INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL STUDIES

College of Arts and Sciences

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Mission Statement

The International and Global Studies Program educates and empowers students to be engaged global citizens. Our interdisciplinary, liberal arts approach emphasizes intercultural competency, strong foreign language proficiency, and a critical understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of world regions and populations. Study Abroad and other cross-cultural experiences are also integral components of the Program. We therefore prepare our students for a variety of public- and private-sector careers where these qualities and experiences are valued, as well as for graduate and professional studies in fields with an international or global focus.

Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies Major Concentrations in the International and Global Studies Program

Concentration areas afford intellectual and curricular definition to each student’s course of study. Majors, second majors, and minors should select the concentration area that best complements their interests.

Functional Studies

• International and Global Affairs and Development (major concentration)
  A study of the political, sociological, economic, environmental, and health-related issues and the interdependence among peoples, governments, and nations of the world.
• International and Global Arts and Belief Systems (major concentration)
  A study of the arts, literatures, philosophies, and belief systems unique to and interconnecting other nations and peoples of the world.
• International and Global Human Rights (major concentration)
  A study of the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace as they relate to the protection of the dignity and rights of human beings around the world.

Regional Studies

• Asian Studies (major concentration or minor)
• Latin American and Caribbean Studies (major concentration or minor)
• Russian Studies (major concentration or minor)
• African Studies (minor)
• European Studies (minor)

International/Global Experience (IGE)

By the end of their final semester of study, all IGS majors must have completed an approved “international” or “global” experience. This requirement will be met by completing a qualified study-abroad experience that satisfies the requirements listed below.

A Qualified Study-Abroad Experience

Study abroad affords the greatest opportunity for total immersion in another socio-political, economic, and cultural context, thus enhancing knowledge, skills, and dispositions central to the major. In addition, course work completed during study abroad typically has application toward the major's curricular requirements (especially IGS’s foreign language and/or Additional Course requirements). The characteristics listed below shall distinguish such an experience as “qualified”.

• Any semester- or year-long study abroad experience with exchange partners arranged through UNC Greensboro’s International Programs Center (IPC).
• A short-term or summer study-abroad program approved by IPC or the IGS Director and equivalent to at least 6 credits of academic credit.

Note: whenever possible, students should select a study abroad site that affords an immersion experience for the foreign language they are studying to meet the IGS FL requirement.

Confirmation of completion of this requirement will be documented on the IGS Degree Audit following review of the student’s UNC Greensboro transcript or UNC Greensboro degree evaluation. This audit will be submitted to the University Registrar’s Office at the end of the major’s program of study.

Study Abroad Alternative

In circumstances where study abroad is unfeasible (e.g., in cases of serious financial or personal hardship) or redundant (e.g., in cases of international students), a major must submit a “Study Abroad Alternative” request to the IGS director, who will assess the validity of the case. Should the study abroad obligation be waived, the IGE requirement should be met by completing the UNC Greensboro Global Leadership Program (GLP) by the student’s final semester of study. The GLP offers students who are interested in international and global societies and issues an opportunity to hone the range of skills necessary to develop as global leaders. Through a combination of experiences involving work with immigrants and refugees in the local community and/or foreign students on campus, GLP participants will prepare themselves to become engaged world citizens with an appreciation of the importance of intercultural understanding.

Additional alternatives may be available. Contact the IGS director for details.
Category Descriptions for Major Requirements

Courses to fulfill the 18 credits in the major requirements are chosen from among the four categories. A unique set of courses by category are identified in the Additional Courses Options for each concentration. Eligible courses must also focus at least 51 percent on the modern period (19th century to the present), except as noted in the Additional Courses Options.

Category 1—Society and Politics (S&P)
Any course with a 51 percent or more focus on social, historical, and political issues of international and/or global relevance.

Category 2—Economics and Development (E&D)
Any course with a 51 percent or more focus on issues related to international and global economics and development such as: regional and global economic integration, industrialization versus basic-needs, environmental sustainability, and international human health.

Category 3—Arts and Literature (A&L)
Any course with a 51 percent or more focus on the arts and/or literatures of nations and cultures outside of the United States, or any course reading literature in a foreign language at the 300 level or above.

Category 4—Belief Systems and Cultures (BS&C)
Any course with a 51 percent or more focus on ideologies, philosophies, and belief systems unique to and/or interconnected with other nations and peoples of the world.

• The International and Global Studies Program offers the following concentrations in the Special Programs in Liberal Studies Major:
  • Asian Studies
  • International and Global Affairs and Development
  • International and Global Arts and Belief Systems
  • International and Global Human Rights
  • Latin American and Caribbean Studies
  • Russian Studies

See the Special Programs in Liberal Studies Major (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/special-programs-liberal-studies-major/) for requirements.

• African Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/international-global-studies/african-studies-minor/)
• Asian Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/international-global-studies/asian-studies-minor/)
• European Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/international-global-studies/european-studies-minor/)
• International and Global Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/international-global-studies/international-global-studies-minor/)
• Latin American and Caribbean Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/international-global-studies/latin-american-and-caribbean-studies-minor/)
• Russian Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/international-global-studies/russian-studies-minor/)