OVERVIEW

The demands of globalization are dramatically changing career and employment practices for individuals and organizations around the world. To excel in the international arena, today’s professionals must be well-versed in international economic, political, and social trends. They must cultivate the analytical skills needed to formulate and advocate policies on key international issues, as well as the professional skills required to negotiate and work effectively in diverse settings.

Now in its 15th year, the Elliott School’s Master of International Policy and Practice (MIPP) program prepares mid-career professionals to meet the challenges of today’s professional world by combining rigorous academic training with the development of valuable career-enhancing skills. Foreign Policy’s January/February 2012 article on “The Best International Relations Master’s Programs,” specifically noted the Elliott School’s Master of International Policy and Practice program for “professionals looking to increase their marketable skills.”

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?

The MIPP program attracts seasoned professionals who seek upward professional advancement or a career shift into more international topics. The program’s interdisciplinary curriculum combines foundation and elective courses selected to the student’s individual professional goals and intellectual interests. Most classes meet in the late afternoon and early evening to accommodate the schedules of working professionals. One of the program’s greatest assets is the ability of its students to engage in meaningful dialogue with each other and with the Washington, DC, professional community. MIPP alumni are influential in their respective fields of endeavor, and they are becoming increasingly involved in MIPP activities. Applicants to this program must have at least eight years of professional international affairs (or related) experience or already possess an advanced degree (M.A., M.S., J.D., L.L.M., Ph.D.).

CURRICULUM

The MIPP program can be completed in nine months of full-time study. Students also have the option of attending part-time over a longer period of study. The 27-credit-hour program includes:

- MIPP Practicum: “Global Policy Matters” – Through an examination of policy areas and geographic regions, the practicum analyzes the role of various actors—nation-states, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations—in the global policy arena and assesses the salience of contrasting perspectives; the course also includes guest speakers and site visits to major institutions involved in global policymaking
- Core courses in international relations theory and policy and in international economics
- Elective courses for a specialization in a policy field, such as economics, politics, development, security, or in regional issues
• Professional skills courses to supplement the substantive and theoretical aspects of the MIPP academic curriculum for skills applicable to the professional world

SPECIAL EVENTS

A key feature of the Elliott School’s MIPP program is the extraordinary line-up of guest lecturers who lend their professional expertise to the curriculum. Recent guest lecturers have included: Elliott School Dean Michael E. Brown discussing “Security and Conflict in the 21st Century;” Kurt Volker, former U.S. ambassador to NATO, speaking about the effectiveness of NATO; and Paula Boland, executive director of the United Nations Association–National Capital Area, lecturing on the need for continued U.S. involvement in the United Nations. Through a special class at the Brazilian embassy, students learned first-hand of Brazil’s economic policy from Ernesto Henrique Fraga Araújo, minister-counselor of economic affairs. In addition, MIPP students take advantage of the Elliott School’s robust special events programs, which bring leading scholars, policymakers, business leaders, and members of the media and diplomatic corps to the GW campus for more than 250 public events per year. Recently, for instance, MIPP sponsored a public address by Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, assistant secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), who discussed the new mandate of the OAS in the 21st century.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The Elliott School offers a variety of career development programs for MIPP students and alumni, who have specific needs at mid-career. Our Graduate Student Career Development center offers career coaching on developing a plan to make a career transition, job search strategies using social media, compensation negotiation assistance, and other long-term career planning resources.

The most recent employment statistics show that MIPP alumni are employed in the public (44%), non-profit (25%), and private (19%) sectors in the United States and abroad, and some pursue further education in other fields (12%). Organizations that employ MIPP alumni include: BAE, Inc., Embassy of Republic of Korea, International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), IREX Ukraine, Lockheed Martin, Office of the United States Trade Representatives, U.S. Department of State, and The World Bank Group.

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 of International Affairs’ 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.

elliott.gwu.edu/mipp.html