

International Affairs and Leadership MA Welcome Guide

On behalf of Arizona State University and the School of Politics and Global Studies, we welcome you to the M.A. in International Affairs and Leadership (MA-IAL) program. We hope that you find your program intellectually stimulating as well as personally and professionally valuable. Please know that we are here to assist you as you move through the degree, and we look forward to working together to ensure your individual and collective success.

Our program prepares students for this complex international environment through extensive exposure to topics such as foreign policy, national security, international trade, human rights issues, and character-driven leadership. The program will utilize the unique expertise of former ambassadors and leading experts to teach the classes as well as to guide students of the program as they either enter or continue in the workforce. The program offers a blend of leadership capacity development, both theory and practice, foreign policy decision-making, regional international affairs knowledge, and key global issues training. In addition, the students will be assigned to a faculty mentor to work with throughout their graduate studies.

We ask that you review the following information that will offer you support and guidance as you navigate your first semester and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any questions about the M.A. in International Affairs and Leadership program.

Wishing you all the very best and a wonderful start to the semester.

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Program Information for New Students

I'm a newly admitted student, what should I do now?

As you begin the program, we ask that you first complete three critical tasks:

- 1.) One of your first tasks as an admitted student is to read the program's handbook. This handbook can be found on the program's website at <https://spgs.asu.edu/degrees/graduate/ma-intl-affairs-leadership/resources>. The handbook will review key policies and guide you through the expectations and requirements of the program. You are expected to familiarize yourself with and abide by the policies set forth in the handbook. The handbook is updated regularly.
- 2.) Secondly, you should register for your course(s) in the semester you were admitted into. Each semester will have deadlines in which registration must take place, and you should consult the ASU academic calendar for these dates each semester: <https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>. In order for us to best support our students, **we ask that admitted students register for courses within two weeks of admission.** This allows you to prepare for the upcoming semester and complete any administrative tasks, as well as allows faculty and staff to plan course materials. You can complete your course registration through your MYASU page (<https://my.asu.edu>); in the "My Classes" section, follow the registration link. Students should register for IAL 501 and either 502 or 503, depending on offerings in the first semester. Additional courses are at your discretion. Please see below for more information on course registration and course load.
- 3.) Consult your MyASU page regularly for "Priority Tasks." These are items that require your attention. Please be sure your ASU email and/or forwarding email address is set up correctly. University faculty and staff will use your ASU email address for communications and it is your responsibility to make sure you can receive information in this way. You can see your contact and email forwarding information on the "Profile" tab of your MyASU page.

Who is my academic advisor?

The academic advisors for this program are Jenna Roelle and Ashley Wright. They can be reached via email or phone at Jenna.Roelle@asu.edu or 480-965-1477 or Ashley.A.Wright@asu.edu or 202-975-7024. Please feel free to contact Jenna or Ashley with any questions you may have, registration issues, or academic advising. Please remember to include your ten-digit ASU ID number in any communications with your advisor.

What courses should I register for?

There are four required courses in the MA in International Affairs and Leadership program:

- IAL 501: Principles of Character-Driven Leadership
- IAL 502: The Making of U.S. National Security Policy
- IAL 503: Applied International Leadership: Case Studies
- IAL 560: Capstone – This is the final course in the degree, and should be taken in the last semester. More information will be provided about the Capstone course as you progress through the program.

In your first semester, you should register, at a minimum, for IAL 501. Additional courses, made up of other required and elective courses, are at your discretion. Students are encouraged to review the projected course offerings on the program website (<https://spgs.asu.edu/degrees/graduate/ma-intl-affairs-leadership/resources>) in order to plan their courses so that they can complete the degree within their desired timeline. All required courses will be offered at least once per academic year, including the summer semester; students who wish to complete the degree in the shortest time possible should take all required courses when they are offered.

Electives and additional registration information:

All other courses are considered electives; you will take six elective courses (eighteen credits) over the course of the program. The prefix or “subject” for this program is “**IAL**.” You can find all of the courses that are being offered for current, future, and past semesters in the ASU Class Search through your MyASU page, “My Classes” section. Please see the program handbook for more information on the courses offered as part of the degree.

The program faculty directors recommend **no more than two** courses per session in both “A” and “B” sessions. Nine graduate credits in a semester (taken across both A and B sessions) is considered full time, although some students do choose to take 12 credits. Each semester’s course offerings are released approximately halfway through the previous semester. For example, spring courses are generally released in September/October. Fall courses are generally released in February. You will also see a notice of when you can register for the upcoming semester on your MyASU page.

Please note an important university policy for graduate students is **continuous enrollment**. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least one graduate credit each fall and spring semester. Non-enrollment during a fall or spring semester will result in being discontinued from the program. Enrollment can take place in either A or B session, or both. Summer enrollment is not required for continuous enrollment purposes.

How is the semester structured?

You will notice there are three semesters or terms each year: Spring, Summer and Fall.

Each term is split into two “sessions”:

“A” session refers to the first half of the semester.	“B” session refers to the second half of the semester.
“C” session refers to the full semester and is primarily used for in-person courses.	

Please see the ASU academic calendar (<https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>) for the start and end dates for each semester.

You should pay particular attention to the drop and add deadlines for courses; they typically occur very early into A and B sessions. Dropping a class after the deadline may affect tuition and financial aid.

How much work is involved in each class?

Students should expect to spend 18 hours per week, per course.

The summer A and B sessions are 6 weeks long. The same amount of course material is offered in summer courses as in fall and spring semesters.

What are the academic expectations of the program?

Student progress will be assessed at the end of each semester. The standard for satisfactory progress is:

- Completion of all course requirements with an overall, graduate, and iPOS GPA of at least a 3.0
- No more than two Incomplete grades in a one-year time period
- Steady progress to complete the degree within six years from semester of admission

Again, we welcome you to the MA in International Affairs and Leadership program and look forward to working with you. Please let any of the program faculty or staff know if you have questions or feedback about your experience.