

International Studies

The undergraduate international studies program provides international and cross-cultural course work at Ohio State. In cooperation with departments in several colleges, it offers the undergraduate student body interdisciplinary major, minor, and certificate programs of study centered around contemporary global themes and different world areas. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, the program is housed in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences.

There are 10 separate specializations in international studies. Four of them emphasize contemporary world affairs: development studies, international relations and diplomacy, security and intelligence, and world economy and business. The remaining six concentrate on specific areas or regions of the world: Africa, East Asia, Latin America, Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe, and Western Europe. Students can major or minor in any one of these specializations, or they can double major in international studies by combining one world affairs and one area studies specialization. Students are also encouraged to participate in our study abroad and/or internship programs and to be active in the student-run International Studies Club.

Pursuing International Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in international studies within the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences.

Students interested in international studies should consult with an international studies advisor as soon as possible. Many required courses in the individual specializations have prerequisites, but these prerequisites also may fulfill the General Education Requirements (GEC) in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. When possible, students should select courses that fulfill the GEC requirements and satisfy prerequisites for their major core requirements.

Unique Academic Focus

International studies is an academic unit that is devoted wholly to under-graduate education and to providing its students with the best possible academic experience at Ohio State.

International Studies Requirements

A major in international studies comprises 50 credit hours of course work chosen from various disciplines. In each specialization, students will take 10 to 15 hours in international studies courses, at least 10 hours of foreign language above the GEC requirement, and the remaining 25 to 30 hours in social science, humanities, and business courses from various departments. Specific combinations of courses will vary across specializations and, for double majors, pairs of specializations.

Unparalleled Study Abroad Opportunities

Most international studies students also take advantage of the numerous study abroad opportunities offered by Ohio State's Office of International Education. Ohio State has more than 100 established programs in 40 different countries.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

International studies runs its own student internship program for credit (IS 689). All majors are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Applicants should be juniors or seniors (some sophomores may qualify) who possess a strong background in social science and a foreign language. Student interns are placed in an approved agency either locally or in another U.S. city, such as Washington, D.C. Students may also intern in another country.

Major and minor students are strongly encouraged to participate in a study abroad program at least once during their undergraduate career. Academic credit earned overseas can be used towards the international studies degree. For a full listing of study abroad opportunities and scholarship information visit oia.ohio-state.edu/studyabroad. International studies has a number of small study abroad grants for its majors.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Honors sections of international studies courses are offered at both the introductory and advanced levels. The senior honors thesis affords suitably qualified students the opportunity to specialize in a topic of their own choosing and to work closely with a faculty supervisor. Students writing an honors thesis are often funded to carry out their own field research overseas. Canada, Cuba, Great Britain, and South Africa are among the countries studied in recent senior theses.

For more information, check these web sites:

International Studies: psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/International
Arts and Sciences Advising: ascadvising.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Office of International Affairs: oia.ohio-state.edu
International Affairs Scholars: honors-scholars.osu.edu/ia
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes students take to pursue the world economy and business specialization in international studies. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC allows students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in international studies. Consult the departmental web site, psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/International, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

First-Year English Composition	5
Principles of Microeconomics	5
Principles of Macroeconomics	5
Foreign Language 101, 102, 103	15
Natural Science	10
Algebra & Trigonometry	5
ASC Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total Hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Second Writing Course	5
Foreign Language 104	5
Advanced Foreign Language	10
International Studies Introduction Course	5
Natural Science	10
History I	5
Minor/electives	10
Total Hours	50

Junior Year:

Arts & Humanities	15
Data Analysis	5
History II	5
Global Economy	5
Social Science	5
Major Elective Courses	10
Minor/electives	5
Total Hours	50

Senior Year:

Issues of the Contemporary World	5
Political Analysis	5
Major Elective Courses	10
International Business	5
Minor/electives	10
International Economics	5
Internship Program	5
Total Hours	45

International studies has close ties with Ohio State's unique International Affairs Scholars Program.

Individualized Programs of Study

Through a comprehensive advisory service that works with majors and minors to create individualized programs of study, International Studies provides the opportunity to study important world regions and global themes coherently and in-depth. The courses available to students are drawn from several colleges across the university and make use of different teaching formats, ranging from the conventional through Model Arab League and United Nations simulations to overseas internships.

Career Prospects in International Studies

International studies graduates are widely recognized as having taken a demanding curriculum designed to make them well-informed about world issues, proficient in a foreign language, and possessed of good skills in research, writing, and public speaking. The fundamental strengths of the international studies degree are its flexibility and its interdisciplinary character. Profiting from the wide range of curricular options available to them, students prepare themselves for graduate/professional school or for careers in a variety of fields, including the private sector, government service, and international development agencies.

Revised July 2007. For the most up-to-date information on the international studies major, please visit psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/International.

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