

MASTER OF ARTS IN GLOBAL THOUGHT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



WHAT IS GLOBAL THOUGHT?

Global Thought is an open-ended approach to exploring questions that demand perspectives across disciplines and borders. It challenges us to think differently, think globally, and think creatively in order to understand and address the complexities of our interconnected and ever-changing world.

MA IN GLOBAL THOUGHT

The MA in Global Thought is a rigorous interdisciplinary degree that prepares students to tackle complex global issues in the classroom, future workplaces, and the public sphere. Students come away from the program with a transformed understanding of the world and their own place in it. Students can opt to complete the degree in one year or part time.

WHO WE ARE

This distinctive MA degree is offered by Columbia's Committee on Global Thought (CGT), which includes more than 30 renowned scholars across Columbia who seek to comprehend and address global processes, crises, and approaches to the world's multidimensional challenges.

Students in Global Thought are drawn from all over the world and from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds in the social sciences, humanities, and STEM fields.

WHAT MAKES THE MA IN GLOBAL THOUGHT UNIQUE?

The Global Thought Program creates a space where students have permission to think capaciously while also developing expertise in their area of interest.

Global Thought students will benefit from:

- A customizable and interdisciplinary course schedule
- Personalized advising and support from staff and faculty
- Access to leading scholars in global thought
- Location in the vibrant neighborhood of Morningside Heights in New York City
- A globally diverse community of students and alumni



"The CGT degree has been truly enriching and intellectually transformative. The scope of my academic interests and career aspirations have significantly shifted with every course, workshop, and guest lecture."

—Nis Hamid, Class of 2023

LEARN MORE





STRUCTURED BUT FLEXIBLE DEGREE

The Global Thought Core includes:

- A two-semester MA seminar
- Interdisciplinary courses in global governance, political economy, and culture

Electives are:

- Tailored to students' individual intellectual and professional interests
- Taken from across Columbia's many graduate schools

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A CGT degree equips students with knowledge of the complex processes that shape the contemporary world and a critical approach that encourages asking questions rather than offering prescriptive answers to global problems. The capstone essay helps students develop transferable research skills applicable to a variety of future careers.

CAPSTONE ESSAY

As part of the MA Seminar, students conduct original research projects culminating in an article-length essay. Topics range across the humanities and social sciences—from cultural inquiry to policy studies to economic analysis and beyond. Through personalized advising and in-class workshops, students receive unparalleled support as they develop their intellectual capacity.

FACULTY

CGT faculty are drawn from across Columbia's many schools and departments, including:

- The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- The Business School
- The School of International and Public Affairs
- The School of Public Health
- The School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
- The Climate School
- The Law School
- The School of Social Work

A CAREER WITHOUT BORDERS

Graduates are prepared for a wide range of careers in government, civil society, academia, and the private sector and have achieved positions including:

- Head of Programming, UN Global Compact Network, New York
- Data Policy Fellow, Data Foundation, Washington DC
- Media Officer, Ministry of Justice, London
- PhD student in Sociology, Northwestern University, Chicago
- Associate Corporate Lawyer, Goodmans LLP, Toronto
- US Correspondent, Die Presse, New York,
- Program Support Manager, International Organization for Migration, Kabul