Canada’s Leading International Affairs Program
Kevin Budning  
PhD Candidate

If you are interested in tackling relevant, difficult, and complex global challenges, NPSIA is the place for you. Unlike most international affairs programs in Canada, NPSIA teaches you how to speak two languages: academia and policy. This is why I chose to study here — a decision I have not once regretted. Aside from the school’s outstanding reputation and its deep connections within the public sector, NPSIA’s biggest asset is that it operates as one big family. The faculty are unbelievably supportive, the courses offered are thought-provoking and well-designed, and your fellow classmates are the leaders of tomorrow.

The Faculty of Public Affairs

The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton is an integral part of the Faculty of Public Affairs (FPA). FPA is the only faculty of its kind in Canada, with 225 scholars who seek to interact with and bring positive change to the community and the world around them. Uniquely suited to its location in Ottawa, Ontario — Canada’s capital city — FPA brings together academic units that deal directly with government and civil society. The Faculty is dynamic and dedicated to fostering informed citizenship and building a better democracy, leading the charge to educate graduates to address regional and global challenges. Through thought-provoking, aspiring and innovative programs, our mission is to foster informed citizenship and help build democracy at home and abroad. Accept the challenge and be part of Canada’s leading International Affairs program.

Read more about the Faculty and its people in FPA Voices.
carleton.ca/fpa

Study at Canada’s top graduate school in international affairs. Established more than 50 years ago, the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University is a leader in its field.

Challenge yourself. Learn to understand international issues and policy in a complex global environment. Forge your career.

NPSIA has a global reputation for providing the interdisciplinary training necessary to understand world issues. Learn from faculty experts in conflict resolution and security, terrorism and intelligence, diplomacy and foreign policy, international trade and finance, international governance and development, and humanitarian emergencies.

Jessica Davis  
PhD Candidate

NPSIA provides a supportive, encouraging environment and a challenging curriculum. The school’s many areas of expertise, access to policy makers, and world-class scholars is an unbeatable combination. I highly recommend the PhD program — it’s been a great way to further both my career and education.
Where can a graduate degree in NPSIA take you?

As a graduate of NPSIA, you’ll have significant opportunities and success in finding employment in the field of international affairs. Our graduates are highly sought after. Imagine working in any of the many positions available in international organizations — the Council of Europe, the World Bank, or even the World Trade Organization or the United Nations.

You may also consider working for various provincial or federal government departments in Global Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food, National Defence, Environment and Climate Change, Public Safety or the Privy Council Office. NPSIA graduates also go on to work in NGOs, the private and non-profit sectors.

This graph displays career outcomes from a sample of students in 2015. Some have also completed other degrees, including at more advanced levels. Individual experiences and results can differ from those represented here.

Career Services

Career Services assists Carleton students in making the transition from school to work and developing their professional skills starting in the first year. You can consult with career counsellors, attend career workshops, networking events, and job fairs, find volunteer and employment opportunities and start mapping your career!

carleton.ca/career

Why study international affairs?

Studying international affairs will prepare and equip you to understand the unique relationships between various nations and cultures. These relationships and the study thereof directly impact our understanding of the issues related to international politics, migration, law, economics, security, diplomacy, and governance.

Governments, non-governmental organizations, and private corporations seek skilled professionals in international affairs to help them understand and analyze these complex issues.

Why studying international affairs at NPSIA may be the right fit for you:

1. You’ll gain transferable skills

At NPSIA, we designed our international affairs programs to allow exposure to various disciplines such as economics, law and governance. You’ll gain specialized knowledge based on an interdisciplinary approach to learning and develop the following skill sets:

- Learn to analyze complex problems using an interdisciplinary lens;
- Learn effective written and verbal communication skills;
- Learn interpersonal skills to help you build relationships and goodwill with stakeholders.

2. A career in policy is one of many possibilities

A degree from NPSIA can prepare you for a career in policy. While many of our graduates work in various government departments, others have gained employment in non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations. The skills that you will learn are transferable and in high demand.

3. Make an impact

Regardless of your career path, you can have a real impact on people’s lives through your dedication to engaging with complex issues such as conflict resolution, climate change, global health, and humanitarian emergencies.

4. Teamwork

Learn how to collaborate with others by being part of the NPSIA Students’ Association and engaging in other extra-curricular activities. Teamwork is an essential skill that will help you excel in your career.

Margaret Biggs
MA International Affairs, Class of 1981

NPSIA gave us the opportunity to gain a deep understanding of global affairs. It allowed us to draw on multiple disciplines and tackle complex issues… It was mind-expanding and unique.
About the Degrees

Degrees Offered
MA, MA/Juris Doctor, PhD

The Master of Arts in International Affairs
In addition to core classes in law, policy, statistics, and economics, you can select from more than 70 NPSIA seminars in eight international policy fields at the MA level, as well as specializations in African, Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Internships and co-op placement opportunities provide you with invaluable professional experience, bridging opportunities for future employment.

The Master of Arts in International Affairs/Juris Doctor (MA/JD)
This is a combined program administered jointly with the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa. Students admitted into this program can obtain their MA in international affairs and a law degree in 4 years.

PhD in International Affairs
Specialize in one of four fields — International Conflict Management and Resolution, International Development Policy, International Economic Policy, or Security, Intelligence and Defence. You will also receive advanced training in research methods and policy analysis.

Do you have an interest in languages?
The opportunity to achieve proficiency in a second language is another requirement of our graduate programs. The University offers language training in various languages that include Arabic, Mandarin, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Invest in yourself and your future.
Be part of the solution in global affairs. Register today.

Rita Houkayem
MA in International Affairs, Class of 2017
Co-President, NPSIA Students’ Association
My time at NPSIA was so enriching and fulfilling, learning from world-class professors. My involvement within the NPSIA Students’ Association. My exchange semester at SciencesPo in Paris. NPSIA’s Co-op option, being in a circle of like-minded people passionate about global change and human rights, was the highlight of my NPSIA years! This program was the most pivotal experience for launching my career into the world of international affairs and led me to my current position at Global Affairs Canada. The opportunities are plenty, and I recommend this program to anyone seeking to shape a positive future for current and future generations.

Zaheed Kara
MA Student
The master's program at NPSIA has a wide variety of subject streams, all of which provide students with an environment that will challenge them academically and encourage them to grow intellectually. Students also have access to the fantastic co-op program, which serves as a gateway to a career working on public policy in the federal public service. I highly recommend the program to those considering a career in the public sector, in addition to those seeking a balanced and rigorous academic experience.
Carleton University, located in Canada’s Capital City of Ottawa, is a dynamic and innovative university with a strong commitment to teaching, research, and learning. Our academic programs, location, career focus, experiential learning, and local and global focus provide countless opportunities for learning to happen both inside and outside the classroom.

As a Carleton student, you’ll have access to an unparalleled package of academic and co-curricular initiatives to complement and support your university experience, including:

- The Student Experience Office (SEO);
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS);
- Academic Advising Centre;
- International Student Services Office (ISSO);
- Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC);
- Health and Counselling Services;
- University Registrar’s Office (RO);
- Career Services;
- Clubs and Societies;
- Carleton Athletics.

The Carleton Advantage

Vinu Rameshshanker  
First-Year MA Student  
Health, Displacement, and Humanitarian Policy Specialization

Coming from a disciplinary background in global and public health, I chose to pursue my MA at NPSIA in response to a single burning question of mine. I wanted to understand the broader workings of the world — how do complex social, political, and economic dynamics influence the varied qualities of life for individuals around the globe? It’s a heavy question, but it’s been met with NPSIA’s endless opportunities to learn. From the professors who are always willing to share their diverse professional experiences, to the passionate insights of my peers, you don’t have to look far at NPSIA to broaden your perspective, expand your breadth of knowledge, and see the world through an ever-changing lens.
The Carleton University NPSIA Podcasts

International Affairs is far greater than the sum of its parts; it’s an integrated web of diverse obstacles, ever-changing, evolving with the continued changes in policy and governance — it encroaches all aspects of our lives, whether we’re aware of it or not. To help you make sense of what is happening around us, both as a society and politically, NPSIA features expert analysis and commentary on politics and global affairs through podcast series and regular appearances in national media.

carleton.ca/npsia

Battle Rhythm

Join hosts Stephen Saideman (NPSIA, Carleton University) and Stefanie von Hlatky (Queen’s University), on “Battle Rhythm”, co-produced with the Canadian Defence and Security Network (CDSN) and released every second Wednesday. The podcast features a timely discussion on the defence and security issues of the day, as well as feature conversations with academics and graduate students.

Exploring Ottawa

Consistently ranked as one of Canada’s most livable and safe cities, Ottawa is part of the spectacular National Capital Region, which spans the Ontario-Quebec border, crisscrossed by the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Rideau Rivers. You can explore the region year-round on foot, bicycle, or skis, along hundreds of kilometres of trails and multi-use paths. And of course, the Rideau Canal — a designated UNESCO World-Heritage site — is just steps from Carleton’s campus, so you can paddle or skate to the heart of the city to explore Parliament Hill, our national museums and galleries, and the tastes and sounds of the Byward Market.

Ottawa is also known for its many festivals such as Bluesfest, Tulip Festival, Winterlude, and much more.

A Snapshot

With an area of 2796 km², Ottawa and the greater Ottawa region covers more land areas than Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, and Montreal combined.

Ottawa has the largest tech park and federal employment node in Canada. It’s home to a young, vibrant, entrepreneurial workforce, with a bilingual rate of 44%, and more engineers, scientists, and PhDs per capita than any other city in Canada.

For graduate students who choose to study here, Ottawa offers invaluable research facilities and work opportunities at the numerous agencies, institutions, and businesses located in the city — no matter where your tastes and interests lie, you’ll find something here for you!