



NPSIA

The Norman Paterson School
of International Affairs
Carleton University

MA ORIENTATION

8 September 2026



Today's Orientation Schedule

3:00 Introduction - Professor Teddy Samy, Director/NPSIA

3:15 NPSIA MA Program - Associate Professor Leah West, Associate
Director/NPSIA & Program-Related Questions

4:15 Student Wellness - Kristie Tousignant, Student Health & Wellness

4:30: Student Governance - NPSIA Student Association

Welcome to Canada's best school of international affairs.

For nearly sixty years, we have provided students with the analytical skills, interdisciplinary awareness, and policy training required to critically analyse contemporary international affairs and Canadian foreign policy.

- *More than 250 MA students & 30 PhD students*
- *Over 20 full-time faculty members;*
 - *Wide range of expertise and experience.*
- *Unrivalled:*
 - *Alumni Network;*
 - *Opportunities to engage in policy debate discussions.*

Global Context



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Canada faces:

Uncertain/unpredictable global context:

- Erosion of liberal international order including norms;
- Geopolitical tensions;
- Nations turning inward;
- Rising number of conflicts;
- Global interconnectedness brings opportunities and risks.

Canadian foreign policy needs people with:

- Strong research and analytical skills;
- Critical thinking;
- Interdisciplinary breadth;
- Wide range of experiences and perspectives.

The Power of Interdisciplinary Approaches

- Diverse expertise, intellectual curiosity and humility are required to understand drivers of - and develop solutions to - today's global challenges.

- Take advantage of the breadth of NPSIA's Program.

***Take courses outside your field
designation/specialisation.***

<https://youtu.be/NugRZGDbPFU?si=0mICkEa21ocmkCIW>



Program Details



NPSIA

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Websites:

<https://carleton.ca/npsia/>

<https://carleton.ca/npsia/npsia-ma-faq/>

<https://gradstudents.carleton.ca>



Program Requirements

- Complex program, never make assumptions.
- Know the degree requirements and program rules:
 - NPSIA and Graduate Studies Websites;
 - Completion checklists, FAQs;
 - *Rules Protect Integrity of Program*
- Complete requirements as early in the program as possible:
 - Required NPSIA courses;
 - Courses for fields/specialisations;
 - Second language.

Program Completion Pathways

- Field, No Field, Collaborative Specialization Options
- Three completion options (+ fast track to PhD):
 - Coursework, MRE, or Thesis.
- Requirements – 5.0 credits plus language:
 - Stats, Policy, Law, Economics;
 - Second language acquisition.

Field Designation

- To achieve a field designation on your M.A. degree, you must:
 - Complete your field economics class;
 - Take 1.5 additional credits in your field (see the graduate calendar for the list);
 - MRE and Thesis count towards field (0.5 credit).
- Try to take field courses in Year 1
- Less flexibility in Year 2 (Co-op or MRE).
- Can graduate without a field designation.

Four Fields:

**International Trade and Economic
Policy (ITEP)**

**Diplomacy, International Organisations and
Foreign Policy (DIFP)**

**Conflict, Fragility and Development
(CFD)**

**National Security, Intelligence and Defence
(NSID)**

Collaborative Specializations:

- *African Studies, Climate Change, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Latin American and Caribbean Studies*

Second Language Requirement

see separate orientation session

"Students must successfully complete an examination in second language proficiency administered by Carleton University's School of Linguistics and Language Studies, or meet the equivalent standard as determined by the School of Linguistics and Language Studies."

DO THIS EARLY!!!

Contact: Gillian Forsyth gillianbose@cunet.Carleton.ca

<https://carleton.ca/npsia/second-language-requirements/>

Research Options: MRE/Thesis

see separate orientation session

- Identify topic early, take courses with prospective supervisors;
- Requires approval:
 - MRE and Thesis needs minimum A- average;
 - *Not easy to do along with Co-op!*
- Important Dates:
 - Workshop will be held on September 18th;
 - Program completion form – January 30;
 - Research Proposal – May 1.

Grade Requirements

- A passing grade in NPSIA courses is B- (70%).
- Graduate Calendar, *“Students will be required to withdraw from the program if their grade point average falls below 7.0 (B-), or if they receive a grade of less than B- in any **two courses** that are eligible to be counted toward the Master’s degree.”*

Talk to us early if you have problems in one of your classes. Do NOT wait until the last week of the semester to talk to us.

Coop and Exchange

see separate orientation session

- Opportunity to integrate diverse experiences to complement NPSIA MA degree.

Program Completion Timeframe

- Full-time students have six terms to complete their program;
 - *Each coop term adds an additional term to complete the MA program.*
- Except for Co-op or full-time work opportunities, changing your status from full-time to part-time is generally not allowed;
 - Keep this in mind as you plan how you will complete your program.
- NPSIA has a PhD fast-track option for eligible students:
 - Express interest by December.



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Funding



Students with Funding upon Admission

- Read/understand the “Terms and Conditions of Admission and Funding.”
- You must be a full-time student to be eligible.
- You can only receive your funding for the term it is issued.
- You are not allowed to receive two terms of funding in a single term.
- You are not allowed to receive funding while on coop (part-time status).
- If you finish the MA program before your funding is all used, *the funding is returned to the University.*

Internal NPSIA Awards

- NPSIA has many scholarships and bursaries for students that are exclusive to NPSIA;
- Information about these awards will be sent via email in the next few weeks;
- The awards are based either on financial need or merit:
 - Requires a short statement from you on why you should receive the award.

External Carleton Awards

- Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)
- SSHRC MA Awards:
 - You will receive email in the next few weeks with information on application process
- Carleton's Graduate Studies Website has more information:
<https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/awards-and-funding/>

N.B.: Every year, several awards are left unclaimed.

NPSIA Resources and Support

Key NPSIA Contacts

Director	Prof Yiagadeesen (Teddy) Samy
Associate Directors - MA	Associate Prof Leah West– In Program Prof Phil Lagasse – Admissions/ Recruitment; PhD
School Administrator	Krysia Kotarba
MA Administrators	Avi Slack - Program Tracy Huang – Admissions & Recruitment

Faculty for Fields

Conflict, Fragility and Development

David Carment and Ana Dammert

Diplomacy, International Organizations and Foreign Policy (DIFP)

Fen Hampson and Michael Manulak

International Trade and Economic Policy (ITEP)

Meredith Lilly and Yanling Wang

National Security, Intelligence and Defence (NSID)

Stephanie Carvin and Steve Saideman

JD/MA Advisor

Chris Penny and Leah West

Contacting NPSIA

- First point of contact for in-program questions – include your student #:
 - Avi Slack, cc Internationalaffairs@cunet.carleton.ca
- If the admin team cannot help you, **then** contact me;
 - Please forward me your previous exchanges with staff in your initial inquiry so I can see the steps you've taken already.
- As in all workplaces, the NPSIA administrative team is to be treated with respect at all times.
 - *The start of the year is busy for everyone. Your patience is appreciated.*

Student Conduct

Academic Integrity

- Clear Academic Integrity Policy at Carleton:
 - <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

I am notified of all cases, which are then forwarded to the Associate Dean in the Faculty of Public & Global Affairs.
- Use of Generative AI:
 - Guidance provided in course outlines.
 - <https://library.carleton.ca/guides/subject/artificial-intelligence-ai-tools>
- Resources are available to help you understand and avoid plagiarism:
<https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/academic-integrity-0>

Student Conduct

- NPSIA Statement of Values & Principles:
 - <https://carleton.ca/npsia/npsia-statement-of-values-and-principles/>
- Student Rights & Responsibilities:
 - <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-rights-and-responsibilities/>

- Harassment, sexual violence, and sexual assault are not tolerated.
 - <https://carleton.ca/studentsupport/svpolicy/>
- Understand consent: voluntary, with capacity, specific, communicated, and ongoing.
- In case of emergency, you can contact University Safety (613-520-4444, or 4444 from any on-campus phone)
- In a non-emergency, resources are available:
<https://students.carleton.ca/services/sexual-assault-support-services/>

Guidelines for Success

Program Communication

- Check your Carleton email account daily
- All official communications from Carleton and NPSIA will be sent to your Carleton email account.
- Your access to Brightspace, course websites and zoom will also be via your Carleton email address.

Academic Success

- Do your readings and participate in class:
 - Absences should be communicated with your professors;
 - Engage with readings;
 - Plan out your assignments.
- Improve your writing, public speaking skills;
- Read, read, read (and listen):
 - Current events, Podcasts, Books.
- Collaborate with colleagues:
 - Stats: Help one another.



Know the Deadlines to Drop Classes.

Over the Next Few Weeks:

- Focus on settling into the program and course work;
- Connect with students, administrative team, and faculty;
- Take advantage of office hours – faculty are happy to meet and speak to you;
- If you are facing challenges in your courses, reach out early to your profs, to me, or to professional support



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Questions?





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Thank You

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