

Guide to the BA/MA Program – BA in International Relations and MA in International Affairs

Eligibility:

- ✓ Have a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- ✓ Have a 3.6 major GPA (major classes excluding EC 101 and 102)
- ✓ Students must have taken a minimum of four IR classes at the time of application, including at least one regional or functional track class. EC 101 and 102 do not count toward this requirement.
- ✓ **Students apply in their junior year of study**

Application Requirements:

- ✓ Plan of Study that includes major GPA verification
- ✓ 1,000 word personal statement that includes a proposed research topic
- ✓ Unofficial transcripts that show current GPA
- ✓ Two faculty recommendations (you will need their approval beforehand, and they will receive an email to complete this step)
For those applying in spring 2020, the application platform requires candidates to submit 3 letters of recommendation. To bypass this step, please enter your third recommender contact information as the following:

Holly Emery, Graduate Admissions Administrator, Pardee School of Global Studies

Email: hnemery@bu.edu

Phone number: 617.358.8625

- ✓ **Online application form and questionnaire**
Students will get instructions on how to submit your application from the Pardee Student Services team.

Applications are due June 1 each year.

Steps to apply:

1. **Prepare your supporting application documents.**
Prepare your Plan of Study and personal statement. Select two professors and request their approval to recommend you for the program.
2. **Make an appointment with your Undergraduate Advisor via Handshake.**
This is to make sure the requirements of your bachelor's degree will be met. You will need to bring your study plan so your advisor can sign it.
3. **Make an appointment with the Graduate Student Affairs Administrator via email (mkerin@bu.edu).**
This is to make sure you the classes you've provisionally selected will fulfill the requirements of the master's degree. You will need to bring your study plan so the Graduate Student Affairs Administrator can sign it.
4. **Make an appointment with the Graduate Admissions Administrator via [Calendly](#).**
Bring your signed study plan to the Graduate Admissions Administrator, who will provide you with an invitation code to submit your application online through WebAdMIT.
5. **Submit your application.**
The application will only be available for candidates who have gone through the previous steps to receive an invitation code.

Program requirements:

- ✓ BA Program: Students complete the requirements of a BA in IR.
- ✓ MA Program: Students complete the requirements of the MA in International Affairs.
Required courses (taken during fall/spring of the 4th year of study):
GRS IR 601, IR 602, IR 604
Students take six or seven MA courses (500-level or above) in any MAIA specialization including:
 - Diplomacy
 - Global Economic Affairs
 - Security Studies
 - International Communication
 - Religion and International Affairs
 - At least two specializations courses must be at the 700-level or above.

**Most specializations require 6 courses, but the Religion and International Affairs specialization requires 7.*

- ✓ Students write a Master's Paper as the capstone component of their degree. The paper may take one of two forms: either a traditional research paper or a policy paper.
- ✓ All MA Courses must be passed with a B- or better

Other requirements:

- ✓ Students must complete a total of 176 credits
- ✓ Students must pass the MA language exam by the end of their 5th year of study
- ✓ Students must successfully write and defend a cumulative research or policy paper by the end of their 5th year of study
- ✓ Students must fulfill a 5-year (10 academic semester) residency requirement
- ✓ Students must study abroad on at least one semester or summer program