OVERVIEW

The Elliott School’s M.A. program in International Affairs (MAIA) provides students an opportunity to develop a broad understanding of contemporary issues in international affairs and an in-depth knowledge of at least one specialty in a policy issue or regional area. The largest graduate program within the Elliott School, the MAIA program prepares students for a broad range of careers in the international arena. The program combines courses in both theory and practice, which are taught by renowned scholars and leading practitioners in the field of international affairs. Students can take advantage of numerous internship opportunities in the Washington, DC, area to supplement their academic training with relevant experience. MAIA alumni have careers in diplomacy, policy analysis, public service, non-profit organizations, business, security, conflict resolution, development, economic policy, and public health.

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?

The MAIA program is ideal for students who want to deepen their knowledge of international affairs theory and practice, those who seek advanced careers in the international arena, and/or those who wish to add an international dimension to their educational and professional background. The program’s interdisciplinary curriculum combines foundation and elective courses selected to each student’s professional goals and intellectual interests. Most classes meet in the evening to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals or to encourage students to pursue daytime internships in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

CURRICULUM

The multidisciplinary 40-credit-hour M.A. program requires:

- A nine-credit core field providing a fundamental background of key political, economic, and historical issues in international affairs
- A major field enabling the student to specialize in a global issue or regional area (12 credits)
  - Regional Fields: Asia, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, the Americas
- Elective coursework (15 credits) in a complementary global or regional area
- Professional skills courses (three one-credit courses for a total of 3 credits) to acquire marketable skills for the workplace
- A demonstration of proficiency in a modern foreign language, by exam or approved previous coursework or study
- A one-credit capstone course which evaluates the student’s ability to address a contemporary policy problem

The program may be completed in two years of full-time study, or part-time over a longer period.
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Elliott School offers semester-long exchange programs with partner institutions in Africa, the Americas, Australia, Asia, Europe and Eurasia, and the Middle East. In addition, students may participate in a variety of short-term programs abroad led by Elliott School and GW professors. An overseas study experience helps students appreciate varied world views on international and regional security challenges while earning credits toward their M.A. degree.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Elliott School offers a variety of career development programs for students from their first semester on campus through graduation and beyond. The Graduate Student Career Development center offers career coaching, workshops, information sessions, and site visits to federal and international agencies, contractors, think tanks, non-profits, and other potential employers. MAIA alumni are employed around the world in the public (39%), non-profit (30%), and private (21%) sectors; and some pursue further education (3%). The program’s opportunities for employment, internships, and co-ops provide students with hands-on skills, practical experience, valuable contacts, and a competitive edge in the job market.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Elliott School sponsors more than 250 special events a year, hosting renowned scholars and policymakers from around the world. Our special events provide students the opportunity to engage directly with these leading international affairs experts, deepen their knowledge of their field of study, and expand their intellectual horizons. Recent speakers at Elliott School-sponsored events include: Nobel Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, World Bank President Robert Zoellick, and dozens of ambassadors from key countries around the world.

ABOUT THE ELLIOTT SCHOOL

The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs is one of the world’s leading schools of international affairs and the largest school of international affairs in the United States. Located in the heart of Washington, DC, its mission is to educate the next generation of international leaders, conduct research that advances understanding of important global issues, and engage the policy community in the United States and around the world. In the January/February 2012 issue of Foreign Policy, the Elliott School’s undergraduate and master’s programs were ranked among the top ten international affairs programs in the United States by the Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) survey.