

International Careers in Public Affairs

The La Follette School's Career Development Office arranges mentorships with alumni, organizes networking opportunities, brings public affairs professionals to campus for a career development seminar, and arranges for agency representatives to come to La Follette to interview applicants for internships and employment. The career development coordinator helps students apply for the Presidential Management Fellowship and individually assists students in finding internships and permanent employment. Alumni have held positions with these agencies and businesses:

- ◆ American Red Cross
- ◆ CARE in Afghanistan
- ◆ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- ◆ Governments of Chile, Japan, and Korea
- ◆ Inter-American Development Bank
- ◆ Peace Corps
- ◆ United Nations Development Programme
- ◆ U.S. Government Accountability Office
- ◆ U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- ◆ U.S. Department of State
- ◆ Fulbright scholar in Nepal
- ◆ Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System
- ◆ Civil Society Institute
- ◆ Macquarie Asset Management
- ◆ U.S. Agency for International Development
- ◆ KEMA Inc.
- ◆ Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance
- ◆ GAVI
- ◆ Deloitte Consulting
- ◆ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ Aspen Institute
- ◆ Supreme Court, Federated States of Micronesia
- ◆ Congressional-Executive Commission on China
- ◆ National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

Applying for Admission

Students are selected for the Master of International Public Affairs degree program on the basis of their academic records, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, work experience, and evidence of commitment to a public affairs career. Applicants whose native language is not English must present the equivalent of 92 or greater on the computer-based TOEFL test to be considered for admission.

Prerequisites

- ◆ One course in international or comparative politics
- ◆ One course in macroeconomics

Suggested Course Work for Admission

- ◆ One course in calculus or statistics
- ◆ One course in microeconomics
- ◆ Four semesters of foreign language study or demonstrated competence in language other than English

Candidates who have taken these suggested courses prior to enrolling will be better prepared for the graduate program. To ensure an applicant can handle the La Follette School's rigorous quantitative curriculum, the admissions committee looks closely at completed quantitative courses and at the quantitative GRE score.

"The La Follette School opened doors for me by preparing me for the Presidential Management Fellowship application process. The international workshop prepared me to perform all the issue analysis exercises at the interview. I used the PMF to figure out what I wanted to do for my career, when I was on rotation at the national renewable energy lab. From there I worked in the wind research office at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C."

**Laura Miner, MIPA '02,
Wind Farm Asset Manager, Invenergy**



"At the La Follette School, I gained valuable and marketable skills to be competitive in the job market. The small class sizes give students great access to the school's world-class professors."

**Emily Plagman,
MIPA '10
President, La Follette School
Student Association, 2009-10**



**ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE
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Photos submitted or taken by Andy Manis, University Communications, or Bob Rashid. Production and photo illustration by University Communications. September 2010

Master of International Public Affairs Degree Program

La Follette School



Master of International Public Affairs at the La Follette School

Through rigorous professional training across disciplines, the La Follette School's Master of International Public Affairs degree program prepares students from the United States and around the world to work in government at home and abroad, in businesses involved in the global economy, for non-governmental agencies, or with consulting firms analyzing international policies.

The La Follette School Faculty

The La Follette School faculty is made up of economists, political scientists, sociologists, and public affairs scholars who teach the skills and tools needed for a career in public affairs. They are experts in international trade, finance, environmental regulation and energy policy, corruption, public management, tax policy and government finance, education funding and policy, and international dimensions of poverty and human capital.



The Degree Program

The Master of International Public Affairs program consists of 42 credits and requires two years of study. Students take six foundational courses, a one-credit career seminar, and nine elective courses. The faculty admit about 50 students a year to this program and the master of public affairs degree program. The small class size enables the faculty to know, advise, and mentor students.

Foundational Courses

International Governance provides students the substantive framework for the study of public affairs in the context of globalization. Three courses, **Quantitative Tools for Public Policy Analysis, Macroeconomic Policy and International Financial Regulation, and Microeconomic Policy Analysis** develop competence in important analytic tools for the study of international public affairs. Students learn how to assess policy responses to macroeconomic events, evaluate implications of policies for efficiency and equity, and employ statistical methods to interpret and present quantitative data.

Introduction to Policy Analysis for International Public Affairs focuses on defining policy problems, determining goals, designing policy alternatives, and assessing trade-offs to make recommendations.

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In the culminating **Workshop in International Public Affairs**, students apply conceptual and analytical tools to issues facing real-world public, private, and nonprofit clients from around the world.



Elective Courses

To gain expertise in specialized fields, students take electives to build on the foundation of required courses. They pursue their intellectual interests and career goals by selecting electives from courses offered in departments, schools, and area studies centers across the university. These include regional studies, political science, urban and regional planning, environmental studies, law, business, social work, agricultural and applied economics, population health, public health, and sociology. Six credits of advanced language study and up to three credits for an internship can count toward electives.

Regional electives help students develop expertise in a geographic region with courses in the university's area studies programs, such as those focusing on Europe; Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia; Latin America; Southeast Asia; Africa; and the Middle East.

Public Affairs Joint Degree and Certificate Programs

Some students earn additional credentials while they work toward their public affairs degrees. The following joint degree and certificate programs are available:

- ◆ Law (Juris Doctorate)
- ◆ Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- ◆ Energy Analysis and Policy Certificate
- ◆ Transportation Management and Policy Certificate
- ◆ Ph.D. in Neuroscience
- ◆ Certificates from area studies programs

Madison, Wisconsin

The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs is located in an historic landmark, a nineteenth-century house at the center of campus, overlooking Lake Mendota, with classroom buildings nearby. Beyond the campus, the city of Madison, as the state capital, provides a wealth of opportunities for La Follette School students to acquire practical experience as professional project assistants or interns with public and private agencies. Students benefit from the strong relationships that La Follette School faculty have with public, nonprofit, and private agencies and organizations that work on international public affairs.

