

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The field of international affairs addresses the key challenges and opportunities that affect the lives of billions of our fellow human beings. Globalization of economic, political, social, and cultural activity has created new opportunities and challenges for tomorrow's leaders in international affairs. Rarely has there ever been an uncertain world, in which the need for increased international understanding and cooperation has become essential.

Course offerings in the program draw heavily on the various academic departments of the university. Students in the MA in international affairs program begin with a core field of three to five courses in political science, economics, and history and move on to major fields focusing on global issues or regional areas. Skills courses and a capstone course on a contemporary policy issue connect academic coursework directly to practical applications.

The MA program in international affairs makes the most of the Elliott School's location within a few blocks of the White House, the U.S. Department of State, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

Visit the program website (<https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-affairs-masters/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadline:** Fall: January 7th - Fellowship & Application Deadline

Spring: October 1st - Fellowship & Application Deadline

Applications for admission will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis after the fellowship deadlines have passed, but students will not be considered for fellowships.

**Standardized test scores:** GRE and GMAT scores are not accepted and will not be considered in the review process. Please do not submit scores.

**Recommendations:** Two (2) letters are required. Applicants should submit one (1) academic letter from a professor and one (1) professional reference.

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission and choose to enroll.

If academic records are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translations alone should be uploaded into the online application. Official transcripts and certified English translations will be required of applicants who are offered admission and choose to enroll.

**Statement of purpose:** All applicants are required to submit an essay of approximately 500 words that answers one of the two questions below:

State your purpose in undertaking graduate study at the Elliott School. As part of your statement of purpose, describe your academic and research interests, career objectives, how a degree from the Elliott School will enable you to achieve your goals, and what unique skills, talents and/or perspectives you will bring to your program. Please be specific.

- OR -

Please discuss an issue of international importance you wish to address in your professional career. Please include how the Elliott School and the academic program to which you have applied will prepare you to address this global issue.

**Additional requirements:** A resumé or curriculum vitae is required. Resumés/CVs must include dates of employment (if applicable) and date of degree conferral or expected degree conferral.

**Prerequisites:** Academic coursework in a foreign language, which will prepare students to complete the program's language requirement\*, is required at the time of application. This can be demonstrated by:

Study that is equal to two semesters of university level coursework or equivalent.

Completion of formal language training as part of employment (ex. Peace Corps, JET, etc.).

Growing up in a household where the language is spoken.

\*Students need to have a strong foundation in a foreign language before enrolling to be successful in completing the language requirement during the program.

Course background in economics (micro- and macroeconomics) is a prerequisite to help prepare students to complete the graduate-level economics course(s) required within the M.A. in International Development Studies curriculum. Course(s) must be successfully completed through an accredited institution in:

Introductory Microeconomics

Introductory Macroeconomics

In some cases, a student may be admitted who has not fulfilled the economics requirement\*; in which case, the student is required to take course(s) at an accredited college/university prior to enrollment at the Elliott School.

\*Spring applicants are expected to have fulfilled this prerequisite at the time of application.

International Applicants may be required to submit official English Language tests scores with their application. Please see the Elliott School's English Language Requirements for guidance on whether you need to take the TOEFL/IELTS/PTE. Please send official TOEFL scores to institution code 5246.

The minimum English Language Test Requirements can be found below:

Eligible for Admission & requires EAP Courses:

IELTS- 7.0 overall score, no band score below 6.0

TOEFL- 100 (internet test) 600 (paper test)

PTE- 68

Eligible for Admission & Exempt from EAP Courses\*\*:

IELTS- 7.0 overall score, no band score below 6.5

TOEFL- 105 (internet test) 650 (paper test)

PTE- 72

\*\*Spring applicants must receive at least these scores to be considered for admission.

Please review International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:  
Office of Graduate Admissions

The Elliott School of International Affairs

The George Washington University

1957 E Street, NW, Suite 301

Washington, DC 20052

Contact for questions:

esiagrad@gwu.edu ~ 202.994.7050 ~ 202.994.9537 (fax)

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 40 credits, including 9 to 12 credits in core field courses, 3 credits in research methods, 3 credits in skills courses, 12 credits in a concentration, a 4-credit capstone course sequence, and 6 to 9 credits in elective courses. In addition, students must fulfill a foreign language proficiency requirement (see below), and have the option of writing a thesis.

See note regarding skills courses, the capstone, and the additional thesis option\*.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
Core field courses (9 to 12 credits)		
Three or four courses selected from the following:		
HIST 6030	History and Its Uses in International Affairs	
IAFF 6101	International Affairs Cornerstone	
ECON 6280	Survey of International Economics	
or		
ECON 6283 & ECON 6284	Survey of International Trade Theory and Policy and Survey of International Macroeconomics and Finance Theory and Policy	
(ECON 6280 is designed for students who have little background in economics. Those with a stronger prior background in economics may wish to substitute ECON 6280 with the ECON 6283 and ECON 6284 sequence for 6 credits. The ECON 6283 and ECON 6284 sequence is required for the international economic affairs concentration. Students pursuing the international economic affairs concentration are permitted to double-count ECON 6284 toward the 12 credits of concentration coursework, thereby allowing them to complete the concentration with 9 additional credits of approved economics-related coursework beyond ECON 6283 and ECON 6284. Students concentrating in international economic affairs must take 9 elective credits to meet the overall 40 credit requirement.)		
Research methods (3 credits) **		
At least one course from the following:		
IAFF 6118	Special Topics in International Affairs (Applied Qualitative Methods)	
IAFF 6118	Special Topics in International Affairs (Data Analytics for International Affairs)	
IAFF 6118	Special Topics in International Affairs (Research Methods in Global Gender Issues)	
IAFF 6222	Special Topics in International Policy and Practice (Advanced Data Analytics)	
IAFF 6501	Quantitative Analysis for International Affairs Practitioners	
Skills courses (3 credits)		
Three 1-credit professional skills courses in any combination selected from the following:		
IAFF 6502	Professional Skills I	

IAFF 6503	Professional Skills II
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Concentration (12 credits)

Students complete a thematic or regional concentration in consultation with the program director.

Capstone (4 credits)

Students complete a two-course capstone sequence that most closely matches the thematic area of their course work. The capstone sequence includes a 2-credit capstone workshop taken before the 2-credit capstone seminar. Students must have completed at least 18 credits of coursework prior to starting the capstone sequence. The two 2-credit capstone courses must be taken consecutively.

IAFF 6898	Capstone Workshop
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IAFF 6899	Capstone Course
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### Additional thesis option

Students who wish to complete a thesis do so in addition to the capstone requirement. Students pursuing a thesis must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and approval from the faculty member who will serve as their thesis director. Thesis credits are counted as elective or concentration credits with program director approval. The two 3-credit thesis courses must be taken consecutively.

IAFF 6998	Thesis
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IAFF 6999	Thesis
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### Electives (6 to 9 credits)

Two to three elective courses, which may include up to 6 credits of foreign language study, a second field of expertise, or other relevant coursework.

\*Additional information regarding skills courses (<https://elliott.gwu.edu/professional-skills-courses/>), the capstone (<https://elliott.gwu.edu/global-capstone/>), and the thesis (<https://elliott.gwu.edu/thesis/>) is available on the Elliott School website.

\*\*Students can take graduate level research methods in other GW departments with the permission of the MA in international affairs program director.

## Concentrations

Students in the master of arts in the field of international affairs program must complete a concentration by taking at least four courses (12 credits) selected from one of thematic or regional concentrations listed below. Specific requirements are listed under the "Concentrations" tab. Students are encouraged to discuss their course selections with their faculty adviser.

### Thematic concentrations

- Conflict and Conflict Resolution (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/conflict-and-conflict-resolution/>)
- Democracy Studies (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/democracy-studies/>)
- International Environmental Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/global-energy-and-environmental-policy/>)
- Global Gender Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/global-gender-policy/>)
- Global Governance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-law-and-organizations/>)
- International Affairs and Development (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-affairs-and-development/>)
- International Economics (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-economic-affairs/>)
- International Security (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-security-studies/>)
- U.S. Foreign Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/us-foreign-policy/>)

### Regional concentrations

- Africa (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/africa/>)
- Asia (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/asia/>)
- Europe & Eurasia (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/europe-eurasia-russia/>)
- Latin America (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/latin-america/>)
- Middle East (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/middle-east/>)

### Language proficiency requirement

Students in the master of arts in the field of international affairs program are required to demonstrate proficiency in a modern language other than English. Students may fulfill this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Having earned a minimum grade of B in a fourth-semester university-level intermediate language course completed no more than five years prior to matriculation in the Elliott School's master's degree program.
- Having earned a minimum grade of B in a fourth-semester university-level intermediate language course at GW, or in an approved course taken at another institution of higher learning,

including Elliott School exchange partner institutions, while enrolled in the Elliott School master's program.

- Passing the Elliott School-administered language proficiency reading and speaking examination at the currently-required level of proficiency. The Elliott School administers language proficiency examinations once in the fall and once in the spring semesters. Students should plan to take the language proficiency examination as soon as possible following their matriculation in the program. Students have three opportunities to pass the examination. Failure to pass the examination for a third time results in dismissal from the program.
- Achieving the required proficiency level in a reading and speaking examination administered by an Elliott School-approved language assessment institution, at the student's expense, while enrolled in the Elliott School's Master's Degree Program.

As of fall 2023, the above policy applies to new and current students in the master of arts in international affairs program. Consult the academic advisor or program director for more info.

## CONCENTRATIONS

### Concentrations

#### Thematic concentrations

- Conflict and Conflict Resolution (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/conflict-and-conflict-resolution/>)
- Democracy Studies (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/democracy-studies/>)
- Global Gender Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/global-gender-policy/>)
- Global Governance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-law-and-organizations/>)
- International Affairs and Development (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-affairs-and-development/>)
- International Economics (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-economic-affairs/>)
- International Environmental Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/global-energy-and-environmental-policy/>)
- International Security (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/international-security-studies/>)
- U.S. Foreign Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/us-foreign-policy/>)

#### Regional concentrations

- Africa (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/africa/>)
- Asia (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/asia/>)
- Europe and Eurasia (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/europe-eurasia-russia/>)
- Latin America (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/latin-america/>)
- Middle East (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/ma-international-affairs/middle-east/>)

## COMBINED PROGRAMS

### Combined Programs

- Joint Master of Arts in any Elliott School graduate program and Master of Business Administration (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/joint-mba-ma-international-affairs/>)
- Joint Master of Arts and Juris Doctor (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/joint-ma-jd/>)