



NAZARBAYEV  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



**Master of Arts  
in Political Science and  
International Relations  
(MAPSIR)**

---

**Apply by April 30, 2018**





The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) at Nazarbayev University is accepting applications for the Master of Arts in Political Science and International Relations (MAPSIR) degree program that is designed to train the next generation of highly qualified political scientists and government experts to meet national and global challenges. Launched in 2014, it currently has 18 MAPSIR students. The strategic partner of the SHSS is the **University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)**. Its social science program ranks as one of the top 20 in the world.

### About the Program

- The **first world-class graduate level** political science and international relations program in Kazakhstan
- 2-year **funded all-English** MA program with the study abroad possibility
- Taught by **internationally recognized faculty** drawn from North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia
- Advised and actively supported by the partnership with the Political Science Department of the **University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)**, ranked 15th nationally
- 3 focus areas: **international relations, comparative politics**, and **Eurasian politics and societies**
- **Advanced academic training** for pursuing careers in government, international organizations, academia, or other fields related to governance and policy
- Study in Astana, at the heart of Eurasia, with **unparalleled access** to government agencies, international organizations and foreign diplomats
- Campus with modern facilities, labs, library, sports center, housing based on need, and a monthly **stipend 100,000 tenge for Kazakhstani citizens**
- Awards “**Master of Arts in Political Science and International Relations**” degree
- Limited number of **merit-based scholarships and discounts for international students**



## Teaching Plan

Duration of the program: **21 months**

Credits awarded: **100 ECTS**

Structure of the program: **4 semesters**

|                    | FALL   | SPRING  |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Year 1             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Seminar in International Relations</li> <li>• Core Seminar in Comparative Politics</li> <li>• Advanced Research I</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Seminar in Political Theory</li> <li>• Advanced Research II</li> <li>• Focus Area Course 1</li> </ul> |
| Year 2             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus Area Course 2</li> <li>• Focus Area Course 3</li> <li>• Elective</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective</li> <li>• Thesis Research (20 ECTS)</li> </ul>   |
| TOTAL ECTS CREDITS |  | 100   |

## Sample of Elective Taught

### Focus Area 1: International Relations

- Chinese Foreign Policy
- Politics of Arms in International Relations
- Politics of International Finance

### Focus Area 2: Comparative Politics

- Political Violence
- Nationalism and Multiethnic Governance
- Politics of Immigration Control

### Focus Area 3: Eurasian Politics and Societies

- Politics and Governance of the Russian Federation
- International Relations of Eurasia

### Political Theory and Research Design

- Theories of Political Obligations
- Just War Theory
- Experiments in Political Science
- Maximum Likelihood Estimations



## What can you do with the MAPSIR degree?

MAPSIR is ideal for you if you intend to pursue careers in government, academia, or other fields related to governance and policy. MAPSIR graduates go on to work for national and local governments, international organizations, and firms that interact with government agencies. The degree also offers excellent training to students who wish to pursue further graduate work at the Ph.D. level. **100% of MAPSIR graduates have found high-skilled jobs in various government agencies and think-tanks.**

## What will you gain?

Strong academic, research and analytical skills:

- A proficiency in the approach to problem solving taken by social scientists in general and political scientists in particular
- An understanding of the questions asked about and the theories applied to international relations and/or comparative politics
- The ability to conduct and complete a graduate thesis; a sustained research project utilizing modern social science research methods
- The ability to explain the significance of the thesis project, and to address both the academic and applied implications of the project's findings

## How will you gain these skills?

MAPSIR students will gain these skills through:

- Scholarly Inquiry: Research design and academic practice on the basis of solid theoretical foundations
- Scholarly Research Methods: Qualitative and quantitative
- Course assignments, field research, various internships, study tours, and even blogging: <https://twitter.com/nupsreview>
- Completing graduate Thesis: from thesis proposal to thesis defense



## Admission

International and Kazakhstani graduates of a four-year undergraduate program recognised with a minimum CGPA of 2.75 of 4.0 or above are welcome to apply. Applicants must have achieved a minimum IELTS score of not less than 7.0, with no sub-score lower than 6.0, or the equivalent TOEFL score as posted on the ETS website (or evidence of native competence), for admission. \*Applicants with IELTS 6.5 or equivalent TOEFL may be admitted conditionally.

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Application Deadline                        | May 15, 2018 (inclusive) |
| Interview with Short-Listed Applicants      | End of May 2018          |
| Acceptance Letters/ Candidates Waiting List | June 2018                |
| Student Enrolment                           | August 2018              |
| MAPSIR courses begin                        | August 13, 2018          |

### Applicants must submit:

- application form available online at <http://admissions.nu.edu.kz>
- CV/resume
- personal essay
- three confidential letters of recommendation
- notarized copy of Bachelor's or other degree diplomas if available, OR notarized copy (-ies) of official transcript alone when the degree diploma has not yet been received.
- notarized copy of passport or identity card
- valid GRE test report (preferred)
- IELTS or TOEFL results
- one essay in English with thoughtful answers in response to the essay questions provided in the application form

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview with the Admissions Committee, which will consist of members of the faculty and an external member from a leading international university. The Admissions Committee will evaluate applications on the basis of the information submitted in English. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered by the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to request a completed application package in hard copy. Submission of a completed application package by the applicant does not guarantee admission to the MAPSIR program.



## Faculty Profiles:



### **Jean-François Caron, PhD**

Laval University, 2010  
Nationalism, Multiculturalism,  
Just War Theory



### **Mwita Chacha, PhD**

University of Georgia, 2011  
International Political Economy and  
Cooperation



### **Neil Collins, PhD**

Trinity College, University of Dublin, 1984  
Comparative Public Policy and Politics of  
European Union, Ireland, and China



### **Nicola Contessi, PhD**

Laval University, 2012  
Multilateral Institutions, Rising Powers  
and Foreign Policy in Eurasia



### **Hoyoun Koh, PhD**

University of Maryland, 2016  
Conflict Studies, Experimental Studies,  
Game Theory, Korean Politics



### **Se Jin Koo, PhD**

Texas A&M University-College Station, 2014  
Comparative Political Parties,  
East Asian Politics



### **Shu-Shan Lee, PhD**

University of Virginia, 2015  
Political Ideas of Ordinary People,  
Indigenous Liberal Tradition of China



**Maja Savevska, PhD**

University of Warwick and Université Libre de Bruxelles, 2015  
International Political Economy, Political Economy of the European Union, Polanyi



**Caress Schenk, PhD**

Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, 2010  
National Identity and Multiethnic States, Political Economy of Migration, Political Corruption, Post-Soviet Region



**Charles Sullivan, PhD**

George Washington University, 2014  
State Building, Nation Building, Politics of Memory, Politics of the Former Soviet Union, Energy Politics



**Hélène Thibault, PhD**

University of Ottawa, 2014  
Politics of Religion and Secularism, Central Asian Politics



**Alexei Trochev, PhD**

University of Toronto, 2005  
Comparative Politics, Law and Society, Judicial Politics, International Law, Human Rights



**Spencer Willardson, PhD**

University of Iowa, 2013  
Security Issues and Foreign Policy Decision Making in Post-Soviet Eurasia





## Selected MAPSIR Theses Defended

- The Formation of Interregional Trade Agreements: Which Factors Provoke Trade Blocs to Cooperate?
- Strategic Ambivalence Above, Selective Implementation Below: An Institutional Analysis of Kazakhstan's Policy toward High-Skilled Labor
- Coal, Power, and Kyoto: Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Poland and Kazakhstan
- Targeted Sanctions: When Are They Effective?
- Choosing Aid: When Do States Become Aid Donors?
- Do Arms Have Influence? Exploring the Effect of Transferred Weapons' Military Capabilities on Recipients' Level of Foreign Policy Cooperation
- Female Political Representation and Barriers that Women Face in Politics: Comparing Belarus and Kazakhstan
- Overcoming the «Resource Curse»: Welfare Policy and Civil Conflict in Rentier States
- Explaining Internet Regulation Variation in Non-Democratic Countries
- Implementation of the World Bank Projects in Kazakhstan
- The Politics of Jury Trials in Kazakhstan
- Modernization and Political Party Development in Kazakhstan
- Legacies, Bribes or Culture? Prosecuting Large-Scale Drug-Trafficking in Kazakhstan
- U.S. Covert Actions: The Exposure Effect and the President's Popularity



## Alumni Career Paths

100% of graduates are placed within 5 months of completing the MAPSIR degree

- Center for Trade Policy Development under the Ministry of National Economy, Astana
- Kazakhstani Center for Public-Private Partnership, Astana
- Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies
- Educational Research Center, Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools, Astana
- Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Astana
- Association of Financiers of Kazakhstan, Almaty
- MA in Gender Studies, Central European University
- PhD in Cultural and Global Criminology, University of Kent-University of Utrecht
- Zhas Orken Internship, Samruk-Kazyna



MAPSIR student **Jamilya Nurkanova** represented Kazakhstan at the 2017 Global Youth Forum and presented her action plan towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the UN General Assembly on July 21, 2017



## Feedback from MAPSIR Alumni



“MAPSIR changed my sponge-mind to filter-mind and made me think in terms of variables.”

**Bekzada Abilkassymov** (Karagandy)



“Thanks to MAPSIR, I have become more confident in what I do and what I say. I know that my every idea and every thought are valuable. MAPSIR program has broadened my horizons and opened the world of science. I miss our professors and those crazy days and nights of studying. It was not easy but it paid for itself.”

**Makhabbat Issabekova** (Pavlodar)



“In SHSS, I was much impressed by its intensive coursework and hard-working students. Every day I was learning from my peers, by their rich knowledge background, active engagement, as well as great passion and curiosity. Prof. Savevska and Prof. Kobayashi are extraordinary faculty, as they restructured course content in an inspiring way, beyond the textbook and syllabus. I feel SHSS is a coherent academic group, while students and professors are keeping good communication and collaboration. In a word, my experience in SHSS is absolutely higher than the expectation.”

**Ren Jie**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy exchange student (China)

Apply online at  
<http://admissions.nu.edu.kz>



**School of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Nazarbayev University**  
53 Kabanbay batyr ave,  
Astana, 010000, Republic of Kazakhstan  
Tel.: +7 7172 706638

---

E-mail: [MAPSIR\\_admissions@nu.edu.kz](mailto:MAPSIR_admissions@nu.edu.kz)

Web: [www.shss.nu.edu.kz](http://www.shss.nu.edu.kz)