MASTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
Are you an innovator? A problem solver? Are you determined to make a difference? The Master of Global Affairs is designed especially for you.

The Master of Global Affairs (MGA) is a two-year professional program that combines rigorous coursework with practical experience to build the capacity of tomorrow’s leaders.

Through our courses, professional internship, Capstone project and student leadership initiatives, you will gain the tools needed to impact the world around you.

At the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, you will have access to expert scholars, experienced leaders and a global network of alumni.

Through the MGA program, you will gain real-world experience and have the opportunity to specialize and build a strong foundation in the program’s five pillars:

- Global Markets
- Global Security
- Global Development
- Innovation Policy
- Human Rights and Global Justice
Message from the MGA Director

The COVID-19 pandemic is the best example of why a Master in Global Affairs is important and meaningful. Tackling a global pandemic with wide-ranging impacts on economic growth, national security, physical and mental health, gender and racial inequality, and other dimensions of well-being requires unique tools, including an ability to analyze complex problems, think creatively, work across disciplinary silos, and foster collaboration.

The MGA program provides these tools. It covers topics such as development, global security, human rights and global justice, innovation policy, and global markets – this knowledge is crucial in today’s global economy.

The MGA is more than a master’s level degree — it is a professional degree with the entire program built around providing tangible skills and learning opportunities. Our courses provide you with academic knowledge, as well as ample opportunity to work on current matters and develop real life experiences. Importantly, our degree also allows students to specialize in different topics, ranging from development to digitization, public health, and migration.

Second, our program prioritizes hands-on learning through internships, client-based courses such as the Capstone, and our professional development workshops.

Third, our students come from around the world, with vast and varied experiences. Each contributes to the rich knowledge base in class discussions.

Lastly, the interdisciplinary knowledge that is acquired through this program leads to employment. About 90% of our students are employed less than six months after graduation in positions related to this degree. I hope you will join us in this program.

— Professor Shiri Breznitz, Director of the Master of Global Affairs Program
Why choose the Master of Global Affairs at the Munk School?

- The University of Toronto has a reputation of global excellence. U of T is ranked #1 in Canada and #18 in the world according to Times Higher Education’s World University Rankings 2021.

- You want to study in a global city. The Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy is located at the University’s St. George Campus, in the heart of downtown Toronto, one of the most dynamic and diverse cities in the world.

- You want to learn from a diverse range of perspectives and experiences. Our high-performing students are admitted from a wide range of academic backgrounds, and more than 40% of our incoming cohort are international students.

- You are interested in global issues and in solving these problems on a global level. The MGA is your ticket to the global market!

- You will be taught by world-class faculty and practitioners. These experts come from a wide range of backgrounds and give the program an interdisciplinary advantage.

- You want to become part of a global network of emerging leaders. Through our MGA Connect platform, you will tap into the diverse professional backgrounds and global perspectives of your peers and you will join a highly engaged network of alumni.

- You will gain practical hands-on work experience to enhance your competitiveness in the global market through your summer internship, student leadership initiatives and much more.
A downtown campus

The University of Toronto is a global leader in research and teaching and Canada’s top university. You will benefit from its excellent reputation and also from access to central U of T resources and services, including health and wellness, recreation, athletic facilities, social activities, clubs and other academic resources.

Housed within the University of Toronto, the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy is at the forefront of interdisciplinary research, teaching and global engagement. It is home to nearly 50 centres, research labs and teaching programs, including the Asian Institute; the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES); the Centre for the Study of Global Japan; the Centre for the Study of the United States; and the Trudeau Centre for Peace, Conflict and Justice.

From the Citizen Lab’s work to investigate and expose digital espionage against civil society to the Innovation Policy Lab’s efforts to build a more sustainable, inclusive economy, the Munk School’s experts are leading important global conversations on everything from cybersecurity and human rights to innovation policy and global justice.

Location, location, location

The Munk School is in the heart of downtown Toronto, one of the largest cities in North America and one of the most diverse cities in the world. We are only steps away from Queen’s Park, public transit, restaurants, shopping, parks, sporting events, cultural institutions, festivals and much more.
For the new cohort entering in 2021:

- 570 applications
- 17 countries represented
- 10.5% have graduate degrees
- 42% are international students
- 76 MGA Year 1 registered students
- 3.8 average final year GPA
- 69.7% identify as female
- 30.3% identify as male
The Master of Global Affairs

The Munk School Master of Global Affairs is a two-year program that combines rigorous academic study with a global summer internship.

Math-Stats Bootcamp (Summer before Year 1)

The Master of Global Affairs program equips students with a strong quantitative foundation for their future careers. During the Math-Stats Bootcamp, you will have the opportunity to strengthen your math skills and become familiar with concepts that will be covered in first-year core quantitative courses. You will be required to write a diagnostic test at the end of the Bootcamp to determine which Microeconomics and Macroeconomics course you should take.

Year One

Core courses:
- Global Development
- Global Innovation Policy
- Global Security
- International Legal Challenges
- Microeconomics for Global Affairs*
- Macroeconomics: Markets, Institutions and Growth*
- Statistics for Global Affairs

Elective one: choose one of three options:
- GLA2029H — Sustainability in the World: A Living Lab Course
- GLA2027H — Ethics and Global Affairs
- GLA2034H — Decision Making & Strategic Thinking

Elective two: choose from a list of year two elective offerings each year

*an intermediate level is available for students with advanced knowledge in this subject

Internship between Year 1 and Year 2

The Munk School connects students to internships in top-tier international and national institutions, businesses, and civil society organizations. This is a mandatory 10-16 week internship.
MGA Year Two

Year Two

Core courses:
- Research Methods for Global Affairs
- Capstone Seminar
- + 5 elective courses

Students must take a minimum of 1.5 full courses or three electives in a chosen emphasis. The completion of a particular emphasis will be recognized on your transcript at graduation.

Year Two emphases:
- Development
- Innovation Policy
- Human Rights and Global Justice
- Markets
- Global Security
- The Digital World
- Global Policy in Europe and Eurasia
- Global Policy and Asia

MGA students are required to take 8.5 full courses or 17 half courses.

Capstone project

The Capstone Project is a culminating assignment that ties all the foundational elements of the MGA curriculum—collaboration, practical work experience, and innovative problem-solving—together in a culminating project. Through the capstone, you will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge to the needs of real-world clients.

Past capstone clients have included:
- The World Bank
- MaRS
- RBC (Royal Bank of Canada)
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Statistics Canada
- CIFAR (Canadian Institute for Advanced Research)
- Global Affairs Canada
- International Association of Chiefs of Police

“The best part of my capstone was being able to work closely with the provincial government and gain insights on the policy process directly from policy leaders. I am grateful to have contributed to a policy framework which may shape a future digital strategy for the province and impact businesses in our local communities.”

— Justine Tanguay, MGA ’21, on her capstone project consulting for the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade
Internships

The internship is a core part of the MGA program. You will have the opportunity to gain real-world experience in top-tier corporations, international and national institutions, and civil society organizations.

Our Global Internship Coordinator is dedicated to supporting our students in securing their internships with 100% of students placed each year. You will have the opportunity to work with our MGA internship partners or to find your own role with the support of the MGA team. Some MGA Internship partners have included the World Bank, OECD, UNICEF, Global Affairs Canada, Manulife, KPMG, and the UN Environment Program (UNEP).

MGA students have completed internships in 63 countries to date, with more than 320 placement hosts.

MGA internships by sector

Sarah Sutherland, MGA ’20

“For my MGA internship, I worked at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland in their Disarmament, Peace, and Security department. In this capacity, I represented Canada at international meetings and worked with other country offices in areas such as gender equality, getting more women involved in the security field, and creating constructive discussions around disarmament issues. This position also gave me the opportunity to attend UN conferences, including the Conference on Disarmament, the Human Rights Commission, the Economic and Social Council, and various treaty body meetings.

The experience allowed me to gain a plethora of new communication and organizational skills that I continue to use in my career one year out of the MGA Program. By working with other country offices, I was able to better develop my interpersonal skills and effectively prioritize my work. All of the skills I gained in this position not only allowed me to come back to the Munk School more equipped for our Capstone project, but also prepared me for work after school, as my supervisors always treated me like a fellow colleague rather than just an intern.”
Dual degrees

Munk School students have the opportunity to stretch their degree across continents by earning two distinct and complementary master’s degrees in just over two years.

Students in a dual degree program graduate with a multidisciplinary approach to global affairs and a truly multicultural perspective, and benefit from the unique academic strengths of each institution, the depth of the networks centered in their geographic region and their wide-reaching internship resources.

Study in London at LSE

Master of Public Administration (MPA) from LSE / Master of Global Affairs (MGA) from U of T

The dual degree between the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics and Political Science will allow you to gain two distinct and complementary degrees. You’ll spend the first year in London pursuing a Master of Public Administration, followed by a global internship, and the second year in Toronto studying for the MGA.

Study in Paris at Sciences Po

Master of Public Policy (MPP) from Sciences Po / Master of Global Affairs (MGA) from U of T

Sciences Po is widely recognized as one of the world’s leading schools for political science and international relations. Students in the dual degree program pursue a Master of Public Policy in Paris during the first year, complete a summer internship, and join the Munk School’s MGA program for the second year.

Study in Berlin at the Hertie School

Master of International Affairs from the Hertie School / Master of Global Affairs (MGA) from U of T

The Hertie School of Governance in Berlin is a leading European hub for research, policy and public engagement. Students begin the program in Berlin pursuing a Master of International Affairs, do a global internship over the summer and spend the second year at the Munk School in the Master of Global Affairs program.
Joint programs & specializations

In addition to the standalone Master of Global Affairs program and dual degree programs, you can also complete a combined degree program, collaborative specialization, or study abroad on an exchange.

**Combined Programs:**
- Juris Doctor/Master of Global Affairs (JD/MGA)
- Master of Global Affairs/Master of Business Administration (MGA/MBA)

**Collaborative Specializations:**
- Collaborative Master’s Specialization in Contemporary East and Southeast Asian Studies
- Collaborative Specialization in Ethnic, Immigration, and Pluralism Studies
- Collaborative Specialization in Environmental Studies
- Coming soon: Collaborative program in Public Health Policy

Exchange programs

If you are interested in studying abroad for a term during your time in the Master of Global Affairs program, you can take advantage of the robust opportunities provided by U of T’s Centre for International Experience.
Learn from the experts

The Munk School is home to world-class faculty and researchers and boasts more than 60 core faculty and academic directors, 34 affiliated named chairs and professorships and some 230 affiliated faculty from across U of T.

Students learn from faculty and experienced leaders from a range of disciplines, linking theory with real-world experience. The curriculum focuses on the five pillars — global security, global development, human rights and global justice, innovation policy and global markets — giving students the necessary tools to become effective practitioners and leaders in their chosen field.

Left to Right (from top row): Professor Peter Loewen, Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy; Professor Ayelet Shachar; University Professor Dan Breznitz; (second row) University Professor Janice Stein; Associate Professor Stephan Heblich; Associate Professor Diana Fu; (third row) Professor Ron Deibert; University Professor Anita McGahan; Professor Ron Levi; (fourth row) Associate Professor Lynette Ong; Associate Professor Wilson Prichard; Associate Professor Philip Lipsey; (fifth row) Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream Paola Salardi; Associate Professor Darius Omston; Associate Professor Raji Jayaraman; (sixth row) Professor John Robinson; Assistant Professor Rie Kijima; Associate Professor Mark Manger.
Public engagement

The Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy is an engaged community of scholars who are committed to producing excellent research within the University and having a real-world impact outside of it. We frequently host visiting scholars, politicians, practitioners and other leading experts at our public events and in the classroom.

(Top row): Former MP Catherine McKenna; Distinguished Fellow Cheng Li, Associate Professor Lynette Ong, Professor Randall Hansen. (Second row): U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor meets MGA students; Distinguished Fellow Peter Mansbridge. (Third row): Professor Joseph Wong at the TIFF / Munk School speaker series; Professor Peter Loewen, former Australian PM Kevin Rudd, Governor of the Bank of Canada Tiff Macklem.
Student Leadership Initiatives

While studying in the MGA program, you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of Student Leadership Initiatives (SLIs), case competitions, and conferences. From publishing journals and hosting podcasts to serving as consultants on real-world problems, the Munk School’s student leadership initiatives offer the chance to get involved, gain experience and apply your skills.

- Beyond the Headlines
- Consulting Careers Initiative
- Equity, Diversity and Public Policy Initiative
- Ford + Munk Conference
- Global Conversations
- Global Risk Observatory
- Indigenous Policy Initiative
- M Consulting
- Mental Health Policy Initiative
- MGA Career Week
- MGA Students Association (MGASA)
- Munk School Black Students’ Association
- Public Policy & Governance Review
- Spectrum

"Global Conversations offered me a rewarding SLI experience because it gave me the chance to work alongside a large team of fellow students, helping them to improve their writing skills outside of the classroom. I gained valuable leadership and project management experience that I can bring to my future work. I now have a portfolio of published articles in the field of global affairs. SLIs are a great way to meet your fellow classmates and to build your professional profile, so I would strongly encourage incoming students to find an SLI that is right for them!"

David Watson, MGA ’21
Co-Editor in Chief (2020-21), Global Conversations

Global Conversations (GC) is a media organization run by Master of Global Affairs (MGA) students. GC seeks to engage the major events and trends impacting our world by offering the opinions and analyses of MGA students, accredited experts, and practitioners. GC offers students the opportunity to write, research and publish content through analytical pieces, op-eds, blog-style articles, and podcasts.

Visit www.munkgc.com to learn more.
The Munk School Black Students’ Association (MSBSA) seeks to positively impact the development of the Black student community at the School and establish a vehicle through which our concerns can be brought to the table. This SLI has three main objectives: to foster representation of Black and minority students, to provide opportunities for professional development for Black and minority students and to advocate for more inclusion and diversity, including within the Munk School’s student body, staff, and faculty.

Ella Hartsoe, JD/MGA ’21

“When I was considering coming to the Munk School, knowing that a group like Spectrum was working to provide support for LGBTQ+ students like myself felt important to me. By hosting panels, workshops, and events both on and off campus, Spectrum provides a space for community building that supports queer and trans students while welcoming allies.”

Ruvimbo Chidziva, MGA ’21
Co-President, MSBSA
Director of Internal Affairs, MGA Student Association

“The Munk School Black Students’ Association (MSBSA) strives to foster the representation of Black and racialized communities within the Munk School. This initiative provides inclusive opportunities for leadership, community engagement, and networking for racialized students and their allies at the Munk School while committing to tackle anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination at the Munk School and beyond.

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Student life

Make the most of the Master of Global Affairs program, get to know other students and explore your interests by taking advantage of all the clubs, student leadership initiatives, cultural and social activities available to you.
**Professional development**

Professional development opportunities are a key component of the MGA program. In the first year, we offer workshops and dedicated support to prepare you for your mandatory summer internship. During the second year, the focus becomes career planning and the job search. Our integrated approach to the career development workshops provides you with an understanding of how to get the essential skills and experiences you need for the career goals you want to accomplish. Our dedicated program team is committed to supporting your professional development throughout your time at the Munk School and beyond.

**MGA alumni employment by sector (2012-2021)**

Quick Facts about MGA alumni:*  
- 96% of those looking for work have jobs  
- 5% of our alumni are currently in full-time education

*The percentages are based on alumni data for the MGA classes of 2012 – 2021 who are seeking full-time employment. We do not have data on 1% of our alumni.

**What can you do with an MGA degree?**

Here are some recent jobs held by Master of Global Affairs graduates:

- Senior Policy Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure  
- Intelligence Research Specialist, RCMP  
- Associate, Sustainable Finance Solutions, Sustainalytics  
- Intergovernmental Officer/Federal-Provincial Relations, Alberta Government  
- Senior Manager, M&A Advisory, Deloitte Canada  
- Business Development Manager, Bombardier Aerospace  
- Associate, Rabin Martin  
- Senior Policy Advisor, Investment Funds Institute (IFIC)  
- Analyst, Portfolio Management Strategy & Credit Risk Policy, BMO Financial Group  
- Policy Research Analyst, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
- Program Director, Canadian Council for the Americas  
- Manager, Research, Strategy and Transformation Services, RBC  
- Deputy Director of Advocacy, Committee to Protect Journalists
I loved the fact that the MGA was not your typical academic degree with a focus on only theory. The global arena is complex and ever-changing, which requires us to be more open-minded, flexible and pragmatic when tackling everyday issues. What I found unique was that the program provided students with an opportunity to take theory and apply it in real-life settings with its research, policy labs, innovative capstone and internship programs. We also got to engage decision-makers within non-government, government and private sector organizations to understand how they are both impacted and shaped by global policy-making. Above all, I cherish and found it humbling to be part of a dynamic and ambitious group of global students from all walks of life looking to make a difference in their homes, communities, and countries.

Edward Kawooya, MGA ‘16
Associate Director, Operational Risk, RBC

What did you like most about the MGA program?
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How has your MGA helped you in your career?
The MGA helped me realize that my academic background could be leveraged in a variety of sectors — be it government or private sector. Through the course offerings and teaching staff, I developed an interest in capital markets and regulatory decision-making. I took this interest and had the opportunity to work within the Ontario Public Service, helping to shape public policy issues and regulatory matters. Through this experience, I was able to build a strong enough network, which propelled me into the financial services sector working in Regulatory Compliance, Operational Risk, and Data Management at the bank.

What would you say to Black students and other students of colour thinking about pursuing a Master of Global Affairs degree?
I would encourage Black and students of colour to consider pursuing the MGA for three reasons. First, the MGA program offers students of colour exposure and new ways of thinking of global public affairs through its lectures, student body, and external learning opportunities. Second, the MGA program continues to provide space and opportunity for Black and students of colour to be represented and engaged in sectors where we have been historically underrepresented. Third, the MGA offers access to a growing and established network of global professionals spread across the world and always eager to support each other. You are not just joining an academic program, but a community of friends and peers.
Alessandra Jenkins, MGA '17
Senior Engagement Manager, Avascent

What did you like most about the MGA program?
There was no shortage of opportunity to learn and grow. The MGA reinvigorated my passion for global issues and technology policy, but also introduced me to new areas integral to my career like security studies, strategic thinking, and industrial and innovation policy. Beyond the classroom, my fondest memories of the Munk School are the lively debates amongst the cohort sparked by lectures on key issues and topics of the day, my internship in Washington DC at the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Canada Institute, and the chance to travel to Israel with Dr. Breznitz’s innovation policy class to present our project to the clients in person.

How has your MGA helped you in your career?
The MGA positions students to learn a breadth of skills and topics at a quick pace. The ability to quickly understand an issue, how it effects various countries or jurisdictions, and compare policies and results is integral to the analysis my team conducts for a variety of clients. In my current role I am often leading multiple teams delivering work to different clients simultaneously on topics as diverse as shipbuilding, electronic warfare, unmanned aerial systems, or clean technologies. The MGA gave me the foundational skillset and confidence to continue strengthening my subject matter expertise in the familiar and immerse myself in the unfamiliar to build up expertise quickly.

Kerry Patterson, MGA '14
Deputy Director of Advocacy, Committee to Protect Journalists

What did you like most about the MGA program?
The MGA program shaped the course of my career, and life. From top tier faculty, to small classes, to tailored research opportunities and hands-on experience, the MGA provided a rich environment to learn and grow. It set me up with the tools to succeed in my field, the ability to clearly articulate what set me apart, as well as giving me some of my closest friends.

How has your MGA helped you in your career today?
The MGA is increasingly being recognized internationally for both the breadth and depth of graduate experience and expertise. The degree—and experience-focused classes—left me well positioned for work in the international human rights field and enabled me to move seamlessly between roles and responsibilities in research, management, government relations, media and advocacy strategy.
What did you like most about the MGA program?
In the real world, you always work with other people, yet so much of education asks students to operate in isolation. What I appreciated most about the MGA program was the amount of group work and the types of questions we were asked to answer. At the Munk School, we were regularly put on teams and challenged with projects such as modelling the likelihood of different climate policies by the federal government, researching and designing multinational taxation regimes, and mapping out the flow of small arms (i.e., guns and landmines) across the globe. You learn to work with others, to manage your expectations of them, while recognizing what you bring to the table in a professional setting.

How has your MGA helped position you in your career?
I wouldn’t have the job I have now without my MGA degree. The MGA is a badge of honour on my resume that reflects the fact that I can grapple with big picture problems (like an executive), clearly communicate complex ideas succinctly, and tap a network of classmates and alumni for the questions I don’t understand. Every MGA leaves the program with a humble appreciation for the complexity of how the world works. We are also practiced at the art of taking vast amounts of information and synthesizing it into a succinct argument or idea: no executive has ever asked me for a 10-page paper on anything, but they regularly ask me for a slide or two that encapsulates a broad concept. I also use my MGA as my edge in interviews and introductions, it signals that I care about the future of our world and have awareness of some key social issues—often rare in the private sector.
Alumni spotlight

Mikayla Wicks, MGA '13

Advocacy Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières, Uzbekistan

Mikayla Wicks is a public health and social policy expert, with expertise in supporting and promoting access to essential services to marginalized populations. Mikayla has worked internationally with the United Nations and international non-profit organizations in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. She has also worked with the provincial government to develop new models of health interventions for vulnerable populations, including medical assistance in dying and harm reduction interventions to address the North American opioid crisis.

What did you like most about the MGA program?
What I loved and leveraged most about the MGA was the community—the people and connections. I felt supported and challenged to find my own way in an environment that helped me grow and hone my interests in policy development, global health and international relations.

Samantha Rudick, MGA '15

Policy Specialist, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, United Nations

What did you like most about the MGA program?
The people I met were amazing: they were from everywhere, talented, with interesting backgrounds and range of interests. It was a professional degree that got me ready for working in international development. The courses taught by practitioners, the emphasis on strategic thinking, the internship experience, practical skills development, the networking opportunities, and opportunities to pursue an interest in specific issue areas were all beneficial.

How has your MGA helped you in your career?
The MGA opened doors for me. I didn’t know if people would recognize it, as it’s not a law degree or master in public policy or public administration, but the types of organizations that I’ve worked with or want to work with have seen it as an asset.
"You cannot defeat me"

MGA grad Noura Al-Jizawi, a leader of the Syrian uprising, takes on a new challenge

by Adrienne Harry

Syrian activist Noura Al-Jizawi forged a relationship with the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy long before she enrolled as a student.

Her introduction to U of T came via the Munk School’s Citizen Lab in 2016, when researchers helped Al-Jizawi, at the time a leader of the Syrian uprising against the regime of Bashar al-Assad, thwart a hacking attempt on her email address.

The attack, Citizen Lab discovered, was part of an elaborate cyber-espionage campaign operating out of Iran, which they detailed in an explosive report. When the investigation concluded, the researchers invited Al-Jizawi to participate in the Citizen Lab Summer Institute (CLSI), a workshop for practitioners working on Internet openness, security and human rights.

“It was an amazing starting point. The Munk School community is a welcoming community,” says Al-Jizawi.

“I started meeting some professors and found myself saying ‘I need to go to the Munk School.’

“I didn’t apply to any other schools. I put all of my hopes in one basket.”

Before U of T, Al-Jizawi had been pursuing a master’s degree in comparative literature in Syria. But her duties were split between academics and activism. Al-Jizawi spoke out against the regime and organized pro-democracy protests, ran a blog and, at one point, became a vice-president of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces. It was dangerous work; Al-Jizawi was arrested multiple times, detained and tortured.

“I almost finished my master’s, but without a diploma. They didn’t allow me to defend my thesis because I was detained,” she says. “My supervisor was detained as well. All the time, I was thinking, ‘How am I going to continue my studies?’"

The answer was the Master of Global Affairs (MGA) program. In 2017, with help from U of T’s Scholars-at-Risk program, Al-Jizawi arrived in Toronto for her first day of class, seven months pregnant and ready to shift her academic focus.
“I decided to challenge myself. In the first year, I tried to avoid anything focusing on Syria,” she says. “I tried to avoid any classes related to justice or human rights because I thought ‘I need to try something new.’”

The appetite for change led Al-Jizawi to study innovation and artificial intelligence for her MGA capstone project. She also became a student researcher with the Munk School’s Reach [Alliance], where she studied Guinea’s malaria program.

“Munk School is not only a school, it’s an amazing journey for endless learning. At [the] Munk School, we are home.”

Although Al-Jizawi relishes her new experiences, she acknowledges the road to convocation has had its challenges. The MGA represents her first time studying in English; her previous lessons were taught in Arabic. She also gave birth to her first child, a daughter, in her first year of study, shortly after fall exams.

“I went to the hospital and told my doctor: ‘I’m ready to give birth now. I’m done with midterms,’” she says.

Ten days after a caesarean delivery, Al-Jizawi was back in class. She used the winter break to catch up on the assignments she missed while she was in the hospital.

“I got a hand from the professors and support from all the people around me – it was amazing.”

Al-Jizawi crossed the stage at convocation with her daughter, whom her classmates referred to affectionately as the ‘MGA baby.’

“The moment I held my diploma,” says Al-Jizawi. “[Is] the moment I defeated the dictators in Syria, because it [sends] the message: ‘You cannot defeat me. I’m the one who’s going to win.’”

Al-Jizawi’s time as an MGA student may have ended, but her relationship with the Munk School is far from over. Her winding journey has led her right back to Citizen Lab, where she currently works as a researcher.

“Munk School is not only a school, it’s an amazing journey for endless learning,” she says. “At [the] Munk School, we are home.”

*This story originally appeared for June 2019 Convocation. It has been edited and updated.*
Admissions

The Admissions process is a holistic one as the MGA’s admissions committee will review every aspect of your application before making a decision. The committee reviews your academic performance and considers your experience and/or extra curricular activities as well as all reference letters.

Admissions Requirements

Academic Record
You will have successfully completed a four-year Bachelor’s degree (in any discipline) or equivalent.

GPA Requirement
You are required to have a minimum CGPA of mid-B (3.0), and a minimum GPA of B+ (3.3) in the final year of undergraduate studies. Admission is highly competitive and meeting this requirement does not guarantee admission.

International Student Degree Equivalency Requirements
If you are an international student you should refer to U of T’s School of Graduate Studies International Equivalency tool to find out if your degree meets the School of Graduate Studies requirements to apply.

Quantitative & Qualitative Requirements
You require both qualitative and quantitative skills to succeed in the MGA program. Therefore, you will need to demonstrate competency in these areas to strengthen your application for admission.

English Language Proficiency Test
You are required to submit official English test scores if and only if (a) you do not have a degree from a Canadian university and (b) the language of instruction and examination for your degree was not English.
How to Apply

Apply Online
Submit your application online via U of T’s School of Graduate Studies Online Application website: https://admissions.sgs.utoronto.ca/apply

Documents required:
- Official transcripts for all post-secondary study
- Two academic references
- Statement of purpose & optional diversity essay
- Curriculum vitae
- Online Kira video talent question and written response question
- Proof of English language if needed (see above)
- Quantitative requirement if needed (see above)

Submit all your required documents (additional details available on the MGA admissions website) and pay the $125 application fee. All documents are to be submitted online.

Key dates for admission
Admissions decisions will be made in two rounds.

Applications for fall 2022 entry and are due Thursday, January 20, 2022 (first round) and Friday, April 1, 2022 (second round).

Applicants who want to be considered for scholarship funding should apply by January 20th, 2022.

Dual Degree Applications
If you are applying to any of our combined degree programs, dual degree or collaborative specialization, please ensure you meet the application requirements of both degrees and programs. Applicants to the dual degrees — MPP/MGA, MIA/MGA, MPP/MGA—must apply through the partner institution (Sciences Po, Hertie School of Governance or LSE).
What we look for in MGA candidates

- **Strong academic performance:** Transcripts, other test scores (GRE or GMAT), and academic references
- **Strong quantitative skills:** Transcripts, other test scores (GRE or GMAT), previous coursework
- **Strong English language proficiency:** English language proficiency test, writing samples, and Kira talent video submission
- **Previous experience:** previous work or extra-curricular activity in global affairs, other forms of expertise and lived experience that contribute to the diversity of the MGA program as indicated on the curriculum vitae and statement of purpose
- **Stand-out qualities:** Creativity, experience solving complex problems, leadership, and an ability to work across disciplines

**Stewart Cowan, MGA '22**

Stewart is a graduate of Cornell University, having earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Business Administration.

He decided to return to full-time study after holding several top-level management jobs over the past 15 years, including at JP Morgan, Unilever, SABMiller Plc, and more.

Now in his second year of the program, Stewart is a recipient of the Paul Cadario Fellowship in Global Affairs. He enjoys many outdoor activities: running, biking, swimming, triathlons, kayaking, fishing, camping and hiking.

**Heba Al-Junaidi, MGA '22**

Heba completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with minors in Transportation Engineering and Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development.

After her undergraduate program, Heba worked as a transportation engineer (EIT) in Calgary with Stantec Consulting for 4 years.

Originally from Yemen, Heba moved to Calgary after being awarded the Nexen Yemen Undergraduate Scholarship and has called Canada home ever since. When she is not studying or working, she enjoys running and indoor climbing.
Financial aid

As an MGA student, you will fund your education from a variety of resources. You can fund your degree through:

- MGA first-year entrance scholarships offered based on merit
- External scholarships (if awarded)
- Government student loans (OSAP and other provincial loans)
- US Federal Direct Loan Program (U.S. citizens)
- MGA second-year entrance scholarships (based on merit)
- Lines of credit
- Personal savings

Funding for international students:
If you are an international student, you may be eligible for an entrance scholarship based on merit (which is awarded by the MGA program upon offer of admission).

You can also search for awards and scholarships through U of T’s School of Graduate Studies: www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards-category/international-awards/

Funding for diverse communities:

- Black Diaspora Excellence Scholarship, awarded to an incoming Black student
- Dr. Connie Carter Global Affairs Award, awarded to a Year 2 Student from a CARICOM country
- Thomas E Keirans & Mary Janigan MGA Fellowship, awarded to a new Canadian or permanent resident
- Full entrance scholarship for Indigenous students

Tabitha Oni, MGA ‘21

Tabitha received the following funding as an MGA student:

- MGA Entrance Scholarship (2020-2021)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2020-2021 & 2021-2022)
- The Master in Global Affairs (MGA) Lupina-IPL Fellowship in Innovation (2021-2022)

Tabitha says: “The Master of Global Affairs Entrance Scholarship and other scholarships I received provided me the opportunity to study in one of the world’s most prestigious universities while also allowing me to accelerate my career in global development. I am extremely grateful to have been chosen to be part of the talented pool of change-makers admitted into the Master of Global Affairs program!”
Master of Global Affairs Program
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
University of Toronto
315 Bloor St. W (at the Observatory)
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 0A7 Canada

Contact:
Rejeanne Puran, Admissions & Recruitment Officer
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
Admissions email: mga.admissions@utoronto.ca
Phone: 416-978-7794

munkschool.utoronto.ca/mga