NPSIA
Canada’s Leading International Affairs Program
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.

Ameera Ali
Second-Year NPSIA Student,
Policy Analyst, Canadian Space Agency

The amazing thing that I’ve noticed with NPSIA is that you can customize the journey to what you want to do. Everybody’s journey looks so different.
Study at Canada’s top graduate school in international affairs. Established nearly 60 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.

NPSIA is a founding member of the Association of Professional Schools in International Affairs (APSIA), the global association of top graduate programs in international affairs committed to preparing policy specialists for the global workplace.

From our early beginnings to today, the study of International Affairs is more critical than ever as countries, including Canada, grapple with new economic realities and strained political relationships.

The Faculty of Public Affairs
• Improve Governance & Public Policy
• Build a Better Society
• Build Better Democracy
• Foster Informed Citizenship
• Address Regional & Global Challenges

The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs is part of the Faculty of Public Affairs (FPA). FPA is the only faculty of its kind in Canada, bringing together academic units that deal directly with government and civil society.

Learn more at carleton.ca/fpa.
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 from 2021 and 2022. 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

Kevin Hamilton
NPSIA Alum 2000, Canadian Ambassador to Turkey and Georgia

“Generally you know when you’re dealing with a NSPIA grad, you’re dealing with a quality professional. It’s an automatic understanding that we’ve all gone through a similarly rigorous program, and we’re all prepared for the careers ahead of us.”
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, development, 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:

You’ll gain transferable skills

1. **At NPSIA**, we designed our international affairs programs to allow exposure to various disciplines such as economics, law and political science. 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.

[carleton.ca/npsia](carleton.ca/npsia)
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
Diplomat, Global Affairs Canada

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 Sciences Po 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 Alum 2021,
Policy Analyst at Natural Resources Canada

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.
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, Data Science and Cyber Security. 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.

Photos by Ottawa Tourism.
THE CARLETON ADVANTAGE

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.

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.
NEW Specialization in Cybersecurity

In the current national and geopolitical context, compounding factors underscore a growing concern for Canada’s cybersecurity. The cybersecurity risk Canadians face is increasing year over year, as more individuals and organizations move online and more public and private services are digitized.

The new Cybersecurity Collaborative Specialization (starting in 2023/24) builds on Carleton’s internationally recognized excellence in the many and diverse facets of cybersecurity. Working alongside professors from across the disciplines — including international affairs, critical infrastructure protection, computer engineering, computer science, and information technology — and with private and public sector cybersecurity stakeholders from across Canada, students participating in this specialization will grapple with building stronger technological systems, processes, and platforms, developing international norms, laws, and standards for cyberspace, and better consider the nexus between human rights, governance, security, and technology.

“Deterrence is about keeping you safe from attack by convincing an adversary not to attack you in the first place.”

What is concerning many experts in the field is the pairing of AI with weapons and robotics, effectively providing faster-than-life responses to traditional aggression. If that future emerges, it won’t only influence the ethics of warfare, but will fundamentally alter how we think about and apply deterrence to international affairs.

Alex Wilner
Associate Professor,
NPSIA, Carleton University.
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.

A Snapshot

- Ottawa and the greater Ottawa region cover an area of 2796 km²;
- Ottawa has the largest tech park and federal employment node in Canada;
- Ottawa is home to a young, vibrant, entrepreneurial workforce;
- Ottawa offers invaluable research facilities and work opportunities at the numerous agencies, institutions, and businesses located in the city for graduate students who choose to study here.

Photos by Ottawa Tourism.