

Why International Security?

The **Master of Arts in International Security (I-SEC)** prepares professionals to address enduring and emerging security challenges of the 21st century, by deepening conceptual knowledge of the field, learning in depth about a range of current security issues, and mastering analytic and policy skills for a career in the field. The program provides strong background in theories of international relations and strategic thought, as well as electives on a wide range of topics, from great power competition to terrorism and WMD, and nontraditional threats from crime and corruption, cyberspace, food and natural resource insecurities, and more. The approach is inclusive and cross-disciplinary. Students will learn about leadership, decision-making, and the major national security institutions of defense, intelligence, and diplomacy.

Program Director – Ellen Laipson, MA

A complete list of Schar School faculty and their CVs can be found at <http://schar.gmu.edu/faculty>.

Curriculum Requirements

The International Security master's program requires **36 credit hours** of coursework.

Required I-SEC Core Courses (21 credits)

- **PUBP 504 Grand Strategy:** Uses the traditional tools of history and theory to analyze grand strategy. The goal is to gain understanding of effective and ineffective grand strategies to inform U.S. policy and those of other countries.
- **PUBP 505 Politics and Practice of International Security Policy:** Emphasizes historical intellectual development and the role theory and ethics may play in public policy making.
- **PUBP 506 Ethics and the Use of Force:** Develops an understanding of the ethical and legal basis for conduct in war and applies a framework to analyze the ethical, legal, and societal implications of future weapons.
- **BIOD 760 National Security Technology and Policy:** Introduces students to the intersection of science, technology, and policy in national security. Will examine the players in the formation of science policy; the roles they play; how the types, uncertainties, and availability of data affect science policy debates; and how science policy decisions are made.
- **GOVT 540 International Relations:** Focuses on the changing structure of international politics, post-Cold War security issues, effects of globalized economy and information technology revolution, and rise of non-security issues in emerging international agendas.
- **GOVT 745 International Security:** Discusses theoretical perspectives and analytical tools in the academic field of international security and applies theories and tools to nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, strategy and defense, and arms control.
- **POGO 511 Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government:** Introduces fundamental statistical analysis for analyzing policy, government, and other social science data. Focuses on problem definition, problem solving, and how to communicate results to general audience under conditions of uncertainty in public sector. Provides the core foundation for advanced graduate work in data analytics using contemporary statistical software packages.

Elective Courses (15 credits)

Students have the option to either choose a focus or a concentration area:

Focus Areas:

- **Managing Global Risks**
- **National Security Policy & Processes**
- **Regional and Transnational Security Challenges**

Concentration Areas:

- **Intelligence**
- **Peace Operations**
- **Transnational Challenges**

Admissions Information

For admission consideration to the International Security master's program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited university or college.

| Application Deadlines | FALL TERM | SPRING TERM |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Domestic Students | May 1 | December 1 |
| International Students* | May 1 | November 1 |
| For Priority Scholarship Consideration | February 1 | December 1 |

*For admission purposes, please adhere to the International Student Deadlines if you have completed your undergraduate and/or graduate degree outside of the United States.

Application Requirements

Please visit <https://schar.gmu.edu/how-to-apply> for more information.

- Graduate Application and application fee.** The Graduate Application can be completed online at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>
- A 750-1000 word **written statement** of the applicant's goals for and interest in the program
- A current **resume**
- Unofficial transcript(s)** from all university work
Applicants presenting international credentials must provide transcripts, degree certificates or diplomas, and certified translations of the documents into English (if applicable)
- Two letters of recommendation**
At least one letter of recommendation should be from an academic resource
- Valid GRE, GMAT, or LSAT scores**
Applicants may waive the exam if they have a cumulative final GPA of 3.6 or higher at the undergraduate level or have a conferred graduate degree from a U.S. institution of higher education

Additional criteria for International Applicants:

- TOEFL/IELTS scores** (required for international applicants)

Minimum required TOEFL scores: 88 with a 20 in each of the four subsections **OR**

Minimum required IELTS score: 6.5 total

Financial Aid

To apply for federal assistance, applicants are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form which can be accessed online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. For other questions regarding federal assistance, please visit the Office of Student Financial Aid at: <http://financialaid.gmu.edu/>.

Tuition and Fees for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

In-State Total: \$870.75/credit hour

Out-of-State Total: \$1,658.75/credit hour

*2018-19 Academic Year

International Security, MA Graduates:

