

Achieving Your Academic Goals

Welcome to IR/PS Student Affairs! The mission of IR/PS Student Affairs is to ensure that all IR/PS students receive an excellent graduate education and continuous support in all aspects of their academic endeavors. IR/PS Student Affairs provides information regarding academic policy and resources, campus services and resources, fellowship and financial aid, and serves as liaison between the students and IR/PS administration. Our specific services and programs include:

Academic Assistance

IR/PS Summer Prep Programs

Our graduate students come from diverse regional and academic backgrounds. To ensure success during our rigorous first year classes, IR/PS offers intensive preparatory training in political science/academic writing, quantitative methods/statistics, and economics. During these 5-week classes, students attend lectures and extensive review sessions with teaching assistants.

Teaching Assistants and Tutoring

To support new students as they complete the first year of the MPIA degree program, IR/PS Student Affairs coordinates teaching assistants and tutoring services. Teaching assistants typically offer 1-3 hours of review session per week for each of the core courses. IR/PS Student Affairs also screens and hires tutors for small group and one-on-one tutoring sessions.

Skill Development Center

In addition to teaching assistants and tutors available in each core course, the Skill Development Center is open throughout the academic year to assist students with academic writing and English as a second language needs. The Skill Development Center staff can also provide editing services for fellowship applications, professional documents and personal statements.

Financial Advising

Campus Academic Appointments

IR/PS Student Affairs serves as the coordinating body for all aspects of campus academic appointments for our students. A staff member will help you find academic appointment opportunities, serve as your advocate to your employer if needed, and will secure compensation for your work in terms salary and possible fee remission.

Merit and Need-Based Aid

IR/PS Student Affairs provides information regarding fellowship opportunities appropriate for MPIA students. Students applying for merit fellowships are assisted by a dedicated staff member who can obtain needed materials and coordinate editorial services through our Skill Development Center. We also serve as an advocate on behalf of the student in terms of need-based aid, including loans and grants.

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Student Advising

IR/PS Orientation Program

Our orientation program is an opportunity for new students to learn about the resources available at both IR/PS and general campus. Students meet with Student Affairs and Career Services staff to get start their academic and career development. Events are held throughout orientation so that students have a change to interact with new and current students, faculty and staff.

Individualized Advising

All IR/PS students are welcome to visit the IR/PS Student Affairs office for assistance and advising. In addition, each student is matched with a faculty member who shares your career or regional interests. Both the IR/PS Student Affairs staff and faculty set aside time each quarter to meet individually with students. IR/PS Student Affairs also organizes regional and career track meetings throughout the academic year so that students can interact with faculty and students who share their international interests.

International Student Services

IR/PS Student Affairs works closely with the UC San Diego International Center to provide assistance to international students in terms of visa issues and academic support. We coordinate programs regarding employment and tax issues, and can help you settle your family in San Diego.

Student Group Mentoring

The fifteen student groups at IR/PS range from regional interest groups to professional development group and student government. IR/PS Student Affairs serves as the student group connection to the IR/PS administration and provides event planning and financial services.

Campus Services Referrals

If IR/PS students are in need of assistance not provided by IR/PS Student Affairs, we will provide you a referral to the appropriate campus organization, such as UC San Diego Psychological and Counseling Services, Office for Students with Disabilities, Student Health Services, Student Legal Services, Cross Cultural Center, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center.