Define the Future
with our midcareer master’s for global professionals.

Executive Master of International Relations in Washington, D.C.
A degree that opens doors—and a future of bright possibilities.

Benefit from the best of two worlds.
For experienced professionals focused on global policy and eager for rapid career advancement, no academic program is more powerful than the Executive Master of International Relations in Washington, D.C. Combining two top-ranked institutions—the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)—this degree brings together the best of two worlds: a high-quality academic experience and the chance to learn directly from the world's most innovative and influential policy professionals in the heart of the nation's capital.

Gain insight from policy insiders.
At CSIS, you’ll benefit from the expertise of leading political scholars, analysts, and decision-makers—including high-ranking government officials, NGO leaders, and business executives. See the world from new perspectives through courses, lectures, and seminars led by experts driving policy and strategy in foreign policy, defense, finance, energy, the environment, regional development, and beyond. Broaden your perspectives through a network of accomplished peers with deep knowledge and experience across a wide range of sectors.

Learn at the epicenter of policy thought and action.
CSIS is where the most influential global leaders convene to untangle pressing and complex challenges—from Russia’s malign influence on European democracies to health security in America and the world. CSIS is recognized worldwide for its highly relevant, innovative, comprehensive, and trusted bipartisan scholarship. In 2019, CSIS experts testified 27 times in front of Congress, provided commentary to major news outlets more than 1,100 times, and published more than 650 written works.

Adjacent to Embassy Row in downtown Washington, D.C., CSIS hosts daily conferences, lectures, classes, and events in a thriving, state-of-the-art venue. Recent speakers have included Mike Pompeo, Condoleezza Rice, Mark Esper, Susan Rice, Leon Panetta, Melinda Gates, and Tony Blair, as well as CSIS trustees and public- and private-sector leaders dedicated to global security, health, and economic stability.

“This program is unique because it’s housed at CSIS, providing access to resident scholars who are working on the crucial issues of the day. It’s incredible to be able to have conversations with people you just saw on the news or cited in a report.”

Dan Myers ’19 EMIR in D.C.
Director of Public Affairs, Last Wild Places, National Geographic


Former Prime Minister of the U.K. Tony Blair co-chairs the CSIS Committee on Violent Extremism.
Customize your degree with career-track concentrations.

Specialize in one of the following concentrations.

**Global Security and National Intelligence**
Master the laws applying to cyber threats and new warfare technologies with a former chief judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Learn about the governance and oversight of the intelligence community from a former director of Naval Intelligence. Discover how autonomous systems and artificial intelligence have transformed national security. At CSIS—the world’s #1 think tank for national security—you’ll build essential knowledge and skills, including advanced budget analysis and intel evaluation, and prepare for rapid advancement in the defense field.

**Foreign Policy**
Latin America-U.S. relations. Power dynamics in the Middle East and East Asia. Russian information operations. Narcotics. Terrorism. Immigration. Explore these critical issues and others with key players in foreign and domestic policy—including the former secretary of the U.S. Navy and the former principal director for European and NATO policy at the U.S. Department of Defense. Gain a comprehensive view of the global trends that will shape the world over the next two decades, hone your skills in foreign policy analysis, and boost your ability to make critical, forward-thinking foreign policy decisions.

**Global Markets**
How can financial instruments help spur inclusive growth? Which trade negotiation strategies are most effective? What are the pros and cons of market regulations? In classes taught by the top minds in global economics—including the leading U.S. expert on tax policy and public finance, the chief economist of eCurrency, and a senior U.S. trade adviser—you’ll develop a 360-degree understanding of global and economic financial security, and improve your strategic policy-assessment and planning skills.

**Global Development**
Discover how to balance economic growth and sustainable development from a CSIS senior fellow in prosperity and development. Study development prospects in Africa from a 40-year veteran in the field. Explore the impact of development on natural ecosystems with a former senior vice president of the United Nations Foundation. In this concentration, you’ll master key sustainable development concepts, examine the legal guidelines and policy options at all levels of government, and learn critical project-assessment techniques.

**Public Diplomacy**
Students learn directly from the country’s foremost public diplomacy experts—including senior officials at the Agency for Global Media, Agency for Global Development, Department of State and Department of Defense, as well as NGO engagement leaders. You’ll graduate with exceptional communications and diplomacy skills, including discourse analysis, audience identification and outreach, information campaign design and management, and the conduct of international educational, cultural, and civic exchanges.

Boost your credentials by earning a Certificate of Advanced Study in Security Studies or Public Administration concurrently with your degree. Learn more about our certificate options at maxwell.syr.edu/paia-programs.
Degree highlights.

Core Courses
Comparative Foreign Policy
Master’s Application Project (Capstone Project)

Executive Seminar on Managerial Leadership: Leadership and Strategy in Global Affairs

Selected Courses
Please check with the program for a full list of current electives.
Central Challenges in National Security
Law and Policy
Global Energy and Geopolitics
International Trade and Economic Negotiation
Challenges in Crisis and Disaster Management
Conflict and Security in Cyberspace

Statecraft and Smart Power in the Digital Era
Russia and Post-Soviet Politics
Public Management of Technology and Development
U.S. Intelligence Community: Governance and Practice
Evolving Global Security Landscape: Robotics, Autonomous Systems, and AI

Regional Course
You’ll take a course focused on new trends, development and security issues, and policy priorities in one of the following regions: China, Russia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, or Latin America.

Capstone Project (Master’s Application Project)
You’ll work with CSIS policy experts and CSIS’s award-winning production studio to develop an actionable and analytic report, accompanied by a multimedia product addressing current policy challenges.

Advance your career quickly.
The Executive Master of International Relations can be completed part time in as few as 18 months. Classes are offered in the evenings in short, intensive sessions, enabling you to advance your career without putting it on hold.

Build a powerful lifelong network.
Our program brings together a diverse group of professionals working in the intelligence, health, cyber, education, environment, defense, and foreign policy fields. You’ll gain cross-sector insight, form productive collaborations, and establish a lifelong network of changemakers.

Who should apply?
Midcareer professionals with at least seven years of experience; a large percentage of our students have a great deal more

Ambitious learners eager to connect with top policy experts, refine practical skills, and contribute new policy solutions

Individuals from a variety of backgrounds including federal government, research institutions, private corporations, NGOs, and professional associations

Financing Your Education
Many students offset their tuition costs through scholarships, loans, grants, and employer contributions. For more information, visit maxwell.syr.edu/paia-aid.

Apply Now
Students may submit applications on a rolling basis, with opportunities to enter the program during the spring or fall semesters. For application requirements, please visit maxwell.syr.edu/paia/admissions.

Connect with us.

Questions? Contact:

Samantha Clemence
Assistant Director, Washington Programs
Maxwell School of Syracuse University
202.888.6363
saclemen@maxwell.syr.edu

Nahmyo Thomas
Vice President, Executive Education
Center for Strategic & International Studies
nthomas@csis.org

This degree is extremely flexible. If you need to accelerate and take an extra class, there are online options. If you need to slow down, you can take just one course at a time. The program is designed to meet your needs as a working professional.”

Megan Barnett ’20 EMIR in D.C.
Flying Hour Program Officer, Pilot,
U.S. Navy
The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
is the nation’s top-ranked school for graduate education in public affairs (U.S. News & World Report) and Syracuse University’s home for innovative, interdisciplinary teaching and research in the social sciences, public policy, public administration, and international relations. The School is renowned for cutting-edge faculty research bridging theory, policy, practice, and disciplines, and for producing remarkable graduates in positions of leadership and public service across the world.

CSIS | Center for Strategic & International Studies
is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to providing strategic insights and policy solutions to help decision-makers chart a course toward a better world. CSIS is one of the world’s preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security; regional stability; and transnational challenges ranging from energy and trade to global development and economic integration. The #1-ranked think tank in the country (University of Pennsylvania’s “Go To Think Tank Index”), CSIS is regularly called upon by Congress, the Executive Branch, and the media to explain the day’s events and offer bipartisan recommendations to improve U.S. strategy.

Syracuse University
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs