Lane Bowman: Welcome to chat for international applicants who are seeking to build a competitive application! My name is Lane, and I am the Admissions Services Coordinator at SPEA.

Lane Bowman: Please feel free to ask any questions to help you put together an excellent application! (My text will now show up in red to distinguish my answers.)

Zhaxicidan: Hello! My personal statement is about 700 words. Is it a problem? Thanks

YU Yefei Flynn: Hi, my name is Yefei, it's nice to talk to you Mr. Bowman. I intend to apply to either the MPA program or the dual degree with environmental science, but I haven't made up my mind yet. I was wondering if you could explain a bit on how's decision of the dual degree admission be made? Thank you

Lane Bowman: Hi Zhaxicidan, thank you for asking. There is no word limit for the personal statement. Our goal is to allow you to express your goals and plans.

Lane Bowman: Typically, they are about 2 pages doubled-spaced.

YU Yefei Flynn: I was wondering... sorry about the typo

Lane Bowman: Hi Yefei. No problem!

Lane Bowman: Many students, after beginning their MPA, apply to pursue the dual degree after they have begun coursework.

Lane Bowman: Dual degree applications are sent to both the MPA and MSES Admissions Committees for independent decisions. Thus, an applicant could be accepted to one or the other, or both.

YU Yefei Flynn: Thanks for your answer. So I could basically apply for a MPA first and see if I want a dual afterwards right?

YU Yefei Flynn: I see

Lane Bowman: That is correct. Some students do this in order to take more time to fulfill the prerequisites.

Lane Bowman: The prerequisites of the MSES program, that is.

YU Yefei Flynn: Thanks you Mr. Bowman

Lane Bowman: You're welcome!

Shahriar: Hi Lane

YU Yefei Flynn: I was going to ask about the word limit as well... mine is actually around 1000 words, I'm still polishing it

Lane Bowman: Hi Shahriar! Welcome.

Lane Bowman: On the personal statement, it is important to communicate efficiently as our Admissions Committees review hundreds of applications.

Shahriar: do you require gre scores for masters program application?

YU Yefei Flynn: I totally understand that
Lane Bowman: Yes, SPEA requires GRE or GMAT scores to apply to our masters programs.

Shahriar: how many masters program do you run?

Lane Bowman: We have a Master of Public Affairs (MPA), Master of Science in Environmental Science (MSES), and a Master of Art in Arts Administration (MAAA).

Shahriar: is MPA a two year program?

YU Yefei Flynn: Also, If I may ask, how many students enrolled to the MPA program each year have no post-grad working experience? As I’m still a senior year student and I’m applying for the Fall entrance next, and I'm pretty nervous with my working experience (I do have several interns and one overseas exchange)

Lane Bowman: Yes, the MPA is a two year program (48 credit hours).

Lane Bowman: We have many students who come directly from their undergraduate studies with little or no work experience. In fact, we offer a professional degree to prepare you with the skills to enter the workforce.

Lane Bowman: To further support this, the average age of a SPEA students is 26.

Shahriar: i did a MPA frpm UK which was a one year program. in that case do i need to submit it in application? if i only submit my undergrad degree, shall it be fine for the application?

YU Yefei Flynn: Thanks, that's very helpful!

Lane Bowman: SPEA expects to receive an official transcript from each postsecondary school you have attended, per the instructions provided by our Office of International Services (noted to the left).

Shahriar: do you provide full scholarship for mpa student?

Lane Bowman: As a professional school, we expect each of our students contribute to their education. Thus, we do not offer full scholarships. However, 44% of eligible students from our most recent class were offered merit aid.

Shahriar: thanks for the information Lane.

Zhaxicidan: how many recommendations does MPA program require?

YU Yefei Flynn: May I ask what are the criterias for the scholarships, and how can we apply for it?

YU Yefei Flynn: Sorry is it's already on the website

Lane Bowman: You're welcome, Shahriar.

YU Yefei Flynn: if*

Lane Bowman: Zhaxicidan, we require three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty.

Lane Bowman: Yefei, To apply for merit-based aid, submit your complete application by the December 1st international deadline and check the appropriate box in Section V. of the SPEA Departmental Questions form.

Shahriar: Lane, does merit based scholarship cover full tuition fee amount?

Lane Bowman: SPEA merit-based aid typically covers a stipend and partial tuition remission.
Shahriar: what is the minimum score of gre do i need to have?

YU Yefei Flynn: Not sure if this is the right place to ask, but I've ordered by IELTS score report to be sent to SPEA on 19 Sep, I was wondering could you help me to check whether it has been received or not? It was sent by e-copy, and my full name is YU Yefei

Lane Bowman: Shahriar, applications are reviewed for their overall merit; there is not one “make-or-break” section of the application.

Lane Bowman: Average test and GPA scores for the last three years can be found here: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/prospective_students/apply_to_SPEA/application_faq.shtml

Lane Bowman: Yefei, to discuss this, please accept my private chat request.

Zoya Atiq: Hi Lane! My name is Zoya and I am preparing my application for the MPA program. The application information section says ' Please note that you need to send ALL transcripts directly to the program you are applying to, including those where no degree was awarded.' Does the above line mean I have to send hard copies to Indiana University? Should these degrees be official transcripts sent directly from the Registrar's office of my university?

Lane Bowman: Hi Zoya! Did you attend an academic institution in the USA?

Zoya Atiq: Also, do you require hard copies of my O & A level certificates?

Zoya Atiq: No, I attended a Pakistani university for my Bachelors.

Lane Bowman: If you have attended an institution outside of the USA, please follow the instructions to the left and send hardcopies to the Office of International Services.

Lane Bowman: If those certificates are a part of your academic record, then please include them with your transcripts.

Zhaxicidan: Hardcopies are required only after a admission is being offered right?

Zoya Atiq: Okay. Thank you for your response. can you also please guide me about my second question? I did O and A Levels which is administered by the Cambridge International Examinations Body (UK). This is equivalent to high school in the U.S. Does postsecondary education include high school too?

Lane Bowman: Zhaxicidan, official hard copies are required at application.

Lane Bowman: Zoya, thank you for the clarification. O & A Level certificates are not necessary.

Lane Bowman: We do not require any type of high school verification.

YU Yefei Flynn: Following Zhaxicidan's question, should the hard copy be sent before or after I submit the application online?

Zoya Atiq: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that. My second question is: In the Employment History Section, the form is not allowing me to write the full names of my Employer Organizations. And the Abbreviations are not enough to correctly name or describe the organizations. What should I do? How should I enter this information?

Lane Bowman: Yefei, it can be sent before or after. If it arrives before, it will be kept until it is matched with your online application.
Lane Bowman: Zoya, the abbreviations will be sufficient for the online application. Your resume, however, should provide the full names as that will be the medium through which the Admissions Committee views this information.

Zoya Atiq: My third question is that the 'Desired Degree Section' asks for Academic Plan and the drop down list only contains one option which says Public Affairs PhD. What does this mean? Should I select this option even if I am applying for an MPA degree?

Lane Bowman: Zoya, that's a great question!

Lane Bowman: Our degree programs are listed under SPEA Grad Public Affairs and SPEA Grad Environmental Science.

Lane Bowman: If you plan to apply to our signature dual degree program, please select SPEA GRAD Public Affairs for the Academic Program and Public Affairs/Environmental Science MPA/MSES for the Academic Plan.

Zoya Atiq: Mr. Bowman thank you for your answer. Can you please let me know if international students can attend the SPEA Fall Experience Day (to be held on the 14th of November) online?

Zoya Atiq: What is the difference between Academic Program and Academic Plan?

Lane Bowman: Zoya, that is a great question! We would love for international applicants to get an experience at SPEA, but unfortunately, the event cannot be replicated through an online forum or medium.

Lane Bowman: Zoya, the Academic Program typically refers to the school while the Academic Plan refers to the degree.

Zoya Atiq: Thank you.

Lane Bowman: You're welcome!

phelipe: Is the GMAT also a requirement to apply for admission?

Valeria: Hi Lane! I'm in Bloomington but I'm an international applicant, can I go to the experience day?

Lane Bowman: Hi Phelipe, SPEA requires either the GRE or GMAT.

Lane Bowman: Hi Valeria, you are certainly welcome to attend our Fall Experience Day. You can RSVP here: https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_1YwRDnHmtRDenGt

Lane Bowman: For the TOEFL and GRE, official scores should be sent directly from ETS using our institution code, 1324.

Zoya Atiq: Mr. Bowman the 'Apply to SPEA' option is not currently working on this page: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/prospective_students/apply_to_SPEA/index.shtml. Can you kindly please let me know if this page is down temporarily or do I need to access my online application from some other link?

phelipe: Can MPA students have 2 or more concentrations?

Paramdeep Singh: Hi

Lane Bowman: Hi Zoya, if you remove the period at the end of the link, it will work.

Lane Bowman: Phelipe, many students pursue more than one concentration while at SPEA.

Lane Bowman: Hi Paramdeep!
Paramdeep Singh: My TOEFL exam is on 14th Dec 2014

Zoya Atiq: Mr. Bowman, the page is opening but the 'Apply to SPEA' option on the page is not working. How can I access my application that I have previously started filling.

Lane Bowman: You can access your online application through this link:
http://ois.iu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/index.shtml

Paramdeep Singh: I'll submit my application without it as the deadline is 1st Dec, so my application can be denied or you can consider my TOEFL score later also?

Lane Bowman: Hi Paramdeep, as long as all your other materials have been submitted by the deadline, we will consider these scores.

Valeria: Can I upload my SOP after sending my professors the request for letter of recommendation?

Lane Bowman: Valeria, you may send your personal statement (or resume) to speaapps@indiana.edu before or after you have submitted your application.

Valeria: I want the system to send the request as soon as possible but it seems I can't do it if I haven't upload my SOP first.

Valeria: Great, thank you Lane.

Lane Bowman: Valeria, you may attach a blank document if an attachment is required.

Zoya Atiq: Mr. Bowman I need to confirm a small detail regarding your previous answer to my question about the Academic Program and Academic Plan. If I select the MPA program for now and not the MPA/MSES dual degree, would I be allowed to sign for courses from the energy concentration?

Lane Bowman: Yes, the energy concentration is available to MPA, MSES and MPA-MSES students.

Paramdeep Singh: Mr. Bowman transcripts have to be send in original to complete the application or we just have to upload it in iStart and after we get the admit then probably we can set the original transcript's hardcopy?

Paramdeep Singh: *send

Lane Bowman: Official hardcopies should be sent to the Office of International Services for application to SPEA's masters programs.

Lane Bowman: Please see the specific instructions on the left note.

Paramdeep Singh: okok

Lane Bowman: Please do not upload copies on the online application or iStart.

Lane Bowman: Our chat is coming to a close. Are there any final questions?

Valeria: Yes.

Valeria: I have my official transcripts but not on a closed envelope. Is that ok?
phelipe: hi lane, could you please send the link of financial aid and scholarships opportunities

Lane Bowman: Hi Valeria, the Office of International Services makes all determinations of authenticity. Thus, as long as the copies are official, there shouldn't be any problem.

Lane Bowman: Phelipe, we provide all of our financial aid information here: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/prospective_students/costs_and_financial_aid/index.shtml

Lane Bowman: This page highlights our SPEA merit-based aid: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/prospective_students/costs_and_financial_aid/merit-based_aid.shtml

Lane Bowman: Other outside resources are supplied here: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/prospective_students/costs_and_financial_aid/other_funding.shtml

Zoya Atiq: Mr. Bowman can you please let me know if international students can be considered for financial aid? Or are they just eligible for merit aid?

Lane Bowman: Thank you so much for joining our online chat today!

Paramdeep Singh: Financial statement has to be shown after receiving the admit card?

Lane Bowman: Need-based aid is provided by the US government, so international candidates are not eligible for this. While international applicants are considered for SPEA merit aid opportunities, please know that SPEA merit aid offers are rarely extended to international applicants as the awards are unable to assist in any substantial way. We encourage all international applicants to seek other sources of funding from their home countries. Resources provided by Indiana University’s University Graduate School and Grad Grants Center may prove helpful.

Lane Bowman: Paramdeep, the Office of International Services does requests financial documentation upon application, but requires it after admission.

Paramdeep Singh: ok

Lane Bowman: Again, thank you all for chatting! If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to email us at speaapps@indiana.edu or visit our website: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/index.shtml

Paramdeep Singh: Thanks ! Mr.Bowman.

Valeria: thanks to you Lane!

Lane Bowman: You're welcome!

Zoya Atiq: Thank you so much.