Admissions

Admissions are rolling and students can start in the fall or spring. Application deadlines can be found on the ISS website, iss.sbs.arizona.edu/admissions.

Application Materials

Apply online to the Graduate College (grad.arizona.edu). Official transcripts, a resume, and a statement of purpose are required in addition to the online application. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work can be sent electronically to iss@email.arizona.edu, or mailed to:

Mailing Address: ISS Applications
School of Government and Public Policy
The University of Arizona
PO Box 210027
Social Sciences 315
Tucson, AZ 85721-0027

Please visit our website at:
sgpp.arizona.edu
Program Overview

The Master of Arts in International Security Studies is a fully online program taught by University of Arizona faculty. Each course is specifically designed for distance learning and is not available on campus. The program is aimed at military and civilian personnel seeking careers in intelligence, foreign policy analysis, and Foreign Service. It is also aimed at people who work with government, government contractors and nongovernmental organizations with interests in international affairs.

This program is designed to expose future decision makers and analysts to the wide range of security challenges faced by the United States and the global community. As contemporary security goes beyond military capacity and force, the program seeks to address challenges related to demographic, environmental, developmental, and social trends. Courses cover a wide variety of topics, including armed conflict, terrorism, economics, foreign policy, and the environment, and also cover a number of regions around the globe, including Europe, the Middle East, Eurasia, the United States and East Asia.

Program Facts

Courses cover a wide variety of topics and themes. All courses are taught by qualified and experienced faculty who are academic experts in their fields.

- All courses are 8 weeks long.
- Students can finish the program in 2 years.
- Semesters can be skipped and coursework can be resumed at a later date for students who need to interrupt their studies.
- A steady and reliable internet connection is important because all coursework and assignments are administered electronically. Courses consist of recorded lectures, readings, discussion forums, and writing assignments.
- SGPP offers no direct financial assistance. Students can apply for financial aid through the University of Arizona. The program has been approved by the VA and students can use their GI bill as well as tuition assistance to cover the tuition costs.

The International Security Studies Certificate

The International Security Studies Certificate consists of 12 credit hours. Students select from the same list of courses whether they are earning an M.A. degree or a Graduate Certificate. There is the option to transfer the M.A. program after starting the certificate. All courses taken through the ISS Certificate program will count toward the M.A. degree.

Apply online to the Graduate College (grad.arizona.edu). Official transcripts, a resume, and a statement of purpose are required in addition to the online application. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework can be sent electronically to iss@email.arizona.edu or mailed to:

Mailing Address: Certificate Applications
School of Government and Public Policy
The University of Arizona
PO Box 210027 | Social Sciences 315
Tucson, AZ 85721-0027

Physical Address:
School of Government & Public Policy
315 Social Sciences Bldg
Tucson, AZ 85721-0027
Phone: (520) 621-7600 | Fax: (520) 621-5051
iss.sbs.arizona.edu

Curriculum:

The M.A. in International Security Studies consists of 36 credit hours and is delivered online. Students must complete eleven courses and the portfolio capstone course. A master’s thesis is also available as a capstone project, with permission from the director. All courses require readings, writing assignments, and online discussions. Instructors provide audio lectures, reading materials, and supervise the discussion forum. A partial list of courses includes:

- POL 520A: How Terrorism Ends
- POL 542A: Topics in European Security
- POL 544A: International Relations of Sub-Saharan Africa
- POL 550A: Research Design in the Social Sciences
- POL 551: Soviet & Post Soviet Foreign Policy
- POL 555: American Foreign Policy
- POL 564: International Relations of East Asia
- POL 565A: International Politics of the Middle East
- POL 567A: Emerging Powers in the Global System
- POL 569A: Armed Conflict
- PA 561A: Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Security
- PA 579: Intelligence & U.S. National Security

The conceptual framework applied across the courses relies on theory and empirical analysis to provide a strong interdisciplinary and cross-regional approach.

For more information, please contact Dr. Paulette Kurzer at (520) 621-7604 or kurzer@arizona.edu.