

No problem can be solved from the same consciousness that created it.

- Albert Einstein

Master in
International
Affairs

MIA



Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy



Master in International Affairs

Discover how Asia influences global issues from top academics and thought leaders. Join them at the forefront of their research, teaching, and ideas.

Elevate Your Career with the MIA Programme

The two-year Master in International Affairs (MIA) programme provides students with a comprehensive understanding of global dynamics and equips them with essential skills and analytical tools crucial for careers in diplomacy, government, global development, and international business.

MIA students at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy benefit from a uniquely immersive experience, connecting with peers from Singapore, Asia, and around the world. This exposure enables them to explore global issues from diverse viewpoints and witness firsthand the region's growing influence during their studies.



Classroom Diversity

The MIA cohort comprises 30 to 35 students from the public, private and non-profit sectors, representing more than a dozen economies.



Admissions Criteria

Applicants should hold a good Bachelor's (Honours – second class and above) degree or its equivalent. Applicants should be passionate about understanding the transformation that is taking place in Asia and across the world, and are highly motivated, outward-looking, and open to new ideas. Applicants with at least 2 years of work experience are preferred. Proficiency in both written and spoken English is critical.

Required Documents

- ✓ Online application form
- ✓ Degree scrolls and academic transcripts (Including grading description)
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- ✓ TOEFL iBT/ TOEFL iBT Home Edition/ IELTS*
- ✓ Personal statement of no more than 600 words describing how your personal, academic, and/or professional background inform your motivation for applying to the MIA programme; how you hope to contribute to your classmates and programme's success; and how you hope to use your time at LKYSPP to further your career or academic goals.
- ✓ One writing sample, preferably International Affairs related topic (no more than 2,000 words)
- ✓ Two letters of reference (can either be a professional or academic referee(s))

* Applicants with qualifications attained in English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, the UK or the US are exempted from providing test scores. For qualifications attained in countries not mentioned, if your Bachelor or Master degree was conducted entirely in English, TOEFL or IELTS test scores may be waived if you provide a letter from your institution.



Curriculum

The MIA curriculum equips students with a holistic and multi-disciplinary understanding of international affairs, providing intensive training in International Relations, Research Methods in International Affairs, Foreign Policy Analysis, and Geopolitics of the Asia Pacific.



Specialisation

Students have the option to acquire greater depth and sophistication by choosing one of six areas of specialisation:

- > International Institutions and Global Governance
- > International Security
- > International Economics and Development
- > Regional Studies: The Asia Pacific
- > International Public Management and Leadership
- > Environment and Sustainability

Alternatively, students may choose not to specialise.

Core Courses

Core courses impart cross-cultural decision-making skills balanced by theoretical, analytical, and ethical considerations.

- > International Relations: Theory and Practice
- > Research Methods in International Affairs
- > Comparative Politics
- > Global Politics and the Economy
- > International Relations of Asia

Elective Courses

MIA students must read four electives. One of the electives must cover analytical tools and methodologies.

Students who wish to specialise must choose at least five elective courses from their specialisation.

Alternatively, students may choose not to specialise.

Visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-programmes/master-in-international-affairs-mia/curriculum to view the list of electives.

MIA Senior Essay

Guided by a faculty advisor, students will receive year-long, one-on-one mentoring to complete a senior project on either policy or academic topics. This project is undertaken in the second year of the MIA programme.



Exchange Programme

Eligible MIA students may also participate in a one semester exchange programme with our partner institutions.

Visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-programmes/master-in-international-affairs-mia/student-exchange to view the list of partner institutions.



Professional Development

Professional Development Programmes at LKYSPP emphasises practical skills that are critical for success across the breadth of policy professions. We provide training in essential communication skills, from the basics such as how to frame an argument, to more advanced topics such as writing and delivering speeches. You can also further develop expertise in areas such as strategic communications, negotiation, or storytelling.

Beyond the Classroom: LKYSPP-in-Asia

This experiential learning programme takes students to a location in Southeast Asia for a few days. During this specially curated, optional programme, you will focus on enhancing your soft skills alongside your classmates. You will explore new places and meet people you might not otherwise encounter. You will develop grit and resilience as you learn to contend with uncertainty. You will leave with a better understanding of the complexities of policymaking and implementation in Southeast Asia, and you will forge stronger connections with your peers, helping you shape a better future.



Double Degree

Qualified students may pursue a Master of Arts in International Economics and Finance as a double degree with our partner, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), a graduate school of Johns Hopkins University. Graduates will be awarded two Master's degrees.

Applications to SAIS should be submitted at the end of the first semester at LKYSPP.



Ambassador's Circle – exclusively for MIA

Each semester our students sit down for an informal, off-the-record discussion with a senior local diplomat on current geopolitical topics and the changing realities of modern diplomacy.

Past Speakers



Mr Niclas Kvarnström
Former Ambassador of Sweden to Singapore



Dr Arken Arystanov
Former Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Singapore, New Zealand and the Commonwealth of Australia



HE Dr Norbert Riedel
German Ambassador to Singapore



Mr Ashok Kumar Mirpuri
Former Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the United States of America



Fees and Funding

AY2024 tuition and other compulsory fees are outlined below. AY2025 fees are anticipated to be published between April and June 2025 on www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-admissions/fees-and-funding

MIA Tuition Fees for AY2024 Intake	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Total
Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents and International Students alike*	S\$24,788	S\$24,788	S\$24,788	S\$24,788	S\$99,152

* Fee amounts quoted here are inclusive of prevailing GST. Students will have to bear the prevailing GST (currently 9%) levied on the fees payable by them.

With effect from AY2025, students who accept the offer of admission to the MIA programme, will need to pay an Acceptance fee of S\$5,500 (inclusive of 9% GST). Acceptance fees will be applied towards tuition fees. Acceptance fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

From AY2024/2025 to AY2026/2027, incoming Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents will receive a 40% tuition fee rebate for self-funded programmes while international students who are NUS alumni will receive a 20% rebate.

Students should ensure that they have sufficient funds to cover the costs of their travel to and from the home country, accommodation, and other living expenses. While students are eligible to join the School's medical insurance plan, a co-payment element is applicable. Students are advised to make provision for their own medical expenses.

Other fees

Please note the fees below are applicable if you are accepted into the MIA programme.

- Student Service Fee (per semester): S\$170.00
- Health Service Fee (per semester): S\$132.50

Fees shown above are for AY2023/2024. They are inclusive of prevailing GST and are subject to change.

Additional costs

Additional costs include payment for student development programmes, orientation programme, student pass/visa fees, and the programme closure event. These costs vary from year to year, but are currently estimated to be S\$4,000 for the duration of the programme.

Please visit our website for an estimate of the monthly living costs in Singapore, as well as more information on other fees and financing options: www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-admissions/fees-and-funding



Scholarships

We offer a number of merit-based scholarships for our Master's programmes. Ideal candidates will showcase exceptional academic and professional achievements, exhibit strong leadership qualities, and have a passionate commitment to public service.



Application period

Applications open on 1 August and close on 15 December every year.

Please visit www.lkyspp.sg/gda3 to start your application or scan here!



Please note: There is an application fee of S\$60 (inclusive of GST). This fee is non-refundable and must be paid at the time of application submission.



Take Your Career to the Next Level

When you study at LKYSPP, you become part of a dynamic global network of international affairs professionals and academics. Our MIA graduates have forged impactful careers across diverse sectors and regions. They hold pivotal roles as diplomats, international consultants, and policy advisors. They collaborate with international organisations, think tanks, NGOs, and multinational corporations. They are committed to advancing global diplomacy, security, and international development.




The Master of International Affairs at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy deepened my understanding of global geopolitical and trade dynamics and policy-making. Engaging with diverse, expert faculty and peers sharpened my analytical skills. This experience significantly advanced my career in international trade policy, enabling me to contribute to effective and inclusive global trade solutions.

Mekhla Jha,
Inclusive Trade
Specialist, World
Economic Forum,
MIA 2022



Contact Us

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(Whatsapp message only)

Scan the QR code for more information on our Master's programme or to ask us any questions!



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