



STUDY WITH
PURPOSE



MAIR Curriculum

BA/MA Student Session March 2026

Washington, DC | Nanjing, China | Bologna, Italy

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ADVISING



Brian McEntee



Jaime Warren



Marie Gorman

What we assist with:

- Course Planning, Long-term Planning, and Registration
- Curriculum Questions, Requirements Tracking, and Degree Clearance
- Academic Policies & Procedures, and Academic Support & Resources

We advise students enrolled at all three SAIS campuses

Additional support:

SAIS Europe Advisor: Claudia Portogallo, sais.eu.advising@jhu.edu

SAIS Nanjing Admin.: John Urban, jurban9@jh.edu

DEGREE OVERVIEW

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (MAIR)

- 2 year full-time (fall/spring) in-person program
 - Optional summer courses
- 64 credits
 - 16 credits/semester + non-credit language course (if needed)
- Same requirements for students who start in Washington, DC or at SAIS Europe
- At least 3 full-time semesters required; at least 1 full-time semester must be spent in Washington, DC

DEGREE
SEQUENCE

Year 1



Year 2

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



CORE REQUIREMENTS

24 credits (6 courses)

SAIS SEMINAR: WORLD IN TRANSITION

LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND DECISION-MAKING

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS (2 COURSES)*

RESEARCH METHODS

STATISTICS FOR DATA ANALYTICS*

* Passing a waiver exam allows student to replace a requirement with a more advanced course

OUTRIGHT WAIVERS

Homewood Course	SAIS Equivalent	Next Steps
International Trade (AS.180.241)	International Economics I (IE I)	Pass SAIS Replacement Economics course to satisfy IE I Core
International Monetary Economics (AS.180.242)	International Economics II (IE II)	Pass SAIS Replacement Economics course to satisfy IE II Core
Statistical Analysis (EN.550.111,EN.553.111)*	Statistics for Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fulfills Data Analytics Core - Must pass two Research Methods Core courses (total 8 cr.)
Econometrics (AS.180.334)	Econometrics	Pass a different Research Methods (RM) Course to satisfy RM Core

SAIS does not accept transfer courses or credits from JHU or other institutions

Note: JHU Junior Study Abroad at SAIS Europe students receive Advanced Standing credits for the MAIR (1 semester in Bologna = 8 cr.)

SELF- DESIGNED PROGRAM OF STUDY

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

10 courses/40 credits

FOCUS AREAS

Functional Focus Areas

- Development, Climate, and Sustainability
- International Economics and Finance*
- Security, Strategy, and Statecraft
- Governance, Politics, and Society
- Technology and Innovation

Regional Focus Areas

- Africa
- The Americas
- Asia
- China
- Europe and Eurasia
- The Middle East
- United States

EXPAND YOUR EXPERTISE

- Students must complete:
 - at least 3 courses from 1 Functional Focus Area
 - at least 3 courses from 1 Regional Focus Area

*Students who wish to pursue this focus area must complete or waiver International Economics I and II



FOCUS AREA COMBINATIONS: — 3 EXAMPLES

International Economics and Finance+ The Americas

- Economic Development
- Multinational Corporate Finance
- Economics of Immigration
- International Political Economy of Emerging Markets
- Financial Crises and Policy Dilemmas in Emerging Markets and Latin America
- Understanding Modern Latin American Politics

Security, Strategy, and Statecraft + China

- Strategy and Policy
- Kissinger Seminar: History, Strategy, and American Statecraft
- American Intelligence: Role and Practice
- China's National Security Perspectives
- Chinese Foreign Policy
- Asian Maritime Interests and Strategies

Development, Climate, and Sustainability + Africa

- Renewable and Distributed Energy Policy
- Climate Change, Science Economics, and Politics
- Geopolitics of Energy
- Political Economy of African Development
- Energy, Politics, and Development in Africa
- Contemporary African Politics

SAMPLE 2 YEAR PLAN

Four 4-credit courses + one non-credit language course each semester

First-Year Fall	First-Year Spring	Second-Year Fall	Second-Year Spring
SAIS Seminar: World in Transition International Economics 1 or 2 Statistics for Data Analytics Functional Focus Area Non-Credit Language Course	Leadership, Ethics & Decision-Making International Economics 1 or 2 Functional Focus Area Regional Focus Area Non-Credit Language Course Professional Skills Course	Research Methods Functional Focus Area Regional Focus Area Capstone or Elective Non-Credit Language Course Professional Skills Course	Regional Focus Area Capstone or Elective Elective Elective Non-Credit Language Course

First Year: complete at least 4 of 6 Core courses

Second Year: remainder of focus area courses, electives, and capstone

PUBLIC COURSE SEARCH



JHU Public Course Search

Search by keyword

Q Course, instructor, or description

e.g. microbiology, PH.260.800, Smith, seminar

Reset All Filters Clear All Filters

Nitze School of Advanced International Studies SA Security, Strategy, and Statecraft Fall 2026

RESULTS:

30

TERM

SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT

LEVEL

LOCATION

STATUS

CREDITS

TIME OF DAY

DAYS

1-30 of 32 results Expand all

Course	Term	Location	Days & Times	Instructor(s)	Credits	Status
> Fundamentals of International Law SA.500.110 (01)	SA Fall 26	Washington DC	M 2:30PM - 5:00PM	Okafor, Obiora C	4.00	Reserved Open
> Introduction to Trust and Safety SA.501.111 (01)	SA Fall 26	Washington DC	T 8:30AM - 11:00AM	Belogolova, Olga	4.00	Reserved Open
> AI and National Security SA.501.119 (01)	SA Fall 26	Washington DC	W 2:30PM - 5:00PM	Buchanan, Benjamin	4.00	Reserved Open
Nitze School of Advanced International Studies > SA Technology and Innovation, SA MASCI, SA Security, Strategy, and Statecraft The course examines one of the topics most central for the future of national security policy: artificial intelligence (AI). We will begin first by examining what AI is and isn't, and discuss how the underlying technology works. We will then proceed to survey the national security landscape and consider how AI will impact key policy and strategy decisions in the near future. Topics discussed include autonomous weapons, intelligence collection and analysis, cyber attacks, disinformation, and technology competition. We will also focus on the AI strategies of the US and China. No technical background is required for this class, though we will introduce some important ideas that are relevant to how AI works. Students will be evaluated through a key concepts quiz that assesses understanding of important ideas. They will also be assigned one final paper in which they will take a stand on a proposition regarding AI's policy impact. In addition, class participation is a vital component of this class, as a substantial portion of each week will be oriented towards discussion. Textbook Vendor: Follett						
Enrollment Limit 18 students	Schedule 08-31-2026 to 12-07-2026 W 02:30 PM - 05:00 PM	Level Graduate				
Instruction Method In-person						
> Ghost in the Machine: The Intellectual History of AI and its Risks SA.501.121 (01)	SA Fall 26	Washington DC	Th 2:30PM - 5:00PM	Rid, T	4.00	Reserved Open
> Cyber Operations: How and Why States Compete in Cyberspace SA.501.122 (01)	SA Fall 26	Washington DC	T 11:30AM - 2:00PM	Griffith, Melissa K	4.00	Reserved Open

<https://courses.jhu.edu>

FACULTY DIRECTORY

Faculty Directory

-- Campus --

-- Program --

Enter Search Terms Here...

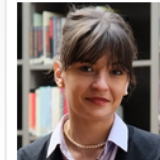


ALL A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



James Steinberg

Dean



Veronica Anghel

Lecturer of Risk in International
Politics



Anne Applebaum

SAIS Senior Fellow of International
Affairs, Senior Fellow at the SNF
Agora Institute



David Arase

Resident Professor of International
Politics



Paul Armstrong-Taylor

Resident Professor of International
Economics



Cristino R. Arroyo

Senior Lecturer in International
Economics



Narges Bajoghli

Assistant Professor



John P. Banks

Practitioner in Residence

<https://sais.jhu.edu/faculty-research>

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

- Students must demonstrate proficiency in a non-native language by passing proficiency exams
- SAIS offers non-credit language courses to help students to meet the prerequisites to take the proficiency exams
- Possible to reach proficiency in a new language within 4 semesters of full-time study
- Non-native English speakers* may use English as their proficiency language

*Since English is of medium of instruction, non-native English speakers must take a diagnostic test to determine they have sufficient language skills and may be required to enroll in additional English language courses if not

LANGUAGE COURSES

BOTH CAMPUSES

- Arabic
- English
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

WASHINGTON DC ONLY

- Chinese
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Persian (Farsi)
- Portuguese

SAIS EUROPE ONLY*

- German
- Italian

*Students who begin instruction in these languages at SAIS Europe may continue with virtual instruction after they transition to Washington, DC campus.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



CAPSTONE OPTIONS (SECOND YEAR)

- Students must complete 1:
 - Practicum Course
 - Study Trip Course
 - Research Seminar Course
 - Expanded Research Paper (non-credit)
 - Approved Internship Research Paper (non-credit)

NON-CREDIT PROFESSIONAL SKILLS COURSES

- Students must complete 2:
 - Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Excel
 - Introduction to R
 - Introduction to Tableau
 - Corporate Valuation
 - Introduction to Intelligence Analysis
 - Business Lessons in Leadership
 - Writing Skills for a Policy Career
 - Preparing and Delivering a Briefing
 - and many more...

SAMPLE CAPSTONE COURSES

PRACTICUM COURSES

- Energy & Environment Practicum
- International Development Practicum
- SAIS Women Lead Practicum
- Central Asia Practicum
- National Security and Emerging Technology Practicum
- Technology and Geopolitical Risk Practicum

STUDY TRIP COURSES

- International Human Rights Law Clinic (Jordan)
- Responsible Digital Development: Africa Study Trip (Rwanda)
- US-Japan Relations in a Global Context (Japan)
- International Staff Ride Leadership Seminar (Gibraltar + Morocco)
- Conflict Management Field Trip (Philippines)
- Latin American Research Seminar and Study Trip (Colombia)

RESEARCH SEMINARS

- Advanced Topics in Chinese Foreign Policy:
- Research Seminar: Asia in Washington DC
- The Turbulent Triangle

Check out the "[Beyond the Classroom](#)" site to read about past SAIS capstone and other experiential learning activities.

SEMESTER EXCHANGE

Partner Schools

**Hertie
School of
Governance
(Berlin)**

**LKY School
of Public
Policy, NUS
(Singapore)**

**Sciences Po
(Paris)**

- Application open to first-year students at SAIS Europe and DC
- Exchanges are taught in English and take place in fall of Year 2
- Students complete exchange in lieu of elective courses (not degree requirements)

SUMMER PREPARATION

PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (POE)

- Free introductory course in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
- Fulfills MAIR economics entry requirement
- 9 weeks fully online; asynchronous

PRE-TERM

- Hybrid (virtual + in-person) program prior to the start of the fall semester. Pre-Term is optional.
- Acclimate to campus, meet fellow students, improve skills and fulfill requirements
- Pre-Term Courses
 - **Washington, DC:** Statistics and English
 - **SAIS Europe:** Statistics, English, and Survival & Intensive Italian

Note: Intensive Italian cannot be taken alongside any other Pre-Term course.

TRANSITIONING TO SAIS – WHAT TO EXPECT

ONBOARDING PROCESS

- Matriculate to SAIS in mid-May
- Gain access to SAIS systems in mid-May
- Receive welcome message and checklist from SAIS Advising
- Review Canvas and SAIS Portal pages
- Individual & Group Advising Sessions
- Academic preparation and planning resources (in Canvas)
- Available Support (Advising, Faculty, Student Affairs, SEAM)

REGISTRATION

- Review past syllabi and course evaluations
- Registration process
- Waitlists
- Different timelines for SAIS DC, SAIS Europe, & HNC (see [Academic Calendar](#))

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Visas for international students and SAIS Europe
- [Pre-Term](#) and/or [summer course](#) registration
- Financial Aid (SEAM) and [Housing](#)

LEARN MORE

Questions?

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Office of Academic Advising
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JOHNS HOPKINS
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