



IR/PS is now GPS

Alumni Guide and FAQs

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015

School Name Change:
The School of International Relations and Pacific Studies is now the School of Global Policy and Strategy

New Tagline:
Solution Driven.
Pacific Focused.
Global Results.

Degree Name Change:
The Master of Pacific International Affairs (MPIA) is now the Master of International Affairs (MIA)

New Degree:
Master of Public Policy (MPP)

QUESTIONS

Contact Mary Jo Ball at
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The UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) addresses the great societal challenges of the 21st century. The School's pioneering research builds on internationally recognized expertise on the Americas and Asia, integrates analysis of public policy and markets, and explores global issues of conflict and cooperation. Leveraging UC San Diego's renowned programs in science and technology, GPS creates new analytic tools for top practitioners while supporting rigorous training of the next generation of global leaders. Through strong collaborations across the UC San Diego campus and counterparts around the globe, GPS shapes better solutions for a transforming world.

A FEW FACTS

The name change to the School of Global Policy and Strategy reflects our position as an institution shaping better solutions for our 21st century.

The School remains firmly grounded in the Pacific while broadening its scope to include a wider global focus.

We are forging closer ties to other parts of the UC San Diego campus, specifically working to create bridges between the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, math and medicine) and policy.

We have changed the degree name of the Master of Pacific International Affairs (MPIA) to a Master of International Affairs (MIA) to better align with industry norms and to recognize that the Pacific will not always be a central theme for all students.

We are offering a new Master of Public Policy degree designed to address the challenges in the Pacific region by exploring best practices in regulation and policy making, as well as using a comparative lens to evaluate domestic policy choices.

For this next year or two, for your resume and social media accounts, we recommend you list the school name as: UC San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy (formerly the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why did the School name change?

A: The name change is in response to the ever-evolving nature of this dynamic educational institution. We have built a solid foundation on both qualitative and quantitative excellence and are renowned for our expertise in the Pacific region. Adopting GPS allows us to position the School as it continues to move forward, broadening its scope to include a wider global focus and creating room for new degrees.

Q: Did the campus-wide strategic plan play a part in determining the name change?

Yes. UC San Diego underwent its first-ever strategic planning process. Our new campus plan calls for greater collaboration across the schools and disciplines, and specifically highlights the need to create bridges between the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine) and policy. GPS stands ready to accept this challenge, which is indicative not only of our campus initiatives, but also of the leadership role that we will play in connecting UC San Diego to the world.

Q: Specifically, why is 'Pacific' being removed?

A: Over the years we have received feedback, both from students and from employers, that the word "Pacific" is seen as limiting, and increasingly not fully representative of our programs. When founded in the late 1980s, we were the first school to focus solely on the Pacific. Now many of our competitors also have Pacific programs. Additionally, our faculty currently seek strategies to connect the Pacific to other regions. Today, we are "Pacific plus."

Q: What new degrees will be offered?

A: The new Master of Public Policy degree has been approved and we will welcome the first students in fall 2016. The new Master of Chinese Economic and Political Affairs degree is pending approval and we anticipate accepting students in 2017.

Q: Why was the MPIA degree name changed?

A: We changed the name for two main reasons. First, the MIA is more in line with other degree offerings and is a more easily recognized degree outside of our School. And second, as we broaden our course offerings, the Pacific will not always be a central theme for all students, and the MIA acknowledges this.

Q: Will there be a difference in curriculum between the former MPIA and the new MIA?

A: As the School has grown and faculty have arrived and moved on, the curriculum has steadily evolved. Change is a given in our course offerings, though we have and will continue to have strong regional course offerings on Asia and Latin America. There will be no immediate difference between the last MPIA received June 2015 and the new MIA.

Q: Are alumni able to obtain a degree certificate with the new degree name and/or the new school name?

A: The degree name change from MPIA to MIA is effective July 1, 2015. Only those students earning an MIA will receive a certificate with MIA as the degree name. All degrees have been and will continue to be conferred by UC San Diego, meaning the School's name is not listed. There would be no change to your current diploma. We recognize that some alumni may want to use MIA and/or GPS on their resumes and social media profiles. If you feel you would like something official from the school, please contact Mary Jo Ball to obtain a letter from the Dean outlining these changes.

Q: Should alumni update their resumes to reflect the new name of the School and the new MIA degree name?

A: If you received an MPIA, there is no need to update your degree name – it remains the same as on your current diploma. For the School name we endorse using UC San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy (formerly the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies).

Q: Why are these changes good for me?

A: The expansion of the vision positions the School as a more important part of a university of increasing global renown and makes your degree more widely applicable. The skills and knowledge you gained will be seen as valuable to a broader array of organizations and we anticipate this will open new job markets to our alumni. Further, the name change is representative of our continued effort to stay competitive and current. The teaching and research conducted here have been keeping pace with market demands and this change signals the Schools' responsiveness. GPS is on the forefront – and that's what you want in an alma mater.