

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
	• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth	• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
	• 12 credits of Social Science; and
	• 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2,000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Students must declare the major, complete the common requirements, and the requirements for one of these options (p.) within the international studies major:

- Culture in the Age of Globalization
- Global Security
- Politics and Policy in the Global Economy
- Human Rights and Humanitarianism

A student may not declare or earn more than one major option. The major requires 45 credits total between Foundational Requirements and Named Option Requirements.¹

FOUNDATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
International Foundations		
INTL ST 101	Introduction to International Studies	3-4
Economic Foundations (complete one of the following):		3-8
ECON 101 & ECON 102	Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics	
ECON 111	Principles of Economics-Accelerated Treatment	
A A E 101 & ECON 102	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics and Principles of Macroeconomics	

POLI SCI 350	International Political Economy
A A E/ ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy

Historical Foundations 3-4

INTL ST/ HISTORY 146	A Global History of Now
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Regional Foundations 6-8

Complete at least one course from "Global South" lists and take either an additional course from "Global South" list or a course from the "Additional Area Studies" List.

Global South:

AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/ GEOG/HISTORY/ POLI SCI/ SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey
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ASIAN/ HISTORY 458	History of Southeast Asia Since 1800
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GEOG 355	Africa, South of the Sahara
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GEOG 358	Human Geography of Southeast Asia
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GNS/ HISTORY 265	An Introduction to Central Asia: From the Silk Route to Afghanistan
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HISTORY 139	Introduction to the Modern Middle East
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HISTORY 142	History of South Asia to the Present
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HISTORY/ INTL ST/ LACIS 242	Modern Latin America
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HISTORY/ASIAN/ GEOG/POLI SCI/ SOC 244	Introduction to Southeast Asia: Vietnam to the Philippines
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HISTORY/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/ C&E SOC/ GEOG/LACIS/ POLI SCI/SOC/ SPANISH 260	Latin America: An Introduction
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HISTORY/ ASIAN 341	History of Modern China, 1800-1949
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HISTORY/ ASIAN 342	History of the Peoples Republic of China, 1949 to the Present
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HISTORY 450	Making of Modern South Asia
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INTL ST 266	Introduction to the Middle East
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POLI SCI/ASIAN/ HISTORY 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations
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Additional Area Studies:

GEOG 340	World Regions in Global Context
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GEOG 359	Australia: Environment and Society
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HISTORY 120	Europe and the Modern World 1815 to the Present
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HISTORY 359	History of Europe Since 1945
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HISTORY 410	History of Germany, 1871 to the Present
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HISTORY 418	History of Russia
HISTORY/ SCAND ST 432	History of Scandinavia Since 1815

SLAVIC/GEOG/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 253	Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey
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SLAVIC/GEOG/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 254	Eastern Europe: An Interdisciplinary Survey
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Language Foundations (Complete one): 3-4

AFRICAN 329	Fifth Semester Arabic
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AFRICAN 343	Fifth Semester Summer Arabic
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AFRICAN 435	Fifth Semester Swahili
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ASIALANG 301	Fifth Semester Chinese
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ASIALANG 303	Fifth Semester Japanese
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ASIALANG 305	Fifth Semester Korean
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ASIALANG 323	Fifth Semester Filipino
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ASIALANG 325	Fifth Semester Hmong
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ASIALANG 348	Fifth Semester Indonesian
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ASIALANG 329	Fifth Semester Thai
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ASIALANG 331	Fifth Semester Vietnamese
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ASIALANG 333	Fifth Semester Hindi
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ASIALANG 335	Fifth Semester Tibetan
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ASIALANG 337	Fifth Semester Persian
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ASIALANG 339	Fifth Semester Urdu
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ASIALANG 507	Fifth Semester Southeast Asian Language
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ASIALANG 517	Fifth Semester Summer Asian Language
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ESL 118	Academic Writing II ¹
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FRENCH 228	Intermediate Language and Culture
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FRENCH 271	Literature, Comics, and Film in French
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FRENCH 311	Advanced Composition and Speaking
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GERMAN 249	Intermediate German - Speaking and Listening
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GERMAN 258	Intermediate German-Reading
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GERMAN 262	Intermediate German-Writing
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GERMAN 325	Topics in Dutch Literature
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GERMAN 337	Advanced Composition & Conversation
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GREEK 401	Readings in Greek Literature
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GREEK 505	Greek Prose Composition
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GREEK 560	Hellenistic Greek
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HEBR-MOD/ JEWISH 301	Introduction to Hebrew Literature
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HEBR-MOD/ JEWISH 302	Introduction to Hebrew Literature
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HEBR-MOD/ JEWISH 401	Topics in Modern Hebrew / Israeli Literature and Culture I
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HEBR-MOD/ JEWISH 402	Topics in Modern Hebrew / Israeli Literature and Culture II
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HEBR-BIB/ JEWISH 513	Biblical Texts, Poetry
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ITALIAN 230	Modern Italian Culture
ITALIAN 311	Advanced Italian Language
ITALIAN 312	Writing Workshop
ITALIAN 321	Studies in Italian Literature and Culture I
ITALIAN 322	Studies in Italian Literature and Culture II
ITALIAN 631	Features in Italian Literature
JEWISH/HEBR- MOD 301	Introduction to Hebrew Literature
LATIN 401	Readings in Latin Literature
PORTUG 225	Third Year Conversation and Composition
SCAND ST 251	Readings in Norwegian Literature
SCAND ST 261	Readings in Swedish Literature
SCAND ST 271	Readings in Danish Literature
SLAVIC 275	Third Year Russian I
SLAVIC 277	Third Year Polish I
SLAVIC 315	Russian Language and Culture I
SPANISH 226	Intermediate Language Practice with Emphasis on Writing and Grammar
SPANISH 311	Advanced Language Practice

Total Credits**18**

OPTIONS IN THE MAJOR

View as listView as grid

- **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: CULTURE IN AN AGE OF GLOBALIZATION** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/INSTITUTE-REGIONAL-INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-BA/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-CULTURE-AGE-GLOBALIZATION-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-ba/international-studies-culture-age-globalization-ba/))
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: GLOBAL SECURITY** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/INSTITUTE-REGIONAL-INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-BA/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-GLOBAL-SECURITY-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-ba/international-studies-global-security-ba/))
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIANISM** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/INSTITUTE-REGIONAL-INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-BA/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-HUMAN-RIGHTS-HUMANITARIANISM-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-ba/international-studies-human-rights-humanitarianism-ba/))
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: POLITICS AND POLICY IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/INSTITUTE-REGIONAL-INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-BA/INTERNATIONAL-STUDIES-POLITICS-POLICY-GLOBAL-ECONOMY-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-ba/international-studies-politics-policy-global-economy-ba/))

Each option in the major **requires 27 credits**. This is in addition to completing the foundational requirements. Students complete the option-specific requirements for Core, Issues, and Elective classes.¹

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all INTL ST courses and courses approved for the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 Upper-Level major credits, taken in residence²
- 15 credits in the major, taken on the UW-Madison campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the International Studies Major in consultation with the International Studies advisor(s). They must declare prior to enrollment in their Senior Honors Thesis (typically second semester of junior year).

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS IN THE MAJOR

To earn Honors in the Major in International Studies, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA in major courses
- Complete 16 upper-level major credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better in each course^{2,3}
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of 6 credits, or two Senior Seminars, with grades of B or better; choose from:

Code	Title	Credits
Senior Honors Thesis (2 courses):		
AFRICAN 681 & AFRICAN 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
ECON 681 & ECON 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
FRENCH 681 & FRENCH 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
GERMAN 681 & GERMAN 682	Senior Honors Thesis-First Semester and Senior Honors Thesis-Second Semester	
HISTORY 681 & HISTORY 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
INTL ST 681 & INTL ST 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
POLI SCI 681 & POLI SCI 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
PORTUG 681 & PORTUG 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
SLAVIC 681 & SLAVIC 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
SPANISH 681 & SPANISH 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
Senior Seminar (2 courses):		
INTL ST 601	Topics in Global Security	
INTL ST 602	Topics in Politics and Policy in the Global Economy	
INTL ST 603	Topics in Culture in the Age of Globalization	
INTL ST 605	Advanced Topics in Human Rights and Humanitarianism	

FOOTNOTES

¹ A maximum four courses from a single SUBJECT may be applied to the 27 credits in the named option of the major. This excludes INTL ST courses and courses cross-listed in INTL ST. For example: A student with five POLI SCI courses that could apply to the major will see only four of those courses applying in the International Studies major. (However, if one of those POLI SCI courses is also cross-listed in INTL ST, that course will not count against the limit, and thus, all five POLI SCI courses will apply in the major.) The degree audit (DARS) enforces this limitation.

Though some courses are identified as acceptable for two or more requirements, a course may meet only one requirement within the major. For example, a course that could count in either Option Core or Option Issues will meet only one of those requirements, based on which requirement needs that course to become satisfied. The degree audit (DARS) determines the best scenario.

² Major courses designated Intermediate and Advanced level are considered upper-level.

³ A maximum of two courses and 8 credits from UW-Madison Study Abroad may apply to this requirement.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.