

# MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

# WELCOME TO THE MAIA PROGRAM!





In an increasingly complex world, there is an urgent need to train skilled policymakers who are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to critically examine global challenges and find sustainable solutions. The Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) at the American University in Dubai rises to this challenge by educating the next generation of policymakers to address a range of global issues through innovative, evidence-based solutions.

The MAIA program is one of the first graduate programs in the United Arab Emirates to prepare graduates for meaningful careers in international, governmental, and non-governmental institutions. MAIA courses provide students with specialized knowledge in international law and diplomacy, global governance and sustainability, and security studies while enhancing their skills in policy analysis. Students are trained to critically analyze global policies and propose alternative approaches to generate more efficient, effective, and sustainable outcomes.

Benefiting from the university's location in the heart of Dubai, students have the opportunity to engage with policymakers in a variety of international gatherings such as the World Government Summit, Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development (DIHAD), and the dozens of other international conferences that occur within the Emirates on an annual basis. A wide variety of relevant industries in both the public and private sectors further enhance the educational experience as students apply their skills to solve real-world challenges in internships and other applied activities.

At the core of the MAIA program is the belief that today's global challenges require investment in the next generation of analysts and policymakers. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in the United States and the Commission for Academic Accreditation in the United Arab Emirates, the MAIA program empowers graduates to work in a range of institutions while contributing to a more stable, sustainable world. I welcome you to join us on this important journey!

**Dr. Micah Robbins**

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW





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 non-governmental organizations; or multinational corporations while contributing to the advancement of Emirati and global society.

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.

# WHY STUDY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT AUD?

The MAIA program at AUD was designed and is supported by faculty, who have extensive expertise and experience in academia, government, international organizations and NGOs. While they are all scholars in various disciplines, their teaching is shaped by strong ties to industry, whether through personal experience or active collaboration with professionals in the field.

This in turn enriches class discussions, as theories are applied to practical cases with lived experiences offering examples that further explicate material discussed. This is especially important in the MAIA program, which trains students to become tomorrow's policy makers and leaders.

In addition, MAIA helps students to develop competencies in research and scholarship while applying those skills to policy design, analysis and evaluation. While these are skills that are essential to those pursuing roles in the field of international affairs, they are also transferable skills, which can be applied to other settings – be it in private or public sector. As such, the MAIA program offers flexibility to graduates to pursue different roles in different sectors while cultivating competencies that will be invaluable no matter where they choose to work.

It goes without saying that Dubai's location makes studying MAIA at AUD even more attractive. Over the past few years, the UAE has offered a home to a variety of international and non-governmental organizations, whose numbers and kinds have been multiplying. As a result, various conferences and gatherings have been hosted annually in this metropolitan space bringing world class leaders from all around the globe to Dubai. As such, MAIA students have an opportunity to engage in the many conversations held in and around Dubai while also networking with potential future employers.

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UNIVERSITY  
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# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

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# WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN M.A. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS?

Because of the invaluable skills with which the MAIA program equips graduates, it opens doors to various careers. In fact, MAIA gives graduates the possibility to either stay on the same career path or to find new roles and influential positions as they progress from one achievement to the next. An M.A. in International Affairs can make the following possibilities a reality for students:

They can choose to join the diplomatic corps and represent their countries' interests around the world.

They can choose to become policy analysts who dive into a particular topic, country or region, analyzing and evaluating policies in different sectors – from government to media, international organizations to academia – while considering alternative policies and solutions to national, regional and global challenges.

They can choose to apply their competencies to consulting firms and private sector enterprises by adding an international outlook that identifies and highlights the interconnected nature of today's global issues – for example, linking trade to labor rights and sustainability.

In fact, there are a variety of areas in which MAIA graduates will be able to apply their skills. The following list overviews some of the many opportunities open to our graduates.



INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS



NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

RESEARCH AND  
POLICY THINK  
TANKS



GOVERNMENT  
SERVICE

INTERNATIONAL  
LAW



MEDIA AND  
PUBLIC  
RELATIONS

ACADEMIA



PRIVATE  
SECTOR

010100  
101000  
10  
10  
10

# SUMMARY OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

## Summary of Degree Requirements

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

## Course List for MA in International Affairs

### MAIA Core

Core Courses	12 Credits (Required)	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

MAIA Advanced Electives

International Law and Diplomacy (ILD) - 6 Credits		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

Global Governance and Sustainability (GGS) – 6 Credits		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

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

# RECOMMENDED 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.

## MAIA Advanced Electives

	Fall	Spring
Year I	<div>MAIA 600</div> <div>MAIA 610</div> <div>ILD ELE</div>	<div>MAIA 620</div> <div>GGs ELE</div> <div>SEC ELE</div>
Year II	<div>ILD ELE</div> <div>GGs ELE</div> <div>SEC ELE</div>	<div>MAIA 690</div>

## MAIA Course Legend

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



# COURSE LIST

The M.A. in International Affairs program will employ lectures, seminar discussions and presentations, and directed reading and research. Many of the courses will involve case studies, problem solving, and other active learning strategies. Below is a selection of some of the courses students will take during their MAIA journey:

## **MAIA 620 | International Policy Analysis**

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 650 | Environmental Governance and Sustainability**

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**

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**

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 682 | Transnational Trafficking**

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 675 | War and Technology in the 21st Century**

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.





# ADVISORY BOARD

The MAIA program is in regular consultation with its distinguished Advisory Board members. Their active participation in and continuous support to the program have ensured that the MAIA curriculum addresses the needs of the industry in terms of competencies and skill sets. Board members played an important role in distilling the elective areas that MAIA focuses on, so that students get an education that draws on important thematic training while furnishing them with the appropriate methodological skills to analyze and formulate policies.

In addition to their advisory role, Board members have been invaluable in creating a link between the MAIA program and the broad international affairs community – from international organizations to NGOs, from consulting firms to governmental and academic institutions.

## **Michael Corbin**

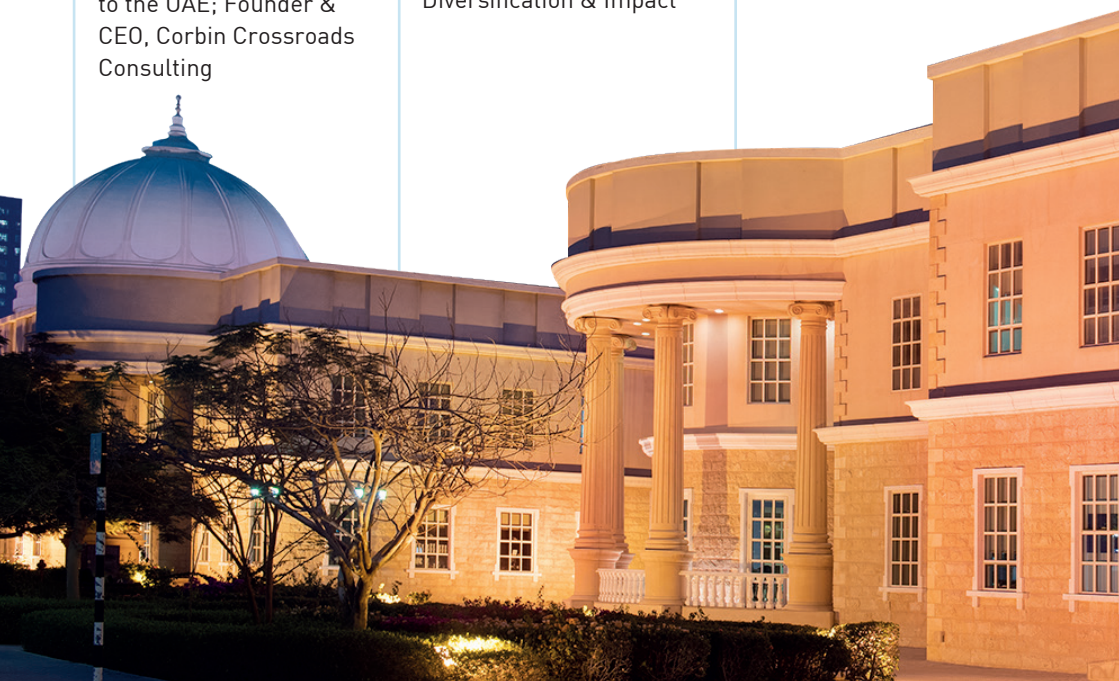
Former U.S. Ambassador to the UAE; Founder & CEO, Corbin Crossroads Consulting

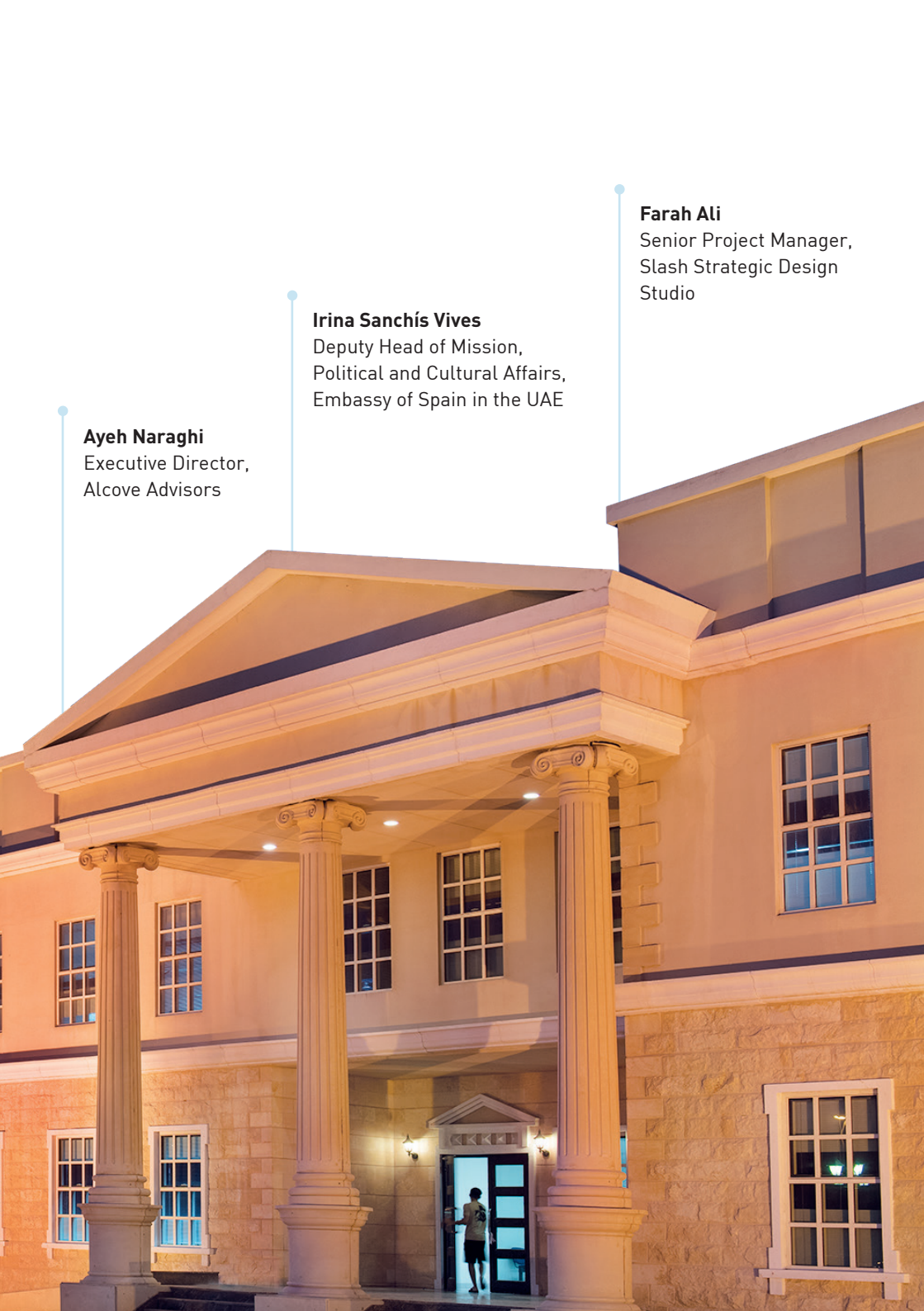
## **Mario Stephan**

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland;  
Head of Philanthropy  
Diversification & Impact

## **Noor Shaheen**

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),  
Regional Office; Private  
Partnerships & Philanthropy  
Advisor





**Ayeh Naraghi**  
Executive Director,  
Alcove Advisors

**Irina Sanchís Vives**  
Deputy Head of Mission,  
Political and Cultural Affairs,  
Embassy of Spain in the UAE

**Farah Ali**  
Senior Project Manager,  
Slash Strategic Design  
Studio

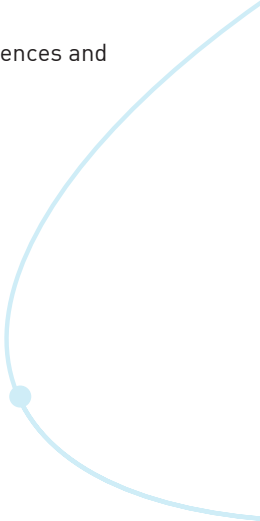
# ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

- Online application for admission: <https://applyonline.aud.edu/>
- Undergraduate degree (bachelor's) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) or better (or equivalent) earned from an institution accredited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research national or regional institutional accrediting body in the case of international applicants
- Graduation diploma
- Recognition of university certificate for international applicants – to be obtained from UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Confirmation of university records (required from every university attended by the student before joining AUD)
- Test requirements:

English

Academic IELTS™ score of 6.5 or TOEFL® score of 550 ITP  
[Paper-based]\* or 79 IBT®

*\*TOEFL ITP Paper-Based scores are accepted from approved centers in the UAE*

- Statement of the applicant's career objectives
  - CV/Resume (including two professional or educational references and their contact information)
  - Passport copy and Emirates ID
  - National military service letter (for UAE male nationals)
  - AUD Health History Form
  - Non-refundable application fee of AED 420
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## Program-specific Admission Criteria

- Applications for admission to the M.A. in International Affairs program will be evaluated by the Arts and Sciences Graduate Admissions Committee. This committee consists of the MAIA Program Director and two faculty members. The committee will employ a balanced approach, based on the principle that ample satisfaction by an applicant of one or more of the admission criteria may, to a reasonable extent, compensate for deficiencies in one or more of the other criteria used.
- In addition to university requirements for admission into graduate programs, an interview may be considered in admitting students to the M.A. in International Affairs program.



# ADMISSIONS AT AUD

The School of Arts and Sciences at the American University in Dubai is widely recognized by students and employers for its tradition of combining academic rigor with practical applications in teaching and research. It aims to provide “job ready” graduates with a range of skills and professional knowledge that is desired by employers.

The Mission of the Office of Student Recruitment and Admissions is to admit to AUD’s degree programs students who possess appropriate credentials and the demonstrated capacity and potential to successfully complete the educational programs provided by the university and meaningfully participate in the total educational experience offered by AUD.

The Office of Student Recruitment and Admissions consists of a professional team that assists prospective students gain accessibility to opportunities in higher education. The Admissions team is held to a high level of integrity and is charged with providing quality service and accurate information to all students providing quality service and accurate information to all students.





## **ACCREDITED IN THE UAE & THE USA**

AUD is officially licensed by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The Ministry has accredited the university's undergraduate and graduate programs, in addition to a Certificate program in Middle Eastern Studies.

AUD is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Baccalaureate and Master's degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of AUD may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 USA, by calling +1 (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).





**Office of Student Recruitment  
and Admissions**

P. O. Box 28282, Dubai, UAE

T. +971 4 399 9000

☎+971 50 3757055

admissions@aud.edu

www.aud.edu

For more information, check the

[AUD Graduate Catalog](#)

or contact the Program Director,

Dr. Omar Bortolazzi

obortolazzi@aud.edu