

## MIA-MPH Application Instructions – Fall 2023

Welcome! This document provides instructions to apply for fall graduate admission into the on-campus **Master of International Affairs and Master of Public Health combined degree program** at the Bush School, in conjunction with the School of Public Health, at Texas A&M University.

### Fall 2023 application deadlines:

**MIA Priority Funding Application Deadline: December 15, 2022**

**Final Application Deadline: February 1, 2023**

Applications completed by the priority funding deadline of **December 15** are considered for optimal funding consideration for the MIA degree portion. Applications completed after the priority deadline, but on or before the final deadline, will still receive a competitive Bush School Scholarship, but may miss nomination for other funding.

### APPLICATION PROCESS & OVERVIEW

The Bush School Admissions Office works in conjunction with the School of Public Health – Office of Graduate Student Services to process applications for the **Master of International Affairs–Master of Public Health (MIA-MPH)** combined degree program.

Applicants apply to the program by submitting a SOPHAS application through the School of Public Health. Upon submission of the SOPHAS application, the applicant then submits a Supplemental MIA Application. Both applications, all supporting documents, test scores (if applicable), and recommendation letters must be received by the application deadlines listed above. **Incomplete applications will NOT be considered for admission.**

★ **Note:** The Bush School will notify applicants via email of any missing items required to complete the MIA portion of the application process and/or when their application is complete, so be sure to monitor the email address entered on the application.

Be sure to use the same spelling and name on all correspondence and documents to avoid confusion or delay in processing. Immediately notify the Bush School and the School of Public Health of any changes to your address and/or name.

In early February, applicants selected for the interview round in the MIA admissions process are invited to interview during Interview Conference Weekend (Feb 24-25, 2023), with alternative interviews available for those who cannot attend.

In early March, the MIA Admissions and Scholarship Committees meet to make final admissions and scholarship decisions for the MIA portion of the program. The Bush School Admissions Office then works with the School of Public Health to notify applicants by mid-to-late March of their final admissions decisions for each portion of program and the scholarship awarded for the MIA portion.

### SOPHAS APPLICATION

To begin the application process, submit a SOPHAS application to the School of Public Health. A non-refundable application fee is required. Visit the [School of Public Health Admissions website](#) for instructions.

Submitting the SOPHAS application is only one step in the application process. We recommend submitting the SOPHAS application well in advance of the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to ensure your application is not missing any required items and to give yourself time to then submit the Supplemental MIA Application by the application deadlines listed above.

## SUPPLEMENTAL MIA APPLICATION

After submitting the SOPHAS application to the School of Public Health, fill out and submit the [Supplemental MIA Application](#) to the Bush School by the application deadlines listed above.

The Supplemental MIA Application will ask you to answer several MIA program-specific questions, upload your International Experience Essay, Personal Statement (if MPH personal statement does not address items in the MIA prompt), Resume (if different than resume uploaded to SOPHAS) and GRE/GMAT scores (if required/ desired).

## RÉSUMÉ

Upload a current résumé to the SOPHAS application.

If you would like to submit a MIA focused résumé that highlights your international experiences, language, and focus, we encourage you to upload it to the [Supplemental MIA Application](#). An MIA [Résumé Template](#) is available which includes the following sections:

- **Name and Contact Information**
- **Education**
- **Work/Internship/Military Experiences**
- **International Experience**
- **Skills and Certifications** (language, software, clearance, etc.)
- **Leadership, Service, Organizations, and Honors**

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Upload your personal statement to the SOPHAS application. However, if that statement does not address items in the MIA prompt below, please upload a statement that does to the Supplemental MIA Application.

Statements should be typed in 11 pt font, spaced 1.5", and address the following prompt. Include your name, the title "Personal Statement", and page number on each page.

**Prompt:** *In 750 words or less, please address the following topics in your personal statement:*

- *Your personal and professional goals for a career in international affairs,*
- *What (including the people, places, internships, or events) inspired you to pursue a career in international affairs,*
- *How obtaining the MIA degree from the Bush School will help you achieve your goals, and*
- *What value you bring to the program (including knowledge gained from meaningful experiences, education, or jobs you have had in the past).*

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ESSAY

An International Experience Essay is required for the MIA portion of the application process. The international experience essay is a place for applicants to convey their unique international experiences/influences and is **in addition to the personal statement**. Upload to the Supplemental MIA Application.

Essays should be typed in 11 pt font and spaced 1.5", and address the following prompt. Include your name, the title "International Experience Essay", and page number on each page.

**Prompt:** *In 750 words or less, tell us about the experiences that have influenced your interest in international affairs. We recognize that your experiences and opportunities may vary substantially from others, but we are looking for aspects of study abroad, living abroad, influential courses or readings, language interests, international news or events, cultural interactions, and more. Some repetition may occur from your statement, but this essay should include new material.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS (3)

Three recommendations (consisting of a letter and Likert Evaluation) are required for a complete application. Recommendations must be submitted electronically directly to SOPHAS. The Bush School will use the same recommendations collected on your SOPHAS application.

Based on MPH admissions requirements, at least one recommendation must be an academic reference from a higher education institution and at least one professional reference. The academic reference must come from one of the applicant's course instructors who can attest to the applicant's capability to pursue graduate school. The remaining letter may be either professional or academic.

## TRANSCRIPTS and/or WES ICAP COURSE-BY-COURSE EVALUATION

The following is required depending on where the college(s) you attended is located. Required for all colleges attended, regardless if coursework was transferred from one college to another.

**For U.S. and English-speaking Canadian colleges:** Order official transcripts through the SOPHAS application → Academic History quadrant → Colleges Attended section. Add the college(s) you attended. Then, press the 'Order' link for each college.

**For all other colleges located outside of the U.S. and non-English speaking Canadian colleges:** Request a World Education Services (WES) course-by-course (ICAP) evaluation and U.S. equivalency determination through the SOPHAS application → Academic History quadrant → Colleges Attended section. Add the college(s) you attended. Then, press the 'Order' link for each college.

## GRE/GMAT

While the MPH portion of the program may not require GRE/GMAT scores, applicants with a cumulative GPA below 3.2 are required to submit GRE/GMAT scores for the MIA portion of the degree. The Bush School uses the cumulative GPA (out of 4.0) as listed on the transcript issuing the degree (bachelor, master, PhD). Many still provide scores for reasons stated below.

- **Optional** for those with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better. *We do NOT round up! (3.18 is below 3.2)*
- **Encouraged** for those who feel scores can complement a strong file or offset concerns such as a low GPA, lack of experience in the field, or if grades/experience do not reflect current abilities. When deciding if scores will help or hinder, consider our previous years' averages (308).
- **Required for those with a cumulative GPA below a 3.2.**

Applicants weighing the decision to submit scores should consider their testing ability, time to study, and whether scores will help or hinder their application (our average GRE score is a 308). We prefer the GRE test over GMAT. Scores must be within five years of the date the GradCAS application is submitted.

If you are required or wish to provide GRE/GMAT scores, upload a copy of your Test Score Report to the MIA Supplemental Application.

**\*\*OFFICIAL GRE/GMAT SCORES ARE ONLY NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS who wish to provide Proof of English Proficiency via their GRE/GMAT score. See instructions below for submitting official scores.\*\***

## PROOF OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (for citizens from non-English speaking countries)

Official English language proficiency (ELP) test scores are required for most international applicants. Citizens of certain English speaking countries are exempt from this requirement. Refer to the list on the [TAMU International Graduate Admissions website](#). If your country is not on the exempted list of countries, you must provide proof of

English proficiency. We have included the [School of Public Health ELP requirements](#) as shown on their site.

Acceptable options:

- ❖ **GRE Verbal Score of at least 153** (or 22 on GMAT verbal) from a test date within five years of applying.
  - Send to SOPHAS using GRE code 7841.
- ❖ **TOEFL iBT Score of at least 95** from a test date within two years of applying; *the Bush School prefers a 100 iBT. MyBest TOEFL Scores not accepted*
  - Send to SOPHAS using school code 5688.
- ❖ **TOEFL Essentials Overall Band Score of at least 10** from a test date within two years of applying.
  - Send to Texas A&M University using school code 6003.
- ❖ **IELTS Overall Band Score of at least 7.0** from a test date within two years of applying.
  - Submit via electronic score delivery service to: Texas A&M University (College Station or Galveston).
- ❖ **Alternative Verification:** Complete all four years of a bachelor's degree (equivalent to four years) or higher (masters is typically two years) at an accredited university in the US.

Applicants are advised to complete tests at least two months before the application deadline. Test scores can take anywhere from two to six weeks to be processed, depending on the test. Applications missing the required proof of English proficiency will not be reviewed or considered for admission.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### BUSH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Questions about the MIA portion of the program and/or MIA Supplemental Application should be directed to Ashlee Treadway or Kathryn Meyer in the Bush School Admissions Office:

**Phone:** 979-862-3476  
**Email:** [bushschoolapplications@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolapplications@tamu.edu)  
**Address:** Bush School Admissions  
Texas A&M University  
2132 Allen Bldg / 4220 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843

### SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH – OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES

If you have any questions about the MPH portion of the program and/or the SOPHAS application process, please contact the School of Public Health:

**Phone:** 979.436.9356  
**Email:** [SPH-GSS@tamu.edu](mailto:SPH-GSS@tamu.edu)  
**Address:** Reynolds Medical Sciences Building, Suite 154  
1114 TAMU  
206 Olsen Blvd., College Station, Texas 77843