

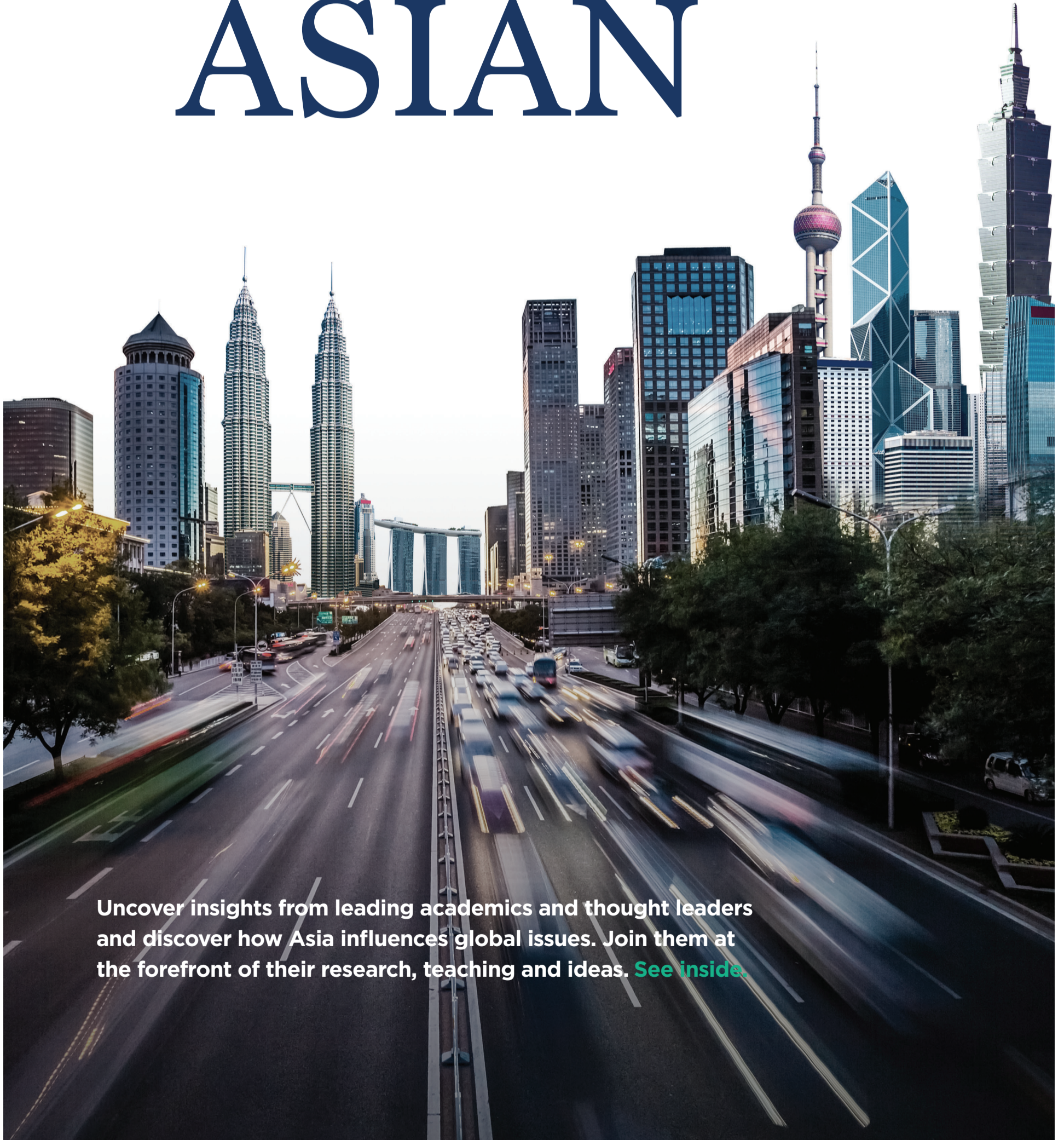


Lee Kuan Yew  
School of Public Policy



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# UNRAVEL GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN A FUTURE THAT IS ASIAN



Uncover insights from leading academics and thought leaders and discover how Asia influences global issues. Join them at the forefront of their research, teaching and ideas. [See inside.](#)

# Take the lead in the **ASIAN CENTURY**

As societies and economies in Asia continue to grow apace, decisions and events in the region have the capacity to reverberate around the world.

The question is, how will leaders in business and government manage the inevitable transition to the new centre of power and influence?

The Master in International Affairs (MIA) Programme at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) seeks to provide students with the practical and theoretical knowledge to manage, and benefit from, this global power shift.

Located in the heart of Southeast Asia, the school offers future leaders an unmatched vantage point from which to understand the dynamics of the region, and its growing influence on global affairs.



## The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Our school is ideally located in one of the best public policy laboratories in the world. The city-state is widely known for its strong governance and effective foreign and domestic policies.

Since 2004, we have welcomed and educated over 24,000 leaders and policymakers. Our dynamic, evolving curriculum has empowered them with the knowledge and skills to solve increasingly complex problems in a world pivoting towards Asia.

### A DISTINGUISHED FACULTY TO INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE.

When you study with us you can expect to gain real world insights from our distinguished faculty of scholars and practitioners



who are trained in the world's best universities. Our dedicated faculty members bring extensive experience and intellectual candour. They help create a rigorous academic environment and provide unparalleled learning opportunities.

### POWERFUL PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC NETWORKS.

You will join a global network of the world's most talented young leaders and

form invaluable professional and personal connections with an alumni network spanning over 90 countries.

You will also benefit from the school's extensive global academic network, which includes strategic partnerships with the prestigious Global Public Policy Network (GPPN), which takes in Columbia University, the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) and L'institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

The school is also a member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), which is dedicated to the improvement of professional education in international affairs and the advancement of international understanding, prosperity, peace, and security.



Empowered over 24,000 leaders and policymakers since 2004

# WHY STUDY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS?

The standard of living for millions of people in Asia continues to rise, as do the ambitions of individual countries in the region. This development is delivering economic growth, stability, and security, but it is also driving tension, conflict and uncertainty.

If the rising power, aspiration, and conflict in Asia is not managed well, the regional and international economic and security system will be shaken.

Better domestic governance in Asia is essential. However, it is increasingly difficult to imagine that, without paying serious attention to the relationships between states in Asia, and around the world, particularly the United States, Europe, and the Gulf and Middle East.

The need for knowledgeable, capable leaders with a firm grasp on international affairs in the region and beyond has never been greater.



“For years now the world’s economic centre has been pulling away from the West. While some might argue who will take America’s place as the engine of the world economy, the facts are clear and undisputed. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Asia is and will continue to be the world’s fastest-growing region, with China and India leading the charge. By 2050, these two countries will become the world’s largest economies. The world’s economic centre will be in Asia.

A new world order is taking shape, definitely economically but potentially politically as well. However, as standards of living rise so too do expectations and risks. In an attempt to maintain or expand influence, major players are increasing their diplomatic and military activities. The need for well-trained leaders with a solid grounding in international affairs has never been greater. The time for Asia is now. Prepare yourself for that future by enrolling in the school today.”

**Professor Danny Quah**  
Dean and Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics,  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy



# Public Policy **versus** International Affairs

Asia’s rapid rise has had an enormous effect on domestic public policy within individual states. The inevitable changes to public management and leadership, social policy, and public finance, have forced governments to change the way they make and implement policy.

As a result, public policy training that focuses on managing domestic affairs has, rightly, been given a high-priority.

But the world is changing. Traditional domestic public policy concerns like social movements,

democratisation, ethnic and religious extremism, electoral politics, and the role of the media are increasingly being influenced externally by larger regional changes.

In order to understand and effectively manage these changes, a shift in educational emphasis is needed, from purely domestic affairs to the growing impact of regional and global issues. A sound grounding in international affairs is essential.

An MIA at the LKYSPP offers just that, via a comprehensive, multidisciplinary curriculum.

The two-year, full-time programme provides a wide range of elective modules (including relevant domains in public policy studies) with ample scope to specialise in areas of interest.

Students enjoy connecting with other students from Singapore, Asia, and the rest of the world through an intense and uniquely immersive experience of fast-developing Asia in its many dimensions and nuances.



Against the backdrop of a rising Asia, being in Singapore gives students at the LKYSPP the perfect vantage point from which to watch the action unfold. A gleaming metropolitan city-state, Singapore is a diverse melting pot of Eastern and Western cultures. This is a globally renowned economic hub where over 7,000 multinational corporations (MNCs) are headquartered.

At the LKYSPP, you will gain access to internships in the public, private and non-profit sectors during school breaks, facilitated by the school’s extensive networks across leading think-tanks, consulting firms, and other organisations. Singapore’s central location in the heart of Southeast Asia also makes it an ideal base for students to explore and learn about this rapidly-developing region.

All of which makes it an ideal place to study international affairs and take the next step to a successful and influential career.

“At the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, students explore answers to global problems from multiple perspectives, learning not only from the Western, but also from the Asian experience. Students can actually live the growing role of the region on the global stage during their studies.”

**Professor Francesco Mancini**  
Vice Dean (Executive Education) and  
Associate Professor in Practice

# MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Course outline and summary of modules

What can you expect to gain from the MIA programme?

- A working knowledge and deep understanding of issues, theories and debates in international affairs that can help you achieve an exciting career in diplomacy, public and foreign service, business, security, conflict resolution and development.
- A critical awareness of the strengths and limitations of each international affairs subfield, and how to make sense of its complexities.
- How to apply key theories and analytical tools to devise solutions for complex problems
- Cross-cultural and decision-making skills to make practical judgements that are balanced by theoretical, analytical and ethical considerations.
- The confidence to provoke and effect positive transformations in the world, solving problems in ways that are constructive, imaginative, analytically sound, practically feasible and culturally sensible.
- A deep, nuanced understanding of Asia and its place in the world.



“The (MIA) programme is intended to equip students with tools of analysis to understand the continuities and upheavals in international affairs and to get them to think rigorously but also creatively about the complexities of policy making for a safer and more sustainable world.”

**Professor Kanti Bajpai**  
Director, Centre on Asia and Globalisation and Wilmar Professor of Asian Studies



### Programme Outline

As an MIA student, you will be required to read 64 modular credits and achieve a minimum Cumulative Average Point (CAP) of 3.0 to graduate.

You need to complete the following:

6 Core Modules

5 Specialisation Electives

3 Electives

MIA Thesis/ Capstone Project

\*You may graduate without a specialisation.

# CORE MODULES

PP5901

## International Relations: Theory and Practice



This module will introduce you to the predominant world politics go about making sense of the contemporary world. Three main approaches will be emphasised: realism, liberalism, and constructivism. In particular we will explore theories of the balance of power, the balance of threat, the rise and decline of great powers, hegemony cooperation theory, the role of international institutions in global governance, and the structures and relations of identity between and among states and societies. Major contemporary issues that will be addressed include the relations among China, Europe, and the United States; the global political economy, including trade and development; and the prospects for global cooperation on issues such as climate change.



PP5902

## International Security – Concepts, Issues and Policies

This module begins by asking: what is security; and what are the causes of war and the use of coercion? The course then goes on to deal with “non-traditional” security: terrorism, climate change, water security, health security, and gender and violence. You will focus on the problem of inter-state war and the resources in the international system for managing violence between countries. You will then review some of the leading causes of war: power distributions/transitions, the security dilemma/offence-defence, misperceptions, ideas/frames/cognition, and the possibility of war between nuclear-armed powers (US-China, China-India, India-Pakistan). The course will consider ways of dealing with the war: balance of power, deterrence, and disarmament. From here, it will proceed to consider “non-traditional” security issues. The focus throughout the course will be: what are the causes of war and the drivers of various non-traditional security challenges; and what can policy makers do to deal with these threats to human safety and well-being?

“Singapore is a terrific place to take the pulse of Asia for those who are interested in interpreting the continent. If you are really interested in Asia, you need to be here in order to analyse it.”

**Professor Khong Yuen Foong**  
Vice Dean (Research and Development) and Li Ka Shing Professor in Political Science



This module brings together politics, economics and international relations on issues relevant to the global economy. It will introduce you to various approaches to International Political Economy (IPE) and apply them to important policy issues. It aims to give you a critical understanding of how politics and economics, and domestic and international forces, interact to shape modern policy. The course is divided into four parts:

1. IPE concepts;
2. History of the world economy, focusing on the post-1945 era;
3. Globalisation and modern policy;
4. Countries, regions and actors.

**PP5903**  
International Political Economy



**PP5906**  
International Economic Development



This course is an introduction to international economic development with applications to, and examples from, Asia. One of the primary objectives of the course is to explore selected aspects of Asian economic development and the region's interactions with the rest of the world. The course is not descriptive in nature and it is not just a survey of issues. Rather, the focus will be on developing simple analytical tools to understand key trends and macroeconomic, financial and trade policy issues that confront Asia in the world economy. Topics covered include sources of growth in the Newly Industrialising Economies (NIEs) in East Asia, the role of industrial policy and regional trade, foreign direct investment, currency crisis in Asia, Asian reserve build-up, exchange rate regimes and issues relating to Asian economic regionalism.



**PP5904**  
Research Methods in International Affairs

To successfully identify and address the critical questions in international affairs, we need tools to advance our own analysis and to critically assess what others propose. This course provides an introduction to the principal research methods in international affairs. You will assess the strengths and weaknesses of alternative approaches, learn how and when

to use different lines of attack, and gain experience in critically evaluating published research. By the end of the module, you will have developed a personal toolkit that includes small-N case studies, comparative case studies, process tracing, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, basic statistical methods (including regression analysis), and discourse analysis.

**PP5908**  
Global Governance in a Changing World

Intractable conflict, global terrorism, organised crime, cyber threats, nuclear proliferation, pandemics, financial markets' meltdown, extreme poverty, climate change, food and water insecurity are some of the global problems that states cannot manage alone. All require cooperation among governments and increasingly with their citizens and the private sector; some need international norms and mechanisms; others

call for international and regional organisations. This module explores the theoretical foundations of global governance and international law. It then provides a hands-on and in-depth analysis of the actors, norms, and challenges in the supply of some of today's critical global public goods, including peace and stability, development, climate change mitigation, trade, food security, global health and a secure Internet.



## SPECIALISATIONS

Enable more focussed study

<p><b>Economics focus</b> Useful in Private/ Public sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Political Economy</li> <li>International Economic Development</li> <li>International Economics and Development specialisation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Management/ Policy focus</b> Useful in Public/NGO sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Governance in a Changing World</li> <li>International Public Management and Leadership specialisation</li> <li>Energy, Environment and Water specialisation</li> <li>Regional Studies: The Asia Pacific specialisation</li> </ul>	<p><b>International Relations focus</b> Useful in Private/Public/ Multi-Lateral sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Methods in International Affairs</li> <li>International Security - Concepts, Issues and Policies</li> <li>International Relations: Theory and Practice</li> <li>Politics, International Relations and Law specialisation</li> <li>International Security specialisation</li> </ul>
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“The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy has a student body from different parts of Asia and beyond. Its Pan-Asian spread of students, from diverse backgrounds, gives the (MIA) programme a uniquely strong and varied Asian flavour.”



**Professor Razeen Sally**  
Visiting Associate Professor

**Ambassador's Circle**  
-exclusively for MIA

The Ambassador's Circle is an exclusive Master's in International Affairs event series, where each semester our students will sit-down for an informal, off-record discussion with a senior local diplomat, discussing current geopolitical concerns and the changing realities of modern diplomacy.

**Past Speakers**

- H.E Arken Arystanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Singapore, New Zealand and the Commonwealth of Australia
- Mr Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States of America
- H.E Barbara Plinkert, European Union Ambassador to Singapore
- Mr Bruce Gosper, Australian High Commissioner to Singapore
- H.E Flavio Soares Damico, Ambassador of Brazil to Singapore
- H.E Jawed Ashraf, Indian High Commissioner to Singapore
- H.E Ngurah Swajaya, Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore
- Mr Rafik Mansour, Chargé d'Aaires a.i. U.S. Embassy Singapore

\* Subject to the availability of modules in each semester.



# Careers for Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy graduates

LKYSPP graduates are highly sought after. Our alumni can be found working in governments, multilateral institutions, corporations and non-governmental organisations across the world. Our extensive network of alumni contribute to public good in a wide variety of fields such as economic development, social policy, finance, international

relations, public affairs and consulting, fulfilling the school's mission of improving and transforming the lives of the people they serve. Equipped with international perspectives and a nuanced understanding of Asia, our graduates go on to be leaders in their respective fields.

### TAKE THE FIRST STEP WITH THE CAREER SERVICES UNIT

The Career Services Unit in the LKYSPP connects our students with employers to help them gain valuable experience in the workplace, provide them with opportunities to apply their academic experience and give them a competitive edge in their job search.

Some of the prominent organisations, where our students have interned.

- Abbott Laboratories
- ASEAN Advisory Pte Ltd
- Asia Europe Foundation
- Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre)
- European Union Delegation to Singapore
- Global Environment Institute
- GovInsider
- Hengqin Institute of Innovation and Development
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- United Nations and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Bank

“With the rise of Asia, the world’s economic centre has been shifting to this part of the world. Singapore, a global city that is located in the heart of Southeast Asia, is a world-class education hub. Against the backdrop of a rising Asia, being in Singapore gives students of the (LKYSPP) an unmatched vantage point to witness and experience the action first-hand.”

**Professor Ramkishan S. Rajan**  
Yong Pung How Professor



# Admissions Criteria

We seek applicants who are passionate about understanding the transformation that is taking place in Asia and across the world. They need to be highly motivated, outward-looking, and open to new ideas.

Applicants seeking admission to the programme should possess a good Bachelors degree (Honours second class and above) or its equivalent. Applicants should have ideally a minimum of two years of work experience. Proficiency in written and spoken English is critical.

Applications to the Master in International Affairs will be accepted from 1 August till 15 December, every year.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Online application form
- Degree scrolls and academic transcripts (including grading description)
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- TOEFL/IELTS test score\*
- Personal statement of no more than 500 words, indicating your motivation for applying to the MIA programme, and its relevance to your future career development

One writing sample (no more than 2,000 words)

Two letters of reference (can either be a professional or academic reference(s))

\*Applicants with qualifications attained in English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, the UK or the US are exempted from providing test score. For qualifications attained in countries not mentioned above, if your Bachelor or Master degree was conducted entirely in English, TOEFL or IELTS test scores may be waived if you provide a letter from your institution. (Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the school will also accept TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition and IELTS Indicator)

“From the Wang-Koo talks between China and Taiwan to the more recent Trump-Kim summit, Singapore has stood at the centre of historic meetings between longtime adversaries seeking peace. Why do global leaders choose Singapore as the ideal location for reconciliatory talks? Join the (MIA) programme today and understand the dynamics behind global decisions such as these.”



**Professor Selina Ho**  
Assistant Professor

## Typical MIA Academic Calendar

Year 1	Semester 1 (August-December)	Semester 2 (January - May)
	<b>PP5901</b> International Relations: Theory and Practice <b>PP5903</b> International Political Economy <b>PP5904</b> Research Methods in International Affairs *Specialisation Elective 1	<b>PP5902</b> International Security - Concepts, Issues and Policies <b>PP5906</b> International Economic Development <b>PP5908</b> Global Governance in a Changing World *Specialisation Elective 2
Year 2	*Specialisation Elective 3 *Specialisation Elective 4 *Specialisation Elective 5 **Exchange Semester Abroad	Elective 6 Elective 7 Elective 8
	<b>PP5910 MIA Thesis</b> The MIA thesis is an independent piece of writing that represents the culmination of student's training in international affairs. It is an opportunity for a student to investigate a significant question in international affairs through research, reflection, analysis, and writing. Students should tackle an important international affairs problem and come up with an original solution. OR <b>PP5912 MIA White Paper</b> The White Paper is a policy-focused report that addresses a current or emerging international issue facing an imagined/hypothetical client, which can be a government, international or transnational organisation, private sector entity, or civil society entity such as an NGO. The aim of the White Paper is to allow students to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learnt in the MIA to contemporary real-world problems; to define and analyse the policy problem; to assess, if relevant, past and continuing efforts to solve or manage the problem; and to formulate alternative policy options and develop specific, actionable recommendations backed by argumentation and evidence. OR <b>PP5911 Capstone Project</b> (based on a two-month internship experience) The MIA Capstone Project is an internship-based project culminating in a paper/report on an international issue or challenge that the student worked on during the internship. The internship aims to allow students to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learnt to define and analyse international policy issues, evaluate existing policies, formulate and assess policy options and develop specific, actionable recommendations for their client organisation.	

\*Specialisation is not mandatory. If you choose not to specialise, you may choose any electives that are offered in the semester. MIA students may also take the electives from the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as their specialisation.  
 \*\* Students can apply to go on an exchange semester with some of the exchange institutions.

### FEES AND FUNDING

The following tuition fees are applicable for Academic Year 2021/2022. Please note that fees are subject to change.

MIA AY 2021/2022 Tuition Fees	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Total
Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents and International Students alike*	S\$21,229.50	S\$21,229.50	S\$21,229.50	S\$21,229.50	S\$84,918

\* Tuition fees subject to prevailing GST (Currently 7%)

Please refer to the programme website for more information on other fees and financing options. <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-admissions/fees-and-funding#costofliving>

### OTHER FEES

Please note the fees below are applicable if you are accepted into the MIA programme.

**Student Service Fee (per semester): S\$165.30**

**Health Service Fee (per semester): S\$68.35**

Fees shown above are inclusive of prevailing GST and are subject to change. Additional costs include payment for student development programmes, the orientation programme, student pass/visa fees, and the programme closure event. These costs vary from year to year, but are currently estimated to be S\$4,000 for the duration of the programme.

Please refer to our website for an estimation of monthly living costs in Singapore.

**Applications open on 1 August and close on 15 December every year.**

**For more information, contact us at [lkypostgrad@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lkypostgrad@nus.edu.sg) or visit <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-programmes/master-in-international-affairs-mia/overview>**

To visit our Admissions website, please scan the QR code below:



# GRADUATE FOCUS

I chose to study the MIA at LKYSPP because of the Asia-focussed curriculum.

“

I chose to study the MIA at LKYSPP because of the Asia-focussed curriculum. I aspire to build on my knowledge of traditional Chinese culture in order to find a particularly Asian path to good governance and policy. The professors are highly regarded and I learned a lot from them. Events such as the Ambassador Circle Series provided me with the opportunity to learn more about the realities of international affairs. Last but not least, the diversity of our MIA class has helped me think from a multifaceted and multicultural perspective. My main takeaway from this programme is that knowledge reshapes destiny, and it's never too late to achieve your goals.

”

**Zheng Weiting**  
China, MIA class of 2019



I have worked together with people from different countries and diverse backgrounds to create a truly global perspective on international affairs.

“

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy was at the top of my list when I was choosing to pursue my masters. During my two years at LKYSPP, I have worked together with people from different countries and diverse backgrounds to create a truly global perspective on international affairs. I have done an internship in China, an exchange programme in Kazakhstan, and Singapore is now my 'second home'.

”

**Francesco Brusaporco**  
Italy, MIA class of 2020



I firmly believe that only when there is clarity of thought on Asian geopolitics can one contribute productively to shaping it.

“

The MIA programme offered me the chance to study international affairs from a public policy perspective. My experience at the school has reaffirmed my belief that these are complementary attributes essential for unpacking the increasingly complex geopolitics of the world. Another important factor for me choosing this programme was the Asia-focussed nature of its curriculum. I firmly believe that only when there is clarity of thought on Asian geopolitics can one contribute productively to shaping it.

I now have the research and analysis skills I need to effectively interpret the evolving world economic and development landscape. The MIA programme strikes the perfect balance between practical application and theoretical understanding to deliver a well-rounded course perfectly suited to anyone looking to make a difference in the world.

”

**Akanksha Sinha**  
India, MIA class of 2019

