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Master of Arts in International Policy Studies

The Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies is a two-year, full-time program of study leading to a master’s degree. Students gain a strong foundation in core global and policy analysis skills in the first year of study. In the second year, students focus on an area of concentration and a practicum or thesis.

In addition to Stanford faculty, IPS offers access to Stanford alumni, other international policy practitioners, lecture series across campus, and opportunities for real world experience.

Areas of Concentration

IPS students choose among five areas of concentration, each of which is guided by a major research center at Stanford. This collaboration provides unparalleled exposure to current research on important policy issues.

- Democracy, Development, and Rule of Law
- Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources
- Global Health
- International Political Economy
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Joint and Dual Degree Programs

The IPS program offers the opportunity to earn joint degrees with the Stanford Law School (J.D./M.A.) and the Public Policy Program (M.P.P./M.A.), as well as a dual degree with the Stanford Graduate School of Business (M.B.A./M.A.).

Stanford–Vienna Academic Exchange

Each Autumn Quarter, two students from each concentration will have the opportunity to participate in an academic exchange between the IPS program and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna’s hallmark program, the Master of Advanced International Studies.

Opportunities for Real World Experience

INTERNATIONAL STUDY TRIPS

Each year, IPS sponsors students to travel internationally during spring break and meet with high-level policy makers on the IPS Study Trip. Past destinations include China, Turkey, Brazil, Indonesia, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar and India. In 2017, students will travel to Russia.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

IPS provides funding for students to participate in 10-week summer internships in their areas of concentration with multilateral organizations, government agencies, NGOs, research institutes, or private sector firms.

PRACTICUM

Students work in teams to analyze and present recommendations on policy issues to client organizations such as the OECD, UNHCR, the US State Department, the World Bank, and private sector firms. Students have traveled to around the world to conduct research for their projects. Practicum teams have testified before the California State Senate and have been featured on CNN, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and other international media.

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