

University of Massachusetts Boston

The International Relations Track- Master's Program in Public Affairs

The Program

Based in the John W McCormack Institute of Public Affairs and drawing on faculty from throughout the University, the MS in Public Affairs program offers a choice of two tracks:

- **International Relations**
- **Public Affairs**

The International Relations TrackMS in Public Affairs

The International Relations Track of the Master of Science in Public Affairs focuses on five broad goals for its graduates:

- a solid understanding of classic international relations theory in an historical and contemporary context; and the concepts, structures and institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, that define the global system
 - a firm knowledge of the current international system, and the political, economic and cultural factors that influence policy formulation
- a critical understanding of international political economy, the effects of globalization, problems and prospects in the developing world, the role of regionalism and of regional integration, the dynamics of international conflict and conflict resolution
- the capacity to utilize and apply a range of research methodologies to the study of relevant topics in international affairs
 - competence in an individualized area of specialization, either functional (e.g., international conflict resolution) or geographic (e.g., European Union, Middle East) In addition to the seminars specifically offered for the International Relations track, students can also enroll in other courses in political science, economics, geography, history, languages, anthropology, dispute resolution. Through the Library Consortium, students can also access a wide range of resources at other universities in the Boston area.

Degree Requirements

The International Relations Track of the Master of Science in Public Affairs requires completion of thirty-six credits, over a two-year period. This includes:

six three-credit core seminars previously noted; one three-credit seminar in Advanced Studies; three electives (three-credit courses chosen from approved list available in the program office); and the master's thesis (six credits).

The curriculum includes specialized seminars and courses grouped in three areas:

Core Seminars: six courses with a distinct focus, aimed at providing a solid foundation in major aspects of international relations:

- Theories and Concepts of International Relations
- Contemporary Issues in World Politics
- Research Methods and Analysis in International Relations
- International Political Economy
- Globalization and International Development
- Politics of Regional Systems

Elective Courses: to encourage study in an area of special interest. By also focusing the master's thesis in the same area, students will have an opportunity to pursue a distinct specialization in depth.

- *Advanced Studies in International Relations*
- *Electives*

- *Independent Study*

Master's Thesis: Research in a distinct area aimed at synthesizing the students' work in various courses.

Through this project, students also acquire expertise in a specific area related to their professional goals.

The Institute's Center for Democracy and Development may provide specific opportunities for involvement in development projects overseas.

Students: Applicants to the International Relations Track of the Master of Science in Public Affairs will normally be expected to have a solid background in the social sciences (especially political science and economics), world history, a foreign language and/or substantial experience working or studying overseas. In certain cases, applicants may be admitted conditionally - with commitment to a study plan to be completed during the summer preceding the start of the program. Potential applicants are encouraged to meet with the program chair for an individualized review of their background preparation. Current and prospective secondary-school teachers of social studies will find this program of particular interest in preparing them for teaching a variety of courses with an international and global focus.

The thesis, undertaken after completion of course work, should result in a substantial and original paper approximately sixty pages long, indicating mastery of pertinent concepts and critical analysis. The thesis will be defended before a faculty committee and will also provide the base for a comprehensive discussion of the broader context.

There is also a foreign language/ international experience requirement to be satisfied: either by demonstrating proficiency in a foreign language or by submitting record of extensive international experience (work and/or study overseas).

International Relations Track Faculty and Areas of Expertise

Feroz Ahmad(History Department) PhD, University of London Middle East History and Politics •South Asia
Edmund Beard (John W McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, Political Science Department), PhD, Columbia University *Public Policy
Selma Batman (Political Science Department), PhD, Harvard *University* *Middle East Politics *Gender in the Middle East
Thomas Ferguson (Political Science Department), PhD, *Princeton University** International Political Economy* Comparative Political Development
Kathleen Hartford (Political Science Department), PhD, Stanford University *Chinese Politics *Research Methods * International Development
Esther Kingston-Mann (History Department), PhD, *John Hopkins University*@ColdWar *Russia *Comparative History of Privatization/ Development
Winston Langley (Political Science Department), PhD, Howard University, JD, Suffolk University International Law •Human Rights * International Political Economy

Further Information

If you have questions or would like to receive UMass Boston application materials, please write or call:

The Admissions Information Service University of Massachusetts Boston 100 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125-3393 Tel: 617 287-6000 (TTY/TDD: 617 287-6010) [Email: enrollment.info@umb.edu](mailto:enrollment.info@umb.edu)

You can also visit the University's web site at www.umb.edu.

Sanford Lieberman (Political Science Department), PhD, Harvard University *Contemporary Russia •Soviet Political History

John D Spence (Political Science Department), PhD, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, Harvard University *Latin America •Problems of Democratization •Conflict Resolution

Primo Vannicelli (Political Science Department), PhD, Harvard University *International Development •European Union *International Institutions

Paul Watanabe (Political Science Department) PhD, Harvard University *American Foreign Policy •Theories of International Relations

Robert Weiner(Political Science Department), PhD, *New York University* •East Europe *Theories of International Relations *International Organizations

The University of Massachusetts Boston

UMass Boston, part of the five-member University of Massachusetts system, is an urban public university. Large enough to offer a broad range of academic choices, UMass Boston is also small enough to maintain a closeness of community. Its modern Harbor Campus, three miles from downtown, is situated on a peninsula surrounded by Boston Harbor and Dorchester Bay. The campus houses research and teaching laboratories, a greenhouse, two theaters, an art gallery, an observatory, intramural and intercollegiate athletic facilities, extensive computer resources, and the Healey Library. Concerts, lectures, and plays on campus offer additional opportunities for a rich and satisfying student life, and the extensive cultural resources of Boston are nearby