



Global Master of Arts in International Relations

11 months | 5 countries | 1 university

Nothing compares to being there.

www.webster.edu/global

Frequently Asked Questions

Information in this FAQ is subject to change.

1) **This sounds too good to be true. How exactly does this program work?**

A: The Global MA in International Relations Program ("Global MA in IR") is a unique blending of theory and practice, as students learn about international relations while being immersed in five different countries at Webster University extended sites. Each year, three different cohorts, each consisting of 10-15 students, travel and learn together for 11 months. They spend an 8-week term in each of the following countries: Geneva, Switzerland; Leiden, The Netherlands; London, England; Vienna, Austria; and one 8-week term in Bangkok, Thailand or Beijing, China.

Students are able to complete their Master of Arts in International Relations in just 11 months because of the full-time, accelerated nature of the course offerings and program structure. At each campus Global MA in IR students are integrated in each classroom with local Webster University international relations students and are taught by faculty who are experts in the field. The Global MA in IR Program combines traditional classroom courses with a professional seminar component, where students engage the classroom material through site visits to international organizations like the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Office at Geneva.

2) **I'm intrigued! First, can you tell me more about Webster University?**

A: Absolutely. Founded in 1915, as Loretto College, today Webster University is a regionally accredited, nonprofit private institution based in St. Louis, Missouri, with over 100 campus locations. We offer academic programs for our 22,000+ graduate and undergraduate students worldwide. Because of our network of campuses in the United States and internationally, we are able to offer one-of-a-kind academic programs such as the Global MA in IR and the Global MBA programs. Learn more about Webster at <http://www.webster.edu/about/>.

3) How long has the Global MA in IR Program been in existence?

A: While Webster University has offered a Master of Arts in International Relations for over 25 years, we are currently recruiting students for our 6th year of the Global MA in IR Program.

4) Can I choose the courses I take in the program?

A: To finish this program in 11 months (five 8-week terms), students must fulfill the distribution requirements for the major. To make sure that Global MA in IR students complete the degree requirements, and to serve the other IR students at our campuses, we have to plan the rotation of courses carefully. In most cases Global MA in IR students will study together as a cohort in classes that are chosen to make sure they meet all degree requirements by the final summer term.

All Global MA in IR students will take the following courses:

INTL 5000: Introduction to International Relations

INTL 5100: Research Methods and Perspectives

INTL 5500: Professional Seminar

INTL 6000: International Relations – Theory and Practice (This is the final culmination/capstone course)

All other courses will be carefully chosen for each cohort. Prospective students can get a general sense of the courses from which the Global MA in IR curriculum is selected, by visiting our online Graduate Catalog: <http://www.webster.edu/gradcatalog/degrees/international.shtml>.

5) What is Professional Seminar? Are site visits included in the program curriculum?

A: Professional Seminar is a course designed to take students beyond the textbooks and provide a first-hand glance at the world of international relations. It sets the Global MA in IR program apart from most other graduate programs at Webster! As part of the Professional Seminar course, taken during the first four terms of the program, students will have many opportunities to visit various international institutions and organizations. Global MA in IR students in past years have visited the United Nations, OPEC, the EU Parliament, NATO, the International Criminal Court, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In addition, all Global MA in IR students receive a one-year membership to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, also known as Chatham House, an elite diplomatic forum and study-institute in London. While in London, students are able to attend presentations and receptions featuring influential people from the world of diplomacy, politics, business, NGOs and academia. The basic structure of the Professional Seminar course includes regular class meetings, visits, and occasionally guest lectures; but the content of the course and the format for site visits vary from campus to campus.

6) How much time do I spend in classes?

A: Global MA in IR students spend approximately 10 hours per week in class. In each of the first four 8-week terms of the program, students are enrolled in two 3-credit-hour graduate courses and one 1.5-credit-hour Professional Seminar course. In the final summer term (the fifth 8-week session), students are enrolled in two 3-credit-hour courses. There is no Professional Seminar the final term.

Each 3-credit-hour course meets four hours per week for eight weeks. On all European campuses, except for London, each class is held once a week in the evening for 4 hours. Classes at our London and Asian campuses may be held during the day. There is also a daytime schedule for Professional

Seminar courses, which varies from campus to campus. Professional Seminar enables students to learn outside of the classroom and engage in the field through various site visits, which will be organized and scheduled by the instructor at each individual campus.

Of course, a program like this provides students with wonderful opportunities for experiencing cultures and, thus, it is important for students to spend time outside of the library or classroom. There should be time for some travel in the region and time to enjoy the distinct social and cultural features of each city. However, a respected graduate program does require discipline on the part of students, so appropriate budgeting of time is imperative.

7) The Global MA in IR Program sounds exciting but also very stressful with moving around that often. Would it be a good fit for me?

A: Ultimately, only you can answer that question. But if you are an academically strong student who has a passion for politics and international relations; love to travel, experience new cultures and meet interesting people; are flexible, especially with change and a bit of ambiguity; work well in groups (since you'll be traveling in a cohort of 10-15 students); and have healthy ways to manage the inevitable stress of a rigorous graduate program and changing addresses five times, then it is likely you would be a great fit for the Global MA in IR program.

8) What do students do after they graduate? Do you have a job placement service?

A: Like most schools, we do not place students in jobs after they graduate. The program does offer wonderful opportunities to make contacts across the globe, whether it is fellow students who will be future colleagues or professionals in the IR field whom you may meet along the way through Professional Seminar. Of course, it is up to you to take advantage of your surroundings and make the most of these opportunities.

Many of our graduates have had success stories, including internships at the U.S. Department of State, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; and jobs with various governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the UN High Commission of Refugees, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Chemonics International Inc. (a development consulting firm), and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

We do offer career-related assistance through our Career Services Office, based in St. Louis. We encourage students to get to know their career counselor as soon as they begin the program. For more information about Career Services, visit <http://www.webster.edu/careers/index.shtml>. In addition, many of our international campuses have Career Services and are happy to offer assistance to you as you progress through the program.

9) What are the requirements for admission?

A: The Global MA in IR program is designed to progress in five 8-week terms what is normally done in at least six terms. Because of the academic demand this program places on students, we prefer that applicants to the Global MA in IR have an **overall** minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of **3.0 out of a 4.0 scale** from their undergraduate degree-granting institution. We are willing to consider applicants with a GPA below 3.0 if they have a strong record of academic achievement in their junior and senior years. Applicants who do not meet either criterion, especially those several years removed from their undergraduate experience, may still be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis. Please note that a phone interview also may be required.

United States citizens and US permanent residents must submit:

- A completed Graduate Application for Admission, which can be completed and submitted online at http://admissions.webster.edu/admissions/graduate/application/app_login.asp.
Important Note: *When asked to choose a campus on the online application, applicants should select any Webster international campus and then choose "Global International Relations".*
- A \$50 nonrefundable application fee, which can be submitted online with the application for admission. (Webster alumni do not have to submit an application fee.)
- An official transcript showing conferral of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Students who completed their university education outside the US must have earned a comparable recognized bachelor's degree, as determined by Webster University. Interested students who expect to earn their bachelor's degree by July 2011 must submit an official transcript showing current academic progress. An additional official transcript must be submitted upon completion of the bachelor's degree program.
- A current résumé showing educational, work, and volunteer experience.
- An essay (500-700 words) on "What does it mean to be a global citizen?"
- Two letters of recommendation which speak to the applicant's motivation, character, and ability to be successful in an intense, 11-month graduate program that requires significant travel. One letter should come from a former or current professor/instructor. Recommendation letters should be written in narrative form and no more than one page in length. Applicants may submit recommendation letters with their application packet.

Note: *Because many graduate school applicants have been in the work force for several years and have strong professional experience, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required.*

Non-US applicants must submit:

- A completed International Application for Admission, which can be completed and submitted online: http://admissions.webster.edu/admissions/graduate/application/app_login.asp
Important Note: *When asked to choose a campus on the online application, applicants should select any Webster international campus and then choose "Global International Relations".*
- An official transcript showing conferral of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Students who completed their university education outside the US must have earned a comparable recognized bachelor's degree, as determined by Webster University. Interested students who expect to earn their bachelor's degree by July 2010 must submit an official transcript showing current academic progress. An additional official transcript must be submitted upon completion of the bachelor's degree program.
- A current résumé showing educational, work, and volunteer experience.
- An essay (500-700 words) on "What does it mean to be a global citizen?"
- Two letters of recommendation which speak to the applicant's motivation, character, and ability to be successful in an intense, 11-month graduate program that requires significant travel. One letter should come from a former or current professor/instructor. Recommendation letters should be written in narrative form and no more than one page in length.
- TOEFL score-official only

-575 on Paper-Based-TOEFL (PBT)

-230 on Computer-Based-TOEFL (CBT)

-90-91 on Internet-Based-TOEFL (IBT)

OR

IELTS score of 6.5 on each section of the exam-official only

- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing

***Note:** Because many graduate school applicants have been in the work force for several years and have strong professional experience, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required.*

10) Where should I send my application packet?

A: All application material should be mailed to:

**Webster University
Office of Admission
Re: Global MA in International Relations
470 East Lockwood Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119-3141**

If your address or contact information changes after you apply for admission, please notify us immediately by calling 314-968-7100 or 1-800-753-6765, or emailing gadmit@webster.edu. Graduate Admissions communicates with applicants via email, letter, and/or phone numbers provided by the student. It is imperative that applicants regularly check all forms of communication.

11) When is the application for admission due?

A: The application deadline is March 1, 2011. However, we will accept applications until the class is full. If you meet the admission requirements, we encourage you to apply. If you have questions concerning your file and the status of documents submitted, please contact Ms. Thuy Witt (first name pronounced "Twee") at 314-246-8239 or 1-800-753-6765, or tkwitt@webster.edu.

12) Is work experience required in order to apply? I am just finishing up my bachelor's degree and have limited work experience.

A: No. Work experience is a great asset to any student, especially in today's economy, and relevant work experience can always help a student bring a unique perspective to classroom discussions. However, work experience is not a requirement for admission.

13) When will I be notified if I am accepted?

A: Accepted students will be notified by letter, telephone, or email within 2 weeks after all admissions requirements noted above have been received and evaluated.

14) How much does the program cost, and what is included in the cost?

A: The program cost for the 2010-11 cohorts was \$40,500. The new cost for 2011-12 will be announced by mid December. The cost covers tuition (36 graduate credit hours), housing during each 8-week academic term (single occupancy), Professional Seminar expenses, textbooks, on-site orientation, a mandatory study abroad fee that includes health insurance, an International Student ID

card, a guide book for each country, and other pertinent pre-departure materials. Webster University requires emergency international health insurance coverage, which is provided through HTH Worldwide. This coverage is mandatory for all participants in the program, and is arranged through the Office of Study Abroad.

The total program cost will be divided equally over five terms and billed at three points throughout the year for Fall, Spring and Summer terms.

Students are responsible for all airfare, travel expenses within Europe, housing between academic terms, food, personal expenses, and any visa costs, which can vary dramatically based on a student's personal preferences and comfort levels. As a rough guide, a Global MA in IR student can plan to spend on average \$20,000 to \$25,000 throughout the year for these expenses.

15) Is there a tuition deposit?

A: Yes. The total amount required for the deposit is \$2100. (Note: The deposit is *part* of the overall program cost, not an addition to it, and is later applied to the student's tuition bill.) Admitted students must submit a \$500 partial deposit to Graduate Admissions by April 1, 2011 to secure their place in a 2011 fall cohort. Students will receive a reminder notice for the remaining \$1600, which will be due by May 15, 2011. (**Please note:** We will still accept the initial deposit after April 1. Accepted students must let us know their intentions to join the fall cohort by submitting the *entire* deposit by May 15.)

The initial and final deposits are non-refundable after May 15, 2011.

Accepted students can make checks or money orders payable to Webster University and mail to:

**Webster University
Office of Admission
Re: Global MA in International Relations
470 East Lockwood Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119-3141**

We can also accept your deposit by Visa, Mastercard, or Discover. Contact Thuy Witt for more information.

16) Is financial aid available?

A: Yes. Students should apply for financial aid as soon as they have been accepted. Students must complete both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Webster University Graduate Financial Aid form, which can be found at the following links:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

<http://admissions.webster.edu/admissions/finaid/apply.asp>

Financial assistance from Webster University is limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are degree-seeking students at Webster. Webster students retain all federal, state and institutional financial aid while overseas. Currently graduate students are eligible for a maximum of \$20,500 in federal loans each academic year. Most Global MA in IR students also apply for Graduate PLUS loans to help finance the full cost of the program. Students who qualify for the maximum amount for both federal and GradPLUS loans have most, if not all, they need to finance the program.

Webster undergraduate students, who qualify for the Grad to Grad Program, may use their scholarship towards this program. For further information regarding this program, please contact Graduate Admissions. We highly encourage students to seek opportunities for outside sources of funding by creating a student profile on www.fastweb.com.

In the past, the Global MA in IR Program has made several grants available to U.S citizens and permanent residents who qualify. The availability of these funds is not a guarantee each year, but if the funds become available, we will notify all applicants and update the program website with instructions on how to apply. This communication would occur by late February. Contact Thuy Witt if you have any questions about Global MA in IR grants: 314-246-8239, 1-800-753-6765, or tkwitt@webster.edu.

For additional questions or to schedule an appointment with your financial aid counselor, contact the Financial Aid Office at 314-968-6992 or 1-800-983-4623. Comprehensive financial aid information is available at <http://admissions.webster.edu/admissions/finaid/>.

17) I am an international student. Does Webster provide any scholarships for non-US citizens?

A: Unfortunately, no. While we would be pleased to see more international students in the Global MA in IR, international students are responsible for securing funding for the program.

18) Are students able to do an internship or work while they're in the program?

A: Because of the accelerated nature of the course requirements an internship is not part of the program. In addition, American students are unable to procure work visas for the short duration they are in each country. We do strongly encourage students to start early, even while they are in the program, in looking for internships or jobs.

19) Do I need a passport or a visa?

A: All students must hold a valid passport from their respective country of citizenship. If you currently hold a passport, please ensure that it will not expire while you are abroad. To apply for a U.S. passport, visit any Post Office, or visit www.state.gov for detailed instructions and time frames. Allow at least 3 months for processing.

You may be required to obtain a student visa or residency permit for the countries visited during the program. Once admitted, Webster University will work to provide you with information that may help you determine what visas will be necessary, but ultimately all students are responsible for procuring the proper visas to ensure compliance with immigration laws. You can visit the countries' embassy websites for more information.

20) How do I know which cohort/route I will be following?

A: By late April, students who have been admitted to the program and submitted their first deposit will be contacted to submit their cohort selection, in priority order. We will do our best to place you in your first choice, but we cannot guarantee a spot in a particular cohort.

21) What if I do not speak the language specific to the country?

A: Not a problem. The main language at all Webster University international campuses is English. All classes are taught in English, and the staff is bilingual in English and the host language to help you. At select campuses, informal language courses are available to assist you in engaging your local environment. While we do not require you to speak the language of your host country, we always encourage you to acquire basic knowledge before your departure. This basic knowledge will be helpful to you when you are off campus and spending time in locations where the host language is the predominant language spoken.

22) Would a family member(s) be able to accompany me during the program?

A: Webster University can provide housing arrangements only for admitted students. Therefore, students bringing friends or family members are responsible for separate housing accommodations and all related costs for those individuals. Because a cohort experience enables students to offer mutual academic and social support to one another, we do not encourage students in this program to live apart from the rest of their cohort. Also, housing is included in the overall program cost, and the cost cannot be adjusted if students choose to live with family members.

23) May I switch campuses for a particular term once I start the program?

A: No. The Global MA in IR is a cohort program with a defined order of campuses and courses structured to ensure that all degree requirements are met within five terms. Students must follow the order of the campuses and courses for the assigned cohort.

As part of their cohort selection, admitted students who have submitted a deposit will be asked to state their preference of either China or Thailand. Webster cannot guarantee that every student will be granted their first choice.

24) If I am accepted, whom do I contact about specific details regarding travel information and living abroad?

A: Accepted students should consider the Office of Study Abroad (OSA) their main resource for travel information and advice. The contact person in OSA is Kim McGrath and can be reached at 314-968-6988, 1-800-984-6857 or worldview@webster.edu. In late Spring, deposited students will also receive detailed program information and preparation and travel tips in the 2011-12 Global MA in IR Student Handbook.

25) How do I schedule an academic advising session once I've been accepted?

A: Once admitted, students should contact Dr. Dan Hellinger, Academic Director of the MA in International Relations worldwide and Professor of Political Science in the Department of History, Politics, and International Relations. Dr. Hellinger can be reached via email at hellindc@webster.edu. He will respond with some updated information and can arrange to consult with you in person or by phone, if needed.

26) Is there an orientation before or when I arrive?

A: Prior to departure, all students will receive the 2011-12 Global MA in IR Student Handbook which contains dates, important arrival information and other pre-departure details. All students, regardless of the cohort they are assigned, will travel to one of our European campuses for a group orientation in

August, just prior to the start of the academic year. In the past, orientation has taken place at our campus in Leiden, the Netherlands. The orientation is designed specifically for the Global MA in IR program. Students will meet with all members of the Fall 2011 Global MA in IR class and other important Webster staff who will assist them throughout the year. While attending the program orientation, accommodations will be provided (in a local hotel (double occupancy), or in the campus dormitory). After the group orientation, students will travel to the location of their first term.

In addition, upon your arrival at each of the Webster University international campuses, students have an orientation designed to orient them to that campus, campus policies, library, country and coursework to be taken. Students are expected to arrive at their respective campus each term in time for the campus orientation and should arrange travel around the recommended arrival dates provided in the 2011-2012 Global MA in IR Student Handbook. This handbook will be available in the Spring.

To see a sample of the Global MA in IR schedule, visit <http://www.webster.edu/global/details.html>.

27) What are the housing accommodations like in each country?

A: Students will live in a variety of student housing depending on the country. Each campus has several on-campus and off-campus housing options. Accommodations will be arranged by Webster staff on-site at each location. While we cannot guarantee identical housing for all students, there are certain standards and requirements for Global MA in IR student housing. At all campuses, students will have single accommodations (or at least their own room), internet access, and access to laundry and kitchen facilities. In addition, all housing will be located within walking distance or with access to public transportation routes, for travel to and from each campus.

28) What do student do during academic breaks? What are my housing options during breaks?

A: Students do a variety of things over break. Some will travel back to the U.S., especially during the winter break, to visit family and friends; others take the opportunity to travel and explore new cities and sites. When traveling some students travel alone, but many either travel with fellow Global students or with family and friends who might come to visit. There are many cost effective ways to travel, such as traveling on discount airlines in Europe, taking advantage of the extensive train systems in Europe and Asia, and staying in hostels. It just takes some research.

Since housing between academic terms is not covered in the program cost, students are encouraged to research housing options that suit their individual needs during breaks. Breaks in between each 8-week term include one break in the fall, winter, spring and summer. Academic breaks are usually one week long, except for winter break (late Dec-early Jan), which is about three weeks.

To alleviate the inconveniences of overweight baggage charges and traveling with heavy luggage during breaks, many students choose to ship some of their belongings to the next campus, whether by using the local post or FedEx in each location.