**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, MA**

Banner Code: PP-MA-INLS

Academic Advising
560 Founders Hall
Arlington Campus
A201 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

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. Students will supplement their core courses by taking electives from each of three focus areas:

- Managing Global Risks
- National Security Policies and Processes
- Regional and Transnational Security Challenges

### Admissions & Policies

#### Admissions

See Graduate Admission 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.

### Requirements

#### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 39

**International Security Core Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 540</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

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

Select six elective courses (18 credits), including at least one course (3 credits) from each of the three areas below. Exceptions must be approved by the student advisor.

#### Managing Global Risks

- BIOD 610 Advanced Topics in Global Health Security
- GOVT 641 Global Governance
- GOVT 734 Democratization
- GOVT 741 Advanced Seminar in International Politics
- PUAD 631 Disaster Response Operations and Recovery
- PUAD 637 Managing Homeland Security
- PUBP 654 Analysis for Peace Operations
- PUBP 655 State- and Institution-Building
- PUBP 710 Topics in Public Policy
- PUBP 714 Topics in Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics
- PUBP 751 International Police Operations
- PUBP 777 Critical Infrastructure Protection: Policy and Practice

#### National Security Policy and Processes

- BIOD 609 Biodefense Strategy
- BIOD 610 Advanced Topics in Global Health Security
- BIOD 705 Intelligence: Theory and Practice
- BIOD 706 Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons Policy and Security
- BIOD 709 Nonproliferation and Arms Control
- BIOD 751 Biosurveillance

**Total Credits**

21
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.

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.

Admission

Please see Graduate Admission 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:

<table>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 540</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBP 504</td>
<td>Grand Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBP 506</td>
<td>Ethics and the Use of Force</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 511</td>
<td>Problem Solving and Data Analysis I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PUBP 511</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PUAD 511</td>
<td>Problem Solving and Data Analysis I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).