

MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (MIA)

Master of International Affairs (MIA) Curriculum

The MIA offers a customizable core curriculum, including a wide range of courses in international politics and political economy. Students choose from a broad range of concentrations (majors): International Security Policy, International Finance and Economic Policy, Economic and Political Development, Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy, Energy and Environment, and Urban and Social Policy. Students prepare to work in a global environment by demonstrating proficiency in a modern language other than English. The MIA also offers special international immersion courses and fieldwork opportunities.

For additional information on the Master's of International Affairs program, including information for prospective students and admissions, please refer back to the [MIA program page](#).

MIA Core Curriculum

The purpose of the core curriculum is to ensure that every student in the MIA program receives basic, broad-based, interdisciplinary training in international affairs.

This includes graduate-level course work in economics, statistics, interstate relations and management. Students must also demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language. Students are required to take two international politics courses (*Conceptual Foundations of International Politics* and *one course in interstate relations*), a year-long course in economics, and one-semester courses in statistics, management, and financial management. *Conceptual Foundations*, Economics, Quantitative Analysis, and Professional Development must be taken during the first year. Other core requirements can be distributed throughout a student's program of study.

	Points
Conceptual Foundations of International Politics	4
Students must complete both the lecture and the discussion:	
IAIA U6800	Conceptual Foundations of International Politics
IAIA U6804	Conceptual Foundations of International Politics - Discussion
Interstate Relations	3
Select from a menu of approximately 70 courses that fulfills this requirement: http://bulletin.columbia.edu/sipa/programs/mia/interstate-relations	
Economics	6
Students must complete one of the following sequences:	
SIPA U6300 - SIPA U6301	Microeconomics for International and Public Affairs and Macroeconomics for International and Public Affairs
SIPA U6400 - SIPA U6401	Microeconomic Analysis for International and Public Affairs and Macroeconomic Analysis for International and Public Affairs
Quantitative Analysis	3
SIPA U6500	Quantitative Analysis I for International and Public Affairs

Management & Financial Management	3
Students must complete one of the following courses:	
SIPA U6003	Analysis of Public Sector Organizations
SIPA U6005	Effective Management in the Public Service
SIPA U6011	Strategic Management of Nonprofit Organizations
SIPA U6014	Strategic and Entrepreneurial Management
SIPA U6015	Sustainability Management
SIPA U6016	Leading # Managing in Moments of Adversity # Opportunity
SIPA U6017	Effective Management in the Public Service
SIPA U6200	Accounting for International and Public Affairs
SIPA U6310	Nonprofit Financial Management
SIPA U6320	Budgeting # Financial Management for Government
INAF U6022	Economics of Finance
Professional Development	0.5
Students must complete the required course and one (1) elective	
Required:	
SIPA U4040	Professional Development
Electives:	
SIPA U4041	Professional Development
SIPA U4042	Professional Development
SIPA U4043	Professional Development
SIPA U4044	Professional Development
SIPA U4045	Professional Development
Capstone Workshop	3
Students must complete one of the following courses:	
SIPA U9000	Capstone Workshop
SIPA U9001	Capstone Workshop in Sustainable Development Practice
Internship	0-3
SIPA U9013	Internship
Total Points	22.5-25.5

Policy Concentration

All students choose one concentration from the list below. Each concentration is described in more detail below.

- **Economic and Political Development (EPD)**
- **Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy (HRHP)**
- **International Security Policy (ISP)**
- **Energy and Environment (EE)**
- **International Finance and Economic Policy (IFEP)**
- **Urban and Social Policy (USP)**

Specialization

All students also choose one specialization consisting of 3 courses: a skill or area of specialized knowledge to pair with their policy concentration:

- **Data Analytics & Quantitative Analysis (DAQA)**
- **Gender and Public Policy (GPP)**
- **International Organization & United Nations Studies (IO/UN)**

- **International Conflict Resolution (ICR)**
- **Leadership, Innovation, & Design (LID)**
- **Regional Specializations, including Foreign Language Specializations**
- **Technology, Media, and Communications (TMaC)**

Foreign Language Requirement

Proficiency in a language other than English is a graduation requirement for Master of International Affairs students and Economic and Political Development concentrators. Proficiency is defined as the ability to read, write and speak the language at the Intermediate II level. This requirement is met in one of three ways:

- As a native speaker of a language other than English who also demonstrates that a substantive part of their education (e.g., high school, college, prior graduate degree) has been in that language. TOEFL/IELTS will also be taken into account as supplemental evidence of proficiency in another language.

OR

- By passing a language proficiency exam. The exam can only be taken once. You are advised to take the exam in your first year.

Beginning in Spring 2022, SIPA will no longer offer Language Proficiency Exams. Students wishing to waive language requirements must take proficiency exams through the appropriate language department. Please contact the language departments for exam dates and more information.

OR

- By achieving a grade of B or better in an Intermediate Level II (4th semester) language course at Columbia. Students may register for any language course at Columbia. However, Elementary-level courses cannot count toward the 54 credits applicable to the degree. Intermediate-level courses will count as electives. If you are at the elementary level, you should start your language courses in your first semester.

Year 1

Fall	Points	Spring	Points
Conceptual Foundations of International Politics		4 Macroeconomics	3
Quantitative Analysis I		3 Core - Management/Financial Management Course	3
Microeconomics		3 Concentration Course 2	3
Professional Development		0.5 Specialization Course 1	3
Concentration Course 1		3 Internship Registration (Optional)	0-3
		13.5	12-15

Year 2

Fall	Points	Spring	Points
Interstate Relations Course		3 Capstone Workshop	3

Concentration Course 3	3 Concentration Course 5	3
Concentration Course 4	3 Specialization Course 3	3
Specialization Course 2	3 Elective Course 2	3
Elective Course 1	3 Elective Course 3	3
		15

Total Points: 55.5-58.5

MIA and MPA Graduation Requirements Overview

Students must meet the following requirements in order to be approved for graduation:

- Complete 54 credits in residence at SIPA *
- Complete 4 residency units *
- Complete all core, concentration and specialization requirements*
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- Have no pending grades. All grades must be final. Any notations indicating a pending grade must be converted to a final grade prior to graduating. These include, "IN" (incomplete), "CP" (credit pending) and "YC" (year-long course).
- Complete and submit the [Application for Degree or Certificate](#) by the appropriate deadline.

* Requirement for dual degree students may differ.

In addition to the above please note that grade changes cannot be made post-graduation.

Tracking MIA and MPA Core Requirements:

Students can use the Degree Audit Report (DAR) in [Stellic](#) to track their academic progress.

The DAR is an unofficial guide to the MIA and MPA core.

To request revisions to the Degree Audit Report, please fill out the Degree Audit Report Correction Form and submit the form to the Student Affairs Office.

[Degree Audit Report Correction Form](#)

Concentration/Specialization Declaration:

All students are required to declare a concentration and specialization. SIPA permits MIA & MPA students to change their concentration or specialization after admission. For more information, visit [Changing Academic Programs](#).

Tracking Concentration Requirements

Concentration audit forms are designed to assist students and concentration directors in determining if the concentration requirements have been met. All students must complete one concentration to graduate except for PhD students and those pursuing dual degrees with other Columbia University schools.

Students are required to meet with their concentration director once per semester at SIPA to ensure they are fulfilling the appropriate concentration requirements. Prior to their final semester, students should meet with their concentration director and have the concentration director approve the degree audit form on Stellic.

Concentration audit form deadlines are August 1st for October graduation; November 1st for February graduation; and January 29th for May graduation.