



GLOBAL CHARACTER, GLOBAL IMPACT



Thank you for your interest in studying international affairs at American University's School of International Service!

A degree in international studies gives you powerful options. International affairs, including areas like international development, environmental policy, foreign policy, national security, peace studies, and intercultural communication, is a rich field of study for people who want **careers of global impact**. Our graduates go on to work in government, including the State Department, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security; nonprofits like Freedom House; international organizations like World Food Program; and businesses like Booz Allen Hamilton and RAND Corporation.

You will be joining our community at an exciting time. Our **top-10 undergraduate program**, so ranked by Foreign Policy magazine for many years, is leading in the emerging areas of global international relations (IR), climate justice, global health, and the critical intersection of human security, environmentally sound economic development, and human rights. Our **Model UN team has been ranked #1 by Best Delegate for three consecutive years**.

Housed in the **first LEED Gold-certified building at the first university in the US to achieve carbon neutrality**, SIS walks the walk. Our commitment to leading through service attracts students ready to bring their own ideas and enrich them with knowledge and practice. Faculty at SIS conduct transformational research and run innovative centers, including AU's Center for Environment, Community, and Equity; SIS's Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology; SIS's Institute for Responsible Carbon Removal, and our Accountability Research Center.

Washington, DC, is THE nexus of politics and policy for the US and globally—it is a hub of global influence. Our nation's capital is filled with research, internships, and career opportunities for SIS undergraduate students. And **our students don't just wait for the world to come to them; they go to the world**. SIS has extensive study abroad opportunities with partner institutions globally.

AU/SIS's international studies curriculum not only prepares our students for a world in which new threats and opportunities emerge daily, we prepare you to **develop a global mindset** and **become a global leader** who embodies the idea of service and strives every day to create positive change in the world. I hope you will join us!

Shannon Hader, MD MPH
Dean, School of International Service

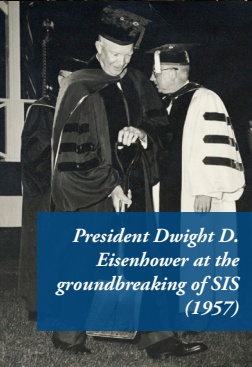




*President Barack Obama
in the SIS Atrium (2015)*



*President John F. Kennedy
at AU (1963)*



*President Dwight D.
Eisenhower at the
groundbreaking of SIS
(1957)*



*President Jimmy Carter
at AU (2007)*

CHALLENGES

Food insecurity. Nationalism. Genocide. Disinformation. The intersection of climate change and social equity, or climate justice. AU's School of International Service, **located in Washington, DC**, prepares you for service-minded leadership roles pursuing solutions and positive change. We prepare you to **flourish at the intersections** of the thorniest challenges.

All SIS undergraduate students pursue a **BA in International Studies**. You'll also pick a thematic area and regional focus to hone in on the field and region most related to your goals.

THEMATIC AREAS

Peace, Global Security, and Conflict Resolution
The Global Economy
Foreign Policy and National Security
Global Inequality and Development
Environmental Sustainability and Global Health
Identity, Race, Gender, and Culture
Justice, Ethics, and Human Rights
Global and Comparative Governance

REGIONAL FOCUS

Africa (Sub-Saharan)
East Asia and the Pacific
Europe and Eurasia
Middle East and North Africa
South and Central Asia
Western Hemisphere



A GOLD STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The School of International Service is housed in a beautiful, 70,000-square foot building. When our building opened in 2010, it was the first LEED Gold-certified building on AU's campus. "Green" architect William McDonough designed it to reinforce the values of SIS, and its design, construction, and operation reflect our commitment to ecological stewardship, fostering transparency and human dignity, and working toward social justice.

The roof holds a 3,230-square foot array of photovoltaic solar panels. We have three solar-powered water heating systems that pre-heat the water for the building, including the water for the espresso machines in our on-site coffee shop, the legendary Davenport Coffee Lounge.

Most importantly, we fill the building with leading global experts in water politics, carbon removal, sustainable agriculture, and climate activism and justice.

*Photo by:
Prakash Patel
(2012)*

ol of International Service

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: LEARNING THROUGH DOING

Your experiences help shape you and enhance your progress over the course of your education. At SIS, you can join our students who've **interned on Capitol Hill** or with think tanks, NGOS, or local nonprofits.

AU Abroad is our university resource for study abroad. You can do a traditional semester abroad, selecting by region of the world or your own thematic area—from Korea to Kenya and from Italy to Indonesia. You also can do an alternative break for a shorter experience—the possibilities are extensive.

AU ABROAD & SIS ABROAD

Semester abroad programs provide the **opportunity to earn AU credit while studying at a partner institution**. You'll spend one or two semesters taking courses alongside your international counterparts and be fully integrated in student life at your host campus. Learn more at auabroad.american.edu.

SIS PROGRAMS

SIS offers unique abroad programs at Japan's Ritsumeikan University, South Korea's Korea University, and France's Sciences Po.

INTERNSHIPS ABROAD

SIS provides AU graduate and undergraduate students with direct connections to internship opportunities at organizations abroad.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The SIS Office of Career Development supports SIS undergraduates through all stages of career development. We offer **drop-in career advising five days a week**.

Our mentoring program includes mentors who have worked with **Peace Corps, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Latin American Working Group, World Economic Forum, and USAID**, just to name a few.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

SIS Mentoring Program
Site Visits
Internship Funding Opportunities
Internship Search Support

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning is a distinctive part of the SIS experience. **It is woven throughout the undergraduate curriculum.**

You might have **Diplo-Lab as a capstone** and work on projects for the State Department.

Some professors **incorporate experiential elements**, like Professor Guy Ziv, who includes a simulation in his capstone, and Professor Garrett Graddy-Lovelace, who includes field trips in her first year seminar.

If you're interested in fieldwork, take a look at the **Peace Corps Prep Program**; you can gain knowledge, experience, and mentoring to prepare for Peace Corps service.

92% of SIS BA graduates were employed or pursuing an advanced degree within six months of graduation.

(May 2023)

INTERN ABROAD: CASE STUDY

Students working with SIS professor Angela Pashayan did an **AU Internship Abroad** in Nairobi, Kenya, in summer 2023 (photo, right). They conducted primary research; joined interviews with USAID and Amnesty International, education leaders in Mukuru, and residents of the Mukuru Slum; and visited a farm outside Nairobi.

SAKURA SCHOLARS

Sakura Scholars jointly enroll at AU and Ritsumeikan University (RU) and spend two years each at SIS and at RU's College of International Relations. Upon completion, you'll receive one diploma, the Bachelor of Arts in Global International Relations (GIR), endorsed by AU and RU.

MADRID SCHOLARS

Madrid SIS Scholars, part of AU Cornerstone, is a first semester fall program offered exclusively to SIS Cornerstone students. This program gives students a jump start on their international education. Students will experience international culture firsthand, supported by the on-site AU Madrid Center staff and faculty.





GET THERE FASTER

If your drive is to do more, sooner, you may want to take our undergraduate curriculum at a faster pace. SIS has two options: one that enables you to graduate with a BA after three years and one that enables you to graduate with both a BA and an MA in as few as five years.

Our **Global Scholars** program admits 25 SIS first-year students to complete their requirements on an accelerated timeline. You'll take a full course load in the summers after your first and second years.

Our **combined BA/MA** is an opportunity for advanced undergraduates to begin a master's degree before completing your BA. You'll take shared courses that fulfill both undergraduate and graduate requirements, saving you time and money.

DEGREES

Global Scholars 3-year BA
Combined BA/MA



HONORS PROGRAM & OLSON SCHOLARS

The **SIS Honors** Program is a 12-credit sequence of courses, within the SIS BA requirements, designed for a small group of high-performing, intellectually curious SIS juniors and seniors. Honors Program graduates will have “Honors at SIS” designated on their BA diploma.

The **Olson Scholars** program recognizes high-performing first-year students with a passion for social science research. Olson Scholars complete a research project under the guidance of a faculty member over the course of your sophomore year.

RESEARCH: RIGHT NOW

Research empowers you to be a critical consumer and producer of knowledge. Bolstered by methods classes, you'll leap into a pool of opportunities for conducting, presenting, and publishing your research—as an undergraduate.



DEPARTMENTS & HOUSES

SIS departments are **intellectual homes** for faculty and students, and they're designed to be as open as you want or need. As an undergraduate, your thematic area is housed within a department, but you're **not bound by artificial walls**—you can certainly explore interests across SIS.

Your SIS House, chosen by **YOU**, is a place to gather, digitally or in person, with people who share your interests in specific ways to **promote positive change in our world**.

MODEL UN & AMIRS

AMIRS, the **American University International Relations Society**, is a student-run group with over 300 members. AMIRS recently celebrated 75 years, and the group is responsible for five different initiatives.

One of these, the **Model UN Team**, has risen steadily in the rankings over the past decade to become the **#1 ranked team in the country** for the past three years.



A LEGACY OF PEACE

SIS's Said Peace Scholars program is a cohort of 20 students who want to advance Professor Abdul Aziz Said's life's mission through the study of peace, conflict resolution, and interfaith dialogue.

Professor Said was the founder of SIS's Center for Global Peace and our master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution. Said Peace Scholars honor his legacy by building on and continuing his mission of waging peace during their undergraduate career.

You can apply to the Said Peace Scholars program after the fall semester of your first year. Applicants must intend to major at SIS and be interested in pursuing a primary or secondary thematic area focus on Peace, Global Security, and Conflict Resolution.

Jeju Dolhareubang
White wooden carved statues called Jangmun
traditionally stood on the Korean mainland; stone carved
at Jeju called Dolhareubang stood on the volcanic island.
Historically, Dolhareubang were erected at the
entrance of the areas most characteristic of Jeju Island:
Jacheseo, Jeonmal-lyun seong, and Jeonjerye-lyeok
and were meant to protect village public spaces
and surrounding villages like a guardian deity.
The Dolhareubang wards off danger and harm, while
exhibiting the humorous and smiling appearance of a
friendly neighborhood grandfather.
February 26, 2011
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Republic of Korea

APPLYING TO AU

We understand that navigating the college application process can be both exciting and overwhelming. To provide you with the flexibility that suits your individual circumstances, we offer four decision plans by which first-year applicants can apply for fall enrollment: Early Action, Early Decision I, Early Decision II, and Regular Decision. Additionally, first-year students can also apply to AU for spring enrollment.

Early Decision vs. Early Action

Early Decision (ED) and Early Action (EA) are both early application options. ED is a binding agreement, meaning that if you're accepted, you must attend AU and withdraw all other college applications. It's ideal for students who are certain AU is their top choice.

Early Action is non-binding, allowing you to apply early and receive an admissions decision sooner, but you have until May 1 to decide, giving you flexibility to consider other offers before making a final decision.

TEST OPTIONAL

You can apply to AU without submitting standardized test scores. You will not be at a disadvantage for merit awards or admission into one of our special academic programs. If you choose to submit your test scores, you may self-report your test scores on your application for admission.

american.edu/admissions/first-year/

ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE

FALL 2024+ ADMITTED STUDENTS (MIDDLE 50%)

GPA 3.63–4.17

SAT 1320–1450

ACT 29–33

The SAT and ACT ranges reflect the 41% of applicants who submitted test scores.

ADMISSIONS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Common Application or Coalition Application
- Application Essay
- Resume/Activity Report
- Nonrefundable \$75 Application Fee or Fee Waiver
- HS Transcript(s) & Secondary School Report
- One Teacher Recommendation Letter
- SAT and/or ACT Scores (if not test-optional)
- Optional: HS Counselor Recommendation Letter

APPLICATION DEADLINES

	Admissions	FAFSA & CSS Profile	Notification
Early Action	NOV 1	NOV 15	JAN 31
Early Decision	NOV 1	NOV 15	DEC 31
Early Decision II	JAN 15	FEB 1	FEB 15
Regular Decision	JAN 15	FEB 15	APR 1



Cost of Attendance 2024-2025

First-Year Students, Living on Campus

TUITION	\$57,952
FEES	\$798
HOUSING	\$11,924
FOOD	\$6,058
METRO U-PASS	\$272
BOOKS & SUPPLIES *	\$1,000
TRANSPORTATION *	\$736
PERSONAL *	\$828
LOAN FEES *	\$54
TOTAL	\$79,622

** Estimated average costs*

DEDICATED TO ACCESS

We believe that a world-class education should be accessible to everyone, not just a select few. Our need-based financial aid programs ensure that talented students can take full advantage of what American University offers. In fact, 70% of our incoming first-year class received need- or merit-based aid.

Financial Assistance at AU

NEED-BASED AID

To assess a family's financial need, we use the FAFSA and CSS Profile to determine your eligibility for grants, loans, and work-study programs. Students applying for financial aid must submit both the FAFSA and CSS Profile.

MERIT AID

Whether you choose to apply Early Decision, Early Action, or Regular Decision, rest assured that your application will be carefully reviewed for merit scholarships. Applicants are considered for merit aid on the basis of their academic achievements. Merit scholarships range from \$6,000 to \$22,000.

Net Price Calculator

We meet 100 percent of a student's demonstrated need. We invite you to scan this QR code to access our net price calculator to get a better estimate of the actual cost of an AU education:

american.edu/financialaid



FINANCING AN AU EDUCATION

We understand that students and parents have many questions about financing an education in the U.S. A few highlights about scholarships to American University:

- Partial merit scholarships are available to international students, but are highly competitive.
- The AU Emerging Global Leader Scholarship is awarded to two outstanding international student and covers all billable AU costs. Student must pay approximately U.S.\$4,000/year for non-billable mandatory expenses. A separate EGLS application is required in addition to the Common or Coalition application.

american.edu/admissions/international/au-egls-apply.cfm

The following websites provide resources on financial planning and advice for prospective and admitted international students.

american.edu/admissions/international/prospective-finance.cfm

american.edu/admissions/international/admitted-finance.cfm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ATTENDING U.S. HIGH SCHOOLS

APPLYING TO AU

A completed application packet for F-1, J-1 or other non-immigrant visa holders applying from high schools inside the U.S. must include the following:

- Completed Common Application or Coalition Application, including essay, CV/resume, U.S.\$75 application fee, and optional supplement
- Academic records for 9th–12th grades (includes official copies of original transcripts for all institutions attended inside and outside the United States, with certified English translations if applicable)
- Teacher Recommendation Letter (required)
- H.S. Counselor Recommendation Letter (optional, strongly recommended)
- SAT/ACT scores, unless applying Test Optional
- Proof of English Proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS/PTE/DET)

Applicants who require a student or exchange visitor visa (F or J) must submit to the Office of Admissions the AU Declaration of Finances Form (AU DFF) showing proof of at least US\$81,620 for your first year of studies and living expenses. Application packets without the correctly completed AU DFF will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for admission.

An official bank letter, the AU CFIS form completed by applicant and parent, and a copy of the student's passport will be required at a later date if the student is accepted and decides to enroll at AU.

american.edu/admissions/international/instructions.cfm



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!



@AUADMISSIONS



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ADMISSIONS@AMERICAN.EDU



202-885-6000



AMERICAN.EDU/ADMISSIONS



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