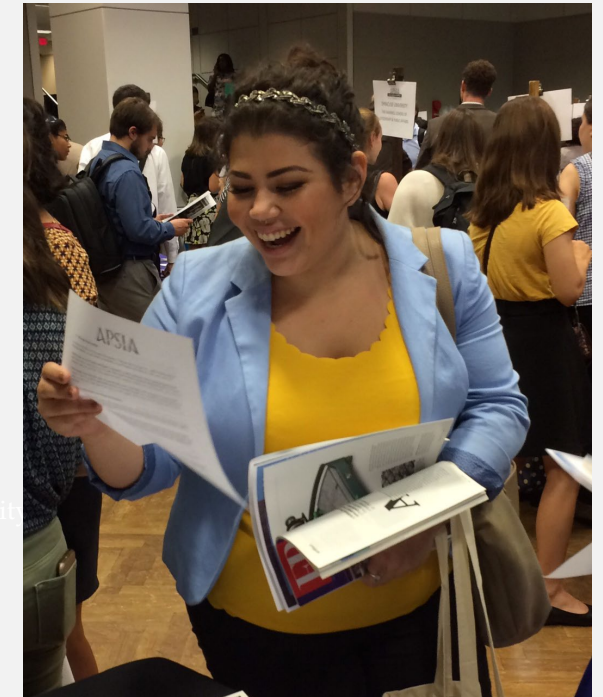


Best Practices in Applying to Graduate School

Why Graduate School?

- ✓ Changes in Salary
- ✓ 'Mastering' a Subject
- ✓ Career Advancement
- ✓ Professional Focus



Preparing to Apply: 12+ Months

- ✓ Determine which program you wish to pursue
- ✓ Research graduate schools
- ✓ Create a spreadsheet to track deadlines
- ✓ Understand your financial situation
- ✓ Investigate financial aid options



Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy

Finding the Right Program

What Will You Study?



Academic Structure

Are You Qualified?



Admissions Criteria

Do You Like Being There?



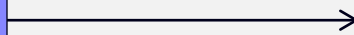
Living Environment

Can You Afford It?



Financial Situation

What's Next?



Professional Fit

Preparing to Apply

- ✓ Seek out schools' admissions counselors
 - Understand the priorities of the Admissions Committee
- ✓ Complete prerequisite courses and skills
- ✓ Identify weaknesses in your application
- ✓ Take any standardized tests
- ✓ Begin to gather application materials



Preparing to Apply

All schools vary, but be prepared to provide:

- Application form
- Application fee
- C.V. or Resume
- Official transcripts from each institution
- Standardized test scores (ex: GRE, GMAT)
- Personal statement and/or topical essays
- 2-3 letters of recommendation
- Bank Statements (for financial aid and/or studying abroad)

Preparing to Apply

- ✓ Finalize your list of desired programs
- ✓ Reach out to potential recommenders
- ✓ Compile application materials per school
 - ✓ Update Resume
 - ✓ Request transcripts from all institutions attended
 - ✓ Write essays and personal statements
- ✓ Apply to outside scholarships
- ✓ Retake any standardized tests (if needed)
- ✓ Check in with recommenders

Essays and Personal Statements

Outline Your
Qualifications

Apply: 1 Month

- ✓ Finalize all applications for admission
- ✓ Finalize all applications for scholarships/ financial aid
- ✓ Check in with recommenders
- ✓ Update financial plan
- ✓ Submit all requested materials

Application Mistakes

Failing to follow instructions



Submit the requested information – no more or less. Ask for extra copies of external documents. Request transcripts and recommendations early.

Making foolish mistakes



Read your essays and statement several times. Ask a second party to review them, as well.

Not conducting an honest self-assessment of your skills, experiences, and interests.



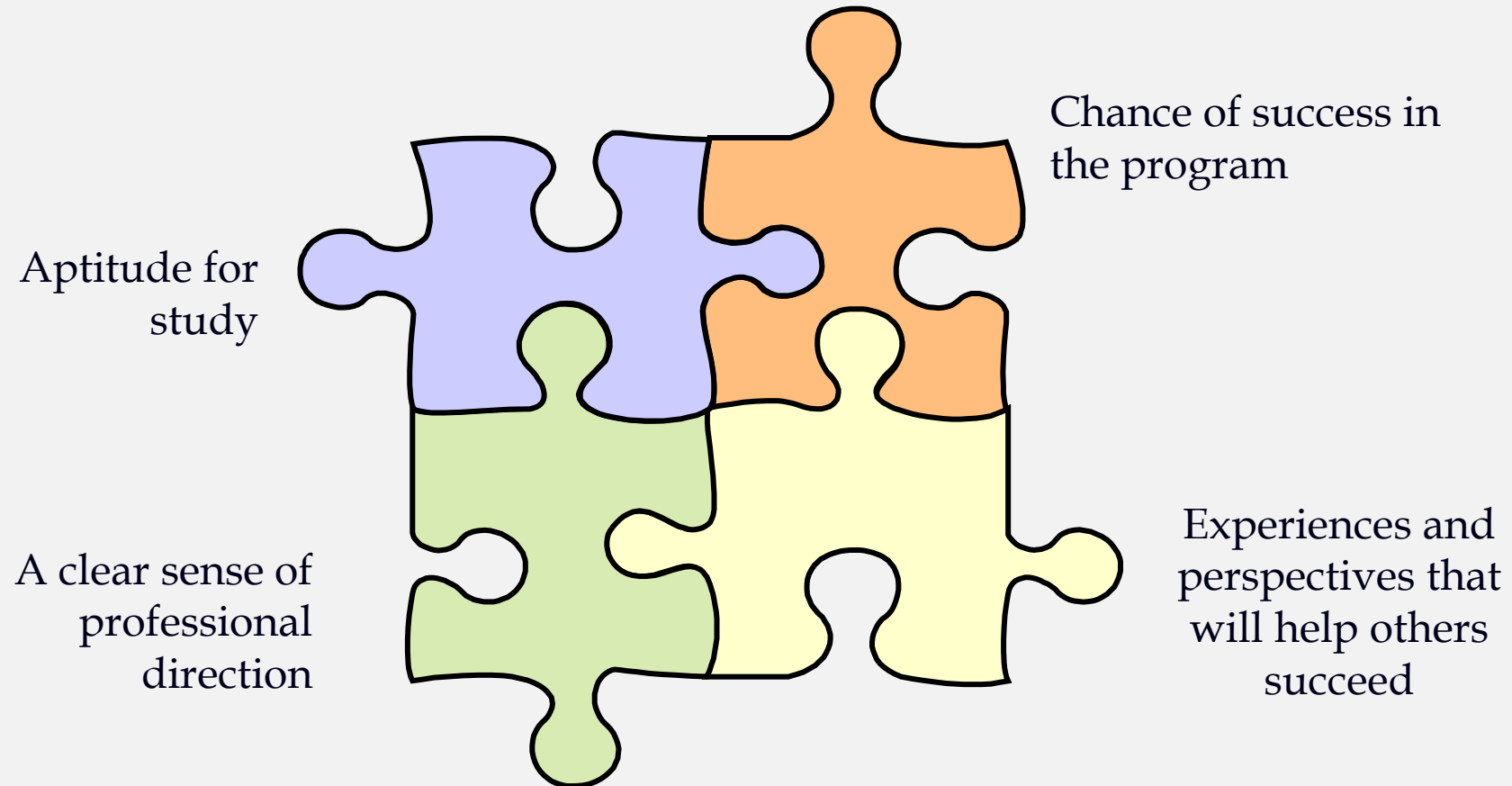
Discern what you want to master and why. Disclose issues straightforwardly. Contact schools to determine how best to discuss issue(s) or gap(s). Avoid oversharing or apologizing. Share how you've grown.

After the Deadline

- ✓ Confirm all materials for admission and scholarships received
- ✓ Thank all recommenders
- ✓ Update financial plan
- ✓ Continue to learn about programs



What do Schools Look For?



Paying for School

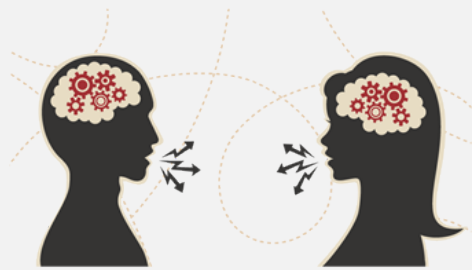
- Merit and Need-based aid
- Research / teaching assistant positions
- Working for the university
- Assistance provide by central university of programs within the School
- External Sources of funding
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Scholarships

Paying for School: Examples

- Pickering, Rangel, and Payne Fellowships
 - Specific to careers with State Department or US Agency for International Development
- Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
 - For Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
- Organization of American States (OAS) Scholarships
 - For citizens of OAS member states to pursue graduate or doctoral degrees
- Baltic-American Foundation Scholarships
 - For Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians who wish to pursue postgraduate studies
- Public Policy and International Affairs Program
 - To promote the inclusion of underrepresented groups in public service

Career Options

International Affairs is an interdisciplinary field that can prepare you for a variety of career paths.



Communications & Public Relations



Business



Development & Conflict Resolution



Energy & Environment



Education



Human Rights & Law



Science & Technology



Security & Intelligence

Being Competitive

(International)
Professional
Experience

Write
Well

Speak
Comfortably

Understand Project
Management

Build a Network

- Supervisors
- Peers
- Professors
- Alumni

Stay engaged!



Briana Suarez
 Intl Admissions and Operations Manager
briana@apsia.org

External Links:

- apsia.org/events
- apsia.org/fellowships-scholarships
- apsia.org/graduate-schools-programs
- apsia.org/careers/international-career-guide



Stay engaged!



APSIA
transforming
our world.

Briana Suarez
Intl Admissions and Operations Manager
briana@apsia.org

External Links:

- Facebook: APSIA
- Instagram: apsiainfo
- Twitter: apsiainfo
- YouTube: APSIAtube
- LinkedIn: APSIA



Upcoming APSIA Events



APSIA

ONLINE GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022
11:00 AM - 1:45 PM ET

Chat with leading graduate schools in international affairs and public policy around the world!

Register at bit.ly/septfair22

Online Graduate School Fair

September 29
11:00AM – 1:45PM ET

Register at bit.ly/septfair22



Upcoming APSIA Events

APSIA

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSES

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2022

INTERESTED IN GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Hear from APSIA schools at
each session in a more
intimate setting.

bit.ly/apsiavoh22

