



Meet Katherine Goodman, who mixes global health and security

MA in International Security, Josef Korbel School of International Studies
Global Health Affairs Certificate
BA in International Studies, University of St. Thomas (Houston, Texas)

Tell us about yourself:

Well, I've been married for nearly two years, and my husband and I have a six month old daughter. Originally, I'm from Northwestern Louisiana.

As an undergraduate, I studied abroad in Italy, Mexico and Taiwan. My study abroad experience in Taiwan led me to work for the Press Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston for nearly three and a half years. It was a really exciting job, although my duties were affected by the election of Ma Ying-jeou to the presidency of Taiwan in May 2008.

I became interested in East Asia after taking a course in college with a Taiwanese specialist. I went with him and about fifteen other students to Taipei. It reminded me a lot of New York. Very big, very crowded and weirdly American: everyone speaks Chinese or Taiwanese but there was a McDonald's on every corner. It's pretty modern. I really liked it there; I would like to go back.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

First, the [Global Health Affairs](#) (GHA) certificate and the [International Security](#) degree were exactly what I was looking for. No other IR program that I know of has such extensive global health course offerings within the school. I'm also not a huge fan of the East Coast and thought I would like Denver much better. And I was offered a [Sié Fellowship](#), which is a full scholarship.

For so many IR jobs nowadays you have so many people with the same backgrounds – the marketplace is very competitive. Korbel has a very good reputation, specifically in International Security. I'm hoping that will help me find meaningful work. I'm interested in a job in global health or security and, obviously, if I have the GHA certificate as well as the International Security degree, I'll be a much more competitive candidate.

How did you become interested in global health?

Part of my job with the Taiwanese government was to write a policy paper every year on why Taiwan should have World Health Organization membership. Taiwan's argument was that WHO membership was a national, regional and global security issue. I agree with this – for the longest time, you had a country in a part of the world known for contagious diseases that had no direct access to the WHO.

The Global Health Affairs certificate consists of seven classes plus an internship. So far I'm really enjoying it. The first class I took was a broad introduction to global public health, health issues and some of the different aspects of how we approach global health milestones. It was my favorite class this quarter.

Tell me about the Sié Fellowship.

It entails meeting once a month with [Dean Christopher Hill](#). Last time we met, we talked about Iraq and Dean Hill's experiences there. In 2012, we will be doing a Grand Strategy course as part of the fellowship. We're the first cohort, so things are still being worked out.

Where do you see yourself after obtaining your degree?

I really have no idea where I'm going to end up – I've seen jobs I'm interested in in Seattle, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Also, my husband would like to go to law school – fortunately, he's interested in programs near D.C. and in California.

After he finishes his law degree, I plan to begin my Ph.D. Ultimately, I want to be a professor, either in international studies, East Asian studies or political science.

**M. Schwinn, MA candidate in International Security
Josef Korbel School of International Studies**