

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAREERS

Career development is an integral part of the La Follette School experience, and data show extremely high percentages of employment three to six months post-graduation. The Career Services Office offers:

- Visits with local employers as well as regular trips to Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Milwaukee
- Networking opportunities
- Career development seminars with public affairs professionals
- Connections with alumni mentors

The career services coordinator works with students one-on-one to develop essential skills, such as interviewing, writing strong cover letters and resumes, and researching internships and permanent employment. During the first semester course Professional Development Workshop, students also create an individual plan and portfolio that help them proactively move toward their academic and career goals.

La Follette School alumni have held positions with these agencies, organizations, and businesses:

- American Red Cross
- Aspen Institute
- CARE in Afghanistan
- Congressional-Executive Commission on China
- Deloitte
- Governments of Chile, Japan, and Korea
- Peace Corps
- United Nations Development Programme
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of State

Professor Menzie Chinn



Kaubin Neupane (MIPA '16), left, in India for his Workshop in International Public Affairs research project

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students are selected for the Master of International Public Affairs 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

- Introduction to microeconomics
- Introduction to macroeconomics
- Introduction to statistics or calculus
- Comparative politics or international relations
- Three semesters of foreign language study or a year or more of experience living outside the United States

Candidates who have taken these courses before enrolling will be better prepared for the graduate program.

www.lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions



Robert M. La Follette
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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"La Follette School courses have solidified a foundation of skills that I feel would be useful as an analyst, administrator, or Foreign Service officer. La Follette coursework has helped me grasp a new way of looking at policy issues and how to approach projects. I also have been introduced to new potential employment opportunities through La Follette. I would not have applied to the GAO if we hadn't stopped there during last year's La Follette in D.C. career development program."

— **Kirsten Jacobson, MIPA '17**
Associate—Public Sector, Grant Thornton

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

La Follette School of Public Affairs



Master of International
Public Affairs

LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

The Master of International Public Affairs (MIPA) Program prepares students from the United States and around the world to work in government, in businesses engaged with the global economy, for non-governmental organizations, or with consulting firms analyzing international policies.

LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL FACULTY

The award-winning La Follette School faculty includes 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 social policy, health policy and management, public administration, public policy analysis, environmental policy, poverty, and tax policy and government finance.

The school admits about 50 students per year to the MIPA Program and the Master of Public Affairs Program. The small class size enables the faculty to know, advise, and mentor students.



"I chose the La Follette School for the emphasis on policy-making skills (quantitative analysis courses and in-depth policy analysis), the quality of instruction in economics/political science, and the flexibility to tailor a program that best suits me with electives in the MIPA program."

— Matthew Smalley, MIPA '17
Foreign Area Officer, U.S. Army

DEGREE PROGRAM

Students must complete 42 credits, including six core courses, a one-credit professional development seminar, plus eight elective courses. An internship can count for up to three elective credits. The program generally takes two years.

CORE COURSES

- **Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis** develops competence with analytical tools for studying public affairs.
- **Microeconomic Policy Analysis** explores how to evaluate the implications of policies for efficiency and equity, and to employ statistical methods for interpreting and presenting quantitative data.
- **International Governance** provides students with the substantive framework for studying public affairs in the context of globalization.
- ***Macroeconomic Policy and International Financial Regulation** surveys international macroeconomics, with special reference to international monetary policy and international financial market architecture.
- ***Trade, Competition, and Governance in a Global Economy** provides students with an understanding of international trade theory, rules, politics, and institutions, and the major policy issues facing the global trading system.
- **Introduction to Policy Analysis** focuses on defining policy problems, determining goals, designing policy alternatives, and assessing trade-offs to make recommendations.
- **Workshop in International Public Affairs**, the capstone course taken in the final semester, gives students experience working in teams with a faculty supervisor on a real-world policy project. They apply conceptual and analytical tools to issues their clients face in public, private, and nonprofit sectors around the world.

* Students choose one of these

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students build proficiency beyond the core requirements through elective courses, including:

- Global Environmental Governance
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Comparative and National Social Policy
- International Program Evaluation
- International Development Policy

Students also may take courses from other highly regarded UW–Madison graduate programs, such as economics, political science, public health, urban and regional planning, social work, law, business, educational leadership and policy analysis, sociology, and environmental studies.

REGIONAL FOCUS FIELDS

Students can develop broad expertise in a geographic region by clustering courses, including language courses, across several disciplines, typically emphasizing courses in the social sciences. In building regional focus fields, MIPA students take advantage of UW–Madison's strong area studies centers, including:

- East African Studies
- Asian Studies
- European Studies
- Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies
- South Asian Studies
- Southeast Asian Studies

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMBINED DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

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

- Law (Juris Doctorate)
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- Doctorate in Neuroscience
- Energy Analysis and Policy Certificate
- Business certificates
- Certificates from area studies programs



MADISON, WISCONSIN

Beyond campus, the city of Madison, as the state capital, provides a wealth of opportunities for La Follette School students to participate in outreach and acquire practical experience as professional project assistants or interns with public and private entities. Students benefit from the strong relationships that La Follette School faculty have with these organizations, in keeping with the Wisconsin Idea of public service. This includes the Family Impact Seminar and Committee Connect – opportunities that use evidence-based research to inform policymakers and improve public policy.