

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, MA

Banner Code: PP-MA-INLS

Academic Advising

560 Van Metre Hall
Mason Square Campus

336 Aquia Building
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 (<https://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 (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 36

International Security Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
BIOD 760	National Security Technology and Policy	3
GOVT 540	International Relations	3
GOVT 745	International Security	3
Select one of the following:		3
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3
or GCP 501	Data Analysis for Global Political Economy	
PUBP 504	Grand Strategy	3
PUBP 505	Politics and Practice of International Security Policy	3
PUBP 506	Ethics and the Use of Force	3
Total Credits		24

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits of electives in consultation with academic advisor.		15

Concentrations

If desired, a student has the option to declare one of three concentrations. Students without a concentration may select any courses from the concentrations listed below, or other courses as approved by the advisor or program director.

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		12
BIOD 610	Advanced Topics in Global Health Security (Specific topic approved by advisor)	1-4
BIOD 722	Examining Terrorist Groups	3
BIOD 725	Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction	3
POGO 740	Cyber Conflict and International Security	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3
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

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		12

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:		12

BIOD 722	Examining Terrorist Groups	3
POGO 740	Cyber Conflict and International Security	3
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government (Specific Topic Approved by Advisor)	1-3
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

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

To be considered for this accelerated master's program, applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 credits and have a minimum GPA of 3.60 in all coursework applied to the degree.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students may complete up to twelve graduate credits, all of which may be counted toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. Any remaining credits may 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).

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 current undergraduate major and a Schar School master's degree within a reduced timeframe. More information on bachelor's/accelerated master's programs may be found in AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees (<https://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. (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9>)

Admission

Please see the Graduate Admissions Policies for general information on graduate admissions to George Mason University. Information specific to the accelerated master's program may be found on the Schar School BAM website.