

# GRADUATE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Spring 2020 New Student  
Registration Orientation

**THE  
NEW  
SCHOOL**  

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Questions can also be directed to [intaffairs@newschool.edu](mailto:intaffairs@newschool.edu)

# CURRICULUM

All of the following information can be found at the SGPIA Blog: [newschool-ia.org/resources](https://newschool-ia.org/resources).

The [SGPIA Student Handbook](#) is a great resource to answer any of your questions regarding curriculum, grading, transferring courses, and more.

# MA IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The 42-credit MA degree is for recent college graduates and career changers, i.e., for people who have not yet established international careers.

Curriculum consists of:

- Required courses: 12 credits / 4 courses
- Electives: 24 credits / 8 courses
- Final Project (Thesis, Research Portfolio, or Practicum): 6 credits / 2 courses

# MA REQUIRED COURSES: 12 CREDITS / 4 COURSES

## Core Courses (2):

- (1) NINT 5001 Global Flows (3 credits) – Take in 1<sup>st</sup> semester
- (2) NINT 5000 Theories, Histories and Practices of Development/THPD (3 credits)  
– Take in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

## Skills Courses (2):

- (1) Economics (3 credits) – Take in 1<sup>st</sup> semester

*Course numbers given below are for Spring Semester 2020*

- Economics in International Affairs (NINT 5109, Section A/CRN 3385 – 3 credits) – this is a basic course for most students. It is intended to introduce students to basic concepts necessary for critical engagement with international affairs.
  - This course is designed for students with *no background in economics*.
  - The course meets twice a week: one session is a lecture with an instructor (NINT 5109, Section A/CRN 3385), and the other is a lab with a Teaching Assistant (NINT 5110, Section A/CRN 1874).

*Students who have prior training in economics may seek exemption from Economics in International Affairs. Students applying for exemption or who are unsure about their placement should contact Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr ([fukudaps@newschool.edu](mailto:fukudaps@newschool.edu)).*

- (2) Research Methods (3 credits) – Take in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, Choose One

- Research Design & Data Collection (NINT 5005)
- Quantitative Methods (NURP 5013)
- Advanced Quantitative Methods (NURP 6015)\*

*Check the SGPIA Research Methods guidelines and TNS course catalog for more advanced course options.*

*\*recommended for students in the Development Concentration.*

# ECONOMICS REQUIREMENT

- MA students fulfill the economics requirement by taking either the introductory or intensive sections of Economics in International Affairs.
- Students with any background in economics may get approval to fulfill the requirement by taking advanced economics classes in SGPIA or elsewhere at The New School. Contact Prof *Sakiko Fukuda-Parr* ([fukudaps@newschool.edu](mailto:fukudaps@newschool.edu)) to discuss taking an economics proficiency test and advanced coursework options.
- Students who know they will concentrate in Development and who will take advanced economics coursework should try to take Development Economics, the Development Concentration foundation course, in their first semester.

# RESEARCH METHODS REQUIREMENT

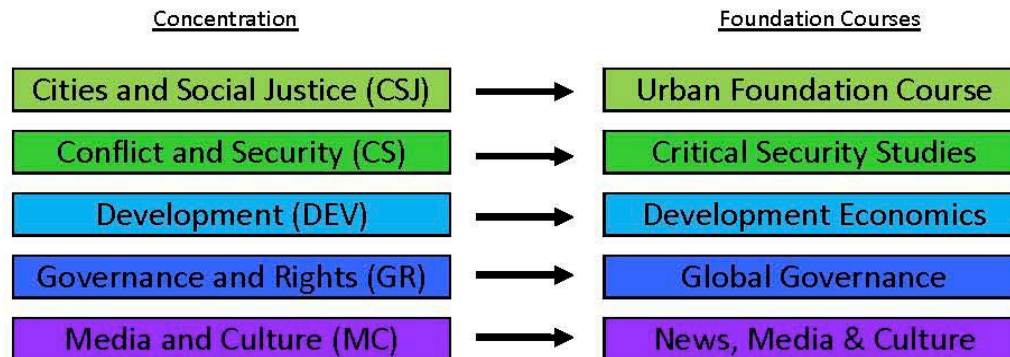
- This requirement is fulfilled by taking one of these classes:
  - Research Design and Data Collection provides a general introduction to methodological theory, research design, and data collection strategies with particular emphasis on qualitative interviews and surveys, analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods.
  - Qualitative Research Methods is a workshop-based research design seminar that investigates the relationship between topics of inquiry, theory, and qualitative research methods.
  - Quantitative Methods introduces students to basic statistical techniques and the use of data analysis software.
  - *Students with a background in quantitative and qualitative methods may fulfill the Methods requirement by taking specialized courses, such as GIS or media-focused methods. Speak with your advisor if you wish to pursue advanced methods courses.*
  - *Other Methods courses offered across the university can fulfill requirement upon consultation with your advisor.*

# CONCENTRATIONS

- Every SGPIA MA student must choose a concentration within the program. Concentrations link theory, social research, and practice through coursework, events, and working groups.
- A concentration should be declared during your 2<sup>nd</sup> semester registration period. An updated list of concentrations and approved courses is available each semester on the [course schedule](#) on the blog.
- Concentration courses may not be offered every semester.

## Concentrations

**A concentration** consists of... 1) A “Foundation Course”  
2) Three Concentration Electives





# WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE IN MY FIRST SEMESTER AS A MA STUDENT?

## Full-time MA student:

In your first semester, you will likely take:

1) Global Flows

and

2) Economics

and

3) Elective

/or/

3) Research Methods

You must take required courses in the appropriate sequence. Proficiency in economics is a prerequisite for Theories, Histories and Practices of Development (THPD), and Economics and Global Flows must be taken before registration in THPD.

## Part-time MA student:

In your first semester, you will likely take:

1) Global Flows

and

2) Economics

/or/

3) Elective

## MA SAMPLE SEQUENCE – FULL-TIME STUDY

Term	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer	Semester 3	Semester 4
Course 1	Global Flows	Theories, Histories, and Practices of Development (THPD)	Int'l Field Program <u>or</u> U.N. Summer Study	Practicum I <u>or</u> Thesis Workshop <u>or</u> Research Portfolio Seminar/I	Practicum II <u>or</u> Thesis Supervision <u>or</u> Research Portfolio Seminar/II
Course 2	Economics	Research Methods <u>or</u> Elective	<u>or</u>	Elective	Elective
Course 3	Elective <u>or</u> Research Methods	Elective	Summer Session Electives	Elective	Elective
Credits	9	9	6	9	9
Cumulative Credits	9	18	24	33	42

# FINAL PROJECT: PRACTICE OPTION

The Practice Option requires a two-course sequence underpinning a Practicum, a team-based project for a real-world client organization. For most students this consists of:

- NINT 6960 Practicum in International Affairs I: Project Design (PIA I): Students practice key concepts and skills essential to effective program development and project management –needs assessment, logical framework, strategic design, implementation, proposal and report writing, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy.
- NINT 6961: Practicum in International Affairs II: Project Implementation (PIA II): Student teams implement a project assigned by a client organization, designing an approach to the project, conducting data collection and analysis, writing an analytical report or producing some other product (e.g. brochure, manual, film), and making a formal presentation to the client and New School community.

However, in consultation with a practicum supervisor, it is possible to construct another curricular path that entails embedding the Practicum in another class: This substitution class may focus on a body of knowledge or on technical skills. For example, in certain circumstances, GIS might be suitable as a replacement for PIA II. Those pursuing an alternative path must outline this in their capstone form.

# FINAL PROJECT: THESIS OPTION

The Thesis is an independent project based on field work, institutional research, and/or theoretical research involving primary and secondary sources. Media-based theses are possible, as are custom-designed projects that meet Program approval. Theses must conform to academic standards.

Students complete the thesis by taking a two-course sequence. Courses can be supplemented upon consultation with your advisor.

- NINT 6950 Thesis Workshop is taken the semester before writing a thesis and focuses on designing the research project and initiating the writing process.
- NINT 6951 Thesis Supervision is the semester of thesis research and production, undertaken with the guidance and advice of the faculty supervisor.

Thesis guidelines and registration forms are available on the [blog](#).

# FINAL PROJECT: RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

- The Research Portfolio consists of two papers (8,000 words) based on independent research written in specially-designated Research Seminars. The papers in the Research Portfolio should be linked by a thematic essay (1,000 – 1,500 words) that is connected to the student's concentration.
- Students receive guidance from seminar instructors in writing their Research Portfolio papers. The instructors provide feedback as students develop their topics, and provide assistance with relevant literature and research strategies.
- The two research seminars are ordinarily taken in the final two semesters, but could be taken earlier when appropriate.

Research Portfolio guidelines and registration forms are available on the [blog](#).

# MS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The 30-credit MS degree is for people with at least three years of post-university professional experience in international affairs or a related field. Returned Peace Corps volunteers with two years of completed service may be considered for the MS degree.

Curriculum consists of:

- Required courses: 6 credits / 2 courses
- Subject Modules: 9 credits / 3 courses
- Critical Tools and Analysis Modules: 6 credits / 2 courses
- Elective: 3 credits / 1 course
- Final Project (Thesis, Research Portfolio, or Practicum): 6 credits / 2 courses

# MS REQUIRED COURSES: 6 CREDITS / 2 COURSES

## Core Courses (2):

- (1) NINT 5001 Global Flows (3 credits) – Take in 1<sup>st</sup> semester
- (2) NINT 5000 Theories, Histories and Practices of Development/THPD (3 credits) – Take in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester
- (3) Capstone (6 credits to complete) – Please consult with your advisor.

# MS MODULES

To complete the MS degree, students must complete a Subject Module and a Critical Tools and Analysis Module.

## Subject Modules (9 credits):

Subject modules give students in-depth, substantive knowledge of a particular area of professional interest.

Examples: Migration and Refugees, Media Advocacy, Global Food Systems, Gender in International Affairs, Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice, and others. \*Students may also design their own subject module.

## Critical Tools and Analysis Modules (6 credits):

Critical Tools and Analysis modules provide students with distinct skills that prepare them for specific professional careers.

Examples: GIS Mapping, Media Production, Data Analytics, Design, Participation, Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation, and many other areas.



# WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE IN MY FIRST SEMESTER AS A MS STUDENT?

## Full-time MS student:

In your first semester, you will likely take:

- 1) Global Flows and
- 2) Critical Tools Module Elective and
- 3) Subject Module Elective

Global Flows must be taken before registration in Theories, Histories and Practices of Development (THPD).

## Part-time MS student:

In your first semester, you will likely take:

- 1) Global Flows and
- 2) Critical Tools Module Elective or Subject Module Elective

# MS SAMPLE SEQUENCE - FULL-TIME STUDY

Term	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer	Semester 3
Course 1	Global Flows	Theories, Histories, and Practices of Development (THPD)	IFP or UN Summer Study	Subject Module Elective
Course 2	Critical Tools Module Elective	Critical Tools Module Elective	<i>or</i>	Capstone
Course 3	Subject Module Elective	Capstone	Subject Module Electives	
Credits	9	9	6	6
Cumulative Credits	9	18	24	30

# FINAL PROJECT: PRACTICE OPTION

The Practice Option requires a two-course sequence underpinning a Practicum, a team-based project for a real-world client organization. For most students this consists of:

- NINT 6960 Practicum in International Affairs I: Project Design (PIA I): Students practice key concepts and skills essential to effective program development and project management –needs assessment, logical framework, strategic design, implementation, proposal and report writing, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy.
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# FIELD-BASED LEARNING

Most MA and MS students participate in one of these great offerings to develop or combine with their capstone.

- International Field Program (IFP)
- United Nations Summer Study (UNSS)
- Studios

# INTERNATIONAL FIELD PROGRAM

- The [International Field Program](#) (IFP) provides practical field experiences through work with NGOs, international organizations, and government and local agencies, as well as a unique link between classroom curriculum and ongoing research in the world of practice.
- The IFP offers unique country programs ranging from rural community development fieldwork to internships with international organizations. Participating students earn six credits toward their degree.

# UNITED NATIONS SUMMER STUDY

- The [United Nations Summer Study](#) (UNSS) is an intensive seven-week semester that provides students an on-the-ground experience in the United Nations system.
- UNSS takes students beyond a narrow focus on security and diplomacy to investigate development, human rights, humanitarian action, peacebuilding, and environmental issues.
- UNSS coursework prepares you to understand and engage with contemporary issues, policies, and debates in international affairs. UNSS practicums enable direct contact with the UN system.
- Participating students either three or six credits toward their degree. 6 credits are earned through the Practicum option.



# SGPIA STUDIOS

SGPIA Studios provide a platform for students to pursue a range of initiatives—whether alone or in groups—in a dynamic and supportive environment. Students enrolled in an SGPIA Studio work as a team, and are expected to be proactive and self-motivated. The length of the studio and the type of work varies depending on the project or projects pursued in it, but generally continue over multiple semesters.

SGPIA Studios are offered as three-credit courses. Students have to apply to join the studios and once approved, they will register as they do for other courses, but work may be spread over different periods of time. The studios are designed to work with existing curricular requirements, such as research methods, capstone options, and various aspects of the International Field Program. Depending on the specific structure of a given Studio, students can fulfill requirements in other parts of the curriculum using studios. For example:

- Registration in a Studio can fulfill a Thesis Supervision or Practicum in International Affairs II requirement, by providing support for completion of capstone work on these options.
- A Research Portfolio paper may be written in a Studio, with faculty supervision and student support.
- A Studio registration may serve as the required preparation course for an International Field Program site, and may involve field components, either in New York City or in other countries.

**Current Spring 2020 Studios are:**

- [Havana Studio: Historic Preservation and Urban Strategy](#)
- [Humanitarian Aid Practices Studio](#)

# TAKING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE

- Matriculating students may register for one foreign language per semester at no charge.
- Language registration begins at the end of the registration period. The [registration process for language courses](#) is described on the SGPIA blog.

# FACULTY ADVISORS & REGISTRATION

- All incoming students are advised and given registration instructions in person or online. Once you are advised, the **advising hold** is removed and you are able to register online for your first semester courses.
- You will be assigned an academic advisor at the beginning of the semester so that you can meet to discuss your progress and program of study.
- Midway through your first semester, you will meet with your advisor to register for second semester courses.
- It is possible to change advisors as your needs and interests change.

# REGISTERING FOR SPRING 2020 COURSES

- Online course registration opens *December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.*

## Important Dates

- Please Note: There is a financial penalty for dropping classes once the term has begun. However, if a student adds equivalent credits on the same day, the penalty is waived. See the Registrar's Office website for more information.

# STEP-BY-STEP REGISTRATION

Before you begin, you should have the following:

- Your NetID username and password
- The CRN numbers, course numbers, and course names

If you have not yet set up your NetID password, you should set up your account by following the directions at [my.newschool.edu](http://my.newschool.edu).

Step-by-step registration instructions are available on the [Registrar's website](#), linked through [SGPIA Blog](#).

# CONTACT US

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