

MIA HANDBOOK

WELCOME

Welcome to the Master of International Affairs (MIA) program at the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs (MSPIA) at Baruch College. We are confident that this program will provide you with a rigorous, multidisciplinary academic understanding of global challenges and governance and the skills to address them. Our graduates work in government, corporations, multilateral organizations, international non-profits, and public-private partnerships and are committed to finding global solutions to global problems.

This MIA Student Handbook is designed to provide students already enrolled in the MIA program with the information needed to help smooth the journey through the degree, whether you are studying full-time or part-time. You should also consult the general [Graduate Academic Advisement Handbook](#) and regularly meet with your [Student Advisor](#).

If you are not yet a Marxe MIA student and are interested in applying, visit the [Apply Now page](#)

COURSES and CONCENTRATIONS

All students in the MIA program complete eight core courses (seven beginning in Spring 2021). This ensures that you achieve advanced training in key techniques in research and analysis, budgeting, comparative methods, and global communication strategies. In addition, you must complete 15 credits of elective course work in one of the four areas of concentration: International Nongovernmental Organizations, Trade Policy and Global Economic Governance, Western Hemisphere affairs, or a Special Concentration. Students in all four concentrations complete the same MIA core and are required to earn a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Students with less than one year relevant international experience must also complete an internship in a globally oriented public, nonprofit, or private sector organization.

In your final semester, you will take the Capstone Seminar, an advanced seminar in which students produce a project drawing from the full course of study toward the Master of International Affairs

For the most updated information about courses and course descriptions, you should consult the [MIA Curriculum page](#) and the [Baruch College Graduate Bulletin](#).

CORE COURSES (27 credits, 30 if internship required)

PAF 9140 Budgeting and Financial Analysis I (3 credits)

PAF 9170 Research and Analysis I (3 credits)

PAF 9172 Research and Analysis II (3 credits)

PAF 9181 Comparative Public Policy and Administration (3 credits)

PAF 9180 Policy Analysis (Effective Spring 2021, not required) (3 credits)

PAF 9184 International Institutions and Global Governance (3 credits)

PAF 9415 International Economics (3 credits)

PAF 9420 Global Communication (3 credits)

Final Capstone Requirement

PAF 9490 International Affairs Capstone Seminar (3 credits)

Internship

PAF 9195 Public Affairs Internship (3 credits)

Required if student has less than one year of relevant international work experience

CONCENTRATIONS and ELECTIVES (15 credits)

Students choose to specialize in one of four MIA Concentrations

[International Nongovernmental Organizations](#)

As the number and influence of INGOs expands throughout the world, this concentration provides graduates with both practical management skills and policy expertise in economic development, migration, public health, the environment, communications, government relations and other key areas.

Students will prepare for careers with INGOs, global institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as corporate foundations and businesses committed to promoting development through international public-private partnerships.

Students who wish to concentrate their MIA studies in International Nongovernmental Organizations take 15 credits (five courses), including one required course (3 credits): [PAF 9183 International Nonprofit Organizations](#).

Western Hemisphere Affairs

From Canada to the Southern Cone, the western hemisphere has the world's largest developed economy, one of the fastest emerging economies, one of the most vital trading partnerships, and some of the most dynamic and complicated migration patterns anywhere on the planet. Students will study trade policy and economic cooperation, migration and remission flows, intra-hemispheric security and energy policy, preparing for careers in government, INGOs, international institutions, and private industry. Students who wish to concentrate their MIA studies in Western Hemisphere Affairs take 15 credits (five courses), including one required course (3 credits): [PAF 9425 Western Hemisphere Affairs: Past, Present and Future](#).

Trade Policy and Global Economic Governance

The globalizing economy can be a path to success, but for many countries the adjustment has been hard and the promises of equity have yet to follow. Students will master treaty relationships, government policies, and the challenges of protecting public health, the environment, workers, and family integrity in a globalizing world. Graduates will be prepared for careers in government, international institutions, INGOs, and global businesses. Students who wish to concentrate their MIA studies in Trade Policy and Global Economic Governance take 15 credits (five courses), including two required courses (6 credits): [PAF 9440 Trade Policy](#) and [PAF 9450 International Development](#).

Special Concentration

Working with a faculty adviser, students can design a rigorous program of study tailored to their interests and career ambitions. Students who wish to do their MIA studies in the Special Concentration must take 15 credits (five approved courses). Past examples of Special Concentrations include: Climate and Migration, International Security, Sustainability and Urban Governance, African and Caribbean Affairs, Technology and Governance.

THE CAPSTONE SEMINAR

The Capstone Seminar (PAF 9490) is an advanced seminar in which you complete a semester-long project drawing from the full course of study towards the MIA. The project may involve policy research, intensive study of an organization, a proposal for addressing a problem of global importance, or some combination of these. Special attention is placed on incorporating skills from the core curriculum and building knowledge from your Concentration. You can choose any Capstone topic that lends itself to rigorous research and analysis, but it is recommended that you identify a substantive policy or

programmatic area that will further your career development. To enroll in the Capstone Seminar, you must have completed the MIA core plus 15 additional credit hours.

COMPETENCIES, LEARNING GOALS, and ASSESSMENT

The Master of International Affairs program has established sets of competencies and learning goals that all program graduates are expected to achieve. The competencies and learning goals serve to guide students through the program and provide benchmarks against which the Program judges the effectiveness of our work.

Upon completion of the MIA Program students will be able to:

1. Manage and lead programmatic initiatives in governmental and nongovernmental organizations addressing international affairs
2. Study international policy convergence and policy diffusion
3. Understand and apply theories and methods of comparative public policy and administration, and international and national governance systems and interactions
4. Utilize analytic tools on the impact of regionalization and/or globalization, including efforts to harmonize or coordinate domestic and international policymaking and governance
5. Assess sub-national, national, trans-national, and supranational policies and political actors and their consequences for the problem-solving capacity of governance systems
6. Use old and new media tools to promote the interests of institutions and communities on national, regional and global stages

The MIA course content is assessed through a combination of written papers, oral presentations, applied projects and exams. For details about the assessment processes in each individual course, consult the course outline posted by the professor. For general information about assessment at MSPIA, see the [Assessment page](#).

REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

The Schedule of Classes is available prior to each registration period for the upcoming semester on CUNYFirst for you to search for classes, instructor names, and course information. You may add courses

to your shopping cart prior to registration time. To register for classes and be assured of a seat, click “Enroll” and “Finish Enrolling”. Neither instructors nor Academic Advisors can add seats to a closed class. MSPIA does not maintain waitlists or over tally closed courses.

OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

For updated information about MIA program requirements, you should also consult the [Graduate Academic Advisement Handbook](#) and regularly meet with your [Student Advisor](#). You are responsible for **regularly checking your Baruch College student email** since it is the main form of official communication from the College. This is important to stay abreast and informed of any policy or academic updates such as schedule changes, scholarship information, advisement newsletters, new courses, as well as policy and career events.

GPA

You must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA (grade point average) of 3.0 to be in “good academic standing” and to graduate with an MIA. If your cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0, you are automatically placed on academic probation. It is highly recommended you meet with your Academic Advisor to review your probationary terms and to create an academic plan that will help you succeed in the program.

Important Information for Students About the Consequences of Cheating and Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated at Baruch College. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the college’s educational mission and the students’ personal and intellectual growth. You are expected to bear individual responsibility for your work, to learn the rules and definitions that underline the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be sanctioned. Review Baruch’s [policies on plagiarism and cheating](#).

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Teaching and learning in the MIA program take place in a variety of formats—both in classroom and technology assisted—and follow a variety of schedules that are responsive to the needs of students who are often juggling courses, job, and personal obligations. Traditional, in-person courses typically meet

once a week, in the early evening, for three-hour sessions; hybrid courses typically consist of in-person meetings every other week, with online or individual work taking place at other times, and some courses are offered fully online. Baruch MIA students can expect to experience each of these different course formats. [Click here](#) for a full description of the In-Person, Hybrid and Online modes of instruction.

Courses are offered throughout the calendar year, with the largest concentrations of courses offered in Fall and Spring semesters, from late August through December and again from late January through May. Smaller numbers of courses are offered during a January Winter term, and two Summer terms.

For full-time students, two years is the typical length of study, although it is possible for a full-time student to complete the program in 1½ calendar years, taking advantage of both January and Summer offerings. Many students, however, attend part-time and typically complete the program in 2 to 3 calendar years.

You should meet with your Academic Advisor during the first academic year to complete a program plan that fits with your career goals and personal situation.

THE WASHINGTON SEMESTER

Each fall semester MIA students have the unique opportunity to reside, work, and study public affairs in Washington, D.C. For information on the competitive Washington Semester program, [visit the website](#).

STUDY ABROAD

The best international affairs learning experiences can often be found beyond our borders and the Marxe School's MIA offers exciting opportunities, of varying length, through Study Abroad programs in Asia, Europe, and Central and South America. These immersive experiences allow students to deepen their global perspective on policy. To learn more about Marxe study abroad opportunities, visit the [MSPIA Study Abroad Opportunities](#).

To learn more about college-wide study abroad opportunities, visit the [Study Abroad Office](#)

Funding opportunities for students may also be available.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

MSPIA offers you many opportunities to gain work experience and network with classmates here in New York City and beyond. Do you want to be a graduate assistant or join a student organization? Explore these and many other ways to complement your education. To take advantage of everything MSPIA has to offer, visit the [Student Opportunities page](#).

STUDENT RESOURCES and SUPPORT

Do you need help with your quantitative and analytical coursework? Do you need help with your writing for your assignments? Are you looking for other support services for financial aid, counselling, etc. MSPIA and Baruch College offer a range of student resources to help MIA students solve any problems related to your course work and program participation. You can find a full description of the resources available and the information on how to access them in the Student Resources section of the [Graduate Advisement page](#).

International students

The International Student Service Center (ISSC) coordinates administrative services and immigration and visa matters for the international students at Baruch College. The ISSC also offers information on study abroad programs and arranges programs of special interest to international students. For more information visit the [ISSC website](#).

STUDENT CLUBS

The MIA Club is committed to creating educational and networking opportunities for Marxe graduate students and alumni. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) is the umbrella organization that oversees all graduate student clubs at Baruch College. Each graduate student — more than 3,200 of us — is a valuable member of this dynamic group. The GSA provides numerous opportunities for students to get involved in the Baruch community. Learn more [here](#).

Baruch Graduate Pride Society promotes the representation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Straight-allied graduate students in and around Baruch College and to raise awareness about issues affecting the community through professional development, civic

engagement and advocacy programming. For more information, contact baruchpride@gmail.com or look us up on [Facebook](#).

CAREER SERVICES

What are the next steps in your career after finishing the MIA? Our graduates hold positions across the government, nonprofit and business sectors, as well as going on to further study at the doctoral level.

You can find Marxe MIA graduates at:

American International University - Bangladesh

Arab-American Family Support Center

Bank of America, Global Financial Crimes Compliance

Inter-American Development Bank, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Justice Rapid Response

NYC Department of Education

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

NYS Office of Professional Discipline

Save the Children

Scotiabank OFAC Advisory

Success Academy Charter Schools

The Graduate Center, CUNY

The Legal Aid Society of NYC

UNICEF

United Nations

US Department of State

USCIS, Department of Homeland Security

Detailed information on workshops, career fairs and personalized career guidance provided by Marxe Career Services can be found [here](#).

More information on career outcomes, internships and trajectories of MIA students and graduates can be found [here](#).

PROGRAM FACULTY

The list below offers brief summaries of some of the primary research interests of the full-time MSPIA faculty who teach classes available to MIA students. For full bios of all Marxe faculty and staff, visit the [Faculty and Staff page](#).

Desmond Arias Security and politics in Latin America and the Caribbean

Nancy Aries Health policy and management

Cristina Balboa International relations, comparative policy, and organization theory

Deborah Balk Spatial demography, urbanization, migration and population distribution, poverty and health

Neil G. Bennett Social demography

David Birdsell Communication, media, and information technology in politics, government, and nonprofit administration

William Casey Boland Impact of state and federal public policies on higher education-particularly minority serving institutions

Liza Bolitzer Higher education employees' engagement in students' socio-cultural identities, and the institutional policies and cultures that support those efforts

Hilary Botein Urban development, social politics of policies and programs underlying affordable housing and community development

John Casey Government-nongovernment relations, international nonprofits, immigration policy, policing, and university teaching

Bin Chen Cross-sectoral governance and inter-organizational collaboration in public policy implementation, government-nonprofit relations, regional networked governance, and comparative public administration and public policy

Greg Chen Traffic safety, injury prevention, school safety, comparative healthcare systems, public/corporate finance, public and nonprofit organization performance and management, research methodology, and program evaluation

Hector Cordero-Guzman Education, employment, poverty, race and inequality, nonprofit organizations, international migration, transnational processes, economic development, and social welfare policy

Marco DeSena Communication consulting, speechwriting and political consulting

Anna D'Souza Food security and nutrition and international trade

Jonathan Engel Historical evolution of U.S. health and social welfare policy

Michael Feller Professional development in the nonprofit sector

Diane Gibson Means-tested social program participation, nutrition and health outcomes, neighborhood food environments

Nicole A. Gordon Law, public policy, and public administration

Els de Graauw Immigration, citizenship and civil society organizations, urban and regional politics

Jessica Greene Health reform-related policies and strategies and consumer engagement

Frank Heiland Labor, health, demographic economics, retirement, housing wealth, obesity, child wellbeing, fertility preferences, and migration

Neil Hernandez Immigration policy and the reorganization of public agencies

David C. Hoffman Rhetoric, history, and politics

Sonia R. Jarvis Race, politics, and the media

Bryan Jones Urban sustainability and climate-resilient policy

Patria de Lancer Julnes Performance measurement, accountability, innovation in government, corruption in government, and citizen-driven governance, and health policy

Judith Kafka Educational policies and social and economic inequalities

Sanders D. Korenman Impact of health insurance benefits on poverty and the relationship between school engagement and teenage childbearing in NYC

Karl Kronebusch Health policy and the politics of health and social policy

Asli Lelebicioglu International macroeconomics, financial frictions, trade policy, and economic growth

Tiffany Lewis Rhetoric, advocacy, and social movements, the suffrage movement and leadership in political office during the progressive era

Thomas J. Main Liberal democracy, bureaucracy and public administration, urban politics, homelessness, and the American Constitution and founding

Zachariah Mampilly Political protest, civil war and peace making

James McCarthy Demographic and public health research in the United States, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East

George Mitchell Transnational NGOs and nonprofit management, leadership, and strategy

Jerry Mitchell Animal rights, business associations and city parks

Joselyn Muhleisen International regimes, regulatory politics, and global governance with a specific focus on trade and financial regulation

Douglas Muzzio American public opinion, voting behavior and city politics

Rahul Pathak Intersection of public finance and social policy

Alexis F. Perrotta Intersection of urban transportation policy, planning and welfare

Dahlia Remler Health economics, medical care price indexes, managed care, health insurance and health care markets

Ideen Riahi Economic development and political economy

Carla Anne Robbins National security and defense, American media, politics and foreign policy

Michael Seltzer Fund raising and resource mobilization for nonprofit organizations

Robert C. Smith Immigration, public sociology, identification of strategic sites of intervention

Ryan Alan Smith Workplace stratification and racial attitudes in U.S.

Neil J. Sullivan Business of major league baseball and its relationship to government

Rubia R. Valente Public policies on inequalities due to race, class, and gender, quality of life of minority groups in Latin America and Brazil

Don Waisanen Communication and how it promotes or hinders the force of citizens' voices

Mitchel B. Wallerstein National security, higher education, public policy, and global philanthropy

Daniel W. Williams Budgeting, performance measurement, and the history of public administration

Na Yin Social security aging and disability policies in the United States and Europe

FAQs (Answers to Some Frequently Asked Questions)

What GPA do I need to maintain to stay in the program?

You must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to remain in the MIA program.

When do I need to declare my concentration in my MIA?

We ask that you declare your concentration mid-way in your first semester, before you register for second-semester courses. You will receive a form from Advisement.

What do I have to do to be approved for a Special Concentration?

On the declaration form for your concentration, you must identify a topic, describe your plan of study leading up to a Capstone project, and identify a minimum of four elective courses from the Marxe School or other CUNY campuses that will support your Special Concentration.

Can I switch my concentration after I declare it?

Yes. Working with your adviser, you can switch your concentration.

How will I know if I need to do an internship?

Your admission letter will have told you if you are required to complete an internship, as part of your MIA studies.

Can I do an internship, even if it is not required?

Yes. We encourage students to further their skills and their careers through internships, in New York, Washington, DC or abroad. Speak with Career Services about internship opportunities and monitor your email about sessions on the Washington program and internships abroad.

What types of professional organizations can I join in the International Affairs and Public Policy field?

You are encouraged to join professional organizations including:

[NASPAA](#)

[International Studies Association \(ISA\)](#)

[Women's Foreign Policy Group \(WFPG\)](#)

[Latin American Studies Association \(LASA\)](#)

[Young Professionals in International Affairs \(YPIA\)](#)

[Foreign Policy Association \(FPA\)](#)

[DEVEX](#)

For more information visit the [student opportunities page](#).

What are 9199 Selected Topics Courses?

Selected Topics courses are often new course offerings. They cover a host of topics. In recent semesters, the MIA program has offered these courses under the 9199 heading (many of which have since been assigned their own course numbers):

- Race Ethnicity and Nationalism
- Political Violence
- Who Makes Policy?
- Global Climate
- Global Growth
- International Security

- Illicit Trade
- Global Cities

Can I study abroad as an MIA student?

Yes, to learn more about Marxe study abroad opportunities visit the [Marxe global initiatives page](#).

To learn more about college-wide study abroad opportunities visit the [Study Abroad Office](#).

What is it like to attend the Washington Semester?

The Washington Semester gives you the opportunity to gain unique insight into the public policy process through academic coursework (6 credits) and an intensive internship (6 credits) on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies, think tanks, or nonprofit organizations. Learn more [here](#).

Can I take courses at Zicklin (international business, global marketing, technology, social entrepreneurship) or Weissman (communications)?

Yes, you may take graduate electives at either school with pre-approval from Student Advisement. You can also take other approved graduate courses at any CUNY campus through the ePermit system.

Can I present an original research paper at a conference, using my capstone paper or a paper for another class?

Yes. You are encouraged to use your MIA papers for other academic and professional purposes. You should be gathering your work in the MIA program into a portfolio that you can use to demonstrate your knowledge and skills in future research and employment applications.

What classes should I take to prepare myself for a Ph.D. or other doctoral program in International Affairs, area studies, other areas in the social sciences?

We encourage MIA students to continue on to further studies. If that is your interest, you should speak with Advisement and individual faculty members who specialize in your area of interest.

What is the difference between the types of classes: online, hybrid, web-enhanced, etc.?

In Spring 2020 the definitions of the modes of instruction changed to respond to the shift to online instruction. For the most current definitions, [click here](#).

What classes should I take to help prepare me for a career in the Foreign Service or civil service or to take and succeed on the Foreign Service or civil service exams?

The MIA program can be a pathway for a wide range of government jobs but there are no specific courses you should take. You should consult US government websites to explore internships, fellowships and career opportunities. Marx Career Services typically hosts an information session with the U.S. Department of State once per semester.

For general information about the Foreign Service visit their [website](#).

Learn more about the FSOT exam [here](#).