

Course Detail

Master of Arts Program in Asia Pacific Studies

Course Title:	Master of Arts Program in Asia Pacific Studies (International Program)
Master Degree:	Master of Arts (Asia Pacific Studies)
Academic Institution:	Thammasat Institute of Area Studies (TIARA), Thammasat University
Duration:	18 months (August 2022 - January 2024) 3 semesters + 1 summer semester

Background and Rational:

Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies (MAPS) Program is an interdisciplinary graduate program that is designed for internationally – focused students who wish to obtain an in-depth understanding of the Asia-Pacific region through multi-faceted and inter-disciplinary lenses.

MAPS is the first graduate program in Thailand which examines the entire Asia-Pacific region in all its complexities. The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most dynamic and diverse regions in the world. It is the home of more than 4.3 billion people and accounts for more than half of global economic activities. Trade and development have given rise to international economic cooperation, ranging from small regional forums to large-scale collaborations such as APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) and ASEAN.

MAPS program provides students with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge not only on the said academic disciplines. Students will also study various contemporary issues related to sustainable development in the region. The program adopts multidisciplinary approach that allows them to integrate study of economics, law, international relations, and public policies to give students an understanding of contemporary regional issues. These issues are directly related to the following ***Sustainable Development Goals***: Goal 2 (Zero hunger), Goal 4 (Quality education), Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities) and Goal 13 (Climate change).

The Asia-Pacific region is also the home of 700 million youth whose ambitions and abilities can contribute to the prosperous, peaceful, and sustainable future of the region. Investing in youth is an investment for the future. Our students will be trained and empowered for a sustainable future that requires a better understanding of their needs, interests, challenges, and potential may it be domestically or internationally.

MAPS is a truly international program with more than 80 per cent of international students. Students at MAPS program come from ASEAN member states and countries in the Asia-Pacific such as Bhutan, Japan, and China. The majority of them works in public and higher education sectors, that is, civil service officers at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and university lecturers. When they graduate, they will go back and become the driving force for sustainable developments in their countries.

Followings are examples of the Thesis studies by MAPS graduates. These theses are related to SDGs Goal.

- **Goal 2—Zero hunger:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
 - The Evaluation of Japanese ODA to Vietnamese Farmers
 - Effects of Agricultural Policies on Rice Industry in Myanmar
- **Goal 4—Quality education:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - Education Reform in Myanmar: A Case of Two Technological Universities
- **Goal 5—Gender equality:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
 - Study on the Role of Entrepreneurship in the Textile Sector Industry in Bhutan
 - Women and Career Advancement in Brunei Darussalam: A Case Study of Women Working in Brunei Darussalam Government Sectors
- **Goal 8—Decent work and economic growth:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
 - Community- based Tourism in Creating Impacts for Rural Communities: A Case Studies Nglanggeran Tourist Village in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 - Challenges Faced by Brunei’s Micro and Small Entrepreneurs on the Utilization of Social Media as Online Marketing
 - The Effect of the Royal Decree on Managing the Work of Aliens B.E. 2560 (2017) on Myanmar Migrant Workers in Factories: Case Study of Four Selected Companies in Samut Sakhon Province
 - Factors Affecting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI Inflows to Lao PDR
 - Factors Attracting Investors to Invest in Laos: Case Study of Savan Seno Special Economic Zone
 - Corporate Social Responsibility in Vietnam State-owned Enterprises: A Comparative Analysis of PVEP and VTC
 - The Influence of Government Policy on the Return of Overseas Vietnamese in the Information and Communication Technology Sector
- **Goal 9—Industry, innovation and infrastructure:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
 - Determinant Factors of Tuna Canneries Performance in Indonesia and Thailand: A Comparative Perspective
 - Analysis of the Effect of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement on the Vietnamese Apparel Industry
- **Goal 10—Reduced inequalities:** Reduce inequality in and among countries.
 - Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Practices in Thailand
 - Inequality and Economic Development in Lao PDR since the 1986 Economic Reform
- **Goal 13—Climate change:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 - Disaster Management in Cambodia: Community- based Disaster Risk Management in the Case of Drought in Oral District

MAPS program allows the exchange of first-hand knowledge and experiences from international students particularly from APEC and ASEAN member countries. After graduation, graduates are equipped with knowledge of situations, phenomena, contemporary issues, and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region which can be applied to their careers in the public sector, diplomatic service, academic consultancies, international organizations, and sustainable development related career domestically and internationally.

MAPS Program are offered and administered by Thammasat Institute of Area Studies or TIARA at Thammasat University. TIARA starts off from a single center namely Thai APEC Study Center which works to foster research and academic discussions supporting the broader APEC mission of regional economic integration and a means to building networks of academic professionals in the region. TIARA has developed not only experience, but it also extends in term of networks, collaborations, academic exchanges and many more. At present, TIARA is a home to five Area Studies Centers – Thai APEC Study Center, the Australian Studies Centre, India Studies Center, Russia and CIS Study Center, and the ASEAN Study Center. These centers have their own academic focuses and networks. This gives TIARA more resources and room to do academic activities within the context of ‘Area Studies’ and not limited to country or regional studies. For that reasons, TIARA becomes the institution with expertise in conducting academic and policy research, organizing seminars, trainings, workshops, and international conferences on issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Our knowledge and expertise have been continuously building up since the year 2000.

With its networks in Thailand and around the world, TIARA utilizes all resources and networks to benefit MAPS program. The program regularly welcomes visiting professors and guest lecturers as well as experts in the field to teach our students especially those institutes that signed MOUs with TIARA. These become a unique characteristic and strong point of the program in terms of teaching and research making MAPS a quality program that produce international standard quality graduates to fulfill MAPS’s mission and vision, that is, to provide high quality graduate education, academic resources, training and professional developments as well as foster cultural learning and exchanging opportunities for graduate students and professional in the intellectual diverse environment.

The MAPS curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary studies from professors, scholars, and professionals with high expertise in their fields. Students will learn to look deeper into topics from all aspects and perspectives, foster critical thinking and analytical ideas including to tackle topics from new directions, which will transform into a lifelong learning. Please see an attachment named List of MAPS Guest Lecturers (*attachment 1*) for your reference.

In addition to our human resources, MAPS had its own facilities. MAPS students are given the access to a dedicated research and study space to help fostering intellectual exchange and collaboration beyond the classroom.

1. Asia-Pacific Resource Center – the Resource Center, as our students called it, houses a relevant and accessible collection of Asia-Pacific related resource materials. The center provides space for information and cultural exhibition as well as acquired information and dissemination manuals, information and research about countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The center also provides modern, adequate, and efficient information center services, appropriate and comfortable learning environment on the use of resources for individual and group study for individual and group study.

2. MAPS Common Room – MAPS Common Room located at the 1st Floor of the Social Science Complex next to the Asia-Pacific Resource Center, is designed specially for MAPS students. It is primary space for students to hang out – whether for work on project or to spend time with each other. The MAPS Common Room is created with comfortable and welcoming environment features wireless internet access and lockers for student use. MAPS Common Room is divided into three Zones with different functions; 1 small classroom seated classroom style with the capacity of 40 people, 2 rooms with flexible furniture configuration with capacity for 20 people for group gathering or informal group meeting.

3. MAPS Classroom – a small fully equipped classroom with capacity for 20-25 students

4. MAPS co-working space – located in front of MAPS Classroom with capacity for 20-25 students

For more information about MAPS Program, course syllabus, and other related matters, please see an attachment named Introduction to MAPS Program (*attachment 2*).

Previous record of the graduation of students under MAPS Program are shown in the Table below.

Academic Year	Total number of Students	Total number of Students who graduated	%
2015	13	12	93
2016	17	13	77
2017	12	11	92
2018	11	11	100
2019	9	5	55

Objectives:

Master of Arts in Asia- Pacific Program aims to prepare students for future challenges in sustainable manners and integrate knowledge of international economics, international relations, and international laws to the sustainable development as well as to promote sustainability mindset and encourage students and graduates to play their roles in fulfilling UN’ SDG Goals, may it be in the domestic or international arena.

Course Synopsis and Methodology:

1. Program Information

Program Length	18 months full-time/ 3 full semesters and 1 summer semester
Medium of Instruction	English Language
Class Size	20
Campus	Most courses are taught at Rangsit Center
Facilities	Asia-Pacific Resource Center and MAPS Common Room. Students will be given the access to dedicated research and study space to help foster intellectual exchange and collaboration beyond the classroom

2. Program Plan

Plan A	Credit	Plan B	Credit
Required courses	21	Required courses	21
Elective Courses	6	Elective Courses	12
Thesis	12	Independent Studies	6
Thesis Defense	-	Written Comprehensive Exam	-
Postgraduate International Conference (TU-CAPS)	-	Postgraduate International Conference (TU-CAPS)	-
Total	39	Total	39

Plan A

Semester 1 Year 1: 4 Subjects 12 credits

APS600	Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies	3 credits
APS612	Economic Development in ASEAN	3 credits
APS621	Political, Security, and Defense Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS6xx	Elective Course: between Comparative Politics and Governments in the Asia-Pacific Region/ International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits

Semester 2 Year 1: 4 Subjects 12 credits

APS611	Economic Integration in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS631	International Law and Regional Architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS681	Research Methodology	3 credits
APS6xx	Elective Core Course: choose between Contemporary Issues in the Asia-Pacific Studies/ Public Policy Studies	3 credits

Summer Semester: 1 Subject 3 credits

APS800	Thesis	3 credits
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Semester 1 Year 2: 2 Subjects 12 credits

APS6xx	Elective Course: between Comparative Politics and Governments in the Asia-Pacific Region/ International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS800	Thesis	9 credits

Plan B

Semester 1 Year 1: 4 Subjects 12 credits

APS600	Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies	3 credits
APS612	Economic Development in ASEAN	3 credits
APS621	Political, Security, and Defense Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS6xx	Elective Course: between Comparative Politics and Governments in the Asia-Pacific Region/ International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits

Semester 2 Year 1: 4 Subjects 12 credits

APS611	Economic Integration in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS631	International Law and Regional Architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS681	Research Methodology	3 credits
APS6xx	Elective Core Course: choose between Contemporary Issues in the Asia-Pacific Studies/ Public Policy Studies	3 credits

Summer Semester: 1 Subjects 3 credits

APS6xx	Elective Course: Selected Topics in Asia-Pacific Studies (Countries Studies)	3 credits
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Semester 1 Year 2: 2 Subjects 6 credits

APS6xx	Elective Course: between Comparative Politics and Governments in the Asia-Pacific Region/ International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region	3 credits
APS6xx	Elective Course:	3 credits

Semester 2 Year 2: 1 Subjects 6 credits

APS6xx	Independent Studies	6 credits
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Applicants Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in any field with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and above from an accredited university. For those who wish to apply for a scholarship, applicants should at least have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 with an above average grade on the relevant subjects.
- Requirement for English Proficiency

No.	English requirements	Minimum score
1	Paper based TOEFL	500
2	Internet-based TOEFL	61
3	International English language Testing System (IELTS)	6.0
4	Paper based Thammasat University Graduate English Test (TU-GET)	500
5	Computer-based Thammasat University Graduate English Test (TU-GET)	61

- Applicants can be accepted with conditions in the case of
 - IELTS: $6.0 \geq 4.5$
 - TOEFL: $500 \geq 400$
 - TU-GETS: $500 \geq 400$
- Applicants who cannot meet the minimum score of the above can reply to the program and submit the required score to the university before the registration day. English test results must not exceed 2 years by the time the applicants submit the results to the university.

- Test results submitted with the admission application are valid evidence for graduation.
- Please note that Thammasat University requires all students who have not submitted their English Proficiency Test Score to meet the minimum requirement score to submit their Official English Proficiency Test score before the final Thesis defense
- 4th year bachelor students who expect to graduate may apply by submitting a certified letter of expected date of graduation.
- Complete applications and submitting all required documents.
- As one of graduate requirement from Thammasat University, graduate students are required to present their thesis work at the International Conference. MAPS students are entitled to present their works at TU-CAPS, the annual international conference hosted by Thammasat Institute of Area Studies, Thammasat University.

Document Required:

- Completed Online Application Form (at www.maps-tu.org)
- Official Academic Transcript (English version only)
- Statement of Purpose (as appear in Online Application Form)
- Proof of English Language Proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, TU-GETS)
- Two letters of Reference
- Copy of Passport
- ID Photo (Passport size)
- Other additional supporting documents an applicant may want to submit such as certificates of training, letter of employment, etc.

Contact:

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***The application procedure will complete when TICA has received the hard copy of the application form and other related documents through the Royal Thai Embassy/Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/Royal Thai Consulate – General accredited to eligible countries/territories.