Engaging the New World of International Affairs Stakeholders

What distinguishes your master’s in applied international studies (MAAIS)?

Our mid-career program is designed for professionals looking to broaden their global perspective and more effectively engage with governments, international and nongovernmental organizations, foundations, and companies to tackle critical global challenges. We leverage the deep area expertise of the 107-year old Jackson School of International Studies, as well as the innovation and global engagement of stakeholders in and around Seattle, to curate a curriculum that is both relevant and distinct. Our faculty dive into the political, social, economic, historical and cultural drivers of international policy and decision-making. Courses cover the making of the modern world, views from the global south, international legal foundations, technology trends, energy and the environment, religion and politics, international migration, and much more. Students graduate with a nuanced understanding of how the world works, practical skills applicable to all international affairs sectors, and powerful professional connections.

Why is a multidisciplinary approach to international affairs important?

The international affairs arena is changing, reflecting economic, political, and societal influences at work in the world at large. Diplomats are no longer the sole representatives of their nation abroad. There is an expanding community of stakeholders outside of government now engaged in finding solutions to pressing global issues. To be effective, international affairs leaders need to understand what is happening outside of their industries and organizations at the intersections of government, the military, business and civil society. The MAAIS curriculum gives students a solid understanding of this rapidly changing world and a multidisciplinary perspective on the pressing challenges facing international affairs practitioners today.

Why study in Seattle?

The city of Seattle is a thriving center of business and culture strategically located on the Pacific Rim, with deep historical ties to Asia. The joint ports of Seattle and Tacoma represent the third-largest port system in North America, and Washington State is a top trading partner for countries around the world. Our region is also home to major multinational actors, including Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, and Starbucks, as well as influential philanthropic organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest private foundation in the world. The area boasts a robust non-profit community, including the headquarters of PATH and World Vision, and a strong military presence that includes the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

A distinct MAAIS feature is the Civic Council, made up of corporate, nongovernmental, political and security sector figures from companies and organizations directly influencing global policy and decision-making. Civic Council members bring their expertise and diverse perspectives to the MAAIS program through special lectures, field visits, simulations and client projects. This collaboration offers significant networking opportunities and helps our students stay current and develop valuable skills.

Who should apply?

The MAAIS program is designed to meet the needs of global mid-career professionals. We offer two options: a full time 10-month program and a part time two-year program. Prospective students hold a bachelor’s degree and have a minimum of five years of professional experience.