



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

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UCF COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
[SCIENCES.UCF.EDU/POLITICS](https://sciences.ucf.edu/politics)



UCF SCHOOL OF POLITICS, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS




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 Political Science UCF



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs (SPSIA). We promote cutting-edge research, teaching and partnerships related to domestic and global politics and international affairs. The forefront of our mission is to provide high quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Our academic programs are designed to meet the needs of our diverse student populations. Undergraduate students pursuing a B.A. in Political Science or International and Global Studies can complete their degree by taking face-to-face or online classes, or a combination of both, and students can select among a variety of minors and certificates offered in the school. Our graduate programs include a Ph.D. in Security Studies, an M.A. in Political Science and a Certificate in Intelligence and National Security.

Faculty members distinguished by their contributions in research, teaching and service constitute the foundation of our educational mission. Our faculty members have won numerous teaching, research, and service awards at UCF and are recognized by awards and honors in the profession. They publish their research in top-ranked journals and books and contribute to the public debate through their engagement with the media and the policy community.

In addition to our academic programs, SPSIA also houses several institutes, centers and programs that provide exciting opportunities. The Kurdish Political Studies Program is unique in the United States as it furthers our understanding of the Kurdish people. The India Center is growing in reputation as a center of research and exploration of contemporary India and the relationship between India and the United States. SPSIA is also home to the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government, the Center for Global Economic and Environmental Opportunity, and the Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies.

Together, the programs at SPSIA foster an atmosphere of new ideas, intellectual growth and partnerships as we collectively study the important issues related to politics and national and international security.

I would like to personally invite you to explore our beautiful campus and discover for yourself all we offer in the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kerstin Hamann".

Kerstin Hamann, Ph.D.

Pegasus Professor and Director of the School of Politics, Security,
and International Affairs

UCF SCHOOL OF POLITICS, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT A GLANCE

Graduate degrees

- Ph.D. Security Studies
- M.A. Political Science
- Graduate Certificate in Intelligence & National Security

Undergraduate degrees

Bachelor's degrees

- B.A. Political Science
- B.A. International & Global Studies

Minors:

- Diplomacy
- European Studies
- Global Peace & Security Studies
- Intelligence & National Security
- International & Global Studies
- Political Science
- Political Science – Pre-law
- Terrorism Studies

Certificates

- Civics Teaching
- Diplomacy
- Intelligence & National Security

Program Awards

- #1 BestColleges.com
- #1 AffordableCollegesOnline.com

Undergraduate Students (fall 2019)

- No. of majors: 1333
- No. of minors: 627
- No. of certificate students: 183

Student Awards and Scholarships

- Bledsoe-Young Award
- Dwight C. Kiel Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. Roger Handberg Scholarship
- Dr. Najmaldin Karim Fellowship
- Pollock-Ellsworth Endowed Award
- The Laassel Family Political Science Endowed Scholarship

Faculty and Research

The School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs has over 30 full-time faculty. In addition to teaching, our faculty publish cutting-edge research that is published in books and articles in leading academic journals. Research interests are broad and include: American politics, comparative politics and international relations. Faculty expertise covers many areas such as:

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|---------------------------|--|
| • Judicial politics | • Public opinion |
| • Political behavior | • Politics in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East |
| • Political psychology | • The scholarship of teaching and learning |
| • Human rights | • Interdisciplinary research |
| • Political economy | |
| • Terrorism | |
| • Foreign policy | |
| • Environmental politics | |
| • Minorities and identity | |

Faculty also collaborate with colleagues across the university and with scholars from other universities in the United States and internationally. We provide opportunities for collaborative research with students, both graduate and undergraduate.

Our faculty members contribute to the public discourse through frequent appearance on and comments to local and national media, and share their insights on highly regarded blogs such as the Washington Post's MonkeyCage.



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

The UCF School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs strives to provide excellence in teaching at all levels of higher education to prepare a diverse student body for successful careers, and life as engaged citizens. We offer students a global outlook by providing instruction about theoretical, empirical, and methodological aspects of understanding and analyzing local and national politics, international relations, and global studies. In educating students, we emphasize critical thinking and analysis to prepare them for lifelong learning.

The school offers two undergraduate bachelor's degrees: Political Science and International and Global Studies. Students can complete either major face-to-face, entirely online, or through a combination of both. Our online program was ranked first in the nation by BestColleges.com and AffordableCollegesOnline.com.

Political Science

The Political Science degree offers three track options: American Politics & Policy, International Relations-Comparative Politics and Pre-law.

These degrees prepare students for careers in government, non-profits and the private sector.

International & Global Studies

The International and Global Studies degree acquaints students with international political issues. Students further prepare themselves for careers with an international focus by acquiring fluency in a foreign language and by completing a minor in a related area.

Minors and Certificates

The school also houses several minors including Diplomacy, International and Global Studies; Political Science; Pre-law; European Studies; Intelligence and National Security; and Terrorism Studies. Certificate programs exist in Diplomacy and in Intelligence and National Security.

Engagement Opportunities

The school offers additional opportunities outside of the classroom, including internships in Central Florida, the Florida Legislature and Washington, D.C.; study abroad programs; speakers, workshops, and guest lectures; the senior scholars program; undergraduate honors thesis, and several student organizations and clubs, such as Model Senate, Model United Nations, the Club on Security and Intelligence, International Relations Club, or Pi Sigma Alpha (national Honors Society).



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

SPSIA offers three different graduate program options: a doctoral degree in Security Studies, a master's degree in Political Science and a certificate in Intelligence & National Security.

Ph.D. in Security Studies

The Ph.D. in Security Studies prepares students for a rapidly changing international and domestic security environment. Our students are rigorously trained in contemporary approaches to security (international, domestic and human) and the advanced quantitative and qualitative methods analysts need to study today's security issues.

The Security Studies Ph.D. program is designed to be completed in three years. We offer graduate teaching assistant positions to a select number of students; students also benefit from university fellowships and scholarships and from the opportunities provided by our programs, institutes, and centers.

Our program draws students from across the U.S. and the globe, including Belarus, Brazil, Hungary, Nepal and Turkey. Some students join our program immediately after completing their master's degree; others

have gained considerable work experience in fields as diverse as social work, political careers, field-grade Army officers or mid-career civil servants. All benefit from a diverse atmosphere, engaged faculty and opportunities for close scholarly collaboration with our faculty. Student accomplishments include a strong record of peer-reviewed publications, winning competitive awards, and employment in the private, public, non-profit and academic sectors.

M.A. Program in Political Science

The M.A. in Political Science trains students to be skilled, insightful analysts of politics and policy. Our students are exposed to contemporary approaches to understanding politics and political actors, and learn cutting-edge social science methods. This includes training in research design and methods as well as core courses and electives in the student's area of interest.

Our program is designed to be completed in two years. While some of our students complete a master's thesis, others prefer the non-thesis option provided by our program. We also provide several online course options, and students may choose to complete an internship as part of their degree program. Our students have presented their research at academic conferences, won conference awards and engaged in research collaboration with faculty members. Upon completion of the program, graduates have pursued a Ph.D. in top-ranked programs. Others have taken jobs in education, non-profit, government and the private sector.



CENTER FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITY

The UCF Center for Global Economic and Environmental Opportunity (GEEO) was established in September 2017 with the appointment of James Bacchus to the faculty as Distinguished University Professor of Global Affairs and founding director of the new center. Bacchus' previous positions include former U.S. representative and chief judge of the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organisation.

GEEO's mission is to advance UCF's role and enhance UCF's reputation on global economic and environmental issues, and especially on the consequence of both.

The regional and national initiatives in progress include the new eight-county East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative, and a new higher education partnership for sustainable development in Central Florida.



UCF is one of the few universities in the nation selected to house an ICCAE.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (ICCAE) increases students' exposure to the intelligence community through a combination of academic programs focused on intelligence and events that bring intelligence agency representatives to campus.

Academic programs include an undergraduate minor and certificate programs offered at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Representatives from a wide range of federal agencies— the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Intelligence

Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, Coast Guard Intelligence, Geospatial Intelligence, and the Defense Intelligence Agency—have visited UCF to present lectures and workshops and lead discussions related to intelligence and careers in the intelligence sector.

The ICCAE increases student opportunities to participate in experiences such as study abroad and unpaid internships by offering financial support to selected students. The ICCAE also works with the student Intelligence Club, a registered SGA organization that is open to students from across the university. The ICCAE supports curriculum development and research on intelligence.



LOU FREY INSTITUTE

The Lou Frey Institute's primary mission is to support the development of informed, responsible and engaged citizens. Currently, the most impactful way LFI realizes that mission is through:

- Supporting civic learning in Florida's K-12 education system through online and face-to-face professional development workshops for teachers covering both civics content and effective instructional strategies.
- The development of online instructional and assessment materials for elementary, middle and high schools covering all FLDOE K-12 instructional benchmarks in civics and government.
- Providing online student learning and test preparation support in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Some examples of these free, research-based resources are available at oridacitizen.org and civics360.org.

LFI has been supporting civics instruction in Florida since 2008. At present, the Institute supports over 20,000 elementary, middle and high school teachers and over 300,000 K-12 students from all 74 of Florida's school districts, as well as nationally. These teachers and students utilize LFI civics instructional resources on a daily basis; LFI recorded over a million online sessions with over 3.5 million page views in 2018. Research suggests that students of teachers who use LFI instructional

materials with fidelity score 20-25% higher on Florida's Civics End-of-Course Assessment than the students of teachers who do not!



THE KURDISH POLITICAL STUDIES PROGRAM

The Kurdish Political Studies Program (KPSP) is the first and only academic program dedicated to the study and politics of Kurds and Kurdistan in the U.S. Since

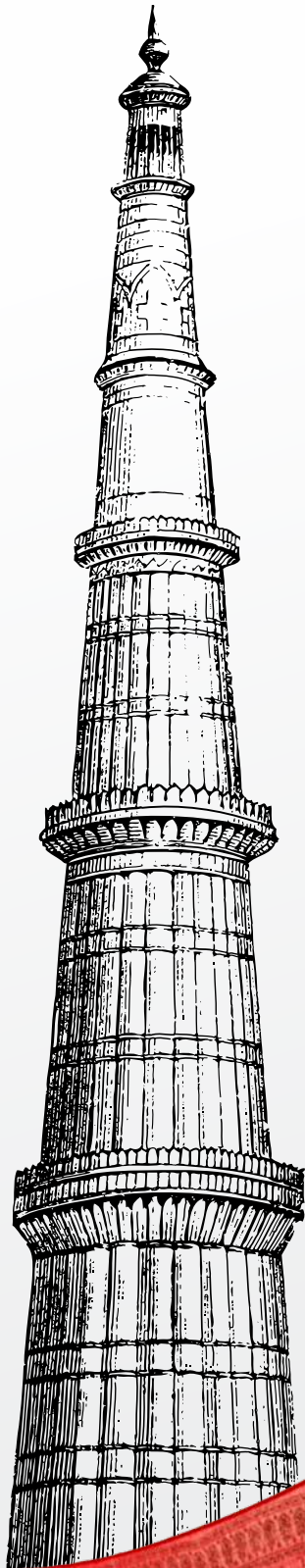
its establishment in fall 2015, KPSP has become a vibrant and reputed center of academic learning. The

Kurdish people, a large and diverse ethnic group, are one of the oldest inhabitants of the Middle East. With the formation of the nation-state system in the Middle East in the early 20th century, they became marginalized minorities.

The KPSP brings Kurdish culture to life by sponsoring visiting scholars, artists, journalists and political leader. It also supports academic excellence by providing fellowships to rising scholars and conducting research into areas such as ethnic and religious minorities in the Middle East and chemical weapons.

Güneş Murat Tezcür Ph.D., is the Jalal Talabani Endowed Chair of Kurdish Political Studies, the only such position in the country, which was inaugurated in 2015. The mission of the chair includes teaching, research, and scholarly pursuits centering on Kurdish Political Studies, and further developing recognized excellence in that field.





THE INDIA CENTER AT UCF

The India Center is establishing UCF as the preeminent location for the study of India's role in the world today. Speakers and conferences, cultural events, research, and partnerships are just some of the ways the India Center pursues these goals.

Since its inception, the India Center has hosted a variety of events and notable speakers, ranging from Washington-based India experts and scholars on Indian politics to former Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The Center has supported scholars and students to study in India and participate in international conferences, and has received delegations from India. An ongoing initiative centers on a partnership with the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh focused on sustainability and smart cities. The India Center also sponsors cultural events at UCF, such as music performances, film screenings and art and photo exhibits.

The continued development of the India Center requires existing and new partnerships with groups and individuals interested in shaping and supporting the Center's future direction. Our fundraising efforts aim at establishing a nationally and internationally renowned India Center in partnership with the Indian American community and others interested in the role of India today.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN FAHD PROGRAM FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH & STUDIES

The Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Program (PMBF Program) for Strategic Research and Studies advances awareness and knowledge about Saudi Arabia and the Middle East-North Africa region, and builds relations between the regions and Central Florida. Some of the topics it focuses on are regional security, economic development, energy and culture.

Established in 2012, PMBF is supported by the Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Annual Fund. The initiative reflects a partnership between UCF and Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU), a private, co-ed university in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. As such, the PMBF Program facilitates a variety of collaborative projects between UCF and PMU – in engineering, education, and the physical and social sciences.

Since its inception, PMBF has paid special attention to resource-oriented issues, including water, energy, food security and environmental protection. These global issues are relevant to both Florida and the Middle East-North Africa region. PMBF has co-sponsored a series of regional dialog conferences that brought together experts from academia, government and business to discuss key challenges.



THE SCHOOL OF POLITICS, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ALUMNI

Over 6,000 alumni have graduated from the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs. Many of our graduates have gone on to have successful careers in:

- Local, state and national government
- Domestically and internationally appointed officials
- Private sector
- Legal field
- Non-profit organizations

Our alumni provide much-needed support for our faculty and programs, and continue to make a difference in the lives of students by sponsoring scholarships and awards, such as the Laassel Family Political Science Endowed Scholarship, the Dr. Roger Handberg Scholarship (endowed), the Dwight C. Kiel Endowed Scholarship, the Pollock-Ellsworth Endowed Award or the Bledsoe-Young Award.

Please visit sciences.ucf.edu/politics/alumni to read stories from our former students who share their memories as a UCF student, how these experiences have helped them with life after graduation and how they are making an impact on our community. To learn how you can stay connected with your alma mater, support our programs, mentor students and share your news, please visit ucfalumni.com/sciences.





UCF

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