Learn real-world, character-driven leadership skills and gain a strong foundation in international affairs and U.S. foreign policy in this program taught by experienced professionals.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA International Affairs and Leadership
The MA program in international affairs and leadership prepares students for international leadership roles in a dynamic learning environment led by senior international affairs professionals from the public and private sectors.

The program offers a unique blend of leadership capacity development --- both theory and practice --- as well as substantive training focused on U.S. foreign policy decision-making, national security, international trade, human rights issues and other key global issues. Courses are taught by experts with real-world experience, from former U.S. ambassadors to three-star generals, with the goal of readying students to become leaders in the international affairs realm.

Students have regular interactions with world-class professors and practitioners who help students learn how to shape the world in a meaningful and positive way. The program is a collaboration between the School of Politics and Global Studies and the Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab. The School of Politics and Global Studies is host to the Center on the Future of War, the Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research, and the SPGS Experimental Laboratory.

At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Online
Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including the required capstone course (IAL 560)

**Required Core (9 credit hours)**
IAL 501 Principles of Character-Driven Leadership (3)
IAL 502 The Making of U.S. National Security Policy (3)
IAL 503 Applied International Leadership: Case Studies (3)

**Electives (18 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**
IAL 560 Capstone (3)

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. letter of intent
4. professional resume
5. writing sample
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

GRE or GMAT results are not required but can be submitted as an additional application material.

Applicants should have a deep-rooted interest in international issues of the future and a desire to influence them through character-driven leadership within the context of an increasingly complicated, globalized world. Ideal candidates are those who have previous leadership experience and who plan to devote their
careers to working with other cultures and nations across a variety of sectors. While an ideal candidate has previous experience traveling or living overseas or has previously studied a language other than English, candidates with no prior experience in these areas are also welcome to apply. Both international and domestic students are encouraged to apply.

Using the letter of intent, applicants should narrate their own leadership journeys as well as their motivations for further studies in the areas of international affairs and leadership. The letter of intent should describe applicants' academic and professional interests to date, their definitions of character-driven leadership, their reasons for pursuing a master's degree in international affairs and leadership, and how this advanced degree relates to their specific future goals.

The application review panel also reviews the applicant's writing skills. Successful applicants must be able to tell a concise, coherent story about their past experiences and future goals.

**Attend Online**

**ASU Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information [here](#).

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Spring**

**expand**

**expand**

**Career Opportunities**

This program prepares students to succeed in a wide variety of international affairs professions, including:

- business operations specialist
- career civil servant or contractor at the U.S. State Department, U.S. Department of Commerce or U.S. Treasury or Defense Department
- foreign service officer
- international political economist
- military officer or noncommissioned officer in strategic, special or tactical operations
- nonprofit or NGO analyst or program coordinator
- permanent staff for a member of Congress or Congressional committee
- public policy analyst
- U.S. government intelligence community policy analyst or program manager

**Contact Information**