



Paramaz Avedisian Building

Main Building



American
University
of Armenia

- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- INTEGRITY
- LEADERSHIP
- SERVICE



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Welcome to the POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (PSIA) Program

- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



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PSIA Mission & Program

Two-year Master's degree equips students with

- Advanced analytical reasoning
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving skills

Curriculum includes

- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Regional Politics
- Political Theory
- Public Policy
- Political Economy





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PSIA Program Goals

Students will be able to

GOAL 1: Internalize and contextualize concepts and theories (abstract and empirical)

GOAL 2: Learn how to conduct analysis

GOAL 3: Master subject matter (course topics and materials)

GOAL 4: Develop Research, Problem-Solving, Writing, Communication, and Argumentation Skills



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Skills acquired through the study of PSIA

- Knowledge
- Analytical abilities
- Critical thinking
- Ability apply research and decision-making methods
- Problem solving
- Writing and communication
- Public speaking

These skills are provided through the study of international relations, comparative politics, regional politics, political theory, and the study of public policy making processes.



COURSES

Examples of some PSIA courses:

First-year courses:

- Research Methods in Political Science
- International Relations
- Western Political Thought
- Regional Politics
- Comparative Politics
- European Union and the World

Second-year courses:

- International Conflicts
- Security Policy
- Development Policy and Strategy
- Environmental Policy
- Civil Society and Social Capital
- Public Financing and Budgeting
- Global Justice
- International Governance



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CAPSTONE PROJECT

In their second year, students produce a Capstone project which is either:

- Master's Essay
- Policy Internship Project
- Policy Analytic Paper



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A NEW KIND OF LEARNING

Courses at PSIA are different from other universities'.

What we DON'T do: make you memorize facts to repeat back to us.

What we DO do: encourage you to think critically about political issues:

What are a political event's causes? What are its effects?

What is the evidence or arguments for accepting a policy, concept, or theory?

Do the evidence and arguments rest on false assumptions? Do they really prove what they claim?

Thinking critically about politics is a skill which you will have the rest of your life.



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Opportunities for PSIA students at AUA

- Work and study opportunities
- Research assistance opportunities at Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis (TCPA)
- Joint Erasmus+ project of PSIA and Political Science department of University of Salzburg giving PSIA students the opportunity to study in their program starting in Fall 2016, and have the courses credited for their AUA degree





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Admission Requirements

- An undergraduate degree from a four or five year program
- Minimum TOEFL iBT score of 79 or a minimum IELTS score of 6.5
- A minimum 25th percentile score on the GRE quantitative examination
- A high undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Two letters of recommendation
- A concise and informative personal statement



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Graduation Requirements

To graduate with a Master of PSIA students must complete

- 54 credit hours of coursework
- Capstone Master's Essay
- Policy Internship Project or Policy Paper
- At least one credit in environmental studies in satisfaction of the university-wide environmental studies requirement
- Cumulative grade-point (GPA) average of 3.0 or higher





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Our Alumni

- First class of PSIA students graduated in 1995 and every year since.
- Upon graduation you become a part of PSIA alumni.
- You will remain in close contact with your classmates and become part of a larger community of former students.





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Employment opportunities for PSIA alumni

Our graduates pursue careers in academia, public and private sectors, civil society organizations and mainly international institutions.

- United Nations
- World Bank
- US Embassy
- Transparency International
- American University of Armenia
- Yerevan State University
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Private sector





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Our Faculty

**Learn from one of the most qualified faculty in Armenia with
doctorate degrees from the United States and Europe.**



Dr. Simon Clarke
Program Chair, PSIA



Dr. Donald Fuller



Dr. Arpie Balian



Dr. Arthur Drampian



Dr. Vache Gabrielyan



Dr. Jenny Paturyan



**Dr. Vahram
Ter-Matevosyan**



**Dr. Aleksandr
Grigoryan**



**Dr. Hovhannes
Nikoghosyan**



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Guest lecturers



US Ambassador to Armenia
Discusses US Foreign Policy with
PSIA Students



UK Ambassador to Armenia at AUA



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Guest lecturers



Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Armenia H.E. Mr. Lukas Gasser



Piotr Świtalski, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia



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PSIA Seminars



PSIA faculty, visiting professors, and PSIA alumni present their latest research in regular seminars held throughout semesters.



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Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the PSIA First Graduating Class and the establishment of the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis





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Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis (TCPA)

Mission

TCPA conducts research in many important policy areas

- Promoting knowledge and understanding through objective and independent research and policy analysis employing the latest methodologies
- Contributing directly to Armenia's transition to a democratic state

The center is supported by a major grant from the Turpanjian Family Fund.

Mr Turpanjian





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Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis (TCPA)



- The Center hires PSIA students and graduates for staff positions and short-term assistants for research projects.
- Ongoing study funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN): "*Civic Activism as a Novel Component of Armenian Civil Society: New Energy and Tensions*"

<http://tcpa.aua.am/>



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PSIA Contacts

- 40 Marshal Baghramyan Ave. 0019 Yerevan, Armenia
PAB Room 103 W
- **Phone:** (+374 60) 61 26 77
- **E-mail:** psiainfo@aua.am
- **Webpage:** <http://psia.aua.am/>
- **Webpage:** <http://tcpa.aua.am/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AUAPSIA>