

Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies

The Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), at the University of California, San Diego was created in 1986 as the University of California's first professional school of international affairs. The school is unique in its geographical focus on the Pacific Rim (the Americas and Asia). IR/PS is the only professional program in the United States to concentrate exclusively on the diverse political and economic systems of this region.

The school's programs have been developed in response to the increasing importance of the Pacific Rim in global economic and political affairs. When the school was founded, the globe was still locked in the Atlantic-centric world of the Cold War. Today, we see the emergence of nations such as China, Brazil, Korea, Singapore, and Mexico as important players in a globalized world. As a result, professionals who can understand and work in complex international environments are needed in both the public and private sectors. While previously looking to Europe as the site of its primary commercial, financial, and strategic interests, the United States is now shifting its attention westward toward the Pacific—a likely source of both extraordinary prospects and substantial challenges in this century. These changes create both a need and an opportunity: a need for new programs of training and research in international affairs and an opportunity for a new school of international affairs to develop a distinctive, modern program that links professional training with international competence and gives greater prominence to the Pacific Rim.

The school's primary objectives are to prepare students with an interest in this region for positions of leadership in business, government, journalism, diplomacy, public service, and other fields; to serve as a center of excellence for research on regional economic, political, social, technological, and security issues; and to promote dialogue on Pacific region issues of common concern.

1. The degree programs provide students with professional training for careers in international affairs and management, including jobs in industry, government, international organizations, foundations, academia, and research institutes. Students receive broad training across professional areas, enabling those

seeking careers in government to appreciate the interests of the private sector and those planning business careers to understand decision-making in public organizations. The program combines core course work in applied social sciences with professional subjects with courses, language training classes, and regional studies to provide students with the skills and knowledge to work effectively on Pacific Rim issues in the private, public, or nonprofit sectors.

2. IR/PS serves as a center for research on issues of common concern to the nations of the Pacific Rim. Since the region has become a focal point of economic and security relations, the demand for information and research centered on this dynamic region has increased. Consequently, IR/PS is home to several renowned research institutes and programs, including the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, and the Information Storage Industry Center. In addition, the school supports collaborative relationships within the UCSD community by partnering with institutions such as Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Institute of the Americas, and the new Rady School of Management.
3. As part of the University of California, the school plays an important role in developing public awareness and understanding of the Pacific region. Programs of public outreach, including visiting lecturers, research seminars, and roundtable discussions, add to the information available to citizens and interest groups about international issues that affect their lives.

Degree Programs

The degrees offered by the school include a professional Master of Pacific International Affairs (M.P.I.A.), a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Affairs offered jointly with the Department of Political Science, and a Ph.D. in Economics and International Affairs offered jointly with the Department of Economics. Training emphasizes international relations, economics and management, public policy, country and regional studies, and languages of the region.

Mid-career and other executive certificate programs are also offered by IR/PS. In particular, the International Career Associates Program (ICAP) is designed for working professionals seeking additional study in international management, international relations, and comparative public policy. Participants in the program spend up to an academic year at IR/PS beginning in mid-September and ending in mid-June. Under the auspices of the program, associates have the opportunity to further internationalize their knowledge and experience as well as enhance their professional development in such areas as finance, accounting, quantitative methods, econometrics, and long-range strategic planning. The program of study is tailored to individual interests under the guidance of the program's director and faculty advisers.

The M.P.I.A. program is distinctive in several ways. The program:

1. Exposes students to the perspectives of both private business and public policymaking.
2. Offers specialized training in international politics, economics, management, environmental policy, public policy, and international development.
3. Provides language training necessary for professionals specializing in the countries of the Pacific Rim.
4. Requires students to focus their studies on the politics, culture, economics, and language of one Pacific Rim country or region.
5. Creates a laboratory for comparative analysis of economic management, foreign relations, policymaking, and development in the diverse nations of the Pacific Rim.

The Ph.D. in International Affairs is offered only in conjunction with either the Ph.D. in political science or the Ph.D. in economics. These Ph.D.

programs are designed for students who seek a rigorous training in a discipline (either economics or political science) along with a specialization in a specific policy area and regional expertise.

Ph.D. students are required to demonstrate knowledge of a language linked to their regional specialization.

The M.P.I.A. and Ph.D. programs are distinct and separate. There is little overlap in the structure or requirements of the two programs because their objectives are very different. The master's program provides professional training for graduates who will pursue international careers in management, government, and other fields. The doctoral program offers an academic education to a small number of students who will pursue international careers requiring advanced research capabilities at universities, corporations, government agencies, consulting firms, or other research organizations.

However, the master's and doctoral programs do share a common intellectual framework. Both the M.P.I.A. and Ph.D. curriculums are designed to bring the theories, methods, and insights of various disciplines together to analyze policy issues of the Pacific Rim and to blend the perspectives of public policy makers and private managers. The same faculty members teach and advise students in both programs.

The Faculty

The school has attracted an interdisciplinary faculty from such fields as economics, management sciences, international relations, comparative politics, public policy, and linguistics. The various programs draw upon and contribute to research which focuses on the regions of the Pacific Rim and on major issues that affect the region.

The school places special emphasis on research in and teaching of topics of particular importance to the program. These topics currently include:

1. The Pacific Rim as system, including the interaction of the countries and regions within it (e.g., Latin American-Japanese economic relations, U.S. relations with both East Asia and Latin America, and the placement of the Pacific in the global system of international relations, both contemporary and historical).
2. Studies in international economics, management, and finance, including such subject areas as international competition, comparative industrial organizations, international trade and development, industrial relations, technological innovation, international financial structures, policies, institutions, and historical patterns of development.
3. Comparison of the trajectories of socioeconomic development among the countries of Asia and Latin America, including the exploration of differences and similarities in state-society relations, culture, entrepreneurship, linkage to the global economy, and geopolitical position.
4. Comparative analysis of patterns of policymaking in the countries of the Pacific region to understand how different governmental structures, economic systems, and social group interests shape the policy process and influence policy choices in such areas as budget allocation, regulation of industry, and foreign trade.

For further information, contact the Office of Admissions, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0520. (858) 534-5914, email: irps-apply@ucsd.edu, Web site: <http://www-irps.ucsd.edu>.