



International Studies Major FAQs

1. How is international studies different from other internationally-oriented majors?

The international studies major is interdisciplinary. It requires cross-training in three disciplines – Economics, History, and Political Science and advanced study in a foreign language. International Studies majors do training at the 200- to 300-levels in all of these disciplines. This is the ideal major for someone who enjoys all four of these types of courses and wishes to gain intermediate-advanced skills in all of them. The goal of this cross-training is to be able to understand global problems in a multifaceted way.

2. Can I double-major or do a minor alongside International Studies?

Yes – getting a minor is very feasible, and double-majoring may be a possibility. It is typical for students to get a minor or another major in a discipline related to international studies, such as Economics, History, Political Science, or a foreign language. Other combinations are possible – you should discuss these with the advisors responsible for the two fields in which you would like to major/minor.

3. Is there an International Studies minor?

No. The interdisciplinary training needed for International Studies requires more courses that can be fit into a four- or five-course minor. If you would like to discuss options for other internationally-oriented minors or an individualized minor, the International Studies advisor is happy to meet with you to discuss options.

4. Is the International Studies major a good choice for students who wish to study abroad?

Yes. Many study abroad programs offer intermediate-advanced coursework in Economics, History, Political Science, and foreign languages, so meeting major requirements while abroad is very feasible. Study abroad is also a great way to build on the skills you need to start a career in globally-oriented fields. Speak with the International Studies advisor if you want to learn more.

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