



**SUMMER
SPRINGBOARD**
Look Inward. Go Upward.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFOSHEET

**New student admissions for
Summer 2026 are open**

2-Week Course

This is a two-week program where you'll focus on one course for the entire duration.

Program Highlights

- Acquire an overview of the field of international relations, including its historical development and major theories
- Explore the roles of various stakeholders in the international system, including states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and transnational corporations
- Examine pressing global challenges, such as human rights abuses, environmental issues, global health crises, and refugee crises while discussing the roles of responsibilities those addressing the challenges
- Gain a foundational understanding of the concepts and practices of diplomacy, negotiation, governance, and policy

2026 Dates

University of Washington

- Session 1: July 26 - August 7



Academic Program Overview

Foreign Affairs will equip students with a broad perspective on international relations and global challenges. Students will be introduced to a range of career paths, encouraged to engage more actively in discussions, and develop strong research and comprehension skills. Seattle is an ideal place to take this course, as the city contributes to the U.S. foreign affairs agenda through its economic and cultural ties and its participation in global initiatives. Students will work on a group project that enhances their public speaking, decision-making, and analytical skills. A previous class project included students exploring topics such as NATO, the refugee crisis stemming from the Russia-Ukraine War, economic and trade relationships, and the risks of escalating tensions with Russia. Each student represented a country in negotiations and delivered arguments on how their country's decisions would impact Europe.



Excursions

Academic excursions provide students with the opportunity to explore foreign and international affairs across different career pathways. Previous excursions have included visits to Seattle City Hall, the Port of Seattle Headquarters, and the South Korean Consulate, where students met officials and learned about diplomacy, trade, and global partnerships.

Instructor

Gael Tarleton

Gael Tarleton, a national security and policy expert, has 40 years of experience in public and private sectors. A former Soviet intelligence analyst, she later worked on U.S.-Russia threat reduction. After 9/11, she joined the University of Washington, helping establish the Ellison Center for Russian Studies. She served as a Port of Seattle Commissioner and four-term WA State Representative, focusing on climate, cybersecurity, and trade. In 2022, she became Seattle’s Director of Intergovernmental Relations. She holds Georgetown degrees and has lived in Seattle for 30+ years. [Click here](#) to read more about Gael.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course, weekend excursions
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price:** \$5,798

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
 - Weekend excursions can be added on for \$125 per day
- **Price:** \$2,998

Supplements:

- **Application fee:** Starting at \$99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- **Tuition Protection Plan:** Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click [here](#) for more info.

Summer Springboard programs are not run by our campus partners (with the exception of Cal Poly, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and NYSID which are run in partnership with SSB). Universities and their affiliated departments and partners do not control and are not responsible or liable in any manner for any part of the Summer Springboard program.



Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday - Friday. During week two students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to additional academic time (excursions, speakers).



Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast	
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival	
12PM	Lunch	
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or Recreational Activity	
3:30PM	College Readiness Workshop or True You	
5PM-6:30PM	Commuter Student Departure	
6PM	Dinner	
7PM	Clubs	
10:30PM	Night Checks	

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