Dear Members of the SIA Community,

Thank you for your patience as we awaited guidance from the Graduate School regarding changes to the grading system for Spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Graduate School has released its policy, with both the policy and FAQs available on its website. This change in grading policy recognizes the challenges that many of our students face and gives SIA students grading alternatives.

Key aspects of the policy include:

- Faculty members will assign quality grades (A, B, C, etc.) at the end of the semester as usual. Once grade reporting has closed, graduate students will have the option to change to the alternate grading system on a course-by-course basis for approximately one week after the grade is posted. The deadline will be specified by the Graduate School.
- If a SIA student chooses to change to the new grading for a particular class, the grades of A, B, or C will be converted to a “P,” grades of D will be converted to a “V,” and grades of F will be covered to a “Z.”
- Courses for which students choose P will NOT be used in calculating the student’s GPA and WILL appear as earned credits on the graduate transcript and count towards the MIA degree. A “P” satisfies SIA requirements for INTAF core classes.
- Students will NOT earn credit on the graduate transcript for courses (including 400-level courses) assigned V or Z (attempted credits will still appear on the transcript), and the grades for these courses will NOT be included in the GPA.
- A “P”, “Z” or “V” will have no effect on a student’s GPA (good or bad). Reminder, you need a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to graduate.
- Students in an IUG program may use the alternative grading for both undergraduate and graduate courses applied to the MIA program.
- There is no impact on the visa status of international students if they choose the “P”, “Z” or “V” option.

We are so grateful for the flexibility and adaptability of our community in making this unprecedented, massive, rapid transition. I have been so moved by all the ways in which you are supporting each you. Thank you and WE ARE.

Best regards,

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