College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

School of Policy and International Affairs

Why Study Global Policy at the University of Maine?

The Master of Arts in Global Policy program at the University of Maine provides students with the analytical tools and professional skills necessary to help deal with some of the most pressing global challenges. The School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA) offers an interdisciplinary curriculum, consisting of a wide array of thematic and geographical courses, which allows students to cultivate an independent approach to political, social, economic, and environmental issues from a variety of perspectives. Students may choose a focus in either development, environmental policy, security and foreign policy, or trade and commerce.

What Can I Do with a Master's in Global Policy?

Depending on a student’s particular focus, graduate study in international affairs prepares them for a wide variety of careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. An overwhelming majority of our graduates have attained positions world-wide in their intended careers, including with non-governmental organizations such as America Solidaria, Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education, GOAL Global, HomeStart, Inc., International Republican Institute, Kindred Planet Productions, Leaders for Nature-India, Mercy Corps, Nuclear Threat Initiative, Nweti, Save the Children, and the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment. Other recent graduates have entered careers in public service with the Department of Defense, Diplomatic Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Others have found their way into private business, working for such firms as The Cohen Group, Schneider National, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Taylor Farms, and ZeroFOX.

Our Graduate Program

SPIA offers the only international affairs graduate degree in northern New England. Students pursuing an M.A. in Global Policy are immersed in a rigorous core curriculum that defines the body of knowledge considered fundamental to assume a role in global public policy development and analysis. Courses will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of international relations theory and practice, a firm grasp of global economics, the analytic skills to apply concepts to international policy issues in an increasingly fast-paced world, and exposure to the meaning and practice of public service through mentoring from a network of expert practitioners within and beyond the university. Additionally, flexibility is a distinguishing trait of SPIA’s curriculum. Students can select a diverse range of elective courses, thus allowing them to tailor their programs of study to their individual career goals and aspirations.

All students will complete an internship that supplements their academic study at an appropriate institution or business to gain relevant, marketable experience. Internships allow students to explore their options while developing their networks, learning about specific fields, become familiar with various organizational management and leadership styles, and better understanding the experiences and different cultural contexts of other peoples in a globalized world. Students are strongly encouraged to perform their internships outside of their home country, especially if they intend to strengthen their foreign language proficiency to gain a vital edge for their future international careers.
ABOUT UMAINE
The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 73 countries. It currently enrolls 11,286 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. The University of Maine offers doctoral degrees in 35 fields, representing the humanities, sciences, engineering and education; master’s degrees in roughly 70 disciplines; 90 undergraduate majors and academic programs; and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.

explore

Master Arts in
Global Policy

Concentrations in
International Environmental Policy
International Security and
Foreign Policy
International Trade and Commerce

Dual Master’s with
Business Administration
Economics
Resource Economics and Policy

Five-Year Master with
Political Science

OUR FACULTY
SPIA takes advantage of the tremendous policy and international expertise from numerous departments across the entire university. Boasting a high faculty-to-student ratio, the program provides students invaluable professional mentorship and top-quality instruction from a mix of academics and practitioners in an environment where theory meets practice. Students have opportunities not only to work with faculty engaged in cutting-edge research, but also to participate in challenging, real-world project management endeavors with leading global practitioners. The interdisciplinary nature of the program is reflected in the broad range of faculty research interests and activities which include, but are not limited to, issues in economics, political science, development, security, diplomacy, business, philosophy, resource management, and environmental policy.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL
UMaine’s tuition and living costs are lower than those expected at other U.S. schools offering similar programs. The program competitively awards several scholarships annually to eligible, well-qualified students. SPIA offers generous financial support to help students pay for travel and other costs associated with their internships. Additionally, SPIA annually awards travel grants to students who attend international conferences or participate in professional development activities related to their fields of interest and career goals.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

“
To succeed in today’s global environment, students increasingly need to complement their academic and career learning with the international skills that allow them to understand and work with people from other countries. UMaine’s School of Policy and International Affairs performs a critical role by educating students to appreciate the importance of cross-cultural competence for their future.”

— Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba (Ret.), President, The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW), Member, SPIA Advisory Board