

What can I do with a degree in...

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES?

What is INTERNATIONAL STUDIES?

International Studies will provide you with a unique and marketable global perspective, and one that promotes an understanding of the different cultures, economies, and governments around the world.

Overall, the International Studies B.A. degree contains five components - introduction and capstone classes, language courses, concentration courses, an elective, and an engaged experience (study abroad, internship, travel course, Model United Nations course, etc.).

What are the DEGREE OPTIONS?

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in International Studies

NOTE: All International Studies majors are required to have a second major.

What are the CONCENTRATIONS?

Students in the International Studies program may choose a concentration in Peace, Violence, and Security; Global Governance, Human Rights, and Law; Global Poverty and Economic Development; Religions, Cultures, and Civilizations; Regional Concentration (Africa/Middle East, Asia, Europe, or Americas)

Peace, Violence, and Security: This concentration provides opportunities for students to explore the historical, theoretical, institutional, and cultural factors shaping the prospects for war, conflicts, and peace.

Global Governance, Human Rights, and Law: This concentration allows students to pursue the various ways in which the world community has sought to handle the emergence of global governance problems, such as climate change, ethnic conflict,



diplomacy, human rights, and political justice.

Global Poverty and Economic Development: This concentration focuses on the structures and processes of the global economy and the ways in which economic systems and behavior affect both the rich and poor around the world.

Regional: This concentration provides students with an historical understanding of the economic, social, and political issues of either Africa/Middle East, Asia, Europe, or the Americas.

What is the ADMISSION PROCESS?

Students declare an International Studies major with the Advising Center, located in Killian Annex. Please make an appointment with your advisor via your MyWCU student portal. Students may also stop by the International Studies department, 346 Stillwell.

What JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

Depending on qualifications, our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals including foreign service officers, international

account managers, geo-political analysts, study abroad advisors, humanitarian affairs advocates, international HR specialists, international lawyers, trade assistants and specialists, international sales administrators, U.S. diplomats, educators, linguists, geographers, global public health analysts, travel agents, international marketers, foreign broadcasters, and more. **NOTE:** Advanced degrees may be required for some of the listed professions. Please see a career counselor or an advisor for more information.

Who employs INTERNATIONAL STUDIES graduates?

Our graduates gain employment with a variety of employers including cross cultural communication companies, international commerce industries, international attorney offices, international governmental agencies such as the United Nations, national governmental agencies such as the U.S. Foreign Service, national security councils, international marketing and trade firms, travel and hospitality industries, colleges and universities, consulting firms, relief and religious organizations, non-profit organizations, Peace Corps, and other international organizations.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

1st YEAR

2nd YEAR

EXCEL IN ACADEMICS

Many first-year students in the International Studies major will focus on the liberal studies requirements as well as introductory International Studies courses or courses within a second major. [Check out the eight semester plan for your degree](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Students in their second year will likely continue with liberal studies electives, continued topics related to International Studies, as well as introductory courses with their second major and/or minor. [Check out the eight semester plan for your degree](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Check out [WCU's DegreePlus program](#) and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness.

See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to JobCat via your MyWCU.

Considering getting involved with the [International Studies Club](#) or Model UN, or serving as a volunteer with International Program and Services.

If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions.

BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Connect with the [Center for Service Learning](#) and ask about the [Lily Award](#), a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.

Job shadow with professionals in the career area you wish to pursue.

Volunteer with area non-profits or organizations which interest you.

Consider the [study abroad programs](#) or talk with a study abroad advisor about targeted experience for your areas of interest. Be sure to check out [scholarship opportunities](#) to help offset travel costs.

PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Further explore your career options or career interests using the [Center for Career and Professional Development's](#) online resources, [Focus 2](#), and [Onet Online](#).

Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.

Check out [CCPD's list of career-building activities](#) and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus.

Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools you wish to apply to in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Communication

Emergency Disaster Management

English

German

History

Japanese

Management

Marketing

Philosophy

Political Science

Sociology

Spanish

3rd YEAR

Third level courses focus on upper-level International Studies courses and special topics relating to your chosen second major or minor. [Check out the eight semester plan for your degree](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Consider internship experiences that will give you practical and hands-on experience to put on a resume such as working with Folk moot. Or, consider [global internship experiences](#) to diversify your resume.

Consider networking with professionals in your field at [national or regional professional conferences](#).

Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume.

Connect with alumni in your field through [LinkedIn](#)

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the [Writing and Learning Commons](#) for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Use [Big Interview](#) to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.

4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will complete the major coursework requirements, as well as your chosen secondmajor/ minor electives. Be sure to [check out the eight semester plan for your degree](#) make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and [apply for graduation!](#)

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional organizations such as the [International Studies Association](#).

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each October and February.

Apply to graduate schools, if applicable.

Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by using the [CCPD](#).

Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 59,000 employers)

DID YOU KNOW?

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP Information

Internships are a smart way for students to gain work experience and try out different career paths. As an International Studies major, you can earn three hours of class credit toward an internship. Students are encouraged to research and find internationally-related internship opportunities on their own (credit for those internships is contingent upon the approval of the International Studies Director). We also have many of our International Studies majors engage in internships for credit on campus, through the [International Programs and Services](#) office, which offers you a way to see if you're interested in a career in international education. We also have students who have interned with internationally-oriented local non-profits, like [Folk moot](#), and this kind of administrative experience looks fantastic on any resume.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- history grasp of a contemporary world
- heightened sensitivity to cross-cultural differences
- social, political, and economic relations
- information handling and organization
- curiosity and creativity
- critical thinking and evaluation
- problem solving
- written and oral communication
- professional teamwork
- leadership abilities
- research and analytical thinking
- technical skills

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- recognize existing and emerging global problems.
- recognize multiple problems and solving strategies in an international context.
- design a realistic problem-solving strategy appropriate to the problem.
- develop an intellectual framework from which one may select an appropriate solution based on practical, legal, theoretical, and ethical constraints.
- communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds.
- participate in shaping local communities throughout the globe
- understand ethical and moral importance of life choices
- understand how to use informed judgements to guide future plans

Professional RESOURCES

- American Foreign Service Association: www.afsa.org
- American Translator's Association: www.atanet.org
- Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs: www.cceia.org
- Institute of International Education: www.iie.org
- International Studies Association: www.isanet.org
- Institute of World Affairs: www.iwa.org
- Peace Corps: www.peacecorps.gov
- United States Department of State: www.state.gov
- USAID: www.usaid.gov

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the International Studies program at 828-227-3899 or visit internationalstudies.wcu.edu

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.