

ICP Frequently Asked Questions

What materials do I have to submit in my application packet?

Please follow all guidelines established by the [WSU School of Graduate Studies](#), or, for international students, the [International Admissions Director at the University Center for International Education](#) .

In addition to these requirements, the ICP program also requires a Statement of Purpose *and* a 500-word essay discussing a topic in international relations or comparative politics that interests you. After your application is submitted, you will also be asked to set up an admissions interview to complete the process.

Why do I have to write an essay?

This writing sample is one of the most important aspects of your application materials and provides the admissions committee a good sense of both your interests and your abilities. You should treat this essay as a piece of academic writing and use some of the best sources available on your topic of interest. While no one will count every word in your essay, please try to keep it within approximately 500 words. The topic of the essay is less important than the quality of the text.

What is the admissions interview about?

The program director meets with each applicant (preferably in person, although telephone interviews may be arranged when necessary) after the student's complete application has been received. This provides an opportunity for both the program director and the applicant to address any remaining questions about the program and application process, and to discuss the application materials in more depth prior to the meeting of the ICP Admissions Committee.

Do I have to take the GRE or any other admissions tests?

The ICP program does not require the submission of any admission scores, including the GRE or other such exams.

Who should compose the letters of recommendation?

The ICP program requires three letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to your academic and intellectual skills. Preferably, these letters should be written by faculty members who know your academic work. For students who have been away from their college or university for a number of years, it is acceptable to submit letters of recommendation from supervisors who are able to address the potential of the applicant. Seek your letter writers in a

strategic fashion so that the combined package of letters can address your range of skills and abilities.

What is the “priority deadline”?

Each year, the program posts a priority deadline of the last week in March (the last working day in March). Students who have submitted a complete application packet to the School of Graduate Studies (or to the Director of International Admissions at the University Center for International Education) will receive first consideration for the next academic year. The priority deadline is also the deadline for students to submit applications for graduate assistantships and scholarship support (these applications should be sent directly to the ICP program office in the Department of Political Science).

Can I apply after the priority deadline in March?

Students can request consideration after the priority deadline, but their chances of receiving an outright offer of admission are diminished after this date. The best applications received after the priority deadlines are often placed on the waitlist, and students will be notified if a position opens up for them.

How many applicants are admitted to the ICP program each Fall?

Each year, depending on resource and faculty availability, the admission committee aims to admit between 12 – 15 new students as part of the incoming cohort.

Can I begin the program in Winter or Spring quarter?

The ICP program only admits students to begin the program during Fall Quarter, when two of the core seminars are offered. Exceptions can be made for cases in which a student has been accepted for Fall Quarter and would like to participate in an education abroad experience the summer prior to beginning the program. Beyond this exception, the vast majority of students are admitted to begin the program in Fall Quarter.

Can I receive credit for study abroad?

As a program that focuses on international relations and comparative politics, we strongly encourage students to take advantage of academic programs in countries around the world, either sponsored directly by Wright State University (“Ambassador Programs”), or through one of our consortia of education abroad programs. Please meet with your thesis chairperson or the ICP Program Director to confirm the applicability of individual programs to your program of study, and consult the [University Center for International Education](#) for current opportunities.

Where can I find out more information related to study abroad opportunities?

Stop by the University Center for International Education (UCIE), in E 190 Student Union, for more information on [Study Abroad Programs](#). You can also set up an appointment to meet with Ms. Megan Trickler (title) at 937-775-5745. Watch for brown bag presentations and other programs offered by this office!

How long will it take me to complete my M.A. degree?

Students who participate in the program as full-time students (at least two courses per quarter) can complete the required coursework in one academic year plus a summer. After the required coursework is completed, students begin working on their master's thesis or master's project. While it is quite difficult to predict how long it will take each individual student to complete the thesis or project, in practice, it takes *at least* 9-12 months of full-time writing on the thesis, after the defense of the thesis proposal, to complete, review and revise (in consultation with the faculty committee), a quality thesis.

What opportunities are there for assistantships and scholarships?

A limited amount of student scholarships and assistantships are available for ICP students. For more information, including the assistantship application, please see <http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/pls/icp/financialinfo.html>.

I already speak multiple languages – will I have to study another new language for this degree?

Students who believe they have achieved the required level of proficiency in a modern language will need to demonstrate that proficiency in order to receive a waiver from the methodological requirement of the degree. In these cases, such students will be strongly encouraged to continue advanced study of modern language (when applicable), or to enroll in the quantitative analysis option of the methodological component of the degree.

Can I take courses outside of the Department of Political Science?

Many of the topics and issues of importance in international relations and comparative politics straddle the lines of academic boundaries that universities establish. Therefore, we strongly encourage students to pursue related coursework in departments outside of Political Science, and as a policy, students can include two approved courses from other departments as part of their formal program of study. ICP students also have the option to pursue a dual degree with ICP and the Master of Public Administration program, as discussed below.

What languages can I study at Wright State University?

Currently, Wright State University regularly offer upper-level classes in the following languages: Spanish, French, German, Russian, and Chinese. For more information, please contact the Department of Modern Languages at 937-775-2641 or <http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/ml/>.

Can I join this program and continue to work full-time?

We have a number of students who participate in our M.A. program while maintaining a full-time work position outside of the university. While this can present some challenges during the busiest quarters of the graduate program (especially the first quarter of study), a number of students have found creative ways to manage their time and believed that their graduate study enhanced work in a related career.

Can I combine this M.A. degree with any other degree programs at Wright State?

Students are able to combine their M.A. work in the International and Comparative Politics program with additional coursework in other graduate programs on campus. Some students complete two M.A. degrees at one time. We also offer a formal dual degree option with the M.A. Program in ICP and the Master of Public Administration Program, the MPA. Students who are interested in this dual degree will need to apply separately to both degree programs. After acceptance into both programs, the program directors will arrange for a joint meeting with the student in order to map out the program of study for the student. At that point, the dual degree student will need to designate with one of the programs, either the ICP MA or the MPA degree will be primary, and which will be secondary. This designation will determine which methodological requirements the student will take, and will detail the number of required electives in each program. For more information on the MPA program, please call 937-775-3867, or see <http://www.wright.edu/mpa/>.