

M.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Master of Arts Degree in International Studies

The MA in International Studies is a 30-credit degree program that is designed for students who seek practical training in social science perspectives and methods that address emerging problems of globalization, international conflicts and humanitarian crises, global environmental change, and international development. The program emphasizes professional preparation through the acquisition of qualitative and quantitative research skills that will enhance students' career opportunities and/or prepare them for advanced study in doctoral programs. The program faculty consists of experts in international relations, comparative politics and political economy, geographical sciences, ethnographic inquiry, public health, and social inquiry and change. The program can typically be completed within two years, although students may receive credit toward the degree if they have completed equivalent courses elsewhere. Students seeking the degree on a part-time basis are welcome.

Students must complete three core courses and are free to design their program of study on any topic within the broad sphere of international studies under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Major themes covered in International Studies elective courses range from international conflicts, refugee movements and migration, international trade and investment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, poverty alleviation, humanitarian crises, and emerging public health threats.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CORE COURSES		
Thematic Core Course (One Required)		3
INS 601	IR Theory	
INS 630	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Studies	
INS 637	Comparative Political Economy	
Methodological Core Courses (Two Required) ¹		6
POL 695	Special Topics in Political Theory and Methods (POL 695A: Introductory Statistical Methods in Political Science)	
POL 695	Special Topics in Political Theory and Methods (POL 695T: Advanced Statistical Methods in Political Science)	
ELECTIVES		15
THESIS OR NON-THESIS OPTION		6
INS 810	Master's Thesis	
Total Credit Hours		30

¹ Students may substitute any graduate-level *mixed-methods* course such as **INS 611 (International Relations Methodology II)**, any *qualitative methods* courses (e.g., survey methods, ethnographic methods) such as **INS 612 (Qualitative Methods)**, or information technology course such as **GEG 691 (Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Graduate Students)** and **APY 611** for POL 695T. In addition, a variety of other statistics courses are available in other social science departments that may be used as substitutes for POL 695T.

Other Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: All students must demonstrate competency (reading and basic comprehension) in at least one foreign language. Students are expected to pass a foreign language examination by the end of their first year to determine if they meet this essential requirement or may require additional foreign language training. A variety of options is available for practical language training including courses offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures ([insert link](#)) and the Directed Independent Language Study (DILS, [insert link](#)).

Comprehensive Exam, Thesis and Non-thesis Options: As a final requirement to graduate, students must select one of the following 3 options:

- Pass a written qualifying (comprehensive) examination in one of the three fields of specialization. The MA qualifying examination probes student knowledge of one of the Department's three fields of study and the ability to think and express ideas clearly. Masters level students are required to answer three questions within four hours

- Thesis and Non-Thesis options: Both thesis and non-thesis options are available and students are expected to identify a specific topical interest and research focus by the end of their first semester in residence. The non-thesis option consists of two short papers and an oral examination; the thesis option involves production of a MA thesis that will be examined by a committee of three faculty members, one of whom is the faculty mentor. Students opting for an MA Thesis must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Mission

The Department of International Studies provides a comprehensive curriculum that allows students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to study contemporary international issues. INS courses include globalization, democratization, transnationalism, international political economy, global trade, conflicts and national security threats, human rights, new forms of civil society mobilization, cultural diversity in world politics, global environmental challenges, global public health, and world poverty. The curriculum revolves around the study of the accelerating processes of globalization and their far-reaching impacts on individual states, societies, economies and cultures. The INS Program promotes, through its interdisciplinary reach, the exploration of various theoretical and analytical approaches and methodological techniques intended to offer students a broad program of study focused on the interaction between the local and the global, from the historical to the contemporary, while tracking possible alternative future scenarios and developments in the international system.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will select and use theories and methods to measure and assess, the interrelationships between foreign relations and governments, social movements and/or organizations.
- Students will demonstrate the capacity to integrate and apply concepts and theories to ask coherent and original questions about international studies.
- Students will demonstrate effective written, presentation and to integrate data with sound analysis and meaningful interpretation.