

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mission of the School

The School of Arts and Sciences exemplifies the tradition that a college education liberates the mind. The School values the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake and believes that all college graduates are capable of studying a broad spectrum of subjects and of following a rational process to draw conclusions and inferences. The Mission of the School of Arts and Sciences is to foster a culture of independent thought and a tradition of academic programs, curricula and external learning opportunities, featuring an interdisciplinary perspective of knowledge and emphasizing collegial interactions between faculty and students.

Goals of the School

- Facilitate implementation of the mission and goals of the university
- Provide a broad-based general education in language, science and mathematics, the humanities and the social sciences for all students
- Develop in-depth understanding of one or more disciplines anchored by a contextual framework of information, interconnected knowledge and interdisciplinary awareness
- Prepare students for graduate school programs and careers related to various traditional arts and sciences fields
- Inculcate a thirst for knowledge that manifests itself in scholarly activity, lifelong learning and ethical real-world application
- Deliver a high-quality educational experience that features extracurricular programs and alternative learning opportunities

The School of Arts and Sciences offers three programs: Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (BAIS), Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (BAP), and Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA).

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (MAIA)

MAIA Program Mission

The Mission of the MAIA program is to prepare the next generation of policymakers to serve in national, regional, or local government agencies; international or nongovernmental organizations; or multinational corporations while contributing to the advancement of Emirati and global society.

MAIA Program Goals

1. To provide students with broad understanding of contemporary issues in international affairs while developing specialized knowledge in the focus areas.
2. To graduate analytical thinkers and future policy makers who are globally aware and qualified to address transnational challenges through innovative solutions.
3. To prepare students for global careers in governments, corporations, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations.
4. To prepare students to recognize the ethical and social implications of international affairs.

MAIA Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Create innovative solutions that apply analytical and critical thinking skills to understand and interpret local, regional, and global challenges while contributing to Emirati and global society.
2. Apply strong technology-based research skills to evaluate data from various sources.
3. Communicate research findings in an effective manner, both orally and in writing, to a wide audience.
4. Evaluate current international affairs while demonstrating advanced knowledge of the focus areas.
5. Analyze political, economic, historical and social factors impacting international affairs.
6. Evaluate ethical and cultural dimensions of complex interdependencies influencing local, regional and global actors.

MAIA Program Overview

The MAIA program is a graduate-level, ten-course, 30 credit-hour program. It consists of four common core courses and six elective courses. Two of the common core courses provide broad exposure to the field of international relations and public policy. The third core course provides students with the necessary methodological skills to write their fourth core course, which is a Master thesis taken in the students' last semester. The remaining six courses are electives, and students have a choice to take two courses in each of the following three areas: International Law and Diplomacy, Global Governance and Sustainability, and Security Studies.

Master of Arts in International Affairs Program Director:

Dr. Elham Seyedsayamdost eseyedsayamdost@aud.edu or 04-3183596

MAIA Summary of Degree Requirements

Course Classification	Credit Hours Required
Common Core	12
Advanced Electives	18
Total	30

Curriculum/Courses

MAIA Core	Credit Hours
MAIA 600 Fundamentals of International Relations	3
MAIA 610 Research Methodology in Social Sciences	3
MAIA 620 International Policy Analysis	3
MAIA 690 Master Thesis	3
<u>Total Core Requirements</u>	<u>12</u>

MAIA Electives

International Law and Diplomacy (ILD)	Credit Hours
MAIA 630 International Law	3
MAIA 635 International Law and Conflicts in the Middle East	3
MAIA 640 Theory and Practice of Diplomacy	3
MAIA 642 Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power	3
Total International Law and Diplomacy Requirements	6

Global Governance and Sustainability (GGS)	Credit Hours
MAIA 650 Environmental Governance and Sustainability	3
MAIA 652 Migration Governance and Humanitarianism	3
MAIA 660 Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development	3
MAIA 665 Public Health and Sustainable Development	3
Total Global Governance and Sustainability Requirements	6

Security Studies (SEC)	Credit Hours
MAIA 670 Conflict Resolution Strategies in Theory and Practice	3
MAIA 675 War and Technology in the 21 st Century	3
MAIA 682 Transnational Trafficking	3
MAIA 685 Human Security and the Middle East	3
Total Security Studies Requirements	6

<u>Total Electives Requirements</u>	<u>18</u>
--	------------------

Recommended MAIA Course Sequencing

Students must take MAIA 600 and MAIA 610 in their first term, as these are prerequisites for the electives, and they must take their Master Thesis in their final semester. Apart from these restrictions, there are no further sequencing requirements, and students can take any elective courses, as long as they ensure fulfilling two courses in each of the three elective areas. The sequencing of the electives below is a suggestion only and may be amended based on student interest.

	Fall	Spring
Year I	MAIA 600 MAIA 610 ILD ELE	MAIA 620 GGS ELE SEC ELE
Year II	ILD ELE GGS ELE SEC ELE	MAIA 690

MAIA Course Legend

ILD ELE International Law and Diplomacy Elective
GGS ELE Global Governance and Sustainability Elective
SEC ELE Security Studies Elective

MAIA Course Descriptions

MAIA 600 | Fundamentals of International Relations (3-0-3)

F or upon demand

This is an introductory course to the field of international relations for Master's degree students. Through lectures, discussions, debates and role plays, students are introduced to theories and analytical tools used in this field to understand contemporary international affairs. Starting with theories in IR, this course covers topics pertaining to power politics, statecraft, political economy, markets and trade, security and foreign policy, economic and political development, globalization, and more. The course aims to enhance students' critical and analytical thinking while addressing global challenges in international relations.

MAIA 610 | Research Methodology in Social Sciences (3-0-3)

F or upon demand

The course focuses on the different stages of the research process and the critical choices that a researcher is confronted with. The course introduces students to the tools of modern social science discussing the fundamental structural elements of research: research questions; the criteria that should guide a theory formulation; the strength and weaknesses of different research designs; how to interpret empirical data. The course analyses the principles of inference and effective research, the criteria and the formalisation of a theory, the purpose of research design, qualitative and quantitative methods such as case studies, casual process observation, comparison, statistical methods for descriptive and casual inference, techniques for the presentation of data and research biases.

MAIA 620 | International Policy Analysis (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: MAIA 600 and MAIA 610 / S

This course is a survey of major issues in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies in international relations. Theories and concepts from public policy will be applied to a variety of topics pertaining to the operations of states and international organizations with a view to understanding how policy is made and implemented.

MAIA 630 | International Law (3-0-3)

F or upon demand

This course offers an introduction to international law broadly defined. It introduces students to the basic concepts and theories of international law while examining the international political context within which laws operate. The course familiarizes students with the sources of international law, the actors in the international legal order, the functionality and the limits of this order. Students will be exposed to various subfields and regimes of international law, such as human rights law, humanitarian law, environmental law, law of armed conflict and international trade.

MAIA 635 | International Law and Conflicts in the Middle East (3-0-3)

Upon demand

This course introduces students to the ways in which international law interacts with international and regional politics. The course examines the origin, design, use and consequences of international law for a wide range of actors in Middle East politics. The focus of the course, however, is on International Organizations, in particular, the League of Nations and the United Nations and their role in the development and maintenance of international legal order. Throughout the course, special attention will be paid to evaluating the logic and evidence supporting various theories of commitments and compliance with international law and its practice in the MENA region with a focus on armed conflicts, fight against terrorism, environmental issues and economic affairs.

MAIA 640 | Theory and Practice of Diplomacy (3-0-3)

Upon demand

Building on the history of diplomacy, its actors and practices, this course provides students with the necessary tools to better understand and analyze the contemporary issues and challenges of international diplomacy. It aims to equip students with the conceptual framework and specific skills needed to be effective and innovative policy makers and administrators in various spheres of governance within governmental, regional, and international institutions.

MAIA 642 | Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power (3-0-3)

S

In the course of the last two decades, cultural diplomacy has become a newly rediscovered and highly relevant field for academic studies. This course focuses on the analysis of cultural diplomacy and discusses the uses of culture as a way of promoting the interests and international position of a nation. In order to properly understand this phenomenon and evaluate its significance, different theoretical approaches to power, diplomacy and culture combined with practical insights and empirical findings will be analyzed.

MAIA 650 | Environmental Governance and Sustainability (3-0-3)

S

This course introduces students to the main actors and institutions involved in creating and addressing environmental issues at local, national and global levels. Students will examine theoretical explanations and empirical findings to explore the roles that governments, markets and civil society play in managing environmental resources.

MAIA 652 | Migration Governance and Humanitarianism (3-0-3)

F

This course provides students with a critical framework with which to examine the global patterns of migration and humanitarian crises associated with them. The course introduces students to the core concepts, theories and scholarly debates about mass migration produced by political, economic and environmental disruptions. This course aims to challenge the students to examine the circumstances of vulnerable groups of political, economic and environmental migrants at risk, and design policy frameworks targeting institutional and social systems that assist and govern humanitarian situations at the local, national, regional and global levels.

MAIA 660 | Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development (3-0-3)

Upon demand

This course focuses on the complex nature of the relationship between technology, innovation, social change and sustainable systems. It examines the new technologies and technological innovation in the context of sustainable development, and investigates how contemporary technologies present challenges and opportunities for social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

MAIA 665 | Public Health and Sustainable Development (3-0-3)

Upon demand

This course examines the determinants of health and wellbeing, and the importance of both in promoting national and global sustainability, productivity and economic growth. Students will examine prevalence and causation of global public health problems, understand the importance of achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 and its direct impact and interdependence on other sustainable development goals. Students will propose innovative solutions and interventions for achieving health and wellbeing from personal, societal, organizational and governmental levels.

MAIA 670 | Conflict Resolution Strategies in Theory and Practice (3-0-3)

F or upon demand

This thematically organized seminar familiarizes students with conflict resolution, emphasizing political, social, and economic reconciliation and reconstruction in war-affected nations in Europe and the Global South, primarily in the Balkans, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Students learn to assess the causes of conflicts, particularly internationalized civil wars, insurgencies, and secessionist movements, while comparing and evaluating the effectiveness of nations, international organizations, and NGOs' responses to them in modern and contemporary history. The course thus uses case studies and problem solving to train students to offer policy-relevant analysis while proposing their own practical solutions.

MAIA 675 | War and Technology in the 21st Century (3-0-3)

Upon demand

This chronologically organized seminar explores the influence of technology on warfare into the twenty-first century. Innovations in technology have been revolutionizing military affairs since human beings picked up sticks and rocks to fight each other. This has accelerated to a dizzying pace since the late nineteenth century, particularly with respect to industrial-era weapons and reconnaissance systems; communications, mobility and transportation capabilities; and new sources of energy, from nuclear-powered warships to electrically charged rail guns. This seminar brings students up to date in this field while training them to account for the role technology plays in military operations and warfare.

MAIA 682 | Transnational Trafficking (3-0-3)

S or upon demand

This seminar introduces students to the multi-faceted issue of trafficking, from slavery and illegal arms sales to stolen art and cultural artifacts, narcotics, falsified medical products, and poaching in a global and comparative context. It also highlights the major problems that international organizations, governments, and grassroots actors must deal with when addressing and combatting transnational networks of production, smuggling, and buying and selling of human beings and contraband.

MAIA 685 | Human Security and the Middle East (3-0-3)

Upon demand

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar introduces students to the study of human security, broadly defined in terms of survival, rights and well-being of human beings rather than those of the states, with a focus on the Middle East. The course explores the implications and applications of the concept of human security for humanitarian purposes such as the protection of human lives, dignity, justice and equality, and for geopolitical purposes such as international security, stability and sustainability. This course aims to challenge students to apply theoretical approaches to and imagine policy recommendations for human security in the Middle East by examining the political, military, legal, environmental and economic circumstances that put human lives and livelihoods at risk.

MAIA 690 | Master Thesis (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: MAIA 600, MAIA 610 and MAIA 620 / S or upon demand

The master thesis concludes the master program in International Affairs. Students conduct a major research assignment and write an individual final thesis. Students are required to creatively, critically, and independently delimit and formulate a scientific problem within the field of international affairs. The purpose of the master thesis is for students to demonstrate the links between research methodology, theory and practice, and to show proficiency in academic writing.