

International Studies

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Web: internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/index.html

Program of Study

The undergraduate program in International Studies (IS) draws on the strengths of the College faculty in a variety of disciplines and their innovative work in a number of areas of international relevance (e.g., human rights, international relations, globalization, transnationalism, area studies). It is designed to attract students who are preparing for academic, government, nonprofit, or business careers with an international focus, and who value the benefits of study abroad and of cross-cultural learning.

The program is organized around courses drawn from two thematic tracks and area studies: (1) international political economy (thematic), (2) transnational processes (thematic), and (3) area and civilization studies. Students should plan to complete their program within four years of study.

Program Requirements

Courses. Students must take the required thirteen courses according to the following five guidelines:

IS Introductory Sequence. Students are required to take a two-quarter introductory sequence, taught annually, in the field of international studies. One quarter provides an overview of contemporary global issues (INST 23101); the other provides in-depth studies of selected issues (INST 23102). These courses are designed to be taken in sequence. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the sequence in their second year unless they plan to meet their general education requirement in civilization studies by participating in one of the College's study abroad programs during Autumn or Winter Quarter.

International Political Economy Thematic Track (2 or 4 courses): Nation-states and national sovereignty, relations between nation-states, political identity, development, conflict and security, and relations between states and international political (e.g., United Nations) and economic (World Bank, International Monetary Fund) organizations.

Transnational Processes Thematic Track (2 or 4 courses): Courses appropriate for this track take up issues and processes that operate across the borders of nations. These include economic, political and cultural

globalization, transnational and multinational corporations and new patterns of consumption, nongovernmental organizations, human rights, environment and ecology, media and the arts.

Area and Civilization Track (3 courses): Either three courses in one area of the world (but no more than two from the same country); or two courses in one area and one course in another area. Students majoring in IS may count one civilization studies course that bears a University of Chicago course number that is not used to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies; or they may count two courses taken while participating in one of the study abroad programs that feature civilization studies that is not used to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies.

Literature courses taken at the level of third-year language or above may count toward the area and civilization track. To be considered at the level of third-year language or above, a course must be at least the seventh quarter of a language sequence.

Course Distribution. Students are required to complete a total of ten courses in the following combination: six courses in the two thematic subfields (two in one and four in the other); and three courses in area and civilization studies, two of which must be in the same world region. The tenth course is an elective. Students may use a language course for this elective subject to the following:

Language courses must be taken at the level of the third year or above. (To be considered “third year or above,” a course must be at least the seventh quarter of a language sequence.) Language credit in the major is by course registration only.

Students select their courses in consultation with IS program advisers. The IS faculty selects classes each year that are accepted toward the major, and the list is updated quarterly at internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/index.html.

Foreign Language. Students can meet the program’s foreign language requirement in one of two ways:

(1) Students may complete the equivalent of seven quarters of language study in a single language. Credit for the seventh and final quarter must be earned by Chicago course registration. For information about the use of language as elective courses in the major, see the Course Distribution section above.

(2) Students may obtain an Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate, which is documentation of advanced functional ability in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. To qualify to sit for the three-hour proficiency examination, students are required to complete a minimum of intermediate and advanced language study at levels set by the departments and spend a quarter abroad in a College-approved intensive language program. For details, visit www.college.uchicago.edu/academics/language_advanced.shtml.

Study Abroad. Students are required to either (1) complete a minimum of eight weeks of academic study in an approved study abroad program or (2) complete an approved internship or BA research project abroad. This study abroad requirement will be waived only by petition for students who are able to demonstrate a similarly significant, structured international education experience. Participation in any study abroad program that is approved by the University of Chicago will fulfill this requirement; for more information, consult with the study abroad advisers or visit *study-abroad.uchicago.edu*. Students wishing to undertake a program outside the University's offerings must obtain approval of the program director before departure. Students may not participate in a study abroad program in Winter Quarter of their senior year.

Third Year. All students who are intending to major in International Studies should schedule a meeting with the program advisers during Autumn Quarter of their third year. During Spring Quarter of their third year, prospective IS majors should watch for announcement of a *required* meeting with the program chair. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the BA thesis and introduce students to the requirements and specific deadlines pertaining to the thesis. By the end of *eighth week*, students must have submitted a topic proposal, have secured a faculty reader, and have received written approval from the faculty reader and the preceptor for the BA paper proposal. A copy of the approved proposal must be filed in the departmental office (P 118) or students will not be eligible to register for the BA seminar. Students who are not in residence Spring Quarter of their third year should correspond with the program advisers about their plans for the BA paper before the end of Spring Quarter.

Fourth Year. Students are required to complete a BA thesis. In consultation with IS preceptors, students prepare a topic page that is due eighth week of Spring Quarter in their third year. At this time, students are also required to secure a faculty reader.

In Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, students register for the BA Thesis Seminar (INST 29800), which is designed to teach research skills and more generally to aid the research and writing process. Upon successful completion of the work in Autumn Quarter, students are strongly encouraged to take the BA Thesis Seminar (INST 29801) in Winter Quarter of their fourth year; this course may not be counted toward the thirteen courses required for the major. All students majoring in IS may participate in the Winter Quarter seminar; students completing two majors may not take this course for credit, but they are encouraged to participate. The final version of the BA thesis is due by the second Monday of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate. Successful completion of the thesis requires a grade of *B-* or higher from faculty and preceptor readers.

The program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both programs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be

signed by the chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Summary of Requirements

2	International Studies introductory courses
2	courses in one thematic subfield
4	courses in a second thematic subfield
3	courses in area and civilization studies
1	elective in any field (subject to the program's foreign language requirement)
1	BA Thesis Seminar Autumn (INST 29800)
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Honors. On the basis of a recommendation from the faculty adviser, students with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major will be considered for honors. For award of honors, the BA thesis must be judged "high pass" by the faculty thesis adviser.

Grading. Students who are majoring in IS must receive quality grades in all courses meeting the requirements of the degree program.

Faculty

D. Borges, J. Boyer, B. Cumings, N. Di Vito, M. Geyer, S. Gzesh, J. Hevia, A. Kolata, E. Kouri, F. Meltzer, K. Morrison, L. Wedeen, D. Yang

Courses: International Studies (INST)

23101. Contemporary Global Issues I. *It is recommended that students who are majoring in IS enroll in this required introductory course in their second year.* This course surveys international, social, political, and cultural patterns in the context of global interactions. We emphasize contact between populations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe from the late nineteenth century forward. The focus is on the globalization of economies, technological change, and urbanization; human environment relations; cross-cultural relations and cultural transformations; and transformation of national and international political orders. This interdisciplinary course draws from the social sciences and humanities to provide perspectives and historical depth in the analysis of current issues. *Autumn.*

23102. Contemporary Global Issues II. *It is recommended that students who are majoring in IS enroll in this required introductory course in their second year.* This course examines a select set of global issues in depth. The emphasis is on questioning dominant conceptions of the international order that privileges states by treating them as natural actors in the international arena; that privileges the Western world by treating it as the center; and that privileges the balance of power and deterrence by treating military force as the primary means of

self-help in allegedly anarchical space beyond state frontiers. Topics include nationalism, transnational identities generated by migration and refugee flows, global environmental movements, human rights, cyber space, and international conflicts. *Winter.*

29700. Reading and Research. *PQ: Consent of instructor and program director. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course form. This course may be counted as one of the electives required for the IS major. This is a reading and research course for independent study not related to BA research or BA paper preparation. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29800. BA Thesis (Autumn Seminar). *PQ: INST 23101 and consent of instructor. Required of students with fourth-year standing who are majoring in IS, but enrollment not permitted in quarter of graduation. This weekly seminar, taught by graduate student preceptors in consultation with faculty readers, is designed to aid students in their thesis research. Students are exposed to different conceptual frameworks and research strategies. Students must have approved topic proposals and faculty readers to participate in the seminar. Autumn.*

29801. BA Thesis (Winter Seminar). *PQ: INST 29800. This course may not be counted as one of the electives required for the IS major. This weekly seminar, taught by graduate student preceptors in consultation with faculty readers, offers students continued BA research and writing support. Students present drafts of their work and critique the work of their peers. This is an optional course for students who are majoring in IS. All students, however, are encouraged to participate in this seminar. NOTE: Students who are completing dual majors may not take this course for credit. Winter.*

29900. BA Thesis (Reading and Research). *PQ: Consent of instructor and program director. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course form. This is a reading and research course for independent study related to BA research and BA thesis preparation. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

Courses: International Studies Subfields

Most literature courses not in translation and most civilization studies courses taken beyond the general education requirement may be counted as an elective for the IS major. For the complete list of approved courses, which is selected quarterly by the faculty, consult the program advisers or visit *internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/courses.html*.