Stanford | Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy
Freeman Spogli Institute

MIP Student Handbook

Academic Year 2026–27

For Incoming Students in Autumn Quarter 2026
Class of 2028 Cohort

Table of Contents

Welcome and Introduction

- Introduction
- Mission of the University
- Stanford University Honor Code
- Stanford University Fundamental Standard

About the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy

- About the Master's Program
- Degree Program Opportunities
- Degree Program Experience
- Principles of the MIP Community
- MIP Leadership and Administration

Curriculum and Degree Requirements

- Degree Program Learning Outcomes
- Master of Arts in International Policy (MIP)

Joint/Dual/Coterm Degrees & Exchange Program

- Joint Degrees
- Dual Degrees
- Coterminal Degree
- Academic Overseas Program: Vienna, Austria

University and MIP Policies

- Stanford University Patent Agreement
- University Requirements
- M.A. Degree Timeline
- Academic Policies
- Stanford-Vienna Exchange Program Policies
- Courses
- Special Registration Status
- Other Policies
- Dean's Certifications and Verifications of Enrollment Forms

Advising

- Faculty, Program, and Career Advising
- Advising Timetable for the Master's Degree

MIP Student Experience

- MIP Student Initiatives

Encina Hall and MIP Suite
Funding and Financial Assistance
Eligibility to Receive Aid
Fellowships
Graduate Assistantships
Additional Employment Opportunities
MIP Summer Funded Internships
MIP Small Conference Grants
Stanford Graduate Financial Support Programs
Loans and Financial Aid
Private Education Loans for International Students
Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
Student Financial Accounts - Understanding the Bill and Payment System
MIP Careers
MIP Careers Principles
Career and Professional Development Resources
After MIP - "Alumni-hood"
Stanford Alumni
MIP Alumni
Student Resources
Emails and Listservs
Weekly Program Newsletter
Student Forms
Graduate Student Support
Health, Wellness, and Medical Care
Academic Support
Accessibility
Community and Cultural Centers
Religious and Spiritual Life
Addressing Concerns
Additional Resources and Useful Links

Welcome and Introduction

Introduction

Welcome to the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy (MIP) at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Stanford University. This handbook explains the requirements, policies, milestones, and resources that support completion of the Master of Arts (M.A.) in International Policy. Read it alongside the Stanford Bulletin and consult the MIP academic services team when planning your course of study.

Students are responsible for following university and school policies described in this handbook and in the Stanford Bulletin. This includes adhering to the Honor Code and Fundamental Standard, following deadlines, maintaining an adequate grade point average and making sufficient degree progress.

This edition covers the 2026–27 academic year. The degree requirements below apply to students entering MIP in Autumn Quarter 2026. Continuing students, including the Class of 2027, should follow the Bulletin requirements applicable to their matriculation and their approved program proposal. University policies and subsequent official notices remain authoritative. MIP will communicate changes through Stanford email. MIP degree requirements

Mission of the University

The Stanford University Founding Grant, dated November 11, 1885, describes the "Nature, Object, and Purposes of the Institution" founded by Leland Stanford and Jane Lathrop Stanford:

> *Its nature, that of a university with such seminaries of learning as shall make it of the highest grade, including mechanical institutes, museums, galleries of art, laboratories, and conservatories, together with all things necessary for the study of agriculture in all its branches, and for mechanical training, and the studies and exercises directed to the cultivation and enlargement of the mind;*
>
> *Its object, to qualify its students for personal success, and direct usefulness in life;*
> *And its purposes, to promote the public welfare by exercising an influence in behalf of humanity and civilization, teaching the blessings of liberty regulated by law, and*

inculcating love and reverence for the great principles of government as derived from the inalienable rights of man to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Stanford University Honor Code

Stanford's Honor Code establishes a shared responsibility for academic honesty. Students must understand what assistance is permitted in each course and ask the instructor when expectations are unclear.

Consult the current Honor Code and Office of Community Standards guidance for the policy governing your coursework. Honor Code and proctoring

Academic honesty and assessment
Students must not give or receive unpermitted assistance in assignments, examinations, research, or other evaluated work. Acknowledge sources and contributions accurately.

Instructors establish academic requirements and explain permitted assistance. Students and instructors share responsibility for conditions that support academic integrity.

Beginning September 1, 2026, instructors may proctor in-person assessments throughout the university. Follow the assessment rules communicated by your instructor and the Stanford Proctoring Bylaw.

Students should raise questions about academic integrity before submitting work or taking an examination.

Cardinal Rules: Act with personal integrity and academic honesty; ask when expectations are unclear; take responsibility for your conduct and its effect on the academic community.

Examples of conduct which have been regarded as being in violation of the Honor Code include:

- Copying from another's examination paper or allowing another to copy from one's own paper.
- Unpermitted collaboration.
- *Plagiarism*.
- Revising and resubmitting a quiz or exam for re-grading, without the instructor's knowledge and consent.
- Giving or receiving unpermitted aid on a take-home examination.

- Representing as one's own work the work of another.
- Giving or receiving aid on an academic assignment under circumstances in which a reasonable person should have known that such aid was not permitted.
- Dual submission of work - submitting work more than once is a violation of the Honor Code — unless you have sought and been granted your professor's approval.

Alleged violations are handled through the Office of Community Standards under the applicable Student Conduct Charter and procedures. Outcomes depend on the case and the governing process; students should consult current guidance rather than assume a fixed penalty for a first or subsequent violation. Office of Community Standards

Honor Code and Generative AI

Generative AI tools can support learning, but their use must comply with the Honor Code and the instructor's rules for the particular course or assignment. A tool's availability does not establish permission to use it in graded work.

The Board on Conduct Affairs provides the following guidance for coursework:

> *Unless the instructor states otherwise, treat generative AI assistance as you would assistance from another person. Do not use it to substantially complete an assignment or examination. Acknowledge non-incidental use and disclose assistance when uncertain.*
>
> *Instructors may allow or prohibit particular uses of generative AI. Review the syllabus and assignment instructions, and ask for clarification before using a tool when the policy is unclear.*

Additional information is available on the Office of Community Standards website. Generative AI guidance

Stanford University Fundamental Standard

The Fundamental Standard has set the standard for student conduct at Stanford since it was articulated in 1896. It states:

> *"Students are expected to show both within and without the university such respect for order, morality, personal honor, and the rights of others as is demanded of good citizens. Failure to do this will be sufficient cause for removal from the University."*

Understanding the Fundamental Standard

The Fundamental Standard is an aspirational statement of Stanford's ideal community.

Basic Values

The following principles elaborate its basic values today:

1. Students are expected to respect and uphold the rights and dignity of others regardless of personal characteristics or viewpoints.
2. Students are expected to uphold the integrity of the university as a community of scholars in which free speech is available to all and intellectual honesty is demanded of all. Just because speech is protected does not mean that it is ethical or consistent with our values. It is important for us all to understand the complex interplay between protected speech and building an inclusive campus, so when issues of hateful speech arise, we can choose to engage in dialogue instead of censorship. For more information on the interplay between protected speech and the Fundamental Standard, please visit Protected Speech and the Fundamental Standard.
3. Students are expected to respect university policies as well as state and federal law.

Potential examples of Fundamental Standard violations include but are not limited to the following:

- Physical assault
- Hate crimes
- Hazing
- Theft of property or services
- Threats
- Attempted or actual distribution of controlled substances
- Driving under the influence
- Intentional or reckless property damage, including vandalism
- Seeking a university benefit to which a student is not entitled
- Falsifying a document
- Impersonating another
- Defrauding the university or misusing university funds

- Computer-related violations (i.e., hacking, violations of the Computer and Network Usage Policy, etc.)
- Violations of Stanford's Anti-Doxxing Policy
- Knowingly or recklessly exposing others to significant danger
- Other violations of university policies, directives, or applicable laws

Penalties for Violating the Fundamental Standard

There is no standard penalty for violations of the Fundamental Standard. Infractions have led to penalties ranging from a formal warning and community service to expulsion. In each case, the nature and seriousness of the offense, the motivation underlying the offense, and precedent in similar cases are considered.

Freedom of Speech and the Fundamental Standard

The Fundamental Standard does not restrict speech that is otherwise protected, including speech that some may find objectionable. The interplay between freedom of speech and the Fundamental Standard is complex and we invite you to learn more about freedom of speech and the Office of Community Standards' (OCS) student conduct process here.

University Expectation of Compliance for Students

The Compliance with University Policies/Registration Holds is a policy stating that registration as a student constitutes a commitment by the student to abide by and accept university policies, rules, requirements, and regulations and that the university reserves the right to withhold registration privileges or to cancel the registration of any student: who is not in compliance with its policies, rules, requirements, or regulations; or for reasons pertaining to academic performance, health and wellness, qualification to be a student, behavioral conduct, or the safety of the university community.

The University Code of Conduct: A guide to the ethical, professional and legal standards of the university, with guidance on how to uphold these standards.

For more information, visit the Office of Community Standards.

About the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy

About the Master's Program

MIP is a graduate teaching program within FSI. The institute's Academic Council members represent all seven schools of Stanford, and constitute the core faculty for the program. FSI is a member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), which is dedicated to the improvement of graduate education in international affairs and helps students, schools, organizations, and partners transform themselves into more effective agents of positive change.

MIP is a two-year, full-time degree program that awards the Master of Arts (M.A.) in International Policy. The program's mission is to provide students with the knowledge and skills in the analysis, design, recommendation, and implementation of international policy and prepare students for leadership careers in international policy.

MIP is designed as an interdisciplinary program that draws on Stanford's strengths, not only in traditional policy-related disciplines such as economics and political science but also computer science, engineering, medicine, law, business, design, and other fields. It is unique for its small, collaborative classes led by top Stanford faculty and seasoned practitioners, and its curriculum which includes a strong practical component and several specialization areas of study that correspond to expertise found at FSI.

In keeping with the university's mission, MIP was established in 1982 to prepare the next generation of leaders for public and private sector careers in international policymaking and implementation. Its curriculum effectively draws upon FSI's world-class faculty and multidisciplinary culture, breadth of teaching across theory and practice, and multidisciplinary research capacity, along with Stanford and Silicon Valley's ethos of innovation. The program offers its master's students a unique education to examine, understand, and solve complex real-world problems.

Degree Program Opportunities

For training beyond the classroom, students are encouraged to undertake a summer internship after their first year, complete a two-quarter capstone and engage in field research travel in their second year. Additionally, they can apply for research or teaching assistantships and case writing positions within FSI and at Stanford more generally during the academic year. These experiences allow students to gain hands-on exposure to policy analysis and

practical problem solving and, in some cases, to help finance their education. MIP restricts first-year assistantships during autumn and winter; see First Year Assistantship Policy for the hardship exception and approval process.

MIP offers an academic exchange program with the Vienna School of International Studies (DA). The Stanford-Vienna Exchange allows two rising second-year students from each institution to spend autumn quarter at the other institution. Participants are selected by application and receive fellowships.

The program also offers coterminal, joint, and dual degree options. The coterminal degree program allows students to pursue a two-year M.A. in International Policy while completing their bachelor's degree at Stanford. The formally approved joint degrees are the Master of Arts in International Policy with a Master in Public Policy (M.P.P./M.A.) or Juris Doctor (J.D./M.A.). MIP also offers a unique, formally approved dual degree that provides similar benefits to a joint degree in conjunction with the Graduate School of Business' Master of Business Administration (M.B.A./M.A.) as well as a formal dual degree with the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (E-IPER) (M.S./M.A.). Current Stanford students may also apply to add a second degree, known as a dual degree, with the M.A. in International Policy. More details are available in the next section on admission and degree requirements for coterminal and dual degree programs.

Degree Program Experience

The student experience includes two years on a residential campus, access to all university services and resources, including courses, libraries, events, all Stanford student organizations, career support, and myriad other campus activities. The MIP Student Association (IPSA) hosts a variety of activities for students enrolled in the graduate program and the Stanford International Policy Review (SIPR) provides opportunities for journal experience, either as a writer or editor. Students also join the ranks of current and former Stanford students, engaging with program alumni who regularly participate in events and provide advice, referrals, and career opportunities.

In support of the mission, the program faculty and staff aim to empower students to forge a meaningful educational trajectory that will fulfill their academic goals and help them to reach their full potential as leaders in international policy. To that end, the program provides a full range of resources and services to assist in successfully completing the academic program.

The staff are available to assist students and faculty interpret and follow the policies and procedures toward degree completion outlined in this handbook. Jonathan Achter, Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs, is the primary adviser of students on academic and administrative policies.

Principles of the MIP Community

The MIP program strives to be a welcoming community that values and respects all its members, and provides an intellectual, collegial, and productive working environment that supports collaboration, teaching, learning, and research.

MIP values:

Respect - We affirm the right to and the importance of a free exchange of ideas within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity and respect. We encourage communication that is honest, professional, and constructive; that invites, makes space for, and values all voices.

Integrity - We are committed to the highest degree of ethical conduct, on and off-campus. Our community members are expected to demonstrate good character and act in accordance with principles of honesty, decency, fairness, and dependability.

Accountability **-** Each of us is responsible for our individual words and actions and their impact on the health, wellbeing, and success of our community.

Diversity **-** We believe that each individual's experience is enhanced when our community includes diverse human experiences and perspectives. A diverse community of faculty, students, and staff helps to advance excellence in our teaching and learning.

Collaboration - We recognize that the mission and goals of our program are enhanced when we work together to pursue and achieve them. We strive to foster productive relationships among students, staff, and faculty that empower our individual contributions to the success of the community.

International Student Community

MIP is home to many international students. We value the diversity of experiences, backgrounds, and cultures in our program as it greatly enriches our community. International students should work closely with the Bechtel International Center on their immigration and/or visa status and other matters.

The Bechtel I-Center mission states that international educational exchange nurtures a lifelong global perspective and it aspires to play a key role in increasing Stanford's visibility around the world, strengthening Stanford's position as a global university of consequence.

MIP Leadership and Administration

Director - Francis Fukuyama
Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow, FSI
Research Affiliate, The Europe Center (FSI)
Professor, by Courtesy, Department of Political Science
Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

Senior Associate Director, Academic and Student Affairs - Chonira Aturupane
Senior Research Scholar, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, FSI

Senior Assistant Director, Academic and Student Affairs - Jonathan Achter
Responsibilities: academic and program administration, student services, advising, major events, and operations.

Senior Recruitment and Admissions Manager - Meghan Moura
Responsibilities: prospective student and applicant inquiries, recruitment and admissions, general program administration, communications, and budget and finances.

Career Development and Alumni Engagement Manager - TBD
Responsibilities: career planning, internship and job searches, employer engagement, and connections with alumni.

Academic Program Manager - Patrick Laboon
Responsibilities: MIP Capstone manager for project sourcing, client relations, operations, and course administration.

Program Coordinator - TBD
Responsibilities: student services, finances, events, facilities, and program operations.

International Student Career Advisor - Laleh Rongere
Responsibilities: international student career strategy and advice on U.S. work authorization options.

Curriculum and Degree Requirements

This section outlines the degree program, including the curriculum and courses offered for the M.A. in International Policy. Students are responsible for meeting all university and program requirements described below throughout their program of study. Any questions about requirements or policies should be directed to the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs prior to relevant deadlines.

The Stanford Bulletin contains all university requirements, academic and other policies, and degree requirements. It also includes useful information like the Academic Calendar.

Use Stanford Navigator and Explore Courses to check course descriptions, current offerings, units, prerequisites, and grading options. Select the 2026–27 academic year when available. Course syllabi are available through the instructor, Canvas, and Stanford Syllabus.

2026–27 key dates:

- Autumn instruction begins September 22;
- Winter instruction begins January 4;
- Spring instruction begins March 29;
- Summer instruction begins June 21.

Standard applications to graduate are due (per quarter): November 13, February 26, April 9, and July 30, respectively.

University Commencement, including the MIP Diploma Ceremony, is June 13, 2027.

Check the live calendar for deadlines, times, and professional-school exceptions. Academic Calendar

Degree Program Learning Outcomes

MIP Required Coursework Curriculum MAP: Key Learning Outcomes

	CONTENT KNOWLEDGE		RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & POLICY ANALYSIS		INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	
	Economics & Political Science	Area of Specialization *(choice of one; 2 required courses + 3 or more electives)*	Quantitative Methods	Policy Analysis & Implementation *(MIP Problem-Solving Framework)*	Synthesizing & Presenting + Research & Evidence-Based Policy *(Written & Spoken)*	Leadership/ Conflict Negotiation/ Effective Teamwork
CORE & AREA COURSES	INTLPOL 300A: International Policy Speaker Series	Cyber Policy and Security Energy, Natural Resources and the Environment Governance and Development International Security	INTLPOL 301A: Research Methods and Policy Applications I	INTLPOL 302: The Global Economy	INTLPOL 301B: Research Methods and Policy Applications II	INTLPOL 301B: Research Methods and Policy Applications II
					INTLPOL 302: The Global Economy	INTLPOL 302: The Global Economy
	INTLPOL 302: The Global Economy		INTLPOL 301B: Research Methods and Policy Applications II	INTLPOL 306: Foreign Policy Decision Making in International Relations	INTLPOL 306: Foreign Policy Decision Making in International Relations	INTLPOL 300S: Leading Effective Teams
	INTLPOL 306: Foreign Policy Decision Making in International Relations		INTLPOL 302: The Global Economy	INTLPOL 307: Policy Problem-Solving in the Real World	INTLPOL 307: Policy Problem-Solving in the Real World	INTLPOL 307: Policy Problem-Solving in the Real World
CAPSTONE	INTLPOL 310: Policy Change Studio (2 quarters) & INTLPOL 310A: Capstone Field Research					

The purpose of the master's program is to help students develop content knowledge, analytical and implementation skills, communication skills, and interpersonal skills in preparation for professional careers in international policy and related fields. This is achieved through completion of required courses in the core curriculum and area of specialization, elective courses in primary and related areas, and the capstone course. Students are also encouraged to gain experience through a summer internship and research skills through assistantships with Stanford faculty. Graduates from the Master of Arts in International Policy will demonstrate an advanced understanding of international issues pertaining to governance, security, diplomacy, and other related areas, and will have a depth of knowledge in interpreting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data.

Master of Arts in International Policy (MIP)

Overview

To earn the standalone M.A. in International Policy, students entering in Autumn Quarter 2026 must complete at least 80 units. Separate requirements for approved joint, dual, coterminal, and exchange pathways appear in the next chapter.

In the first year at MIP, students enroll in a set of core courses that teaches competencies, skills, and essential policy processes. Students will also complete the two required courses in their respective area of specialization. They may also enroll in specialization electives or customized electives, pending space in their schedules.

Students are encouraged to pursue a summer internship to apply their first-year learning. Internship participation and funding are subject to program requirements and, where applicable, prior immigration authorization.

In the second year, students complete specialization elective courses and customized elective courses. During winter and spring, they will also focus on their capstone project through the Policy Change Studio.

Degree Requirements

The 80 units required for the M.A. degree are organized as follows:

Core - 27 units

- All courses must be completed during the first year except INTLPOL 300S, which is required in winter of the second year *(in parallel with the MIP Capstone)*

Area of Specialization - 20 units

- Two required courses to be completed during the first year
- Three or more additional courses *(see "Area of Specialization Elective Courses" in the Stanford Bulletin for approved options)*

Customized Electives - 24 units

- Elective courses selected by the student to augment the course of study

Capstone - 9 units

- Two-quarter Policy Change Studio course in winter and spring of the second year
- Capstone Field Research course in spring of the second year

Notes:

- *See the Stanford Bulletin for comprehensive, up-to-date details.*
- *Students who entered before Autumn Quarter 2026 should consult the Archived Bulletins for their applicable degree requirements.* Archived Bulletins

Degree Requirements		Units	Quarter
Core Courses		**26**	**Year 1**
INTLPOL300A	International Policy Speaker Series	1	Autumn
INTLPOL301A	Research Methods and Policy Applications I	5	Autumn
INTLPOL302	The Global Economy	5	Autumn
INTLPOL301B	Research Methods and Policy Applications II	5	Winter
INTLPOL306	Foreign Policy Decision-Making in International Relations	5	Spring
INTLPOL307	Policy Problem-Solving in the Real World	5	Spring
Core Courses		**1**	**Year 2**
INTLPOL300S	Leading Effective Teams	1	Winter
Area of Specialization		**20**	**Year 1 and 2**
Two required courses			Year 1
Three or more additional courses from the approved electives list			Year 1 and 2
Customized Electives		**24**	**Year 1 and 2**
International Policy related courses; 100-level or above only			Year 1 and 2
Capstone		**9**	**Year 2**
INTLPOL310	Policy Change Studio (two quarters)	4 each	Winter and Spring
INTLPOL310A	Capstone Field Research	1	Spring
Total Units		**80**	

Areas of Specialization

Students are required to choose one area of specialization and complete at least five courses for a minimum of 20 total units. Each specialization has two required courses, which must be taken during the first year. There is also an approved list of electives from which at least three additional courses must be completed. See the Stanford Bulletin for the course lists.

The four areas of specialization, which align with faculty expertise within FSI's many research centers, are:

- Cyber Policy and Security (CYBER)
- Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment (ENRE)
- Governance and Development (GOVDEV)
- International Security (ISEC)

Cyber Policy and Security remains the specialization for Autumn 2026 entrants. MIP's announced AI, Cyber, and Tech Policy redesign is intended for students entering in Autumn 2027 or later. Specialization update

	Area of Specialization Required Courses	Units	Typical quarter*
	Cyber Policy and Security		
INTLPOL 268	Hack Lab: Introduction to Cybersecurity	3	Autumn
INTLPOL 321	Fundamentals of Cyber Policy and Security	4-5	Winter
	Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment		
	[Complete two of the following courses]		
CEE207A	Understand Energy	3-5	Autumn or Spring
GEP 365	Global Environmental Governance: Politics, Institutions, and Change	3-5	Winter
INTLPOL 272	Topics and Methods in Global Environmental Policy I	3-5	Winter
	Governance and Development		
INTLPOL 220	Poverty and Prosperity	3	Autumn
INTLPOL 223	Global Growth and Local Discontent	5	Spring
	International Security		
INTLPOL 240	Contemporary Issues in International Security	4	Autumn
INTLPOL 296	Strategic Technology and Global Challenges	4	Winter

**Notes: 1) Check current course units and offerings before enrollment; 2) ENRE students must complete two approved required courses; and 3) Consult the Bulletin for the full set of permitted choices. The website's course lists may retain prior-year offerings. Current requirements*

A student's area of specialization is listed in Axess based on the subplan selected during the application process. Students may change their area of specialization through the end of the first academic year with approval from MIP. If a student would like to change the area of specialization (aka subplan), it must first be discussed with the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs.

An approved change to one's area of specialization will require the student to submit the Declaration or Change to a Field of Study for Graduate Students (Subplan change) e-Form in Axess in order to process the change to the academic plan.

Required specialization courses cannot be waived. MIP reviews petitions to add specialization electives twice yearly; submit the syllabus and a rationale by the announced deadline. Skills-based or experiential courses generally belong in Customized Electives. Approved additions may be applied retroactively. Subplan policies

Customized Electives

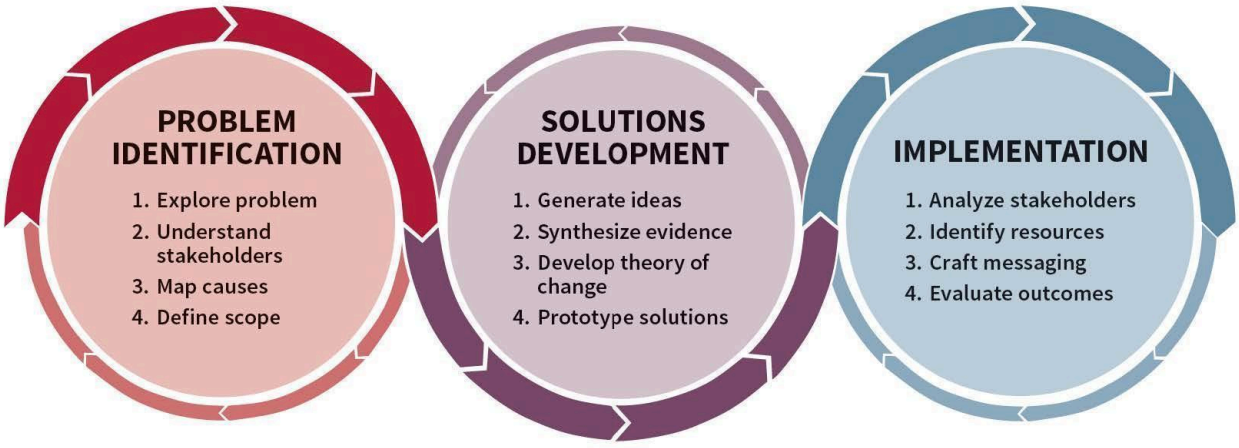
The customized electives provide students an opportunity to explore the many academic offerings across campus, and gives them the ability to tailor courses in a suitable manner. These courses must be related to international policy, broadly understood.

Students may use customized electives to pursue additional specialization courses, area studies, a certificate, approved language study, or a combination of internationally relevant subjects. Courses below 100, activity courses, performance and visual arts courses, WELLNESS courses, and English proficiency courses do not satisfy MIP requirements. Obtain approval for language coursework before the Final Study List deadline.

Capstone - Policy Change Studio

The Policy Change Studio is a required capstone course sequence that partners small student teams with external organizations from industry, government, and non-profit sectors under faculty mentorship. The capstone is solutions-driven, and students are expected to identify challenging problems that matter to clients and propose thoughtful solutions that can be realistically implemented. Instructors provide a formal academic structure for learning about policy formulation, solutions generation, and policy implementation, known as the MIP Policy Problem-Solving Framework.

MIP Policy Problem-Solving Framework



Problem-solving cannot succeed without effective teamwork. Because of this, MIP has introduced Leading Effective Teams, an adapted version of the Stanford Graduate School of Business's popular Interpersonal Dynamics training. Students complete INTLPOL 300S: Leading Effective Teams during the second year of the program and then apply the concepts to their capstone projects with the support of team coaching.

Field work is an indispensable part of the Policy Change Studio experience. Through field work, students are able to interact with stakeholders, collect primary data, test assumptions, and otherwise gain an understanding of realities on the ground. Each student team is supported by the MIP Program to travel to field locations during their spring break.

MIP guarantees funding for capstone travel encompassing five full days of field work. The definitions of typical field work costs are described in the MIP Capstone Travel Policy (available via plaboon@stanford.edu). Travel and related costs incurred by additional time spent engaged in field work beyond the allowance of five full days will be the responsibility of the student.

By opting into capstone field travel, students commit to completing the steps necessary to travel (e.g. required vaccinations, visas, etc.), and to completing the trip as scheduled. The willful failure to fulfill these commitments may result in penalties up to and including reimbursing MIP for incurred travel expenses. Students are not required to opt into field work travel, but must inform program staff of such a decision at least five weeks prior to their team's departure. Students who do not travel for field work must complete an alternative assignment as determined by the teaching team to receive credit for INTLPOL 310A.

Students may face travel restrictions based on current employment (ministry), citizenship status, etc. It is a student's responsibility to inform the Capstone Manager at least one week prior to the travel booking meeting of these restrictions. Any costs incurred by the failure to inform MIP is the student's responsibility.

Students must begin their visa application process immediately upon being confirmed for a team and having their fieldwork location finalized. Visa processing times can be lengthy, and timely submission of visa application materials is essential to avoid delays. If a student fails to apply for their visa promptly and this results in additional costs—such as expedited shipping costs, additional visa fees, or flight change charges—those costs will be the responsibility of the student. MIP will not cover expenses incurred due to delayed visa applications.

Students whose travel requires a valid U.S. entry visa should consult Bechtel before booking travel, including about visa renewal, travel signatures, and reentry documentation. Begin this review well before Winter Quarter capstone planning. MIP does not cover costs associated with renewing a U.S. visa.

Joint/Dual/Coterm Degrees & Exchange Program

Joint Degrees

A joint degree program (JDP) is a specified combination of degree programs or degree types in which a student is enrolled in two graduate degree programs concurrently. JDPs are developed and proposed by the relevant academic units with agreement of the deans of the schools affected.

Joint degree credit-sharing rules depend on the approved combination of degrees. Use the applicable Bulletin and both programs' approved study plans to determine which courses and units may count toward each degree.

Public Policy Program

The M.P.P./M.A. joint degree allows students to pursue study in both the Public Policy Program and MIP over three academic years of residence. Students that participate in this program gain depth of knowledge in both international and domestic policy issues. Graduates of the M.P.P./M.A. will be prepared to work in the research, planning, and implementation of public policies for government agencies, NGOs, and foundations that work both in the United States and overseas.

Visit the Public Policy website for details on its joint degree requirements.

Applicants to MIP may also apply to the M.P.P. program via an internal application process. Current MIP students may apply internally to the M.P.P. program during their first or second year. Note that the M.P.P. program is not available as a standalone program for external applicants.

Stanford Law School (SLS)

The J.D./M.A. joint degree allows students to complete both degrees in four academic years of residence. It combines the strengths of the SLS with MIP, equipping students with the analytical tools to function as lawyers, advocates, and policymakers in the public sector as government officials or for nongovernmental organizations in such fields as international human rights and international environmental law, or in the private sector representing clients in transnational domains particularly sensitive to matters of public policy.

Students must fulfill the degree requirements for each program as outlined in the academic policies from each school for the academic year in which they begin the required curriculum. Note that one must graduate from both programs during the same quarter.

External applicants may apply to each program concurrently. Current SLS students can apply to MIP via an internal application process by the annual deadline in early January. Current MIP students would apply externally to the SLS.

MIP Degree Requirements for Joint Degree J.D. Students		
Courses	**Units**	**Notes**
Core Curriculum	27	7 required courses
Area of Specialization	18	4 or more courses, including two required courses
Policy Change Studio	9	3 courses (Year 2 capstone)
Total	**54**	**MIP units only**

NOTE: The MIP Degree Requirements for joint JD/MA students are pared back from the standalone requirements for MA students.

Dual Degrees

Dual degree students must satisfy the approved requirements of each program. Units cannot be counted toward both degrees unless the specific university-approved degree arrangement expressly permits that treatment. The MBA/MA pathway has a reduced MIP requirement; see the table below and consult both programs.

Students must apply and be admitted to each degree program separately, and they generally may apply to only one initially. After the first quarter at Stanford, students may apply to be admitted to the second degree program. Application processes, requirements, and deadlines vary by program.

MIP offers two highlighted and somewhat unique dual degree programs, one with the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources and one with the Graduate School of Business.

Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (E-IPER)

The M.A./M.S. dual degree program with E-IPER allows students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the science, technology and engineering that addresses current environmental problems. This understanding, integrated with their professional education in

International Policy, provides a unique lens for future leaders and innovators to influence and solve the world's most challenging environmental and sustainability problems. This program generally requires a course of study of up to three years.

MIP applicants may apply to the M.S. degree program via special application. MIP students may apply internally to E-IPER during their first or second year. Details are available on the E-IPER website.

Graduate School of Business (GSB)

The M.A./M.B.A. dual degree is designed for students who are interested in working at the intersection of social entrepreneurship, business, and government in the U.S and abroad.

The approved MBA/MA pathway typically takes about three academic years. The current Bulletin specifies 90 MBA units and 54 MIP units. Units cannot be counted toward both degrees. Confirm sequencing and the requirements applicable to your matriculation with the GSB and MIP before finalizing your study plan.

Prospective applicants may apply externally to either program; they may also apply concurrently to both. Alternatively, current Stanford students may also apply to the second degree program during their first year of graduate study.

MIP Requirements for Approved MBA/MA Students		
Courses	**Units**	**Notes**
Core Curriculum	27	7 required courses
Area of Specialization	18	4 or more courses, including two required courses
Policy Change Studio	9	3 courses (Year 2 capstone)
Total	**54**	**MIP units only**

This reduced MIP curriculum applies to the approved MBA/MA pathway. Confirm sequencing and cohort requirements with MIP and the GSB.

Coterminal Degree

The coterminal degree program allows Stanford undergraduates to study for a master's degree while completing their bachelor's degree(s). To qualify for both degrees, a student must complete requirements for both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree as described under their respective sections of the Stanford Bulletin.

In the coterminal MIP program, students may be able to complete their bachelor's degree and M.A. degree in five years, with at least one quarter of overlap between the two. Per the "Quarters Back'' policy, students may be able to transfer courses taken during the previous three quarters (prior to matriculation in MIP) into their "Graduate Career."

Although coterminal students are allowed to enroll in up to 24 units, the MIP program limits the number of units in which a student may enroll to no more than 18. Any request to enroll in more than 18 units (or fewer than 8 units) requires approval from the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs. The deadline is no later than the preliminary study list deadline (first day of a given quarter). Students in the coterminal graduate student group will be charged additional tuition for each unit above 18 units, as required by the university, if approved.

MIP Degree Requirements for Coterminal Students		
Courses	**Units**	**Notes**
Core Curriculum	27	7 required courses
Areas of Specialization	20	5 or more courses, including two required courses
Policy Change Studio	9	3 courses (year 2 capstone)
Customized Electives	14	Approved customized electives
Total	**70**	**MIP units only**

Prospective applicants should begin their process by visiting the Coterminal Degrees at Stanford webpage. Annually, MIP has one application deadline in early January.

Academic Overseas Program: Vienna, Austria

The Stanford-Vienna Exchange is an autumn quarter program between MIP and the Vienna School of International Studies (DA). Two rising second-year students from each institution are selected by application to receive fellowships to spend autumn quarter in an academic exchange at the other institution. The fellowship covers tuition, a stipend for living and housing, and round-trip travel to Vienna from the Bay Area in California (up to $1500).

The DA is a postgraduate professional school dedicated to preparing talented graduates for international careers and positions of leadership in international affairs. Training areas encompass international relations, political science, international and EU law, economics, history and languages.

At the DA, MIP students will work with renowned European scholars and a diverse, vibrant group of master's students at one of Europe's most highly regarded international studies institutions. MIP students enroll in a combination of advanced courses, language courses, and skills courses. MIP students will be eligible to enroll in any upper-division course at the DA for which they are qualified. With approval, MIP exchange students may also seek to perform directed research under the supervision of a DA faculty member.

The course list and academic calendar can be found on the DA's website.

Full program details, including the application process and deadline are available on the MIP website and in the Stanford-Viena Exchange Program Policies section of this handbook. See Funding and Financial Aid in this handbook for details on the accompanying fellowship.

University and MIP Policies

Stanford University Patent Agreement

All faculty, staff, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are required to sign a Patent and Copyright Agreement (the SU-18 form, signed electronically in Axess) as a condition of either employment or enrollment at Stanford University. For more information, please review the agreement on the Student Affairs website.

University Requirements

Students are responsible for meeting all university and program requirements throughout their program of study. Each student must ensure appropriate enrollment for degree conferral, and should direct any questions about requirements or policies to the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs prior to the related deadlines.

The university's general requirements, applicable to all graduate degrees at Stanford, are listed in the Graduate Degrees section of the Stanford Bulletin. Please review university requirements and policies carefully.

M.A. Degree Timeline

MIP is designed as a two-year, full-time professional master's program. Plan to finish within two academic years unless MIP approves a different schedule. Joint, dual, coterminal, exchange, and approved leave or accommodation arrangements require individual planning with the academic services team.

Students working toward graduate degrees at Stanford University must enroll for the three quarters of the academic year (autumn, winter and spring) from the time of matriculation until receipt of the degree. Study in MIP is on a full-time basis. The exceptions are:

- The quarter in which one applies to graduate. A student may apply to enroll on a part-time basis (3-7 units) via e-Form in Axess.
- Part-time enrollment for accessibility is granted by the Office of Accessible Education (OAE).

Degree Progress and Enrollment

MIP students will register at the 11-18 unit tuition rate for each quarter during the first year of the program; they must pass at least eight units per term. The only exception to the 11-18 unit

requirement during the first year is for students who obtain a 50% assistantship during spring or those who have financial constraints. Approval from the MIP Senior Assistant Director is required for each of these. Students who are approved to register for 8-10 units in a given term must pass at least six units.

During the second year of the program students may register at the 8-10 or 11-18 unit tuition rate. For spring quarter of the second year, students may elect to apply for part-time enrollment (3-7 units). International students should consult with the Bechtel International Center to determine alignment with one's visa status.

MIP ordinarily limits enrollment to 18 units per quarter. Obtain advance approval before exceeding that limit, and review the university's per-unit tuition charges for enrollment above 18 units.

Enrolling in Classes

Students at Stanford use Axess or Navigate Enrollment to add/drop/update course enrollment (also known as filing or adjusting a study list). Registration deadlines are listed in the Academic Calendar and on Axess.

By the Preliminary Study List deadline, enroll in the units required for your status; ordinarily at least eight for graduate students. A separate, earlier at-status deadline applies to receiving a stipend or financial-aid refund within the first week of term. Check both dates in the Academic Calendar; the late study-list fee is $200.

The Final Study List deadline is the last day to add or drop courses or change units in variable-unit courses. In 2026–27 it falls on October 9, January 22, and April 16 for autumn, winter, and spring, respectively, at 5 p.m. Summer's deadline is July 2. Professional-school exceptions are listed in the Academic Calendar.

Course registration deadlines are different at the Stanford Law School and Graduate School of Business. Please review the Academic Calendar as well as their respective websites for details.

After officially enrolling in courses, students should visit Canvas to access their course websites. Instructors commonly post syllabi, assignments, announcements, and reading materials. Stanford Syllabus is another important resource to obtain syllabi for current or past course offerings.

Courses applied to the degree must be numbered 100 or above. For Autumn 2026 entrants, the MIP limit on undergraduate-level coursework is 12 units; see Important Policies below. Continuing students should confirm the limit in their applicable Bulletin.
MIP program policies

Minimum Progress

Students who do not meet minimal progress each term will be placed on registration or degree conferral hold until they are determined to have done so. Should a student continue to insufficiently make progress, then one may face dismissal from the program. Graduate students are responsible for their degree progress so they should discuss any concerns with the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs.

Please review the Bulletin for details on Minimum Progress Requirements for Graduate Students.

Time Limit for Completion of the Master's Degree

The university's standard master's time limit is three years from the first term of enrollment in the master's program. This is distinct from MIP's expected two-year course of study. Coterminal students have three years from their first graduate quarter.
University master's time limit

Students who need more time should consult MIP before their approved completion date. An extension of the university time limit requires an Application for Extension of Candidacy or Master's Program before the program expires. Approval is discretionary. Maintain the required registration or approved leave status throughout the extension.

A leave does not ordinarily extend the master's program expiration date. Parental and military leaves have specific exceptions under university policy; confirm the recorded expiration date with MIP and the Registrar.

Transfer Credits

External credit cannot be transferred into the M.A. degree. Coterminal students may request transfer of eligible Stanford courses taken within the program's three-quarters-back window or later; courses before the first quarter of sophomore year are excluded. Obtain approval and complete the coterminal course-transfer process. The approved Vienna exchange has separate rules described in this handbook.

Academic Policies

Academic Standing

MIP students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to remain in good academic standing. Similarly, a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required for conferral of the M.A. degree.

Failure to remain in good academic standing, either due to falling below the 3.0 GPA threshold or not making sufficient degree progress will result in being placed on academic probation (and could ultimately result in dismissal from the university).

Students should always proactively seek guidance from the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs if they find themselves in this situation.

GPA and Class Rank Policy

The Grade Point Average (GPA) does not appear on the official graduate transcript. Stanford University does not calculate a rank in class. See the policy here.

Grades

Students are responsible for understanding the General University Grading Systems.

Students must take the following courses for a letter grade:

- MIP Core Courses (*except INTLPOL 300A and INTLPOL 300S, which are only offered as Satisfactory/No Credit*)
- MIP Capstone Courses *(except INTLPOL 310A which is only offered as Satisfactory/No Credit)*
- MIP Area of Specialization Required Courses

Students may apply up to 10 pass-fail (i.e., Satisfactory/No Credit or Credit/No Credit) units towards the Area of Specialization Electives and Customized Electives. *(Note: This is a combined total).*

- The combined 10-unit limit includes pass/fail elective coursework across Stanford schools, including Law School courses taken as Mandatory Pass/Restricted Credit/Fail.
- Do not assume that every professional school grade is pass/fail. Ask MIP how the specific grading basis will be classified before choosing it.
- Grading options that count toward the pass/fail limit include:
    - Mandatory Pass/Restricted Credit/Fail (SLS)

- Pass/Fail or +/- (GSB)

Additionally, letter grades at the GSB apply to the Stanford GPA. Please see How Do I Calculate My Grade Point Average (GPA)? for equivalent GPAs for letter grades at the GSB.

The SLS grading system does not apply toward the GPA.

Incomplete (I) Grade

Students who receive an incomplete grade (denoted as "I") are required to complete the course on a shorter timeline than university policy. The following completion schedule applies:

- First-year students –
  - Autumn and winter quarters: Incomplete grades must be completed no later than June 30 of the same academic year.
  - Spring quarter: Incomplete grades must be completed no later than August 30 of the same academic year.
  - Summer quarter: Incomplete grades must be completed no later than December 30 of the same calendar year.
- Second-year students (or third-year for those pursuing a joint or dual degree) –
  - For all quarters of the second year, students must resolve incomplete grades prior to graduating or their application to graduate will be denied.

Students are also responsible for coordinating the completion of the course with the instructor(s) as well as keeping the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs apprised of progress.

Students who have three or more incomplete grades, or who have incomplete grades in multiple quarters, will be placed on academic probation unless there is a rationale due to personal or health reasons that is accompanied by documentation from Counseling and Psychological Services, the Office of Accessible Education, or Vaden Health Center.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for all courses applied towards the M.A. degree. Further, attendance is mandatory for core courses, required area of specialization courses, and the capstone courses. Each INTLPOL course instructor may elect to establish a modified attendance policy, and has the discretion to decide whether or not to offer any allowance or exception for

absences. It is important for students to proactively update their instructors of any absence from class. Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding attendance policies included in course syllabi and this handbook.

Punctuality is core to the attendance policy – any late arrival will be considered an absence if it is 15 minutes after the start of class.

Note that, in general, participating in student groups, club events, or athletic teams (including varsity) does not grant an exception to attendance policies, assignment deadlines, exam dates, or other course requirements. Similarly, employment-related absences do not count as "excused absences" since the first priority of MIP students is their studies.

Illness, Injuries, and Personal Difficulties

Any student who is unable to attend classes due to illness, injury, or some other significant personal situation should notify the instructor(s) as soon as possible. Ideally, this should be done before missing a class.

Depending on the length of absence, the student may need to discuss with the instructor academic allowances or exceptions to requirements (e.g., extensions of due dates, excused absences). *Note: The term "accommodations" is reserved for modifications made by request of the Office of Accessible Education in relation to a student's recognized disability.*

When granted by the instructor, allowances can provide a student with the flexibility to address life circumstances while maintaining a responsible approach to one's academic responsibilities.

Unexpected Emergencies

MIP understands that emergency situations can happen without warning. If a student must leave campus immediately for a personal, health, or family crisis, please notify the MIP Assistant Director as soon as possible. In certain types of emergencies, MIP can notify faculty of a sudden absence. Similarly, students should notify their instructors as soon as possible to discuss missed class time, coursework, etc.

Travel and Absences

Sometimes travel plans may conflict with an upcoming class. In general, this does not normally excuse a student from class or course requirements. Students are responsible for discussing any travel conflicts with MIP and one's instructors ahead of time, preferably before

the Final Study List deadline. It is important to understand in advance what the consequences are for any missed classes, and how to make up for any missed work.

Milestones

Per university policy, each graduate student must have a completed program proposal on file with the degree program. This document outlines the courses that one has completed towards the degree as well as any outstanding requirements one still must pass in order to graduate.

MIP requires students to submit this document, along with a current unofficial transcript, as part of an advising meeting during the spring quarter of the first year of the program. Students are encouraged to fill out this document sooner since it is a helpful planning tool. Schedule a 30-minute meeting with the MIP Senior Assistant Director to review your proposal and remaining requirements. Missing the proposal milestone can result in an enrollment hold.

Students will also be required to submit a MIP Graduation Program Proposal during the quarter in which they apply to graduate.

Use My Academic Path (MAP) to review degree progress and milestones. Check that your audit uses the correct program and matriculation requirements, and report discrepancies to MIP. MAP does not replace the required MIP Program Proposal or Graduation Program Proposal. My Academic Path

Graduation

MIP Graduation Program Proposal

Students must submit a graduation program proposal and unofficial transcript to the MIP Assistant Director no later than the second Friday of the quarter in which they intend to graduate. The Assistant Director will send confirmation of receipt and completion of the degree program milestone, and will note any outstanding requirements or concerns. It is the student's responsibility to follow up on the timely submission of any outstanding degree requirements in order to confer one’s degree. Note: The MIP Program Proposal is available on the MIP website in “Student Resources” under “Academic Forms.”

Degree Conferral

Students must apply for conferral of their master's degree by filing an Application to Graduate on Axess by the Registrar's quarterly deadline. Students must be registered in the term their degree is conferred. See the Stanford Bulletin for further policy information.

Stanford-Vienna Exchange Program Policies

Standalone MIP students on the approved Vienna exchange complete at least 65 Stanford units and the equivalent of at least 15 DA units, while satisfying all curricular requirements. Required specialization courses must be completed at Stanford. Coterminal, joint, and dual degree students must obtain written confirmation of their individual unit allocation before accepting an exchange place.

MIP students on exchange at the DA will be coded as "active but not enrolled" during autumn quarter. They will receive an official transcript for their studies at the DA and the courses/grades will not transfer into their degree program at Stanford.
Submit proposed DA courses for MIP approval by the end of the first week of the DA autumn trimester. Exchange requirements

For additional information on academics and funding, please visit the Stanford-Vienna Exchange webpage and the Funding and Financial Assistance chapter in this handbook.

Eligibility

To be eligible, MIP students must have completed one full year of degree credit (45 units) by the start of the exchange program in autumn quarter. Students must also be in good academic standing and have no restrictions on spending the entire quarter in Vienna, Austria. The deadline to apply is typically in February/March.

How to Apply

MIP students must submit an application via SOLO.

Applications will be evaluated on academic performance, demonstrated interest in European studies, and alignment of academic and professional goals with the program. Financial need is also an important consideration.

Courses

MIP courses are listed under subject code INTLPOL in Navigator and Explore Courses.

Number of Units

Courses at Stanford are offered for units, commonly referred to as credits at other institutions. One unit represents approximately three hours of work per week inclusive of class time. Thus,

a three-unit course will likely require nine hours of work per week while a five-unit course will require 15 hours per week, and so forth. Of course, the actual hours may vary somewhat from class to class and student to student. It is also common for the amount of work to vary by school (e.g., a three-unit course at the School of Engineering may require as much work as a five-unit course in the School of Humanities and Sciences).

Though a unit is three hours of work per week, it is expected that only one of those hours would be class time. As a general rule of thumb, one should expect to spend two hours studying or working outside of class for every one hour in lecture or discussion (e.g., a typical four-unit course requires approximately 12 hours of work per week, including four hours of class time and eight hours of work outside of class).

If a student enrolls in 15 units of coursework per quarter (~3-4 courses) this would require approximately 45 hours per week, only 15 hours of which may be class time. For comparison's sake, a full-time job is typically 40 hours per week.

Important Policies

For Autumn 2026 entrants, a maximum of 12 undergraduate-level units may count toward the M.A. These are generally courses numbered 100–199; History and Political Science courses numbered 100–299 are treated as undergraduate-level. Confirm course classification and cohort requirements with MIP. Course-level limit

Per university policy, courses numbered below 100 do not count towards graduate degrees.

Activity, performance and visual arts, WELLNESS, and English proficiency courses do not satisfy MIP degree requirements. Consult MIP before enrolling in a course whose eligibility is unclear.

Directed Reading

A directed reading is an independent study arranged with the guidance and oversight from a Stanford instructor. See Navigator, the Stanford Bulletin, and the MIP website for details.

Course Policies

Students may arrange a directed reading course to be applied towards the Areas of Specialization or Customized Electives if the current course offerings do not meet particular research or study needs.

There are important restrictions for directed readings:

- Students can apply a maximum of 15 units of directed reading towards the MIP degree requirements.
    - This includes a maximum of 10 units that can be applied towards the Area of Specialization.
    - The balance can also be applied towards the Customized Electives.
- Students may receive up to a maximum of five units per directed reading course.
- Students must receive a letter grade for the directed reading.

Process

Once the student has identified a faculty member to oversee the course of study, one must submit a Directed Reading Proposal for review by the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs. The proposal must include the topic, plan for research or course of study, and assignments/deliverables for the course. Include the supervising instructor's signature or email confirmation.

If a proposal is approved, MIP will create a section of INTLPOL 299 for the specific instructor so that the student(s) can enroll in the course. The course will be listed as INTLPOL 299: Directed Reading and the section number will correspond to the instructor (e.g., INTLPOL 299 - 02 (Stoner, Kathryn)).

The proposal must be submitted to the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs no later than the second Friday of the academic quarter in which one plans to enroll in the course. MIP will review the directed reading proposal and render a decision no later than two days prior to the Final Study List Deadline.

Practical Training

Students may obtain an internship in a relevant research or industrial activity to enhance their professional experience consistent with the degree program and area of specialization. INTLPOL 298 and 298S provide academic practical-training enrollment. Course enrollment and program approval alone do not authorize employment for an international student; see CPT for International Students below.

Course Policies

Students may apply up to three units of practical training towards the Customized Electives only. There are limitations on the number of hours a student can work based on one's fellowship or assistantship status, international student status, etc. It is important to consult with the MIP team as well as the Bechtel International Center (for international students).

At the end of the quarter, a three-page final report must be submitted documenting work done and relevance to the degree program. The organization providing the internship must also submit confirmation that the work was satisfactorily completed.

Process

Anyone who needs to enroll in a curricular practical training course as part of an internship may apply by submitting the MIP CPT Proposal on the program website no later than the second Friday of the academic quarter. Official documentation from the CPT organization that confirms the position and work to be performed must also be submitted. Prior to submitting a proposal, please review full details on policy under Student Resources on the MIP website.

After MIP approval, enroll in the designated section of INTLPOL 298: Practical Training during autumn, winter, or spring, or INTLPOL 298S: Practical Training during summer. Confirm the required units, section, and deliverables with MIP. The summer course has its own assignment requirements.

CPT for International Students

As of September 15, 2026, Bechtel's published guidance pauses all CPT applications for experiences not required for degree completion, until further notice. Do not assume that an optional MIP internship qualifies for CPT. Current CPT notice

Consult Bechtel and MIP before accepting or starting any paid or unpaid off-campus internship. Bechtel determines eligibility. If CPT is available and approved, obtain the employer- and date-specific CPT-endorsed I-20 before beginning work. The MIP proposal deadline does not replace Bechtel's advance application timeline. Bechtel CPT requirements

For summer internships, review the current Bechtel guidance and MIP practical-training instructions. Ask Bechtel about any available alternative authorization; do not begin work while authorization is pending.

Language Courses

Units from language courses may only be applied towards the Customized Electives. Since students cannot apply language courses below the 100-level towards the MIP degree requirements, they should discuss options with the Stanford Language Center, including enrolling in a graduate-level section with the course number 394 or 395 (e.g., SPANLANG395).

English proficiency courses for international students do not count towards the MIP degree requirements.

Students should also confirm their language course enrollment with the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs sufficiently in advance of the Final Study List deadline for a given quarter.

Cross-Listed Courses

There is no limit to the number of cross-listed courses that students may count toward the minimum number of units required for the MIP degree, except where limits are expressly placed for their particular program's requirements, e.g., dual degree M.B.A. program with the GSB, joint degree program with the SLS.

Special Registration Status

Leave of Absence

Discuss a proposed leave with MIP and submit the university leave request in advance; international students also require Bechtel review. University policy permits up to four quarters per request and ordinarily no more than eight total leave quarters in a graduate career. Except for unexpected circumstances, file 30 days before the leave quarter. Parental and military leaves have special provisions. A leave ordinarily does not extend degree expiration dates or the deadline for resolving incompletes. For health-related leave, coordinate with MIP, the Graduate Life Office, and the appropriate health or accessibility office. Graduate leave policy

Any student who fails to register for autumn, winter, or spring quarter without an approved leave of absence will be discontinued per university policy. If a student later wishes to resume study, he or she must file a *Returning Graduate Student Request to Register* form with the Office of the Registrar.

Graduate Petition for Part-time Enrollment

Requests to enroll for fewer than 8 units during the academic year are approved only in specific circumstances. Graduate students who need fewer than 8 remaining units to complete degree requirements or to qualify for Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) status, may register for one quarter on a unit basis (3 to 7 units) to cover the deficiency. This status may be used only once during a degree program. International students should consult with Bechtel International Center prior to requesting part-time enrollment to ensure compliance with visa regulations. Most commonly, MIP students might apply for part-time enrollment during their final quarter of study.

Students with disabilities covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act may enroll in an approved reduced course load as recommended by the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Matriculated and enrolled pregnant graduate students may request up to two quarters of part-time enrollment for an approved Childbirth Academic Accommodation; see the Childbirth Accommodation Policy section of this bulletin and the GAP 5.9 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Adoption and Lactation.

All students requesting reduced enrollment need to complete and file the Graduate Petition for Part-time Enrollment form under "Special Registration Statuses".

Graduation Quarter

Registration is required for the quarter in which a student submits a thesis or has a degree conferred. Students who meet the following conditions are eligible to be assessed a special reduced tuition rate for the quarter in which they are receiving a degree:

- All course work and residency requirements have been completed.
- Confirm your eligibility with the Registrar, including any reinstatement requirements if returning to complete the degree.
- The student has formally applied to graduate.
- The student has only to submit the dissertation or thesis or project by the deadline for submission in the term designated as the graduation quarter.
- The student has filed all necessary forms regarding graduation quarter before the first day of the term chosen as graduation quarter.

Graduation Quarter may be used once per degree program and carries a $150 tuition rate; other applicable fees may remain. No additional course units may be taken. Confirm the required zero-unit registration with MIP and the Registrar. Special registration statuses

Students who do not complete all degree requirements by the end of the graduation quarter must re-register or apply for a leave of absence, provided their candidacy has not expired. Students must submit the Application for Extension of Candidacy or Master's Program before their program expires in order to avoid having to apply for reinstatement. The form is available online at the Student Forms and Processes page under "Graduate Candidacy."

Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR)

Terminal Graduate Registration (TGR) is available only when the university's eligibility requirements are met and the request is approved. Consult MIP about any remaining project, residency requirements, and enrollment in the appropriate INTLPOL 801 section. TGR Final Registration is a separate, one-quarter option for qualifying students completing incompletes or needing final registration. It does not permit additional course enrollment. TGR eligibility

TGR registration status requests are reviewed and either granted or rejected by the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs. TGR Forms must be submitted no later than the first day of the quarter in which TGR status is requested.

Other Policies

Registration Holds

Registration holds may arise from financial, administrative, or academic requirements. MIP may place a hold for insufficient progress under the applicable unit threshold, three or more incompletes, a GPA below 3.0, incorrect enrollment, missing program proposals, or an expired degree time limit. Review Minimum Progress and Time Limit for Completion above.

A notice will appear on Axess informing students of any holds and the contact information for the office that placed the hold. If the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs places a hold for any of the academic reasons, the student will be promptly notified by email. It is the student's responsibility to contact the office that placed the hold and take the necessary action to have it removed. If a hold prevents a student from registering for classes by the deadline, the Registrar will discontinue the student from the degree program and the

student must apply for reinstatement to the program. It is therefore imperative that students take the necessary steps to remove any enrollment holds expeditiously.

Reinstatement

Discontinued students wishing to reinstate should first consult with the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs. If the student decides to petition, they must complete an Application for Reinstatement and submit it to the degree program. Please review the application for policies, deadlines, and other important information.

Termination of Student Status

Each student admitted to the MIP program is expected to complete the degree, but a student may be asked to withdraw (or forcibly withdrawn) for matters such as unsatisfactory academic performance or violations of the Honor Code or Fundamental Standard.

A decision to terminate student status may be made a result of inadequate academic progress or unethical professional conduct. MIP leadership will meet with the student to discuss the situation and how to correct deficiencies before considering termination. A written document (sent via email) will be provided to the student listing the steps necessary to correct them, and the period of time that is allowed for their correction (warning period). This is normally a minimum of one academic quarter. At the end of the warning period, the student's progress will be reviewed and the student will be notified of the proposed action. A final decision will be made and the student will be notified in writing of his or her final status by the MIP Associate Director for Academic and Student Affairs or MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs.

Dean's Certifications and Verifications of Enrollment Forms

Students and alumni frequently approach programs with requests to complete a variety of forms verifying enrollment, conferral of degree, or confirming that the student has not been found responsible for engaging in academic dishonesty. These are sometimes called Dean's Certifications (if for Law or Medical schools), or have other names for jobs that require a security check.

Stanford has established processes for managing these types of forms and certifications. Please visit the following websites to for guidance:

- Certifications and Verifications – detailed information and instructions

- Dean's Certifications Forms Instructions and Information - steps to request completion of forms for law school and medical school applications, etc.

Note: MIP is not authorized to complete these forms on behalf of Stanford.

Advising

Faculty, Program, and Career Advising

Students will work with faculty, academic and career advisors throughout the two years of the program. MIP's academic advising staff will assist the student in planning a program of study.

Please review Advising Expectations under Program Policies and Graduate Advising in the Stanford Bulletin for additional information.

Individualized advising is available to each student with access to three professional advisors:

Faculty Advisor - Faculty advisors assist students in the refinement of their academic and professional interests, including ways to deepen topical expertise while at Stanford, and generally serve as content experts or mentors. It is the student's responsibility to establish and maintain contact with the advisor.

Program Advisor - The MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs individually advises students on: course and degree requirements; institutional and program policies; and academic policies. This role also provides support for any academic, personal, housing, or other areas.

Career Advisors - The MIP Career Services and Alumni Engagement Manager and the MIP International Student Career Advisor meet with students one-on-one to discuss career goals, strategies, and tactics, and recommend resources, tools, and job platforms. They are available to review resumes and cover letters, and coach students on developing job search skills, such as researching organizations, crafting an elevator pitch, networking, and interviewing. The MIP International Student Career Advisor also provides guidance on US work authorization options and ways to successfully navigate the US-based job search for your internship and post-graduation job.

Details on Faculty Advisor

A faculty advisor is assigned during the first autumn quarter. Students are expected to schedule at least one meeting with their faculty advisor each quarter. Prepare questions about your interests, courses, and progress. You may also seek mentorship from other FSI or Stanford faculty and discuss a change of advisor with MIP. Advising expectations

Once assigned, students are asked to initiate contact with a new faculty advisor. The Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs is available for questions regarding courses, academic policies, degree progress, or any personal concerns.

Beginning in their first year, students are expected to discuss a coherent program of study with the faculty advisor to guide their selection of courses. Additionally, students will submit an Individual Development Plan (IDP) outlining their academic and professional goals that will be shared with the faculty advisor.

MIP Advising Requirements

In consultation with the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs, students must complete their preliminary program proposal during spring quarter of their first year of study. Students may deviate from their preliminary program proposal during the second academic year, but must be careful to fulfill all requirements.

Submit the Graduation Program Proposal no later than the end of the second week of the quarter in which you intend to graduate. Confirm completion of all remaining requirements with MIP and submit the separate university application to graduate by the Registrar's deadline.

Advising Timetable for the Master's Degree

Year 1

Autumn Quarter

- Schedule and attend the quarterly faculty-advisor meeting
- Meet with the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs, as needed

Winter Quarter

- Meet with MIP Career Services and Alumni Engagement Manager to discuss internship search
- Schedule the winter faculty-advisor meeting and prepare your course and internship questions.

Spring Quarter

- Schedule the spring faculty-advisor meeting before finalizing your second-year plan.
- Meet with MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs to submit MIP Program Proposal and unofficial transcript (University Milestone)
    - Discuss degree progress and requirements to complete during year two

- Meet with MIP Career Services and Alumni Engagement Manager to finalize internship search

Year 2

Autumn Quarter

- Attend the quarterly faculty-advisor meeting; consult the MIP Assistant Director as needed
    - Review progress toward completing degree requirements
- Meet with MIP Career Services and Alumni Engagement Manager to discuss job search

Winter Quarter

- Attend the quarterly faculty-advisor meeting
- Meet with MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs, as needed, to discuss progress toward completing degree requirements
- Meet with MIP Career Services and Alumni Engagement Manager, as needed, to discuss job search

Spring Quarter

Schedule the spring faculty-advisor meeting to review your academic and professional transition.

- Meet with MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs to confirm completion of degree requirements
    - Submit Graduation Program Proposal (MIP Program Milestone)
- Meet with MIP Career Services and Alumni Engagement Manager to finalize job search

MIP Student Experience

MIP Student Initiatives

International Policy Student Association (IPSA)

IPSA is an entirely student-run group of first and second-year MIP students. It is also a formal student organization at Stanford. All MIP students are automatically IPSA members. The association has three objectives, and is supported by funding from the MIP program.

Community Building - IPSA fosters a community around current students and MIP alumni. It organizes social events, provides connectivity and networking opportunities for current students as well as enhances alumni participation and access.

Professional Development - IPSA provides networking, skills-building and other career-related opportunities for MIP students to ensure they are able to find and attain positions that best suit their goals and interests.

Advocacy - IPSA represents the needs and opinions of the student body and nurtures a two-way feedback channel between administrators and students. IPSA also strives to support the MIP administration in program improvements.

Stanford International Policy Review (SIPR)

SIPR is a biannual student-run international affairs and public policy journal housed at MIP. SIPR publishes two issues per year, in the winter and in the spring. Each issue features articles, commentary, and book reviews on international policy topics. SIPR's purpose is twofold: to provide timely and compelling analysis on pressing policy issues, and to provide a formative educational experience to student editors. SIPR is supported by funding from the MIP program.

MIP students can apply to join the editorial team, as well as submit work for publication. Student editors may enroll in INTLPOL 300J: International Policy Journal for credit.

Other Student Initiatives

If MIP students have ideas for initiatives and events outside the scope of IPSA and SIPR, they may submit proposals to the MIP staff for review using the Student Request for MIP Funds forms available in the Student Resources page of the MIP website. IPSA and SIPR representatives must use the same forms when using funds from their budgets allocated by the MIP program.

Encina Hall and MIP Suite

Encina Hall Building Access

MIP students have access to Encina Hall from 8:00am-9:00pm Monday-Friday. The Stanford ID card unlocks all lower level and first floor exterior doors. The MIP Suite is available to students from 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday, and the glass door main entry to the suite will normally be unlocked during these hours.

MIP Suite

The MIP Suite is a shared, multi-use space for the MIP community so please be mindful of noise. Zoom or phone-based meetings should be moved into private rooms whenever possible.

The suite contains valuable equipment so please help keep the suite safe by making sure doors close securely upon exiting. It is also important to close and latch all windows in the classroom and lounge since the suite is at the garden level.

General Use Policy

Students may use the appliances on the left side of the kitchen (Keurig coffee maker, drip coffee maker, electric kettle). The microwave and toaster oven are shared between the students and MIP staff. These items are self-serve and should be cleaned after use or as needed.

Some of the kitchen cabinets on the left side have been designated for student use. One includes items that IPSA, MIP, or students have shared (e.g., coffee, tea). Another contains items supplied by MIP, including plates, bowls, mugs, and glasses. Students may also use the drawers to the right of the microwave, which contain utensils, paper goods, plasticware, etc.

Please note that the refrigerator in the kitchen is reserved for MIP staff and supplies for MIP events. Students may, however, use the fridge's water and ice dispenser. The MIP Student Lounge has its own fridge for student use.

In general, everyone must clean up after themselves. Please wash, dry, and put away all dishes. Additionally, users must wipe down surfaces, including counters and tables. All common space, lounge, and kitchen furniture must be returned to its original position and chairs must be pushed in under the tables.

Whiteboards are available throughout the MIP Suite for student use. Please wipe and erase all whiteboards after use, including those in the classroom. If using a moveable whiteboard, please return it to its original position. If using the whiteboard walls in the student lounge or Policy Studio (classroom), please be mindful of where the whiteboard paint ends and the wall paint begins, so as not to write on the walls.

MIP Flyer Posting Policy

This policy applies to all students, student organizations, and campus affiliates who wish to post flyers within MIP's administrative or academic office spaces, student lounge, collaborative spaces (Policy Studio/Vault/SCIF/Patio), or adjacent areas (hallway, entryways/doorways to Encina Hall).

MIP Reservable Spaces

Students may request MIP meeting and event spaces through the MIP Spaces page. These include the Patio, SCIF breakout room, and Vault conference room. Requests for the Policy Studio classroom are reviewed individually as this space has limited availability. Contact the MIP team for current availability, access arrangements, and reservation procedures.

How to Make a Reservation:

The Vault, SCIF, and MIP Patio may be reserved by students:

1. Check the Outlook calendars for availability (search for):
    a. Encina Hall Center 10A MIP Conference Room The Vault
    b. Encina Hall Center 10B MIP SCIF Breakout Room
    c. Encina Hall Center MIP Patio
2. Submit a request using the links on the MIP Space Reservations page. Please be sure to review all policies prior to submission. *[PENDING - email Jonathan and Meghan during Autumn 2026]*
3. MIP will review each request and respond within 48 hours. Booking requests are tentative until a confirmation email has been received.

MIP Patio

Please be mindful of noise when using the MIP Patio. Sound travels upward to offices and classrooms on several floors of Encina Hall and Encina West. Students are expected to clean up after themselves, push the chairs back in, and collapse the umbrella(s) when they leave.

Additional Spaces

In addition to the kitchen, student lounge, and reservable rooms, there are various other spaces available to students on a first-come, first-served basis. These include two cubicles, two tables in the main area of the suite, the high kitchen table, and various tables in the Policy Studio (classroom).

MIP Cardinal Print Copier and Student iMac Workstation

MIP has one Cardinal Print copier in the suite available for student printing, which is available during normal office hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm). Students use their Stanford ID to access their Cardinal Print queues or make copies. MIP will add $20 to each student's Cardinal Print account at the beginning of the autumn quarter for which they matriculate into the program.

There is one iMac available for student use in the cubicle next to the copier. Please do not save materials on the iMac and be sure to log off after each session.

Please ask the staff for help with issues with the copier or iMac. Additional paper is located in the cabinet to the left of the copier. Do not remove the toner cartridges.

The Fukuyama Library

Books located in the Fukuyama library - near the Vault and across from the SCIF - have been graciously donated by Dr. Francis Fukuyama and are available for students to check out on loan. Instructions and policies are listed on the checkout form. Please review the details thoroughly before checking out a book. *(Note: one must use a Stanford email account to access the form.)*

Alumni and Careers Books

There are also books in the Fukuyama library written by some of our MIP/IPS alumni that highlight their interests, research, etc.

A small collection of books on career support and resources is also available.

All books are available for students to check out per the aforementioned form.

Funding and Financial Assistance

Eligibility to Receive Aid

All students receiving funding (loans, fellowships, etc.) must be registered full-time by the university's published quarterly deadlines in order for aid to be disbursed. This means all master's students must enroll in at least eight units in autumn, winter, and spring quarters in order to be eligible for aid. A student may request aid while on part-time enrollment (3-7 units), pending approval of the adjusted enrollment status and financial aid from the Office of Accessible Education, Registrar's Office, and Office of Financial Aid.

Any student intending to take a leave of absence must consult with the Financial Aid Office, the lender (if applicable), and the MIP Assistant Director for Academic and Student Affairs to understand any implications on the financial award.

Fellowships

Students are encouraged to actively seek and apply for fellowships that are external to Stanford University or the MIP program. Additionally, Ford Dorsey and FSI Fellowships are offered to a limited number of incoming students based on merit and specific eligibility requirements. Fellowships may consist of full or partial tuition, a stipend, and/or a health insurance subsidy. Students who are enrolled in the Cardinal Care insurance program, and who receive a fellowship stipend equivalent to the minimum salary for at least a 10% assistantship, are eligible for a Cardinal Care subsidy.

Tax Information

The tax treatment of fellowship and stipend support depends on how funds are used and the student's circumstances, including tax residency and any applicable treaty. Review the Financial Aid Office and Bechtel tax resources and retain your award and tax documents. Stanford does not provide personal tax advice.

Disbursal and the Stanford University Bill

Fellowships are disbursed on a quarterly basis, approximately 3-5 business days before the start of the academic quarter. Payments are initiated in the Graduate Financial Support system (GFS). Tuition fellowships and health insurance stipends are applied as credits to a student's bill. For students awarded a stipend, standard charges (e.g. room, board, and fees) are applied as credits to a student's bill first, then any remaining balance is deposited into a

designated U.S. bank account. Students should sign up for Direct Deposit in Axess to ensure timely disbursements.

University Policies

Full fellowships (ones that provide a similar amount of support as a 50% FTE assistantship) are intended to enable students to focus exclusively on their studies so concurrent hourly employment is limited to eight hours per week during the academic year (16 hours per week in summer quarter). Students on full fellowships may hold a concurrent research or teaching assistantship appointment up to a maximum of 25% (10 hours per week) with no additional hourly employment during the academic year (50% with no additional hourly employment in summer).

Please refer to the relevant chapter in the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures document for more information on fellowship policies.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships are a form of student employment, earning a compensation package including salary and tuition allowance (TAL) for the performance of research or teaching services to the university as part of the student's academic and professional training and development. A subsidy towards Stanford's Cardinal Care health insurance is also provided for those who are enrolled in that plan.

Full details on assistantships are listed in the Stanford Administrative Guide and on the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures website. Students who hold assistantships are responsible for knowing the policies listed in the aforementioned websites.

MIP Assistantships

MIP is often able to hire a small number of second-year students as teaching assistants (TA) to support core courses, depending on programmatic needs. Additionally, some second-year students may be hired as research assistants (RA) to work with FSI faculty, depending on funding available from faculty and within the program itself. MIP staff work with students to identify and apply to assistantship opportunities. The number of teaching and research assistantships vary annually and are dependent upon curricular needs and availability of funding.

Other Assistantships

Note that individual departments, centers, institutes, and programs outside MIP may have similar opportunities available. It is the student's responsibility to explore these independently. All assistantship offers are subject to review and approval by the home department, per university policy.

New Hire Details

Students who identify and wish to accept research or teaching assistantships must obtain approval from MIP, and may do so by submitting this form. Note that a 50% research or teaching assistantship is 20 hours per week, which requires students to enroll at the 8-10 unit tuition rate.

Complete the university's Form I-9 process and provide the required identity and employment-authorization documents. International students should consult Bechtel and the hiring unit about documentation and Social Security Number procedures. Begin these steps early enough to meet the appointment start date.

International Students

International graduate students who wish to be appointed as teaching or course assistants must first be screened by the English for Speakers of Other Languages program (ESOL) for readiness to use English in a teaching role. When possible, the screening should occur one academic quarter prior to the desired assistantship appointment. Students with insufficient language skills must take a course given by the Linguistics Department before holding a Teaching Assistantship.

First Year Assistantship Policy

Students are not permitted to hold an assistantship until the spring quarter of their first year of study except in the case of financial hardship. Students with financial need can petition to hold a RA/TA of no more than 25% during winter quarter of the first year by contacting the MIP Team. Approval is granted on a limited basis, pending review of a student's academic record, financial situation, and course load.

Additional Employment Opportunities

MIP students may work for pay on a "casual" hourly basis at Stanford provided it does not adversely impact their academic progress. Students who identify and wish to accept hourly positions must inform the MIP staff by submitting this form. Work can include administrative assistance in an office or with an academic event. Work that involves research related to the student's area of study should not be paid as a "casual" hourly job; rather it would be considered a research or teaching assistantship that is compensated by the relevant faculty member or academic unit by covering a portion of tuition in addition to a salary.

Limits on Hours of Employment

Employment limits depend on immigration status, funding, and concurrent appointments. During the academic year, university limits generally permit U.S. citizens and permanent residents up to 28 combined hours weekly; F-1 and J-1 students generally have a 20-hour limit. Full-fellowship recipients may have eight hourly hours or a 25% assistantship, but not both. Obtain MIP and hiring-unit approval and consult Bechtel where applicable; summer rules differ.
Employment limits

MIP Summer Funded Internships

Students are strongly encouraged to pursue an international-policy internship between the first and second years. Funding may be available for eligible unpaid or minimally funded internships. Consult the annual MIP Summer Funded Internship Policy for award limits, deadlines, eligibility, and deliverables; obtain written approval before relying on support.
Annual internship policy

MIP Small Conference Grants

MIP has established a small fund to provide limited support to MIP students who have conference-related expenses, such as registration fees and travel and lodging costs. The funds are available to MIP students in good academic standing on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted. Students are limited to one grant per academic year. Priority will be given to students who have not previously received this grant. *Note: The conference must have an international policy focus. Additionally, participation during the academic year will require approval to be excused from classes and other academic engagements.*

Grant Amounts by Level of Participation

● Attending Only *(no role in the conference program)*: up to $100 for domestic (U.S.) conferences and up to $250 for international conferences
● Panel Participant *(e.g., chairing or serving as discussant, but not presenting a paper)*: up to $200 for domestic (U.S.) conferences and up to $350 for international conferences
● Presenting a Paper: up to $500, regardless of location

Eligible students may read the policy and apply on the Student Resources page of the MIP website.

Stanford Graduate Financial Support Programs

Stanford University has created several Support Programs for graduate students dealing with challenging financial situations. They include:

- The **Emergency Grant-In-Aid Funds** assists graduate students who experience a financial emergency or unexpected expense causing financial hardship.
- The **Graduate Student Aid Fund** assists graduate students with health-related fees.
- The **Graduate Family Grant Program** is available to students with families to cover expenses such as childcare, healthcare, insurance and rent.
- The **Graduate Housing Loan** provides loans for move-in costs for off-campus housing, such as first and last month's rent and security deposit.

Loans and Financial Aid

Current and prospective students who will need financial aid are encouraged to contact the Stanford Financial Aid Office for information about their loan programs. Admitted applicants should apply for financial aid as soon as they accept the offer of admission to ensure timely receipt of any funding package.

Questions concerning student loans, loan deferments and other financial aid counseling can be addressed to:
Stanford Financial Aid Office
Montag Hall
355 Galvez Street
(650) 723-3058
financialaid@stanford.edu
https://financialaid.stanford.edu/grad/

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) may forgive an eligible borrower's remaining Direct Loan balance after the equivalent of 120 qualifying monthly payments under an eligible repayment arrangement while working full-time for an eligible employer. Use Federal Student Aid's current guidance and PSLF Help Tool to check your loans, employment, and payment history. Federal Student Aid

- Qualifying employment can include eligible government and nonprofit organizations. Eligibility depends on the employer and the program's current rules.
- Consult the Stanford Financial Aid Office and Federal Student Aid for current information before making repayment decisions.

Student Financial Accounts - Understanding the Bill and Payment System

Student financial account access & overview

- Understand Your Student Bill and Payment System
- Your Financial Account Details

Additional resources

- FAQs for graduate students with funding
- Payroll Deduction overview, enrollment, & FAQs

Support from the Student Services Center

- Contact the Student Services Center
- 1:1 appointments with the Student Services Center (Zoom or in-person)

MIP Careers

MIP Careers aims to provide students with skills and tools to develop their professional competencies. The career advisors support students as they develop their career goals, build meaningful professional networks, and identify meaningful job opportunities. MIP Careers provides students with career advising, career information, resources, and tools.

MIP Careers Principles

The scope of services is based on these principles:

Teach to Fish - MIP Careers' model is to "Teach Them to Fish". *Give someone a fish and you feed them for a day; teach someone to fish and you feed them for a lifetime*. MIP partners with students by offering advice, resources, and tools that equip, empower and enable students to succeed in their job search and achieve their career goals.

Adopt a Whole Person Whole Life Perspective - A job fits within a career, and a career fits within a life. MIP Careers encourages students to adopt a whole person, whole life perspective. It is important to consider what matters most both personally and professionally. Identify and overcome limiting beliefs. Factor in, reconcile, and resolve trade-offs, risk preferences, and priorities, as well as recognize when there may be conflicts and illogic in priorities.

Own the Job Search - Students are wholly accountable for making career decisions and undertaking their job search. Students get clear about what they want, their interests, skills, and the impact they desire. Students explore career alternatives, research sectors, and employers. They monitor job sources and employment opportunities. Students perform the steps necessary, i.e., prepare a resume, relevant cover letters, network, and interview, to secure internships, fellowships, and jobs.

Develop Job Search Skills - Students who invest in job search skills, such as networking, informational interviewing, researching employers, etc., increase the likelihood that they will secure career opportunities that will suit them best.

Two-Way, Direct Communication - MIP staff are committed to supporting students' best interests. Most things will go right but some things may not. If something isn't functioning well, please share it with MIP Careers since the team may not be aware of these concerns. MIP and FSI have a lot to offer so the goal is to ensure that students benefit from it.

It Takes a Village - The MIP, FSI, and extended Stanford University communities, both present and past, are available to offer support and information. MIP is a small and dynamic community where collaboration is emphasized over competition. Students are encouraged to engage with alumni, share job postings and career development opportunities, and organize career-related events. Participation in MIP Careers benefits all students.

Career and Professional Development Resources

University Resources

MIP students can use Stanford Career Education (CareerEd), the Vice Provost for Graduate Education (VPGE), and the Haas Center for Public Service. CareerEd uses Handshake for job opportunities, appointments, and events.

MIP Resources

MIP Careers supplements these offerings by curating focused resources that are particularly relevant for MIP students.

Additional MIP resources include:

- The #MIP-Careers Slack Channel provides a simple way for students and MIP to post job opportunities and other short fuse announcements.
- Interstride provides information and resources for international students and their job search.
- APSIA is an excellent source of internships and jobs. MIP students benefit from its career resources as part of FSI's membership in the association.

Student Career Information Privacy and Sharing

MIP obtains students' resumes as well as details on their career preferences, historical and current employment information, and employment outcomes data. In addition, it provides MIP stakeholders with anonymized information about students' career preferences and employment outcomes.

MIP protects student career information in accordance with FERPA and Stanford's student-record policies. Review the MIP Careers Student Information Privacy and Sharing Policy after matriculation; obtain current access instructions from the MIP team.

Students submit a current resume/CV. In addition, they are expected to provide details about internship, job, and fellowship offers and acceptances, and other specifics about employment outcomes. Students who have access to fellow students' career information (e.g., resumes or bios) are asked to treat such information carefully by complying with student privacy laws.

MIP Summer Funded Internships

MIP intends for students to work in a professional capacity during the summer between their first and second years. Students are encouraged to locate summer internships that provide work experience on international policy issues related to the MIP areas of specialization.

Students with eligible unpaid or minimally funded internships may apply for MIP support under the annual summer funding policy. The award notice specifies the amount, approved dates, and required deliverables, including any internship blog post. Check the Student Resources page and program announcements for the summer 2027 application timetable and terms. Summer internship resources

International students should begin work-authorization planning with Bechtel well before summer. Review the CPT section above and the current pause on non-required CPT before making internship arrangements. Academic enrollment or an MIP funding award is not work authorization.

Students should also seek out other sources of funding (e.g., scholarships, fellowships, internship payments) to cover the costs of a summer internship.

After MIP - “Alumni-hood”

Graduates join the MIP alumni network and the wider Stanford alumni community. Alumni can maintain professional connections, share opportunities, and take part in university learning and events.

Stanford Alumni

The Stanford Alumni Association (SAA) is all about reaching, serving and engaging Stanford alumni and students. Founded in 1892 by the University's first graduates, the SAA produces a wide array of offerings and programming to support individuals at every stage of their Stanford journey, both as students and as alumni.

Graduating MIP students can immediately benefit from the following resources:

Stanford Alumni Email - Graduates generally retain access to their @stanford.edu email for 120 days. Create a separate @alumni.stanford.edu account through Stanford Pass and follow the current account-transition instructions. Establish forwarding and preserve needed messages before student access expires. Alumni email

Stanford Pass - An updated and centralized login experience designed to provide seamless access to the alumni directory, email, groups, event registration, and more with the same username and password.

Alumni Directory - This allows students and alumni to stay in touch and expand their networks. Search the directory to find professional contacts, classmates, and other alumni by degree, geography, or industry.

Young Alumni - Recent graduates can explore ways to stay in touch and follow the Alumni Association on Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

Alumni-Only Perks - All Stanford graduates automatically qualify for special offers and can access them at any time.

Alumni Groups and Events - Join one or several of over 500 groups, clubs, and communities, and explore their events.

Alumni Newsletters - Subscribe to keep up to date on all things alumni with stories, local events, webcasts, faculty talks and trip notifications.

Career Resources - Stanford PlusFive provides career-development support to alumni for five years after graduation, including coaching, job postings, and events. Update the primary email on your Handshake account before losing access to student email; CareerEd can assist with access after that transition. Stanford PlusFive

Stanford Mentors - Find or become a Stanford mentor with the Stanford Alumni Mentoring (SAM) networking platform. Ask questions and join groups to gain insights tailored to your needs. Be ready to respond to mentorship requests.

Lifelong Learning - Explore Stanford's alumni learning opportunities, professional education, and continuing studies. Check current eligibility, access terms, and fees for each offering.

Alumni Reunion Homecoming - Consult the current Reunion Homecoming schedule for dates, eligibility, and registration details.

SAA Membership - By joining the Stanford Alumni Association, alumni receive special and additional member-only benefits. These privileges start the day a membership is activated and are constantly being updated.

MIP Alumni

Stay in touch with MIP and notify the team of job and other updates. Also stay connected to the FSI community.

FSI Engagement - Sign up for FSI research and announcements, weekly news analysis and commentary, policy recommendations and analysis, event invitations, and media alerts and press releases.

FSI Social Media - Follow the institute's current channels through the FSI website.
MIP Social Media - network, post and search for jobs, and engage with students and alumni via the MIP LinkedIn Group.

MIP Employment Outcomes Reporting - MIP Careers will engage with alumni to obtain updates on employment outcomes for MIP and APSIA reporting requirements. *(Note: MIP tracks trends and produces summarized anonymized career metrics.)*

Student Resources

Graduate students have access to a wealth of resources available to the university community. This section highlights several of them.

Emails and Listservs

There are a handful of listservs and email addresses used in the MIP community. For the listservs, students are subscribed to them accordingly.

MIP communicates with students exclusively through their @stanford.edu email accounts while these are active. See "Alumnihood" in this handbook for details on email address expiration after graduation as well as the process to set up an alumni email account.

MIP uses program-wide, cohort, and continuing-student mailing lists. The team will confirm your subscriptions and the addresses for 2026–27.
mip-students@lists.stanford.edu (All MIP students and staff)
mip-continuingstudents@lists.stanford.edu (Continuing dual and joint degree students from previous classes)
Cohort lists: the Class of 2027 and Class of 2028 receive cohort-specific communications.
mip-classof2027@lists.stanford.edu (Class of 2027)
mip-classof2028@lists.stanford.edu (Class of 2028)

MIP Listserv Policy
Be sure to familiarize yourself and abide with the MIP Listserv Policy. This policy applies to all users of all MIP-affiliated listservs. It includes messages sent by faculty, staff, students, alumni, and approved campus partners.

Current email addresses are:
internationalpolicy@stanford.edu (general MIP email address)
mip-admissions@stanford.edu (MIP admissions email)
stanfordipr@stanford.edu (MIP International Policy Review Student Journal email)
ipsassociation@stanford.edu (MIP International Policy Student Association email)

Weekly Program Newsletter

During the academic year (September-early June) MIP sends a weekly newsletter to students with updates on courses, upcoming events, important deadlines, etc.

Student Forms

There are a number of different forms students will use during their time at Stanford.

University Graduate Student Forms

The Student Services Office manages student forms on its website, most of which are eForms accessible via Axess. There are forms for the following:

- Degree Progress and Program Changes
- Enrollment
- Leave, Withdrawal, and Return/Reinstatement
- Special Registration Statuses
- Documents and Personal Information

MIP Student Forms

Student forms and reports are available on the MIP website under Student Resources. The portal includes forms for:

- Internships
- Practical Training
- Directed Readings (i.e., independent study)
- Student Campus Employment
- Stanford-Vienna Academic Exchange Program
- Student Request for MIP Funding
- Small Conference Grant Participation Application

Graduate Student Support

The Graduate Life Office is available to help graduate students navigate issues and challenges that students face in both their personal and academic lives. It provides support for student housing, financial hardship, mental health and wellness, and a host of other things.

Health, Wellness, and Medical Care

Vaden Health Services provides student health care and connects students with medical, mental-health, and insurance resources. Check the current website for services, locations, appointments, and after-hours support.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) counsels students with personal, academic and relationship concerns through short-term individual or group sessions (including couples counseling).

Well-Being at Stanford empowers individuals and communities to flourish through education, connection and positive culture change.

Mental Health Resources provide links to various online resources.

The Bridge Peer Counseling Center provides student peer support. Check its current website for contact information, hours, and availability.

The Stanford Health Library is free, open to the public, and offers health information designed to help you make informed decisions about health and health care.

Academic Support

The Center for Teaching and Learning provides all Stanford students with academic skills resources to help them become empowered learners.

The Hume Center for Writing and Speaking works with all Stanford students to help them develop rich and varied abilities in every aspect of writing and oral communication.

The Lathrop Learning Hub is a study space and one-stop shop for technology needs at Stanford.

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program in the Stanford Language Center offers courses to currently enrolled, international graduate students in English as a second language (ESL).

Accessibility

The Office of Accessible Education (OAE) works to mitigate physical and attitudinal barriers students with disabilities might face. They coordinate accommodations and provide grievance and complaint resolution.

Community and Cultural Centers

Stanford Centers for Equity, Community, and Leadership

Stanford's Centers for Equity, Community, and Leadership support community, belonging, and leadership through the campus centers described below.

The A^{3}C builds a community of Asian and Asian American students, faculty, staff, and alumni that fosters greater understanding and awareness of the Asian experience in America.

The Black Community Services Center works to ensure that students thrive and reach their full potential by focusing on five pillars: academic / intellectual, alumni engagement, community building, leadership development, and mental health and well-being.

As a vibrant student center, El Centro Chicano y Latino works to support students academically, personally, socially, and culturally. El Centro focuses on creating mature, aware, and socially responsible individuals who advocate and dialogue for equity and social justice.

The First Generation and/or Low Income Student Success Center (FLI) operates on the pillars of advocacy, mentorship, community & belonging and connections to resources to provide holistic support for first-generation, low-income, transfers, guardian scholars and FLI graduate students at Stanford.

QSR is a community center for students who are celebrating, questioning, investigating and/or struggling with sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

The Markaz Resource Center, whose name comes from the Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Turkish and Urdu word for "center," is unique in its cultural focus and goal of serving all students interested in Africa, the Middle East, and central, south and southeast Asia, as well as the American Muslim experience.

The Native American Cultural Center works to improve the quality of life for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous Pacific Islanders. The center's community reaches out to new students and their families to help them adjust to life at Stanford, realize goals, and prepare for the future.

The Women's Community Center exists to facilitate growth and engagement for Stanford students around issues of gender, equity, identity, and justice. The center builds community and provides opportunities to explore scholarship, leadership, and activism.

Office for Military-Affiliated Communities

The Office for Military-Affiliated Communities (OMAC) focuses on the administration and management of VA financial benefits, coordinates and supports educational opportunities for military-affiliated communities, and conducts outreach to faculty regarding engagement and support for faculty grants or other funding specifically identified for military and veteran communities.

Religious and Spiritual Life

Office for Religious and Spiritual Life

A home for people of all religious and non-religious traditions, the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life cultivates meaningful spaces to explore who you are and want to become for the sake of the world.

Addressing Concerns

Students may raise program concerns with the MIP Associate Director or Assistant Director. If the concern involves one of those individuals, students may use another appropriate university channel, including the Ombuds or the applicable grievance process.

Further grievance and dispute policy and procedures are described in the Stanford Bulletin.

Stanford Ombuds

The Office of the Ombuds provides confidential services to help students and employees resolve and cope more effectively with tough situations that may arise in the academic or workplace environment. The University Ombudsperson is available via the web or by phone at (650) 497-1542.

SHARE Title IX and Title VI Office

The SHARE Title IX and Title VI Office provides information about reporting, support, and university processes concerning sex-based and other covered discrimination and harassment. Consult its website for current policies and reporting options. Confidential support is available through the Confidential Support Team. SHARE

Additional Resources and Useful Links

Academic Support

- Academic Calendar (includes quarterly Enrollment and Registration deadlines)
- Axess
- Course Descriptions and Schedule
    - Navigate Classes
    - Explore Courses
- Stanford Directory Information
- Graduate Student Handbook
- Hume Center for Writing and Speaking
- Library
- Office of Accessible Education (OAE)
- Stanford Bulletin
- Stanford Language Center
- Stanford Syllabus
- Academic Skills Resources

Activities

- Stanford Athletic Events
- Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU)
- Cardinal Engage
- Community Centers
- Graduate Life Office
- Graduate Student Council
- Office of Student Engagement
- Stanford Events
    - Arts
    - FSI
    - Global Studies

Academic Community

- Freeman Spogli Institute
- School of Humanities and Sciences

Confidential Resources

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Confidential Support Team
- Office of the Ombuds

Family Life

- Students with Children
- Lactation Support
- Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Adoption

Financial Resources

- Financial Aid Office
- Mind Over Money
- Stanford Support Programs
- Tax information

Health and Wellness

- Vaden Student Health Service
    - Cardinal Care Health Insurance
    - Confidential Support Team
    - Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
    - Well-Being Resources
- Graduate Life Office (GLO) Crisis Assistance
- The Bridge Peer Counseling Center
- Housing and Dining Services
- SHARE Title IX and Title VI Office
- Stanford Recreation & Wellness
- Office of Religious & Spiritual Life
    - Windhover Contemplative Center
- Stanford Ergonomics Program
- Weiland Health Initiative (initiative promoting wellness across gender identities and sexual orientations)
- 5-SURE Services
- Stanford Department of Public Safety

International Students

- Bechtel International Center
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Immigration Issues and Resources
- Immigrants' Rights Clinic

Professional Development

- Stanford Career Education (CareerEd)
- Haas Center for Public Service
- Stanford Continuing Studies

- Vice Provost for Graduate Education (VPGE) (funding, professional development, and graduate-student resources)

Technical Support

- Computing and Communication Services
- Learning Technology and Spaces
- Farmshare (software access)

Transportation Resources

- Stanford Transportation
    - Access for Persons with Disabilities
    - Disability Golf (DisGo) Cart Service
    - Free Marguerite Shuttle