

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, MA

Banner Code: PP-MA-INLS

Academic Advising

560 Founders Hall
Arlington Campus

359 Research Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: schar.gmu.edu

The program trains early to mid-career professionals who seek the analytical and substantive capabilities to address the security challenges of the 21st century. In addition to understanding the traditional military and diplomatic approaches that characterized the state-centric security framework of the last century, the program's core courses will provide a firm grounding with regard to public-private and international collaborative responses to emerging and unconventional threats, ranging from transnational crime, terrorism, illicit trade, proliferation of emerging technologies and WMD, and corruption to state fragility and ethnic and sectarian conflict.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

See Graduate Admission Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) for general information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Specific information on application requirements and deadlines for the MA in International Security program may be found on the Schar admissions website (<http://schar.gmu.edu/admissions/>).

Completed applications for fall and spring semesters are reviewed on a rolling basis, with late applications considered on a space-available basis. Students may be admitted for nondegree study and apply a limited number of credits toward the master's degree should they choose to apply to the degree program later, in accordance with university policy.

Policies

Students admitted to a Schar program will be terminated from Schar upon receiving one grade of F and are no longer eligible to take courses in Schar. Per university regulation, students are terminated from the university after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades in graduate courses. For additional information, see Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 36

International Security Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
PUBP 504	Grand Strategy	3
PUBP 506	Ethics and the Use of Force	3
PUBP 505	Politics and Practice of International Security Policy	3
GOVT 540	International Relations	3
GOVT 745	International Security	3
BIOD 760	National Security Technology and Policy	3
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3
Total Credits		21

Electives

Students may pursue the program with or without a concentration.

Elective Options For Students Not Pursuing a Concentration

Focus area courses have been selected to provide additional breadth and depth on specific security challenges or areas of policy debate.

Code	Title	Credits
Select five elective courses (15 credits), including at least one course (3 credits) from each of the three areas below. Exceptions must be approved by the student advisor.		15
Managing Global Risks		
National Security Policy and Processes		
Regional and Transnational Security Challenges		
Total Credits		15

Managing Global Risks

Code	Title	Credits
BIOD 610	Advanced Topics in Global Health Security	3
BIOD 620	Global Health Security Policy	3
GOVT 739	Issues in Comparative and International Politics	3
GOVT 741	Advanced Seminar in International Politics	3
PUAD 631	Disaster Response Operations and Recovery	3
PUAD 637	Managing Homeland Security	3
PUBP 654	Analysis for Peace Operations	3
PUBP 655	State- and Institution-Building	4
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	3
PUBP 714	Topics in Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics	3
PUBP 751	International Police Operations	3
PUBP 777	Critical Infrastructure Protection: Policy and Practice	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	1-3

National Security Policy and Processes

Code	Title	Credits
BIOD 609	Biodefense Strategy	3
BIOD 610	Advanced Topics in Global Health Security	1-4
BIOD 705	Intelligence: Theory and Practice	3
BIOD 706	Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons Policy and Security	3
BIOD 709	Nonproliferation and Arms Control	3
BIOD 751	Biosurveillance	3
GOVT 742	International Negotiation	3
GOVT 755	Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy	3
GOVT 758	Homeland/Transportation Security Administration	3
PUAD 504	Managing in the International Arena: Theory and Practice	3
PUAD 520	Organization Theory and Management Behavior	3
PUAD 630	Emergency Planning and Preparedness	3
PUAD 634	Management of International Security	3
PUAD 636	The NGO: Policy and Management	3
PUAD 727	Seminar in Risk Assessment and Decision Making	3
PUBP 653	Interagency Operations in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings	3
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	1-3
PUBP 740	U.S. Foreign Policy: Formulation and Practice	3
PUBP 743	National Security Management and Policy	3
PUBP 759	National Security Law and Public Policy	3
PUBP 766	Modern Counterinsurgency: Theory and Practice	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	1-3

Regional and Transnational Security Challenges

Code	Title	Credits
BIOD 722	Examining Terrorist Groups	3
BIOD 725	Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction	3
BIOD 726	Food Security	3
GOVT 530	Comparative Politics	3
GOVT 631	Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions	3
GOVT 731	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
GOVT 733	Islam and Politics	3
GOVT 741	Advanced Seminar in International Politics	3
GOVT 743	International Political Economy	3
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	3
PUBP 764	Transnational Crime and Corruption	3
PUBP 769	Political Violence and Terrorism	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	1-3

Concentrations

If desired, a student has the option to declare one of three concentrations.

Concentration in Intelligence (IN)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses of the 15 elective credits within the area of concentration. Preapproved courses include the following: ¹		
BIOD 722	Examining Terrorist Groups	3
BIOD 725	Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction	3
BIOD 610	Advanced Topics in Global Health Security (Specific topic approved by advisor)	1-4
PUBP 570	Policy Writing Fundamentals	3
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3
PUBP 754	Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for Public Policy	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3

¹ Additional courses must be approved by the student's academic advisor.

Concentration in Peace Operations (PO)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses of the 15 elective credits within the area of concentration. Preapproved courses include the following: ¹		
PUBP 650	International Conflict and Crisis Response	3
PUBP 651	Peace and Stabilization Operations	3
PUBP 652	Strategies for Peace and Stabilization Operations	4
PUBP 655	State- and Institution-Building	4
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3
PUBP 751	International Police Operations	3

¹ Additional courses must be approved by the student's academic advisor.

Concentration in Transnational Challenges (TC)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses of the 15 elective credits within the area of concentration. Preapproved courses include the following: ¹		
BIOD 722	Examining Terrorist Groups	3
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3
PUBP 751	International Police Operations	3
PUBP 763	Illicit Trade	3
PUBP 764	Transnational Crime and Corruption	3
PUBP 765	Human Smuggling and Trafficking	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3

¹ Additional courses must be approved by the student's academic advisor.

Accelerated Master's

Bachelor's Degree (any)/International Security, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates in any major may apply to the accelerated MA degree program in International Security. If accepted students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their major and an MA in International Security with a reduced number of overall credits and within a reduced time frame, sometimes within five years. More information on bachelor's/accelerated master's programs may be found in AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>).

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. See AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9>)

Admission

Please see Graduate Admission Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) for general information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Specific information on application requirements and deadlines may be found on the Schar admissions website (<http://schar.gmu.edu/admissions/>).

To be considered for this accelerated master's program, applicants must have completed a minimum of 75 credits, including at least 12 credits of Government, Economics and/or Global Affairs courses, and have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in all coursework applied to the degree.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses (six credits) that may be counted toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. In addition, students may take another two courses (six credits) to be held as reserve graduate credit and count only toward the master's degree. The courses are:

Code	Title	Credits
GOVT 540	International Relations	3
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3
PUBP 504	Grand Strategy	3
PUBP 506	Ethics and the Use of Force	3

Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses and in coursework applied to their major.

Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, students must submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form to apply credits to the master's degree. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree (excluding summer).