Energy, Resources and Environment | M.A. Requirements
(Formerly the International Policy Program)

Students concentrating in Energy, Resources and Environment must take at least four courses within this program. They also must fulfill the general requirements for the field of International Relations, that is, an additional two courses within IR, from two programs other than Energy, Resources and Environment. Students must take the Theories of International Relations Core Exam or must pass the course by the end of their second semester.

International Relations concentrators studying at the Bologna Center must take at least three IR courses in Washington. Exception: those concentrators who are joint-degree students or have advanced standing, must take at least two IR courses in Washington.

Focus Area Requirements

Students may opt for a general Energy, Resources and Environment concentration with no focus area or may focus on either Energy or Resources and Environment. Students pursuing a general ERE concentration may meet their four ERE course requirements by taking courses from either focus area. Students wishing to specialize in a focus area must take at least three specialization courses within their area.

Students may also choose to specialize in both ERE focus areas. To do this, they must take at least three courses in each of their two focus areas. Some courses are cross-listed and can count for both focus areas (for example, Economics of Natural Resources counts both for Energy and for Resources and Environment), making a dual focus a practical option. The ERE curriculum matrix outlines the courses offered.

The ERE curriculum offers both general and specialization courses. General courses present an overview of the policymaking process internationally and within individual countries and provide the means to analyze and evaluate policy (for example, cost-benefit analysis). Specialized courses expand students' knowledge of their particular focus area.

Practicum

The ERE program offers the International Environmental Policy Practicum, a course that allows students to work directly with client organizations to analyze and assess an international environmental policy issue. Students will use the academic concepts learned at SAIS to work on a project for individual organizational clients. Depending on the project, it may be possible for this course to count toward any of the ERE focus areas. Professors Bleviss and Highet, who are directing the work of the practicum, will determine how to classify client projects.

Future

The ERE curriculum will continue to evolve. More changes will be introduced in the future, and we hope that these changes will further strengthen the program.

View the Curriculum Matrix