Han says. “Compared to previous generations, our societies are much more willing to use public-private partnerships and other creative tools to address the challenges of public policy. This opens more opportunities for SIPA graduates, whatever sector they technically work in.”

Additionally, some graduates have chosen the entrepreneurial route, launching start-ups and social enterprises, such as Revel, Laboratoria, and openigloo. Han says that “for students who are dedicated to a start-up journey, SIPA and Columbia University are committed to providing resources and guidance,” which includes plentiful networking opportunities, professional development programs, and career advancement workshops.

Contact

<https://www.sipa.columbia.edu>
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212-854-6216



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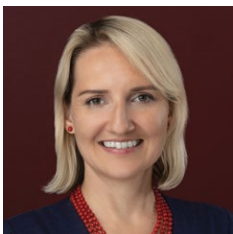
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“The Bush School DC is dedicated to shaping public policy practitioners through a 360-degree approach, combining academic knowledge, real-world experience, and strong values, particularly integrity in public service.”

–Kateryna Shynkaruk, Senior Lecturer, Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University



During a recent student orientation, Kateryna Shynkaruk, a senior lecturer at Texas A&M University’s Bush School DC, provided insight into what it takes to succeed in global politics. Her advice to students was clear: “[It’s necessary to have] the ability to understand your blind spots and grasp reality.”

This principle is not just a theoretical concept but a practical framework that shapes the institution’s educational experience. The Bush School DC prioritizes hands-on learning through simulations, role-playing exercises, and real-world decision-making scenarios, helping students identify gaps in their understanding and prepare for the complex realities of national security and international politics.

The school’s commitment to real-world exposure extends beyond the classroom. The Transatlantic Security Program, co-led by Shynkaruk, takes students on annual trips to Europe, where they meet with officials at institutions such as NATO and the European Union. Their feedback, she points out, describes these trips as eye-opening, offering students “invaluable firsthand insights into security dynamics and the nuanced role of culture in international relations.”

In regional studies, faculty members bring a wealth of field expertise to the classroom. Shynkaruk, who teaches courses in East European politics, European security, and international relations theory, often draws on direct experiences. “I travel to Ukraine at least twice a year, so when I teach a course on the Ukraine war, we’re not just having an abstract classroom conversation,” she explains.

Shynkaruk’s career spans academia, think tanks, diplomatic missions, and the US Department of

State. “I enjoy the fact that I can wear all my hats at the same time in the classroom,” she shares.

Students’ capstone project is another immersive opportunity to work on real-world projects for government agencies or private contractors and present their findings to potential employers for evaluation. Regular guest lectures and events with ambassadors, senior diplomats, and leading experts underscore the school’s commitment to connecting students with influential figures in the field.

The Bush School DC recognizes the need for flexibility and offers evening classes to accommodate those balancing full-time jobs with studies. This helps attract a diverse student body, from mid-career professionals applying to the Master of International Policy program to recent graduates applying to the Master of National Security and Intelligence program.

Students are likewise prepared for the realities of the workforce through comprehensive support systems and resources that include career coaching, faculty advising, and specialized career services.

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.

Graduates become part of Texas A&M’s extensive, supportive “Aggie” alumni network of more than 500,000 who live across 165 countries.

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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Full Financial Support Breaks Down Barriers for Ivy League Education

“We work hard to provide financial support that ensures students can focus on their studies while at Princeton SPIA and in their public service careers after graduation.”

–Steven F. Petric, Assistant Dean for Global Outreach, Admissions, and Alumni Engagement, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University



Among the many factors that distinguish the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) is its commitment to making a graduate education financially accessible to students from all communities, no matter where in the world they are from or currently live. Every student admitted to Princeton SPIA receives full financial support that covers the complete cost of tuition and student health insurance, and a generous stipend to cover living expenses.

“We have a long history of generously funding our graduate students, a feature we think is differentiating,” says Assistant Dean for Global Outreach, Admissions, and Alumni Engagement Steven F. Petric. “We work hard to provide financial support that ensures students can focus on their studies while at Princeton SPIA and in their public service careers after graduation.”

Public service is central to everything at Princeton SPIA, from how it conducts its admissions process to the ways in which it cultivates graduates who will work on the world’s most pressing policy challenges. When building its student community, the school looks for a dedication to public service, academic excellence, and leaders who make an impact.

“We are a supportive community, bound together by our commitment to public service and to one another — we aim to cultivate that in our admissions process,” Petric says. “We know that we won’t all agree on the same way forward. But we can look for common ground.”



QUALITIES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Princeton SPIA takes a holistic approach to admissions that considers a variety of perspectives and multiple indicators of success, beyond only those measured on a transcript. Those markers include impactful leadership, a resolve to create positive solutions, and a sincere

commitment to public service. 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 a demonstrated commitment to public service and for committed, passionate individuals working on behalf of their communities,” Petric says.

Princeton SPIA is known for its rigorous academic training that prepares students for international and domestic policy careers that address the world’s most complex, consequential policy challenges. The school offers a Master in Public Affairs (two years) and a mid-career Master in Public Policy (one year), both of which allow students to choose among four fields of concentration and three optional certificate programs.

Small class sizes and access to first-rate faculty who are invested in students’ success are also distinguishing factors of a Princeton SPIA education. “We’re a small, tight-knit community,” Petric notes. “You’ll get an excellent education at an institution that has a pervasive commitment to service — everyone will know your name, your goals.”

Graduate students at Princeton SPIA benefit from a robust support network that extends beyond its highly involved faculty. The Career Development and Alumni Affairs teams, for example, provide comprehensive assistance and plentiful resources for students’ academic and professional growth.

Contact

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Providing a 'One-Stop Shop' For Holistic Academic and Career Support



“The world is constantly changing, which means that what it means to have a career in international affairs is constantly changing. Our programming never feels stagnant.”

–Meg Wurm,
Assistant Director
of Graduate
Student Services,
Elliott School of
International Affairs,
George Washington
University

Even before their first class begins, incoming students at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs can receive support through Graduate Student Services (GSS) to start thinking strategically about how to structure their academic experience to align with their career goals.

“Our Graduate Student Services model is what we like to call a one-stop shop,” says Meg Wurm, assistant director of GSS. “We have integrated career coaching, academic advising, and international education into one office.”

Students' journey with their GSS advisor starts with a Comprehensive Action Plan with three components: a plan of study to ensure students meet program requirements; a career map to identify the skills, courses, and experiences needed to build a path toward reaching their career goals; and professional interest questions to guide students in exploring different aspects of international relations (IR).

“It's something that helps students see in one place all of the things they should be thinking about for graduate school ... and starts helping them take concrete steps toward trying to reach some of those career goals,” Wurm explains. “And then that helps us develop our events and programming to ensure we're actually putting on things that are interesting to the student population that we're serving.”

The experiences that GSS organizes range from practical and hands-on to exploratory and immersive. Skill-building workshops bring in



FOUNDATIONS FOR ALL ELLIOTT SCHOOL DEGREES

The student experience framework at the Elliott School emphasizes flexibility, with options to study full-time or part-time and start in either fall or spring. All courses begin at 5 p.m. or later to accommodate students' professional commitments.

All degree programs feature skills courses, such as

Negotiation Skills and Inside a US Embassy, which are built around direct feedback from employers. The capstone experience, completed with an outside client, applies students' learnings to a real-world scenario, preparing them for employment immediately after graduation.

experts from the field, like the USAJobs Series that is presented in collaboration with the US Office of Personnel Management. Throughout multiple workshops, students learn things like how to navigate USAJobs and build a federal resume. The series culminates with a discussion panel of alums who are working in the government.

Exploratory experiences, on the other hand, help students discover the breadth of available possibilities in IR and think creatively about what they're interested in. Site visits take advantage of the Elliott School's location in Washington, DC, by exposing students to different sectors and organizations. The annual Career Trek, most recently to New York City, introduces students to the IR career landscape outside of DC and a new market of employers, while also connecting with area alums.

GSS remains a resource that graduates can tap into any time for strategic career advice, Wurm notes. “Alumni have career coaching services for life through Graduate Student Services. They're always welcome to meet with us or email us with questions at any point in their career.”

Contact

<https://elliott.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions>
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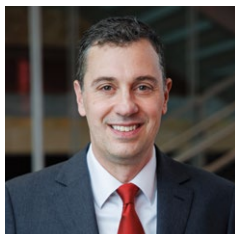
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Cultivating Expertise in International Policy, Languages, World Regions

“Investing in student success means preparing students to tackle complex global issues. At Hamilton Lugar, students will gain concrete skills, sound policy knowledge, and multidisciplinary academic tools.”



–John Ciorciari, Dean, Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University

Building on Indiana University’s 200-year history of global engagement, the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies offers a unique fusion of international policy programs with unrivaled depth and breadth in world languages and area studies. Students can pursue dozens of degree pathways in master’s, PhD, and certificate programs.

Policy-focused degrees at the Hamilton Lugar School prepare students for careers in government agencies, multilateral organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. The one-year Master of International Affairs program, co-led with Indiana University’s O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, enables students to concentrate in Security, Diplomacy, and Governance; Finance and Trade; or Global Development, Environment, and Sustainability.

Students can also pursue an International Studies MA or an MS for a focus on quantitative analysis, as well as dual degrees in public affairs, public health, business, information science, library science, and law. “These students are united by an interest in tackling complex global issues and using rigorous analysis to inform sound policymaking,” says Hamilton Lugar School Dean John Ciorciari.

Indiana University and the Hamilton Lugar School offer more than 80 language programs, which is more than any university in the country. The Hamilton Lugar School specializes in critical and less commonly taught languages and offers numerous MA degrees in language and pedagogy. “One of the top attractions for graduate students is our leadership in

languages,” Ciorciari says. “Our faculty are recognized experts in language pedagogy and linguistics, resulting in our top rankings in Boren Scholars (number one in the US) and Critical Language Scholarships.”

The school also offers top area studies programs through its



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Hamilton Lugar School’s Master of International Affairs (MIA) program is offered in partnership with Indiana University’s O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Faculty members are world-class scholars and practitioners, experts on issues related to global governance, security, development, and the environment.

The MIA degree, which can be completed in three semesters, prepares students for a wide array of careers in the global marketplace. Three multidisciplinary concentrations are offered:

- Security, Diplomacy, and Governance
- Finance and Trade
- Global Development, Environment, and Sustainability

departments of Central Eurasian Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. “Faculty are leading scholars in the history, literature, languages, and cultures of world regions,” Ciorciari says. “One hallmark of our area studies programs is their transdisciplinary approach, because understanding and addressing pressing global challenges requires embracing complexity.”

In addition to offering many student resources, the Hamilton Lugar School is home to more than 20 area studies centers that offer a wealth of expertise and support. In 2022, Indiana University and Hamilton Lugar School centers were awarded \$17.7 million from the US Department of Education’s Title VI program — more than any university nationwide. A generous portion directly supports students through Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships.

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At Hamilton Lugar, your education will follow a multidisciplinary path, allowing you to explore complex global issues from a variety of perspectives. You will gain a comprehensive education to lead in your career or academic field, and the practical skills to tackle tomorrow's most pressing global challenges.

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Chinese, Ph.D.
Japanese, Ph.D.
Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures, Ph.D.

Crisis Simulations, Individualized Advising, and Course Customization Bolster Students



“We have a small faculty and student body, and many students do research with faculty, which often translates into internships and career choices.”



–Mitchell Smith, Director, School of International Affairs, Penn State University

Last November, when the Penn State School of International Affairs (SIA) co-hosted its annual crisis simulation with the US Army War College, the challenge was formidable: Resolve territorial conflicts in the South China Sea. Over two days, SIA’s 50 first-year students played the role of delegates representing several countries — including China, Japan, and Vietnam — and engaged in intense negotiations to hammer out a peaceful agreement.

For 11 years, SIA has been participating in the event, which, according to the school’s director, Mitchell Smith, makes a lasting impression on students. It also, he adds, “encapsulates their educational experience — developing knowledge of a part of the world and the international system while thinking through how to apply a particular set of skills to challenges.”

But simulations, also conducted in individual classes, are just one aspect of SIA’s centerpiece, the Master of International Affairs program, which enables students to tailor concentrations to their interests via core courses and electives. SIA invests in its students on multiple fronts, ranging from hands-on instruction to individualized advising in what Smith calls “the cultivation of a globally engaged community among our student cohort.”

For example, students gather six times a year on a volunteer basis to participate in International Affairs Discussions, which are informal, hour-long conversations on timely topics chosen by student or faculty-member hosts. Smith, who



created the activity, says, “I wanted it to be a free-flowing conversation where everyone felt like they could contribute as they wished.”

The student body is also diverse. The class of 2024 represented 13 countries, spoke 31 languages, and was 41 percent underrepresented. And at 50 to 60 students per class, the cohort allows for highly individualized advising, with each student assigned a professional and a faculty advisor. “We have a small faculty and student body, and many students do research with faculty, which often translates into internships and career choices,” Smith says.

Also benefiting from SIA’s study-abroad and hands-on experiences, SIA graduates find employment at a rate of 93 percent within a year, working for government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and consulting and business firms. SIA’s aim, Smith says, is “to inculcate in students the skills needed to succeed in a career. Global problems are complex, changing, and interconnected, so it’s crucial to have an understanding of the world and a series of tools that involve teamwork, problem-solving, and advancing a set of objectives.”

EXTENSIVE CAREER SERVICES AND ALUMNI CONNECTIONS HELP FOSTER SUCCESS

SIA offers comprehensive career services, including professional development workshops, resume and cover letter review, job search assistance, and help identifying internships in the United States and abroad. It organizes career-exposure trips to Washington, DC, and New York City, and hosts on-campus job talks and panels.

SIA’s students tap into the powerful Penn State network, with 775,000-plus alumni worldwide. The school connects students

with SIA alums in multiple ways, including at networking receptions and through the school’s Alumni Mentorship Program.

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“Sitting in a classroom and absorbing a lecture is not the only form of learning, and for some people, not the optimal form of learning.”



–Debak Das,
Assistant Professor,
Josef Korbel School of
International Studies,
University of Denver

The University of Denver’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies engages its graduate students in today’s global issues using experiences that range from simulating diplomatic war negotiations to attending court hearings for undocumented workers.

Korbel School prepares students to work in a multidisciplinary, international field by having professors from academic, professional, and industry backgrounds in the classroom.

“Sitting in a classroom and absorbing a lecture is not the only form of learning, and for some people, not the optimal form of learning,” Assistant Professor Debak Das says.

For the last two years, the Josef Korbel School has offered a simulation exercise of diplomatic negotiations over past and present conflicts, including Russia’s war on Ukraine and nuclear escalation in the Indo-Pacific. The Russia/Ukraine exercises are led by Dr. Das, a political scientist who focuses on international security and completed his PhD on nuclear weapons proliferation.

During the simulation, Das starts by explaining to students the history that led up to the conflict. Students are divided into five-person groups by country, in which they assume key national security roles, such as president and secretary of defense. Students have three rounds of negotiations with other groups to try to resolve conflicting interests.

“It’s like using war-gaming as a pedagogical tool,” Das says. “Students have learned compromise, decision-making, collaboration.”



Another experiential approach at the Josef Korbel School involves in-the-field experiences with international issues. As part of a class about migration taught by an anthropologist, students attend Denver County court hearings for undocumented workers and intake sessions for immigrants who recently arrived in the city. This level of exposure to real-time global issues is unmatched by other graduate programs in the West.

Students at the Josef Korbel School arrange and complete an internship, choosing the location and organization based on their interests. Students benefit from the school’s interdisciplinary approach to teaching, which reflects the reality of international work. For example, one of the three required courses for all master’s degree candidates, “Great Issues,” is co-taught by a half-dozen professors with different academic backgrounds, bringing a unique and innovative perspective to the classroom.

“It’s important to introduce them to different ways of thinking that come from these different disciplines,” Das says.

UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES: STUDENT INVOLVEMENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Rocky Mountains are within driving distance of the Josef Korbel School, and downtown Denver, Colorado, is a light rail ride away. Here is a sample of activities that graduate students can participate in outside of the classroom:

- Eight student-led organizations, with activities ranging from activism to entertainment
- Internships with companies and organizations, including the

FBI, Defense Intelligence Agency, Amnesty International, and The Aspen Institute

- Guest lectures from working diplomats, policymakers, thought leaders, founders, and community leaders

- Study for a quarter in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Geneva, Switzerland; Vienna, Austria; or Washington, DC

Contact

<https://korbel.du.edu>
korbeladm@du.edu
303-871-2544



Josef Korbel School
of International Studies
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



A NEW

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