

# School of Foreign Service

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Central Asia

The School of Foreign Service (SFS) was established in December 1991 as an affiliate to the National University of Mongolia (NUM). The democratization process and open foreign policy demanded new approaches and attitudes towards the preparation of the national personnel for Mongolia's foreign service. Therefore, the need to expeditiously meet the new tasks, challenges, and re-orientation of international relations required foremost the gaining of up-to-date knowledge and experience of modern concepts, approaches, and methods of globalization, ranging from security policy to human rights issues and economic diplomacy.

By *Kh. Bayasakh*

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**T**he Council of the School and the Academic Council constitute the governing body of the SFS. Its daily operation is managed by a Director subordinated to the NUM President. Senior and young professors make up the faculty of the SFS. The Academic Council promotes the development of programme.

The School of Foreign Service offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate

and post-graduate programmes, including Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy and also offers research programmes. Every programme allows students to choose their own specific and detailed focus of interest.

The SFS provided a BA degree (of four years full-time) programme for nearly 300 students for the academic year 2001-2002. Starting from the academic year 2000-2001, the SFS paid more attention to the graduate studies as well as professor-focused training.

At present over 60 students are studying at MA level. All MA students have to complete the two-year programme and students can select a course of study from an array of courses in International Relations, International Economic Relations, and International Law.

In addition to seminars and lectures, the SFS hosts conferences and round tables. The seminars make an important contribution to the academic programme by organizing special lectures, research seminars, conferences and round tables throughout the academic year. These events bring prominent scholars from all over the world to present current research and viewpoints on topics related to world politics, international political and economic relations. Since 1994, the SFS has organized annual national and international conferences on foreign policy, geopolitics, and on the world affairs.

In the past two years alone, SFS

organized 'The Significance of the USA Constitution and Some Aspects of the Separation of Powers, its Checks and Balances' in cooperation with the US Embassy in Ulaanbaatar and the Association of American and Canadian Studies (February 2001), a seminar on international issues in New-Delhi, India (April 2001), and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, a conference on the occasion of the Ninetieth anniversary of Diplomatic Service and the Tenth anniversary of the preparation of the national foreign service personnel in Mongolia (December 2001).

The SFS strongly emphasizes the importance of exchange programmes of lecturers, and researchers. It is a matter of great satisfaction and pride for the SFS to have awarded: James A. Baker, former US Secretary of State (1996), Mahathir bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia (1997), and Paul

W.Meerts, Deputy Director of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' (2001) its Honorary Doctor's titles.

The main objective of the School continues to be high quality service and dedication to its students in meeting the current demands of globalization of world politics and economy.

In collaboration with the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael, the School of Foreign Service, the NUM, and the IIAS host the June 2003 conference on 'International Security and the Asian Heartland' in Ulaanbaatar (see the announcement on this page for further information). ◀

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