Carnegie Mellon University
Institute for Politics and Strategy

Master of Science in International Relations and Politics
The Institute for Politics and Strategy is uniquely situated as a university-wide institute at a top research university dedicated to interdisciplinary work. The MS IRP provides students with the resources they need to understand, navigate, and lead in our rapidly changing political landscape.”

Dr. Kiron Skinner,
Director and Taube Professor
The Institute for Politics and Strategy (IPS) seeks to train the next generation of political scientists who can examine and understand domestic and international government institutions and processes in the twenty-first century’s continuously changing global political structure. War has been a constant in our students’ lives, and that unfortunately does not look like it will change soon. But what is changing is the political landscape of war – from wars between nations to non-state actors like ISIS and al-Qaeda. Coupled with an increasingly global society, international relations and politics are extremely important for preparing students to analyze and manage uncertainty and transformation in many pursuits and places.
THE MS IRP SERVES FOUR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS:

1. To allow students to specialize in one of four conventional areas of political science.
   - International security
   - International relations
   - American politics
   - Comparative politics

   Produced during the final year of study, the thesis allows students to apply their learned quantitative and qualitative methodological skillset to a practical, field-relevant problem of their choice.

3. Equip students with strong methodological skills.
   IPS courses Regression Analysis for Political Science I&II and Process Tracing, Counterfactuals, Archival Analysis, and Interviews, are part of the core curriculum.

4. To prepare students to enter the job market, whether their interests are in academia or the professional world.
   MS IRP students come from all backgrounds, and typically pursue careers in government, private sector, law, and non-profit organizations.

WHERE ARE MS IRP ALUMNI NOW?

- Non-profit/NGO, 25%
- Government (State & Federal), 25%
- Private Sector, 30%
- Law, 20%

*Data from June 2020 alumni survey polling MS IRP 2017-2020 graduating classes
The MS IRP is a two-year full-time program with a required internship in the summer between the first and second years. To the right is a sample of courses offered in the MS IRP curriculum. Visit our website for a complete course list and sample schedule.

MS IRP students also enroll each semester in the Center for International Relations and Politics (CIRP) Policy Forum, which brings diplomats, scholars, policymakers, journalists, and other thought leaders to the university to address major issues facing the United States and the world.

**CORE COURSES**
- Graduate Seminars
- International Security
- American Politics
- Comparative Political Institutions
- International Organizations and International Law

**CONCENTRATION COURSES:**

**International Security**
- The Future of Warfare
- Space and National Security
- Grand Strategy in the United States
- Social Media, Technology & Conflict
- Terrorism and Insurgency

**American Politics**
- Judicial Politics and Behavior
- Representation and Redistricting
- The American Presidency
- Legislative Decision Making

**Comparative Politics**
- Political Economy of Latin America
- Politics of Developing Nations
- The Future of Democracy
- Comparative Presidential Behavior
IPS welcomes applicants from diverse academic, professional, and personal backgrounds, and seeks those dedicated to making an impact in our ever-changing political world. Our admissions process is holistic in that we consider all aspects of the application equally to determine an overall fit with your background and goals to IPS’s culture, curriculum, and community.

To that end, applicants to the MS IRP program also should demonstrate academic and/or professional excellence and preparedness for the rigors of the program. Minimum qualification for admission to the MS IRP program includes previous coursework, demonstrated ability, or equivalent work experience in the following areas:

**Analytical skills**
An ideal applicant should demonstrate problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Introductory courses in statistics, economics, and data analysis (STATA/R) are recommended.

**Team skills**
An ideal applicant can work effectively with others in leadership, cooperative, and subordinate roles.

**Other skills**
An ideal applicant will demonstrate experience or interest in international relations and political science.

Applications open annually on November 1 and are due by February 1. Please note that the GRE is not required for MS IRP admissions.

Please refer to our webpage for more detail on the application requirements and process.
The Institute for Politics and Strategy offers up to half tuition fellowships for select MS IRP students. In exchange for the fellowship, students are assigned a role as a teaching assistant/grader (TA) in an IPS course or as a research assistant (RA).

Privately funded and institutional fellowships/financial aid are also available for underrepresented groups and those demonstrating financial need. Please see our website for more information.

**Veterans**

The CMU Institute for Politics and Strategy welcomes applications from veterans and those currently serving in the US Military. The University Registrar’s Office provides services to veterans and their dependents who are eligible for Veterans Education Benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. In addition, CMU participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program for those who are 100% eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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