Megan Siehl: Thank you for joining our chat today! Please feel free to ask any questions you have.

Megan Siehl: Our staff and students will use red text.

Ya: Is the chat only for asking questions regarding the life at SPEA or we can ask any questions pertaining to the program?

Lane Bowman: Ya

Lane Bowman: You are welcome to ask about SPEA, Bloomington, the program—we'll be happy to answer.

Lane Bowman: Roy & Brian will be able to speak from a student perspective as well.

Line Dietrich: Hello, thanks for offering this chat. I am an international applicant and would like to submit the financial documentation. If I prove private financing can I still change in case I receive SPEA funding or will I have to finance myself since I declared so?

GANG RYUN KIM: Will we not have an online discussion talking freely over the matters we want to know?

Lane Bowman: Line--

Adam Qian: I am quite interested in your MPA's concentration of environmental policy, and I would like to know when I could choose to study it.

Brian Watts: Gang Ryun Kim -

Brian Watts: You are free to ask any question and we will answer as best we can.

Ya: I wanted to ask about the financial aid options available for the international students.

Roy Fillyaw: Adam-

Ya: Can you guide me through the procedure?

Lane Bowman: If you receive SPEA's merit based aid, it will be added to your funding. The amount that you would have to provide would then decrease by the SPEA funding amount.

GANG RYUN KIM: I have a question for Lane. Is RST thank you for your reply to my email. and I wonder if my official transcripts have been arrived to OIS?

Lane Bowman: Gang- please accept my private chat request.

Victor Vasques: Good morning. Like Ya and Line I would also like to know more about financial aid.

Roy Fillyaw: During your first semester, you will be taking mostly core courses, but you will take courses toward Environmental Policy if that is your chosen concentration.

Line Dietrich: How long do your students in average take for the master program? Can one go directly for PhD as well?

Brian Watts: Line -

Ya: What is the average completion time for the MPA/MSES dual degree program?
Esalettin Yasin Uysal: Hi everyone. I'm at work now and not able to speak cos I have not a mic here. But I'm going to follow conversations. Hope to have a fruitful time period.

Brian Watts: The average length for the master program is 2 years for one degree and the dual degree is 2.5 years.

Brian Watts: However, some students are proceeding straight into PhD after completing their master(s).

Brian Watts: Ya -

Brian Watts: The average completion time for the dual degree program is 5 semester = 2.5 years.

Ya: Thanks

Line Dietrich: so if they go straight into PhD they stay at IU for approximately 6 years?

Adam Qian: The iStart system asks us to state whether we would receive any financial support from Indiana University, but we have still have no idea about our fellowship yet, then how should we answer this question?

Lane Bowman: Adam--

Palista Kharel: Hello everyone! I would like to learn more about the 'financial documentation' that was mentioned earlier. By when should SPEA Office receive this documentation?

Brian Watts: Line -

Xiaoyu Cen: Oh, I also would like to know about when should I submit a financial proof doc, I mean the deadline is...

Brian Watts: I think 6 years is a fairly accurate timeline but the student would have to be accepted into the PhD program and depending on their work ethic may be able to finish early or take longer than a total of 6 years.

Line Dietrich: thank you Brian

Ya: I received an email today from the OIS stating that my decision is almost ready and it should not take more than a few weeks' time. So, does that mean they have all the required documents with them or I need to send something else in order to complete my application?

Lane Bowman: At this time, if you would like to provide financial documentation to the Office of International Services (OIS), then you are welcome to do so. As SPEA will be offering merit-based aid in mid-March and into April, some elect to wait until that time. However, you are encouraged to provide your financial statement as soon as possible to expedite processing.

Adam Qian: Thanks.

Xiaoyu Cen: Ok, get it...Thank you Lane:

Adam Qian: Then how about the time we could choose our study concentration?

Roy Fillyaw: Adam--

Victor Vasques: Thank you Lane

Lane Bowman: All--We are happy to help you get answers for all your questions! We may, however, direct you to the Office of International Services (OIS) as they can best answer questions pertaining to documentation, etc.
Lane Bowman: Ya--

GANG RYUN KIM: when something is missing and/or wrong in the admission application process, do you let us know what we have to summit before faculty decides admission status, other than with personalized checklist?

Roy Fillyaw: As new students, everyone has core courses that must be taken for a MPA or MSES. I would suggest not worrying about declaring a concentration until you are here and are taking classes. My interest in concentrations became more clear as I progressed through my first semester of studies.

Lane Bowman: I would reach out to OIS at newtoiu@iu.edu for an answer to that question.

Ya: Okay. Thank you.

Adam Qian: Alright

Adam Qian: Thanks

GANG RYUN KIM: Would you kindly let us know when admission applications are approved by SPEA?

Palista Kharel: Are international students at SPEA eligible for need-based aid?

Lane Bowman: Gang--

Lane Bowman: SPEA strives to provide an admission decision within 2-3 weeks of an application becoming complete.

Xiaoyu Cen: I think we have some spea students here? May I ask what life is like in iub? I mean is it busy with study and research or have a lot of time for other activities?

Lane Bowman: Palista--

Roy Fillyaw: Xiaoyu-

Xiaoyu Cen: Yes, thank you Roy...tell me it is interesting...

Lane Bowman: Need-based aid is available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents through a federal application, so international students are not eligible.

Wona Ji: Hello! I’m not sure whether I can ask this question here but I would like to know if I can get enough information related to my research objective - I have an interest in social entrepreneurship - at SPEA. I know there is faculty who have similar research interest with me and guide me but I was also wondering if there is any extra-curricular activities or opportunities with regard to social entrepreneurship.

Palista Kharel: Thank you Lane

Lane Bowman: We do encourage many students to find other forms of funding, some of which are through IU. This is a great resource: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/prospective_students/costs_and_financial_aid/other_funding.shtml

Victor Vasques: I would like to know from the IU students about volunteer work in Bloomington and about paid work for international students

Danielle Law: Wona-
Roy Fillyaw: Between coursework, assistantships, and student organizations, SPEA students are very busy people. Even though I always have something to do for school, it has been enjoyable. My classmates and the faculty are wonderful. Bloomington also has many great activities to take part in when I am not studying.

Brook: Hi there! Are there international students at SPEA eligible for teaching assistantship, research assistantship or on-campus jobs?

Brian Watts: Victor-

Danielle Law: We have a wonderful social entrepreneurship certificate available to SPEA students. It is a collaboration with the Kelley School of Business!

Danielle Law: Brook:

Wona Ji: To Roy: So, is there some activities related to entrepreneurial stuff, too?

GANG RYUN KIM: I receive the Korean Government Long-Term Fellowship for Overseas Studies, and is it allowed to benefit from other funding at SPEA?

Danielle Law: We employ hundreds of students each semester to work as teaching and graduate assistants. International students are eligible to apply for these positions :) We will send out the application for these hourly positions in the summer.

Xiaoyu Cen: Em sounds nice, thanks again Roy!

Roy Fillyaw: Wona:

Brook: Great! Thanks Danielle.

Danielle Law: Of course!

Brook: Roy Fillayaw -

Brook: What concentration are you taking?

Brian Watts: There are many opportunities to volunteer here in Bloomington. There are recycling organizations, libraries, the Boys and Girls Club, etc. that many of the students participate in outside of SPEA. However, SPEA also has many student lead interest groups like the Environmental Management and Sustainable Development Association (EMSDA) that provides more opportunities for students to participate in activities related to their interests, many times, volunteering.

Roy Fillyaw: We have several professional student organizations within SPEA!

Roy Fillyaw: Brook:

Roy Fillyaw: My concentrations are Water Management and Policy Analysis.

Palista Kharel: Hello Danielle! Do teaching/graduate assistantships include tuition remissions? These must be very competitive, right?

Danielle Law: Hi Palista!

Wona Ji: Thank you!
Brook: Oh. My question was directed towards 'Environmental Management'.

Brook: Brian Watts - are you in that class?

Danielle Law: Merit aid positions include both a work assignment and partial tuition remission. Hourly positions do not include the tuition remission but instead pay a set amount for 10-15 hours of work each week.

Brian Watts: Brook -

GANG RYUN KIM: How can I have on-the-job training after one and half years? Do SPEA support to find on-the-job training actively?, and if so when do I need to start finding one?

Jingyi Lu: Hello! Thanks for this chat~ I would like to know how many students will be enrolled in SPEA MPA program in 2015 Fall, and about what percent of them are international students?

Danielle Law: Merit aid is very competitive :) However, we employ so many students as hourly assistants, that these are far more common. I don't know of any students who want to find work, and through the course of their time with us, do not find it.

Victor Vasques: Sounds Great Brian! Thank you

Brian Watts: Environmental Management is a course here in SPEA, but can also be a student's dual concentration. I have taken the course but my concentration is Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management. Would you like me to elaborate on the course?

Palista Kharel: Thank you Danielle

Danielle Law: You're welcome!

Danielle Law: Jingyi:

Brook: I would like that. Please.

Lane Bowman: Gang--

Danielle Law: Our class sizes vary, but most often we enroll about 175 MPA students each fall. Right now about 22% of our student body is international.

Brian Watts: Brook -

Jingyi Lu: thank you~ Danielle~

Danielle Law: Welcome :)

Lane Bowman: SPEA's curriculum includes an experiential component, which requires students to gain real world experience. Typically, this is done in the summer between the first and second years. More information can be found here:http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/degree_programs/mpa/experiential_requirement.shtml

Lane Bowman: In addition, each student also engages in a capstone seminar to apply the skills they've developed. Groups are paired with real clients to help them deal with an issue or solve a problem. Read more about the capstone here: http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/masters/degree_programs/mpa/capstone.shtml
GANG RYUN KIM: thank you

Brian Watts: The class mainly revolves around issue reports and the management of people with regards to pollution. We talked a lot about the agencies that deal with pollution, the history of these agencies and the environmental movement, and would find recent articles on pollution and draft issue reports. It is a basis for environmental law and knowing what issues environmental managers will deal with at work.

Xiaoyu Cen: so...where do students usually take the internship?

Xiaoyu Cen: is that fixed or depends on the student themselves?

Brian Watts: Xiaoyu -

Ya: How long does an internship last? And is it paid or unpaid?

Roy Fillyaw: Ya:

Xiaoyu Cen: Yes, Thank you Brian:)

Lane Bowman: Xiaoyu--

Brian Watts: Internships for international students are definitely not fixed and usually depend on the student. As Co-Volunteer and International Student Coordinator, I know we are working on conducting internship workshops for international students to help them prepare and find internships here in the states - currently a difficult process. That said, many international students return home and intern in their home countries for the summer then return at the beginning of the semester.

Brook: Interesting! I more keen on taking part in 'Environmental Management' in the dual MPA/MSES program. I want to focus on institutional environmental management in which businesses and government bodies take on challenges in adopting tools for implementation of efficient and sustainable development.

Xiaoyu Cen: Yes Lane?

Brook: I want to explore the cross-disciplinary nature of environmental science, so to speak.

Adam Qian: Me too

Roy Fillyaw: Many internships last ten weeks during the summer, but that depends on the specific internship. To receive credit for your internship, SPEA requires you work at least 120 hours. Some internships are paid, but many are not. We raise money to help fund unpaid internships each year, and those are awarded competitively.

Brian Watts: Brook -

Xiaoyu Cen: and thanks for your answer Brian!

GANG RYUN KIM: Thank you Brian:) 

Brian Watts: That is also why I came to SPEA! There are many programs that help you analyze this cross-disciplinary nature of environmental science. I would also suggest taking Risk Communication as a course to help deal with businesses and government interactions.

Victor Vasques: I have a question about housing, do we have to live inside the campus or are we free to live outside it?
Ya: Thank you Roy.

Roy Fillyaw: Victor:

Ya: you*

Jingyi Lu: Brain:

Brian Watts: All - you are very welcome! Thanks for the questions ^_^

Jingyi Lu: That sounds very great! I participated in the Ford Company Conservation and Environmental Grant, met a lot of environmental agency and found some different problems. The class you mentioned just meet my point~

Brian Watts: Jingyi -

Roy Fillyaw: You are free to live outside of campus or on campus. There are many options for both choices of living. Once admitted, we offer a list of some housing options on the admitted students' page. If you choose to live off campus, there are busses within walking distance of most places in town that will take you to SPEA.

Brook: Brian. Many thanks!!! Hope to see you in campus this fall.

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome, Ya

Victor Vasques: Thank you Roy!

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome!

Brian Watts: Another class to consider would be Natural Resource Management which deals with what we take out of the environment (natural resources) compared to what we put into the environment (pollution - environmental management). You will find that many course in SPEA bring to light these different problems that agencies face.

Brian Watts: Brook - I'll be here!

Line Dietrich: Hey Brian, do you know about classes about life cycle analysis or sustainable industrial production?

Brook: Which is a hot topic in Africa as well. I'm trying to relate it (in my mind) to the scope of the program. So much can be done.

Brian Watts: Line -

GANG RYUN KIM: I am planning to take my spouse and 3 children there, any house for us to live on campus?

Roy Fillyaw: Gang:

Jingyi Lu: Brain--I am appreciate that I know these today~Many thanks~~!!

Brian Watts: I do knwo that we offer a Life Cycle Analysis course but I have not taken it - sorry. And I do know we have courses like Sustainable Development and Sustainable Communities. I'm not sure a class is titled "Sustainable Industrial Production" but many class may cover it.

Line Dietrich: thanks a lot

Danielle Law: Gang: This link might prove helpful http://www.realestate.indiana.edu/
Brian Watts: Jingyi - you are very welcome!

GANG RYUN KIM: I appreciate your info :Danielle)

Danielle Law: Happy to help!

Brook: Brian - Have you taken classes in environmental management information system and economic system analysis that apply to environmental management? Have you explored such perspectives?

Ya: Once our decision has been finalized how do we go about choosing the topics we want to take up? Do we do it all by ourselves or somebody helps us out?

Brian Watts: Brook -

Danielle Law: Ya:

Danielle Law: We don't allow you to choose a concentration until after you arrive. Once you're here, relationships with faculty will start to happen organically. You will then choose a faculty advisor who can help you choose courses and figure out which skills will be necessary for your career goals.

Brian Watts: There is an Environmental Economics course that might be useful for you. I personally have not looked into information systems or economic system analysis but there are a few professors that would know more about such things - Dr. Kenneth Richards would be a great source to reach out too.

Ya: Thank you Danielle!

Danielle Law: You're welcome!

Brook: Great!

Ya: Do we have an option of taking a look the topics in brief before coming there or even that is do be done once we are on campus?

Roy Fillyaw: Ya:

Danielle Law: Ya: I can absolutely send you an electronic copy of our Master's Student Handbook. This outlines courses and concentrations. This, though, is only a starting point. Each concentration is built to be flexible—to be what you need it to be for your own development. Our faculty have the final say in helping you shape your time at SPEA.

Ya: Sure Danielle. I would like that :) 

Brook: Thank you, Hosts! It's been really informative for me to get grips on few things. Will keep in touch!

GANG RYUN KIM: Please tell me of getting dependents visa.

Lane Bowman: Gang--

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome, Brook!

Danielle Law: Brook: please do! Let us know if you have any other questions!

Brook: Absolutely! I wouldn't keep it to myself.
Lane Bowman: Please reach out to the Office of International Services (OIS) at newtoiu@iu.edu for more information about visas. You can also visit their website: http://ois.iu.edu/index.shtml

Xiaoyu Cen: To Danielle: May I also get a copy? I’m also interested in your concentrations...

GANG RYUN KIM: many thanks: Lane)

Lane Bowman: Here's more information about F-1 visas: http://ois.iu.edu/student-visas/f1/index.shtml

GANG RYUN KIM: another thanks: Lane)

Victor Vasques: Thank you all for your help! I hope to see you all this fall! Have a great day

Roy Fillyaw: We hope to see you, Victor!

Danielle Law: Xiaoyu: Of course!

Ya: Thank you everyone. It was indeed a good session. Helped a lot and hoping to see you all this fall :) 

Xiaoyu Cen: Great! here is my email: cxy625432@sina.com Thanks a lot!

Ya: My email: yashketanmehta@yahoo.com

Xiaoyu Cen: seems the session is ending...a million thanks to everyone! I learn a lot from your questions and answers:)

Esalettin Yasin Uysal: May I ask a question?

Jingyi Lu: For the class copy? My email: lujingyik@hotmail.com

Jingyi Lu: Thank you!

Roy Fillyaw: Yes, Esalettin!

Esalettin Yasin Uysal: Is there any other Turkish student other than me for 2015 fall?

Roy Fillyaw: Esalettin:

Lane Bowman: The Master Handbook has been offered above as a download.

Brian Watts: You are all welcome and thank you for joining us!

Wona Ji: Thank you for your time! This session was so helpful :-)

Jingyi Lu: I have got the handbook, thanks again!

Xiaoyu Cen: wow we can download here? this is convien

Danielle Law: We’re always happy to answer your questions! Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance!

Ya: I got it too. Thank you :) 

Lane Bowman: You’re welcome!
Roy Fillyaw: I am not sure for next fall, but we have a few Turkish students in SPEA currently. I also spent half a year in Istanbul!
sait sarr: hi lane bowman
Esalettin Yasin Uysal: Oh, its awesome.
Esalettin Yasin Uysal: What did u do in istanbul*
Lane Bowman: Hi Sait.
Ya: One last question. I wanted to ask about the chemistry course that I have to take. How long will it take to complete the course ?
sait sarr: have a decision been made yet on my application
Roy Fillyaw: Esalettin: I was playing football while I was in Istanbul. We practiced at Koc University. What city are you from?
Brian Watts: Ya -
Brian Watts: I'm not entirely sure, but I recall a student, my incoming year, needed to complete a chemistry course for credit and it ran like a normal course through the first semester.
Lane Bowman: Sait--if you have specific questions about your application, please reach us at speaapps@indiana.edu!
sait sarr: ok lane, thanks
Esalettin Yasin Uysal: Roy: I'm from Mersin (south of Turkey) but I graduated from Istanbul Technical University which means I lived four years in stanbul.
Roy Fillyaw: Esalettin: I visited Mersin! It is a great city, with great food too!
Ya: Thank you Brian !
Esalettin Yasin Uysal: its great Roy, I hope to meet you at Bloomington.
Brian Watts: You’re welcome!
Roy Fillyaw: Esalettin, I hope to see you in Bloomington! Let us know if you ever have any questions.
Esalettin Yasin Uysal: Thank you Roy! You are so kind.
Danielle Law: Thank you all for joining us today! We're so excited that you're considering SPEA and hope to welcome you all here in the fall! Please let us know if we can do anything to help you see if SPEA is a good fit! If you have any other final questions, please email us at speainfo@indiana.edu
Danielle Law: We'll post a transcript of this chat soon!
Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome! :)
Palista Kharel: Thank you everyone!
Lane Bowman: You're welcome, everyone!
Line Dietrich: thanks a lot for this offer! It was very helpful for me.

Jingyi Lu: Thank you everyone~

Victor Vasques: Thank you!

Xiaoyu Cen: Thank you~have a good night/a nice day;

Esalettin Yasin Uysal: Thank you all SPEA staff!

Joao Palma: Although I got into the chat late, most of my questions were answered as I read. Thanks all the hosts for your time and help!