Global MA in International Relations (GMA)

This program is offered by the College of Arts & Sciences, however, this program is not currently accepting applications.

Program Description

The global master of arts (GMA) in international relations enables students to analyze the complexities and processes involved in world politics and international affairs while traveling the world. Students achieve this objective not only through coursework providing exposure to the key subfields of the discipline and relevant issues such as globalization, human rights, humanitarian action and economic development, but also through professional seminars and experiences at five of Webster’s overseas sites. Traveling in cohorts, students develop broad expertise in international relations while also earning a certificate in one of four specialized areas: international and regional security, international development, comparative and regional governance, or international and nongovernmental organizations. This program is ideal for students seeking work with a governmental agency, an intergovernmental organization, a nongovernmental organization, or a multinational corporation. This program is also recommended to students planning to pursue a PhD or an academic career at another institution.

Global Degrees

Students enrolled in Webster Global degrees achieve greater comprehension of theoretical approaches to understanding global issues, not only through traditional course work but also through lived experience in different nations, interaction with local people, and through field visits. Hence, there are several fundamental experiences that distinguish the "Global degree" from a "non-global" degree.

- A Global degree cannot be completed at one Webster University campus alone.
- A Global degree includes study at several Webster University campuses in a minimum of three different countries.
- A Global degree allows students to engage directly in various cultures and develop a global perspective that might not otherwise be achieved.
- A Global degree requires a structured rotation of students among the Webster campuses with a predefined academic curriculum for each campus.
- A Global degree allows for the movement of a cohort of students between campuses while still achieving all of the requirements for graduation.
- A Global degree is designed so that the time spent in the local culture at each Webster campus complements the academic work in the student’s particular area of study.

Global degree programs have a cohort of students. They are not available for single students moving among campuses. The cohort size will be determined by the academic department offering the Global degree. The integration of location-specific highlights that enhance academic understanding is crucial to a Global degree and should be organized as a part of the student’s coursework, normally in professional seminars.

Locations

Students in the global international relations program typically visit five of the following countries:

- Accra, Ghana
- Athens, Greece
- Bangkok, Thailand
- Beijing, China
- Geneva, Switzerland
- Havana, Cuba
- Leiden, The Netherlands
- Vienna, Austria

Students interested in this program may enroll through the St. Louis home campus. For more information, visit webster.edu/global.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this program will be able to:

- Demonstrate working knowledge of several subfields of the discipline.
- Demonstrate strong research skills.
- Critically analyze international events and issues.
- Apply theories of international relations.
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills.
- Develop the requisite skills to seek employment.

Program Curriculum

The 36 credit hours required for the global master of arts (MA) degree in international relations must include the following courses:

- INTL 5000 Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)
- INTL 5100 Research Methods and Perspectives (3 hours)
- INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations (3 hours)
- INTL 5500 Professional Seminar (4 hours)
- INTL 5555 Policy and Practice: Global Project in International Relations (0-1 hour)
- Two courses from the Comparative Politics Cluster (6 hours)
- Four courses from the International Politics Cluster (12 hours)
- One elective course from either the Comparative Politics or International Politics Cluster (3 hours)

Students in the Global MA in international relations can apply to complete the INTL 6250 Thesis course and in place of the INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations. Doing so requires 3-6 additional credits.

Comparative Politics Cluster (2 courses)

- INTL 5050 Comparative Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5570 Comparative Foreign Policy (3 hours)
- INTL 5580 Politics of Development (3 hours)
- INTL 5600 Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5605 Topics in Comparative Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5625 Middle East Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5635 Western European Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5645 Asian Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5655 African Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5665 South and Central Asian Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5675 Central and Eastern European Area Studies (3 hours)
- INTL 5685 Latin American Area Studies (3 hours)

International Politics Cluster (4 courses)

- INTL 5400 International Political Economy (3 hours)
- INTL 5510 Theories of International Relations (3 hours)
- INTL 5530 International Law (3 hours)
- INTL 5535 International Disaster Law (3 hours)
- INTL 5540 International Organizations (3 hours)
- INTL 5550 War and Diplomacy (3 hours)
- INTL 5560 U.S. Foreign Policy (3 hours)
- INTL 5590 International Security (3 hours)
- INTL 5595 Energy Security (3 hours)
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- INTL 5700 Humanitarian Issues in International Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5800 Globalization (3 hours)
- INTL 5860 Issues in International Politics (3 hours)
- INTL 5870 International Law and Politics of Outer Space (3 hours)
- INTL 5890 Terrorism in World Politics (3 hours)
- HRTS 5000 Introduction to International Human Rights (3 hours)
- INGO 5000 Introduction to International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INGO 5600 Principles of Negotiations (3 hours)

Approved Electives

With permission of the program director, the following courses can count toward the GMA program:

- INTB 5960 Economic Development (3 hours)
- INGO 5900 Project Management for International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INGO 5700 Grant Writing, Fundraising and Development for International and Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INGO 6500 Internship in International Nongovernmental Organizations (3 hours)
- INTL 5300 Field Work (3-6 hours)
- INTL 5900 Advanced Research Methods (3 hours)

Not all of the courses listed above will be available to students at all locations. If a requisite course is waived, the student must choose an elective course from this major. The required courses and electives listed in this core may be taken as directed studies, subject to the conditions stated in the Directed Studies section under Academic Policies.

Tracks

In addition to the Global MA degree, each cohort is organized in an informal ‘track’ that focuses their studies on a particular area of international relations. Courses and locations are themed to this track to allow for specialization within the program. Completing the degree requirements for a particular cohort of the GMA program will also result in earning the certificate for that track. The Tracks are:

- Comparative and Regional Governance
- International Development
- International and Nongovernmental Organizations
- International and Regional Security

Admission

Students who are interested in applying to this degree program should see the Admission section of this catalog for general requirements.

Application deadline is March 1st, or until the class is filled, for enrollment in August of the same year.

Admission Requirements

- A completed Graduate Application for Admission, which can be completed and submitted online at http://webster.edu/apply.

Important Note: When asked to choose a program on the online application, applicants should select “St. Louis campuses” > “St Louis Home campus” > “Graduate”, and then choose “Global International Relations.” Applicants do not have to submit another application specific to the GMAIR program.

- A $50 non-refundable application fee, which can be submitted online with the application for admission.

- 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. Students who expect to earn their bachelor’s degree by July (the month prior to the start of the program) must submit an official transcript showing current academic progress. A final degree-conferred transcript must be submitted for full admission. Applicants who have completed graduate-level work should also request an official graduate transcript to be mailed to the Office of Admission.

- Students should have a minimum GPA of a 3.0 out of a 4.0 grading scale from their bachelor’s degree. Students with a GPA below this GPA may be considered for admission if they show successful academic achievement in their junior and senior years. This is considered on a case-by-case basis.

- A current résumé showing education, work and volunteer experience.

- Two letters of recommendation which speak to the applicant's motivation, character and ability to be successful in an intensive, 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.

- A phone interview or essay may be required.

In addition to the documents listed above, non-US applicants must submit an official English translation of their transcript and diploma, if applicable. Applicants whose primary language is not English must document their English language proficiency at the time of application. Refer to the Admission section of the catalog for details.

Send all admissions materials to:

Office of Admission
RE: Global MA in International Relations
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Advancement to Candidacy

Students are admitted to their graduate program upon completion of all admission requirements. Students are advanced to candidacy status after successfully completing 12 credit hours of graduate credit, with grades of B- or better. In the MBA program and other specialized programs, courses required as prerequisites to the program do not count toward the 12 credit hours required for advancement.