

PICS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK



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The Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) seeks to be a focal point for the interdisciplinary study of issues that transcend borders. We encourage students and faculty to broaden their horizons while they deepen their knowledge of particular cultures and political, economic, and social contexts.

Overview of International Studies

The major in International Studies offers students the opportunity to take a set of courses across disciplines to bring multiple methods and concepts together to address global problems. The major is rigorous and offers a balanced approach between disciplinary structure and depth and cross-disciplinary flexibility and breadth. Students create a curriculum from across the college and university aimed at developing a broad understanding of the causes and effects of global challenges and potential redress. The International Studies major aims to develop students' skills in moving among different units of analysis and different approaches and methods to understand, analyze, and ultimately help solve contemporary global issues and challenges.

International Studies students will be exposed to topics such as global health trends, human rights and refugees, cultural homogenization and hybridization, environmental and energy crises, terrorism, transnational social movements, immigration, and the spread of technology.

The major will draw on methods developed in specific disciplines such as economics, sociology, psychology, comparative literature, political science, anthropology, and history, and some methods emerging from cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.



International Studies Major Requirements

Sub-Plan (12 credits)

Area of Interest

The four [sub-plans](#) represent four different themes or areas of interest. **Students must choose one sub-plan** and take at least four courses (minimum 12 credits) from that sub-plan to gain knowledge in one area. One of the courses must be at the 400 level. The four courses must be taken in two or more different academic subjects. Requirements vary between sub-plans.

Students electing the Political Economy and Development sub-plan must complete ECON 101 (grade of C or better) as a prerequisite and at least one other ECON course (from the approved PED sub-plan list) as a sub-plan course.

Students electing the Comparative Culture and Identity sub-plan must complete ANTHRCUL 222, COMPLIT 240, INTSTD 205/HISTORY 101, or ROMLANG/HISTORY/JUDAIC 253 as one of the four courses from the approved CCI sub-plan list.

International Security, Norms and Cooperation (ISNC)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them reason about the international system of nation-states and of peoples with both competing and overlapping interests. Among the topics covered are international relations, human rights, human security, international organizations, transnational social movements, war-making and peace-making, intra- and inter-state violence.

Political Economy and Development (PED)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them reason about the global economy and about comparing the political economies of nation-states and regions. Among the topics covered are international economics, political and economic development, regulation of economies, international trade, political contestation over economics, government budgeting, comparative labor economics, and political-economic history.

Comparative Culture and Identity (CCI)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them understand the global richness of behavioral, literary, and artistic expressions reflecting the diversity of the human experience. Among the topics covered are theories of culture, theories of identity, comparative belief systems and societal organizations, nationalism, comparative literary and film traditions, comparative ideologies, colonialism and post-colonialism, global arts, comparative gender studies, and cultural transmission.

Global Environment and Health (GEH)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them understand global trends in public health and in the natural environment as these intersect with the human experience. Among the topics covered are global public health, comparative health policy, epidemics and pandemics, comparative environmental policy, comparative history of mental health treatments across countries, environmental disasters, and climate change.

Sub-plan courses are from many different disciplines and are characterized by their international content, their rigor, and their comparative elements. The term-specific course lists can be found on the PICS website on [PICS Courses page](#).

Please note that only the PICS director can approve courses used towards the sub-plan requirement that are not already found on the pre-approved list. Students sometimes find courses that are suitable for their programs and can petition to have them approved by filling out the online [PICS Course Approval Form](#) (login with U-M username and password).



International Studies students at the fall Welcome Back PICS Students event.

Core Courses (7 credits)

Breadth, Method, and Depth

To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101. Additionally, students pursuing the PED sub-plan must be enrolled in or have completed ECON 101 in order to declare.

The three core courses in International Studies provide students with breadth, method, and depth:

INTLSTD 101 (3 prerequisite credits, not included in the minimum 34 credits)

This is the introductory core course for the International Studies major at the University of Michigan. The course explores human rights, human development, and human security in historical and comparative perspective using multiple disciplinary approaches. The curriculum is divided into six modules that cover:

- globalization
- international relations and organizations
- human rights and humanitarianism
- global environment and health
- human development
- culture and identity

The purpose of this course is to explore the ways in which ideas, people, goods, services, diseases, and natural resources have flowed across political and cultural

borders during human history, to examine the consequences of those flows, and to understand how an interest in these topics can be the basis of a professional career.

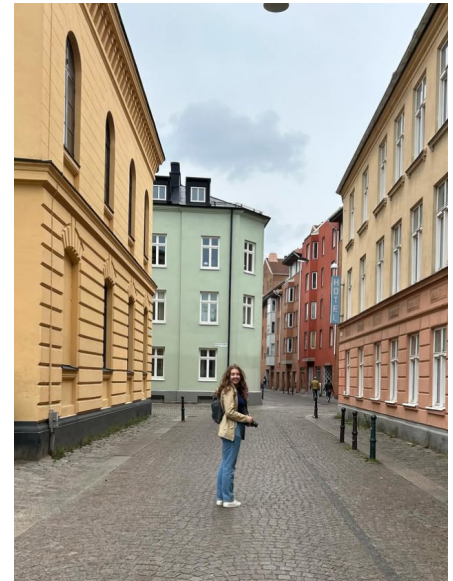
**INTLSTD 301 or one 300 level INTLSTD Core Faculty
 Lecture (INTLSTD 300, 341) (4 credits)**

Prerequisite: Declared International Studies major/minor.

This course is a focused and in-depth investigation of global phenomena, with attention to human rights, global health, human security (civil conflict, economic development, social welfare, and health care), or sustainable economic and ecological systems. Readings rely on multiple methods and disciplinary approaches. In the process of studying these global phenomena, students discuss the strengths of specific methods and disciplinary approaches in improving their understanding of issues and problems that cut across nation-state boundaries.

Please note INTLSTD 301 currently offers one topic per semester and that the topic varies. Some examples of topics offered:

[Political Economy of Long-Run Development](#)
[Theory and Practice of Human Rights](#)
[Concepts in Global Health](#)



A PICS student while studying abroad in Denmark.

INTLSTD 401 (3 credits)

Prerequisites: Declared International Studies major/minor of junior standing or above enforced at registration.

This course is an advanced seminar designed to bring an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of a topic of international significance. INTLSTD 401 has a variety of topics each semester. Courses offered may include:

[Gender, War, and Peace](#)
[Human Rights](#)
[Achieving Liberalization: Influences and Issues in Postwar Democratization](#)
[The End of Life in Cross-Cultural Perspective](#)
[Women & War: Contemporary and Historical Perspective](#)
[Historical and Political Origins of Economic Growth](#)
[Gender, Sexuality, and International Human Rights Law](#)
[Never Again? Genocides & Mass Atrocities of the 20th Century](#)
[The Conquest of Nature](#)
[Public Health in Conflict and Reconstruction](#)
[Experimental Approaches to the Political Economy of Development](#)

Research Design Course (3 credits)

Prerequisite: Declared International Studies major/minor.

INTLSTD 390: Designing Research in International Studies*

This course aims to (1) expose students to conducting academic research in the social sciences and humanities and (2) provide students with the tools for identifying a problem, formulating an appropriate methodological approach to the problem, and proposing an outline for an argument.

**Students admitted for Fall 2025 and beyond will follow the International Studies major requirements effective Fall 2025 and complete INTLSTD 390 as the required Research Design Course. Students who were admitted and began coursework at the University of Michigan prior to Fall 2025 should follow requirements for the International Studies major depending on [effective term dates](#) and can review the approved [PICS Course Lists](#) for Research Methods course options.*

Regional (3 credits)

Expertise in a Geographic Region

One geographic emphasis course devoted to a single world region or country that is related to foreign language of study. There is no pre-approved list of regional courses. Students must seek and obtain approval of the regional course from a PICS advisor at is-advising@umich.edu. It is strongly advised that this approval be obtained before taking the class.

Electives (9 credits)

Expand and Personalize Your Major

The electives are designed to allow students to further personalize their major. Students will elect three advanced courses which will be expected to build upon the theme of their sub-plan. The selected courses should thus contribute to the coherence of the student's overall concentration. Students may select additional sub-plan, regional, or relevant study abroad courses, however there is no pre-approved list of electives. Because there is no list, students must seek and obtain the approval of electives - on a course-by-course basis from a PICS advisor at is-advising@umich.edu. It is strongly advised that this approval be obtained before taking the class.

Language (not a credit bearing requirement)

All International Studies majors must attain six-term proficiency (three years) in a language other than English, during their course of study. For more information on the International Studies major and minor Language Requirement see pgs. 9-12.

International Studies Minor Requirements

The International Studies [minor](#) allows students to use a framework consisting of their choice of a language (other than English), a geographic region (where the chosen language is spoken), and an international or comparative theme (an issue or area of interest relevant around the globe). Utilizing this framework, they are then supported in constructing their own curriculum from an extensive selection of courses from across campus.

The International Studies minor provides undergraduate students with: a challenging program of study including thematic and regional courses; advanced proficiency in a foreign language; access to advanced interdisciplinary seminars on international topics; and opportunities for study abroad.

The International Studies minor is an excellent complement to nearly any major, or for students planning to pursue advanced degrees in many fields including international relations, international law, or public policy. Students considering international careers, careers in government or public service, and employment with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) would benefit from participation in the International Studies minor.

Requirements:

- 18 credits
- Sixth-term language proficiency (not a credit bearing requirement).
- **A geographic emphasis** composed of three courses devoted to a single world region or country. At least two of the three geographic courses must be 300-level or above.
- **A thematic emphasis** composed of three courses devoted to a given theme or topic (e.g., international conflict and security, human rights, music and ethnomusicology). At least two of the three thematic courses must be 300-level or above.
- **Geographic and thematic course selections must be approved by an International Studies advisor.** Each three-course set must possess intellectual coherence, and there must also be a clear and logical connection between the focus of the selected geographic and thematic courses.
 - Courses must be taken from at least two academic disciplines, with no more than one offered by a student's major department. One course may be "double-counted" for both a geographic and thematic requirement.
 - At least two courses must give primary attention to countries or world regions beyond the United States. A third course devoted to the same theme may give significant attention to the United States if there is a clear intellectual reason for doing so.
- **INTLSTD 401: International Studies Advanced Topics Seminar.** The International Studies Advanced Topics Seminar is a variable content course designed to bring an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of a topic of international significance. This course should be taken after junior year and is considered a capstone course for the minor.

Sample Curricula

Region/language/6 th term course	Courses Geographic Emphasis	Theme	Courses Thematic Emphasis	International Studies Advanced Topics Seminar
Africa/French/ FRENCH 270 – French and Francophone Literature and Culture	AAS 365 – <i>Global Perspectives on Gender, Health, and Reproduction*</i> AAS 408 – <i>African Economies: Social and Political Settings</i> HISTORY 362 – <i>Literature in African History</i>	Global Health	NURS 420 – <i>Introduction to Global Health: Issues and Challenges</i> PUBHLTH 350 – <i>Global Public Health</i> AAS 365 – <i>Global Perspectives on Gender, Health, and Reproduction*</i>	INTLSTD 401 – <i>Public Health in Conflict and Reconstruction</i>
Latin America/Spanish/ SPANISH 280 –Conversation Through Spanish/Latin American Film	ANTHRCUL 346 – <i>Latin America: The Colonial Period</i> STDABRD 494 – <i>CGIS: Latin American Societies and Cultures in Buenos Aires, Argentina</i> HISTORY 407 – <i>The History of Inter-American Human Rights Law*</i>	Human Rights	INTLSTD 385 – <i>International Law and Human Rights</i> SOC 350 – <i>Human Rights in the United Nations</i> HISTORY 407 – <i>The History of Inter-American Human Rights Law*</i>	INTLSTD 401 – <i>Humanitarian Dilemmas</i>
Asia/Chinese/ASIANL AN 302 –Third Year Chinese II	ASIAN 260 – <i>Introduction to Chinese Civilization</i> ASIAN 350 – <i>Gods, Ghosts, and Gangsters: Popular Religion in China*</i> STDABRD 320 – <i>CGIS: Beijing Contemporary Issues Program in Beijing, China</i>	Religion	ASIAN 350 – <i>Gods, Ghosts, and Gangsters: Popular Religion in China*</i> RELIGION 230 – <i>Introduction to Buddhism</i> ASIAN 362 – <i>The Travels of the Monkey King in China and Abroad</i>	INTLSTD 401 – <i>The End of Life in Cross-Cultural Perspective</i>



International Studies Major and Minor Language Requirement

Language study is a vital part of any liberal arts education and students who major in International Studies should be well prepared to work in environments overseas, or in companies or organizations that interact regularly with people from other countries. The PICS language requirement will benefit students in broadening their skills and their vision of the world. Language fluency signals a deep level of expertise and commitment to international affairs to potential employers and graduate admissions committees.

Sixth-term proficiency in a language other than English must be obtained prior to graduation for International Studies major and minor students; therefore, students should begin the language sequence early.

Please note:

- This is not a credit bearing requirement for the International Studies major or minor. Any coursework taken to satisfy the language requirement will be **in addition** to the 34 minimum credit hours required for the International Studies major and the 18 minimum credit hours requirement for the International Studies minor.
- Foreign languages that are not offered at U-M typically are not used to satisfy the International Studies language requirement, but please consult with an International Studies advisor.
- Students entering U-M with previous language training will be required to take a placement exam prior to/during orientation in order to ascertain the appropriate level at which to continue language study. Placement exams normally determine up to four terms of language study.
- The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) students are required to achieve a four-term language proficiency in a language other than English. If a student successfully tests out of four terms of language and has already acquired advanced proficiency, the student's language skills must be certified by a U-M language instructor before the International Studies six-term language requirement can be waived. International Studies advisors may waive the six-term language requirement if the student can confirm by a U-M language instructor that he or she has six-term proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing at third year college level in his or her native language. If a U-M language instructor agrees to assess your language (be advised that language instructors are not obligated to and some departments will not) be prepared to present the following: program descriptions, course syllabi, instructional materials, official transcripts, instructors' letters, and other supporting documents or materials. Questions regarding language certification should be directed to an International Studies advisor.
- Students who wish to satisfy their language requirement through studying abroad should discuss this with an International Studies advisor. Study abroad courses are typically used for the International Studies major or minor elective and regional requirements. Students studying abroad on a non-U-M sponsored program must complete and submit a [Current Student Transfer Credit Pre-Evaluation form](#) to the U-M Office of

Undergraduate Admissions Office. Once the credits have been approved by the admissions office evaluators, a student may submit his/her abroad course descriptions to a PICS advisor to determine any courses that can fulfill the major/minor requirements.

Heritage and Native Speakers

- Heritage speakers (i.e. students born in the U.S. but growing up with a different language) should choose the heritage tracks offered by many language departments. Please consult with the respective language departments to determine the appropriate course to enroll in.
- Native speakers (i.e. students who were born and raised through high school in a different country with a language other than English) and international students can get their language requirement waived by an advisor.

Four Semesters of One Foreign Language and Two Semesters of Another (4+2 option)

- Students may appeal the sixth term of a single language (although six terms of one language is strongly recommended in most cases) and substitute a minimum of two terms of language relevant to their defined program to total six terms of language study. Each case is reviewed individually and students must make a compelling case. For example, if a student has a special interest in Africa and this is reflected in the student's previous coursework, and he/she has four semesters of French and wishes to add two semesters of an African language, this may be permissible. Similarly, if a student has a great interest in the Middle East, a combination of Hebrew/Arabic may be permissible. Other possible combinations are Spanish/Portuguese if a special interest in Latin America can be demonstrated. However, a combination of Spanish and Italian or French is not permissible. Please note that if you are planning to satisfy the International Studies language requirement through using two different languages (4+2 terms) you must obtain pre-approval. Questions regarding this should be directed to your International Studies advisor.
- PICS encourages the study of less commonly taught languages and will in most cases approve a 4+2 option if students take all courses available in a less commonly taught language.
- For any questions about the International Studies language requirement, please email is-advising@umich.edu or meet with an International Studies advisor.

Regional Requirement and Language

- The International Studies **regional requirement** should focus on a single world region as it connects to your language of study. Upper-level language courses beyond the sixth-term language requirement that have a focus on culture, history, arts, etc. may work as a regional course, as well as relevant study abroad courses. The regional course does not have to be taught in the student's foreign language of study.

Examples:

Language	Region	Courses
Spanish	Latin America	ANTHRCUL 319: <i>Latin American Society and Culture</i> HISTORY 347: <i>Latin America: The Colonial Period</i> STDABRD 240: <i>Spanish Culture</i>
French	Western Europe	POLSCI 340: <i>Governments and Politics in Western Europe</i> WOMENSTD 317: <i>Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800</i>

International Studies Foreign Language Approved Course List

Courses listed here represent the sixth-term of language that will satisfy the International Studies language requirement. If your elected language is not listed here, please meet with an International Studies advisor to discuss the language requirement.

Arabic

ARABIC 402: Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II

Bengali

ASIANLAN 486: Advanced Bengali II

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian

BCS 332: Third-Year Bosian/Croatian/Serbian II

Chinese

ASIANLAN 302: Third Year Chinese II

or

ASIANLAN 304: Third Year Chinese for Mandarin Speakers (heritage language track)

Filipino

ASIANLAN 412: Advanced Filipino II

French

Student completes FRENCH 235, Advanced Practice in French, and then one of the following courses:

FRENCH 270: French and Francophone Literature and Culture

FRENCH 272: French and Francophone Film, Media, and Culture

FRENCH 274: French and Francophone Societies and Culture

FRENCH 276: Spoken and Written Performance in French

FRENCH 280: Conversation Through French and Francophone Film

Residential College student completes RCLANG 320: Readings in French

Students entering with AP or IB credit for FRENCH 250X will satisfy International Studies sixth-term proficiency requirement with the completion of FRENCH 235. Please see an International Studies advisor to receive an exception.

German

Student completes any two 300 level or above courses taught in German

Residential College student completes RCLANG 321: Readings in German

Students entering with AP or IB credit for GERMAN 301X will satisfy International Studies sixth-term proficiency requirement with the completion of any 300 level or above course taught in German. Please see an International Studies advisor to receive an exception.

Hebrew

HEBREW 302: Advanced Hebrew II

Hindi

ASIANLAN 418: Advanced Hindi II

Indonesian

ASIANLAN 420: Advanced Indonesian II

Italian

Student completes **two** language courses **above** (taught in Italian)

ITALIAN 232: Second-Year, Continued

Students entering with AP or IB credit for ITALIAN 235X will satisfy International Studies sixth-term proficiency requirement with the completion of any Italian course, taught in Italian, beyond 232. Please see an International Studies advisor to receive an exception.

Japanese

ASIANLAN 326: Third Year Japanese II

Residential College student completes RCLANG 296 Intensive Japanese II AND one additional 300-level ASIANLAN course

Korean

ASIANLAN 336: Third Year Korean II

Polish

POLISH 322: Third Year Polish

Portuguese

Student completes one language course **above**

PORTUG 287: Advanced Portuguese Conversation and Composition

Russian

RUSSIAN 302: Third Year Russian

Residential College student completes RCLANG 323: Russian Readings

Swedish

SCAND 325: Third Year Swedish

Spanish

Student completes one language course **above**

SPANISH 277: Reading, Grammar, and Composition

or

SPANISH 278: Spanish for Heritage Language Learners (heritage language track)

Residential College student completes RCLANG 324: Readings in Spanish

Students entering with AP or IB credit for SPANISH 279X or SPANISH 294X will satisfy International Studies sixth-term proficiency requirement with the completion of SPANISH 277 or SPANISH 278. Please see an International Studies advisor to receive an exception.

Thai

ASIANLAN 462: Advanced Thai II

Turkish

TURKISH 401: Advanced Turkish I

or

TURKISH 504: Modern Turkish Readings

Ukrainian

UKR 352: Third Year Ukrainian

Urdu

ASIANLAN 472: Advanced Urdu II

Vietnamese

ASIANLAN 476: Advanced Vietnamese II



Above: International Studies student
interning for Canadian Parliament.
Left: International Studies student interning
in South Korea.

International Studies Honors Plan



2025 International Studies Honors Plan student cohort at the PICS Graduation Ceremony.

The Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) offers an [Honors plan](#) for International Studies majors. Students who have declared a major in International Studies must have an overall GPA of 3.5, a major GPA of 3.5 or higher, and complete a senior Honors thesis.

During their junior year, students interested in writing a thesis will enroll in INTLSTD 390* to prepare for senior year. Typically, INTLSTD 390 will be offered in both the Fall and Winter terms. INTLSTD 390 should be completed with an A minimum grade to ensure the skills and ideas needed for a successful thesis are developed. Enrollment in and/or completion of INTLSTD 390 is required for admittance to the Honors sub-plan. Students apply for the Honors sub-plan in the Winter term of their junior year. Admission decisions will be announced shortly after the end of the Winter term. Students taking INTLSTD 390 before their junior year may be admitted provisionally, with final admission contingent on maintaining the required GPA through the end of junior year. The PICS Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education will meet once with students at the end of their junior year, to review requirements, answer questions, and discuss research practices and principles.

**Students admitted to the University of Michigan for Fall 2025 and beyond will follow the International Studies major and Honors requirements effective Fall 2025 and complete INTLSTD 390 as the required Research Design Course. Students who were admitted and began coursework at the University of Michigan prior to Fall 2025 should follow requirements for the International Studies major and Honors depending on [effective term dates](#) and can review the approved [PICS Course Lists](#) for Research Methods course options.*

Applications to the Honors sub-plan will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Overall and major GPA, 3.5
- Overall performance in INTLSTD 390
- Quality of the research proposal
- Success at obtaining a faculty advisor

During their senior year, students will enroll in INTLSTD 498 during Fall term and INTLSTD 499 during Winter term, both led by PICS's Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education. The instructor will regularly meet with students as a collective and individually during their senior year. Each student will have an oral thesis defense in a meeting with the faculty member serving as the thesis advisor and the Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education.

The thesis will be a minimum of 50 pages long. Students are responsible for obtaining a faculty expert to serve as a thesis advisor. The advisor and topic must be approved by the honors committee. The Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, and Honors Education will determine student grades on the thesis and the level of honors earned in consultation with the faculty member serving as the thesis advisor.

Please see the [PICS Honors Plan webpage](#) for more information.

The Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education provides advising for the Honors plan. Please reach out to Anthony Marcum, PhD at amarcum@umich.edu with any questions.

Please note:

- Not all students who want to be in the PICS Honors Plan will be accepted. If not accepted, as an alternative, the student can design an Independent Study via INTLSTD 491 to pursue a longer term paper for the Fall or Winter Semester.
- Students planning to conduct interviews with human subjects prior to joining the International Studies Honors plan should [contact Anthony Marcum](#), PhD, PICS Honors Plan instructor, first. All students will need to complete an application with the [U-M Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#). Anthony Marcum, PhD, can help students navigate this process.
- Students graduating at the end of the fall semester are not eligible for the Honors Plan. Students must complete INTLSTD 498.001 in the fall semester and INTSLTD 499.001 in the winter semester to complete the Honors Plan.

Building Skill Sets Outside the Classroom

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. International Studies students are encouraged to participate in student organizations such as, the [Honor Society for International Studies – Sigma Iota Rho](#), [Blue Model United Nations](#), or publish articles through the [Michigan Journal of International Affairs](#) or the [Michigan Foreign Policy Council](#). Review student organizations associated with PICS on the [PICS Student Organizations page](#). Students can also attend the [International Institute's](#) wide variety of lectures on international topics.

Student organizations, research with International Studies faculty, and campus employment offer additional opportunities to add to the skills developed in class. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Programs such as [Michigan in Washington](#) can have an international component, and a summer internship opportunity through the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills. Review the [PICS Careers page](#) for more resources.

Although studying abroad is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged. A cross-cultural experience broadens your perspective and helps you develop skills that are sought out by future employers. Students should visit the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#), U-M's study abroad office, to learn more about study abroad program opportunities. PICS offers some limited [funding](#) to International Studies majors that study, intern, or conduct research abroad.



2025 Sigma Iota Rho Induction Ceremony

Funding Opportunities

PICS extends financial support to University of Michigan students engaging in projects related to: human rights, international development, international security and cooperation, global health and environment, and comparative culture and identity. Specifically, the Program administers grants for study abroad, research, and internships to International Studies majors and minors in the form of [Summer Research and Internship Grants](#) and the [Study Abroad Grants](#). In addition, the [Rose Silverman Internship Fund](#) supports international internships, the William Siegel and Margaret Swaine funds support [Longwoods fellows](#) for student internship and research abroad.

PICS also administers the [Arctic Internship Fellowship](#) which is open to all University of Michigan undergraduate students, and the [International Human Rights Fellowship](#) which is specifically open to all LSA undergraduate students. PICS keeps track of other various internship, research, and funding opportunities in and related to international issues on the PICS [announcement blog](#). PICS is also a part of the [International Institute](#) which provides several additional [funding opportunities](#) to undergraduate students, including those from the [Donia Human Rights Center](#).



International Studies student interning abroad in Sarajevo.

Eligibility

- U-M registered students
- Graduating students and alumni are not eligible. You must be a continuing student with at least one remaining term of enrollment beyond the term in which your experiential learning opportunity occurs.
- Review each opportunity individually for additional eligibility requirements.

Year Round Funding Opportunities

- [Study Abroad Funding](#): PICS offers limited funding for International Studies majors and minors at the University of Michigan who will be participating in a formal, for credit, U-M sponsored and organized, study abroad program during the academic year or summer.

Summer Funding Opportunities

- [PICS Summer Research and Internship Grants](#): Funding specifically for International Studies majors and minors planning to conduct a summer internship or research abroad (could also include domestic opportunities that have a global focus). Students should demonstrate that the internship assignment was secured from a reputable organization.
- [Arctic Internships](#): For any undergraduate student seeking summer internship in the Arctic region.
- [International Human Rights Fellowship](#): For LSA undergraduates from any major seeking a summer internship focused on international human rights.

All applications are available in [M-Compass](#) and [InfoReady](#).

Deadlines

Applications for Study Abroad Funding are accepted year round (for fall, winter, and summer U-M sponsored and organized study abroad programs). Application deadlines for all other opportunities vary from year to year, but typically applications are due in February or March. Please review the individual [M-Compass](#) and [InfoReady](#) pages for exact deadlines.

Contact Information:

is-fellowships@umich.edu



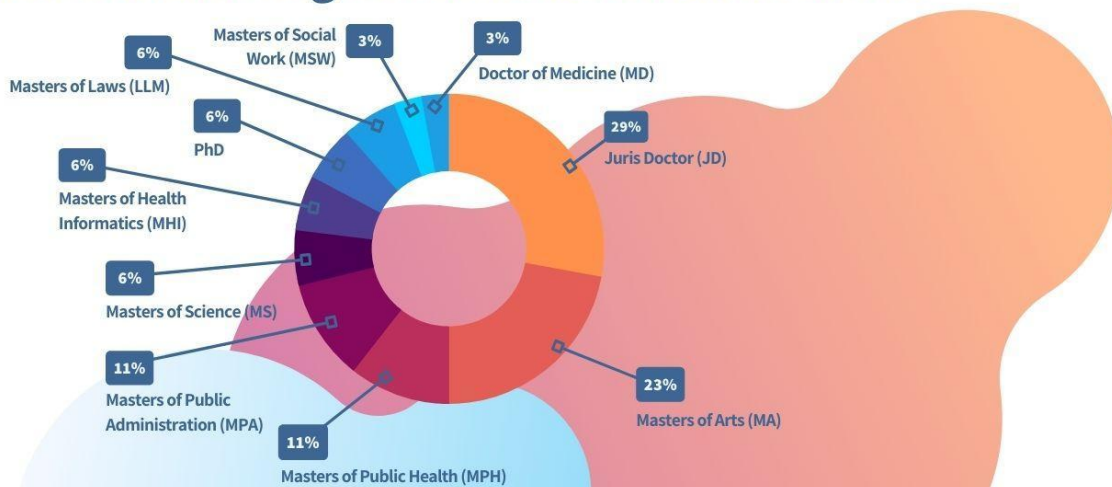
International Studies students on an abroad experience in France.

Developing a Global Perspective

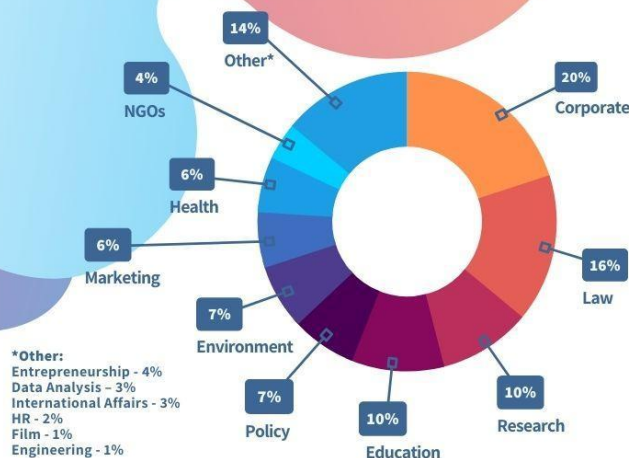
The International Studies [major](#) is intended for students planning to pursue advanced degrees or careers in international law, international business, public policy, global health, and government or nongovernmental organizations with an international focus. The major is ideal for students interested in learning a foreign language and exploring international topics from a comparative perspective. As an International Studies major, you will develop the ability to understand the differences in economic, political, and cultural development. Through language training and study, you will also develop excellent analytical and communication skills. International Studies majors are strongly encouraged, but not required, to study abroad. Related fields include disciplines such as political science, history, economics, public policy, public health, environment, anthropology, psychology, sociology, languages and literatures, comparative literature, law, business, and communications.

International Studies alumni work in a wide range of careers and pursue advanced degrees. Visit the [U-M Career Center](#) and [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) early and often and be sure to request to join the [PICS LinkedIn group](#) to see what other current International Studies students and alumni are doing in their careers. Please review the [PICS Career page](#) for more resources.

What Graduate Degrees do PICS Students Pursue?



Where do PICS Graduates work?



PICS Advising

International Studies students are encouraged to utilize advising services frequently to make sure they are on track to graduate. Since each student has an individual interdisciplinary program, it is important that courses are pre-approved, especially when students are planning to study abroad. Your International Studies advisor can plan your program with you, provide input and feedback, help you find resources, and advocate for and problem solve with you.

University of Michigan students, transfer students, and prospective International Studies majors and minors are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an International Studies advisor through the [online appointment system](#) to discuss all International Studies prerequisite courses and requirements for the major or minor. General advising appointments are also available with advisors to discuss the International Studies major or minor, declaring, academic planning, course selection, registration, joint degree programs, Honors plan, senior releases, career planning, interest in graduate school, and other matters of concern. Advising appointments are available **In Person**, **Phone**, and/or **Virtual** formats.



International Studies student on a PICS funded internship in the Arctic.

Undeclared students should plan to attend one of the [International Studies Information Sessions](#) to learn more. For more detailed information about International Studies advising, please visit [PICS Advising page](#).

Undergraduate advising is offered by many units on campus. For general advice from orientation through graduation, regardless of your major or minor, contact the [Newnan Academic Advising Center](#). For students seeking postgraduate employment, contact the [Career Center](#). Lastly, the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) is a College of LSA initiative dedicated to pairing the broad and valuable skills of a liberal arts education with real-life experience. The LSA Opportunity Hub provides strategic career advising, professional development training, and assists in connecting LSA students with employers and alumni.

How to Graduate

As you enter your senior year, please make sure to complete all critical major or minor requirements and follow the steps below to ensure that you can graduate on time. **Please note that any required courses applied towards your International Studies major must be completed with a grade of C- or better; otherwise, you will not be eligible to graduate.**



To graduate you must:

1. **Make appointments** with your International Studies advisor, your general academic advisor, and any other major/minor advisors to discuss what requirements are met and how to fulfill the remaining requirements. This information will be entered in the release in your online file, where the appropriate auditing office receives it.
2. In order to graduate, seniors must get a release from each of their majors and minors before they will be audited. **The release should be submitted prior to registering for the last semester of classes.**
3. In order to be evaluated for graduation, **every student should receive an official LSA academic degree audit.** *RC students should meet with their RC advisor for a degree audit.*
4. Students should update their International Studies advisor if they change or add International Studies major or minor courses to their schedule in their final semester (especially regional and/or elective courses). This will **ensure that their senior release is accurate.** Please review and RSVP for the [PICS Graduation Ceremony](#).
5. **Apply for graduation** by logging onto Wolverine Access. Go to Student Business, click on Student Center, go to the "other academic..." drop-down menu in the Academics section, and select "Apply for Graduation." Make sure to verify your permanent address and specify how you want your name to appear on your diploma.

Please keep in mind that "walking" in the commencement ceremonies organized by the University of Michigan and PICS is **not** confirmation of your graduation. In the weeks following the commencement ceremonies, your completed coursework will be evaluated by the appropriate auditing office. Degrees will be conferred upon students who have applied to graduate and have fulfilled all degree requirements; including LSA college and distribution requirements as well as requirements for all declared majors and minors. Non-LSA students will be evaluated by their home schools.

Follow these steps to verify completion of:

- International Studies major or minor requirements
- Outstanding courses or formalities regarding study abroad or transfer credit that must be completed in order to graduate with an International Studies major or minor

For more information for LSA students, please visit the [Newnan Academic Advising Center graduation page](#).

Frequently Asked Questions About the International Studies Major

General Information:

1. Are there any prerequisites for the International Studies (IS) major?

Yes. Students must complete INTLSTD 101 with a grade of C- or better.

Students must be enrolled in their fourth semester of language (or placed out).

Students planning on electing the Political Economy and Development sub-plan must first complete ECON 101 with a C or better so that they are eligible to enroll in one upper-level ECON course as part of their sub-plan requirement. Please note that a C or better in ECON 101 is an enforced prerequisite to enroll in the 300-level ECON courses approved for the PED sub-plan.

2. How do I declare an International Studies major?

To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101. Additionally, students pursuing the PED sub-plan must be enrolled in or have completed ECON 101 in order to declare. Students should fill out the [International Studies Major Declaration Form](#) to officially declare the International Studies major. Advisors will be in contact with you once your declaration is processed and will follow up with any questions.

3. May I count 100 level courses toward the major?

100-level courses may not be counted toward an International Studies major.

4. What are the requirements for the [International Studies Honors Plan](#)?

Students who have declared a major in International Studies and are admitted to the additional Honors sub-plan must have an overall GPA of 3.5, a major GPA of 3.5 or higher, and complete a senior Honors thesis.

During their junior year, students interested in writing a thesis will enroll in INTLSTD 390 to prepare for senior year. Typically, INTLSTD 390 will be offered in both the Fall and Winter terms. INTLSTD 390 should be completed with an A minimum grade to ensure the skills and ideas needed for a successful thesis are developed. Enrollment in and/or completion of INTLSTD 390 is required for admittance to the Honors sub-plan. Students apply for the Honors sub-plan in the Winter term of their junior year. Admission decisions will be announced shortly after the end of the Winter term. Students taking INTLSTD 390 before their junior year may be admitted provisionally, with final admission contingent on maintaining the required GPA through the end of junior year. The PICS Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education will meet once with

students at the end of their junior year, to review requirements, answer questions, and discuss research practices and principles.

Applications to the Honors sub-plan will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Overall and major GPA, 3.5
- Overall performance in INTLSTD 390
- Quality of the research proposal
- Success at obtaining a faculty advisor

During their senior year, students will enroll in INTLSTD 498 during Fall term and INTLSTD 499 during Winter term, both led by PICS's Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education. The instructor will regularly meet with students as a collective and individually during their senior year. Each student will have an oral thesis defense in a meeting with the faculty member serving as the thesis advisor and the Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education.

The thesis will be a minimum of 50 pages long. Students are responsible for obtaining a faculty expert to serve as a thesis advisor. The advisor and topic must be approved by the honors committee. The Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, and Honors Education will determine student grades on the thesis and the level of honors earned in consultation with the faculty member serving as the thesis advisor.

5. How many courses can be shared with a double major?

The Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) does not have a limit on the number of courses that can be shared with a second or third major. **Please Note:** A maximum of one course may be shared between the requirements of a minor and a major.

6. May I take a course towards my International Studies major or minor P/F?

All courses going toward your International Studies major or minor require a letter grade with exclusion of fifth-term or sixth-term language.

7. What is the minimum grade I can receive in a course going towards my International Studies major?

C-.

8. Is it possible for me to apply alternative credits (e.g. an internship, transfer credits, independent study, or non-LSA courses) toward an International Studies major?

In some cases it is, but each request will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. PICS offers independent study courses, INTLSTD 391 and INTLSTD 491. The research proposal needs to be approved by the PICS Coordinator of Experiential, Independent, & Honors Education before you can enroll in INTLSTD 391 or INTLSTD 491. You must

provide a one-page written proposal of the academic goal and plan for the study and a written agreement between you and the faculty member who will sponsor your study. Please include a description of the study, clearly articulated expectations, interim deadlines, and a final deadline for completion of the study. The PICS course number for approved internships is [INTLSTD 399](#). Requests for internship credit must be petitioned for credit toward the major. Please email is-advising@umich.edu for more information.

[Transfer credits](#) must post to your official U-M transcript at 200 level or above and be pre-approved by a PICS advisor for International Studies major requirements. To seek approval for a course you've taken or are thinking of taking, please follow the standard course approval instructions (for either sub-plans or electives) detailed below.

9. What counts as a regional course?

A regional course should focus on a single world region as it connects to your language of study. Upper-level language courses beyond the sixth-term language requirement that have a focus on culture, history, arts, etc. and may work as a regional course as well as relevant study abroad courses. Regional courses must be approved by a PICS advisor. Please email is-advising@umich.edu for approval.

Examples:

Language: Spanish Region: Latin America

ANTHRCUL 319 - Latin American Society and Culture; STDABRD 303 - CGIS:
Environment and Sustainable Development in San Jose, Costa Rica

Language: French Region: Western Europe

Courses: FRENCH 369 Literature, History, and Culture of Modernity; WOMENSTD 317
Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800

10. How does study abroad credit count toward my major?

First, you have to receive U-M credit at the 200-level or above. If your study abroad program is arranged through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Study](#) (CGIS) then this should not be an issue, but if your program is organized by another university, you must arrange for that university to [transfer the credits](#) and for U-M to accept them. We encourage you to make sure this is all arranged before you commit to any given non-U-M study abroad program.

Sub-plans:

1. How would I get a course approved for inclusion in a sub-plan?

With the many choices available on the [list of approved courses for sub-plans](#), most students are able to find the courses they both need and want to take. Nevertheless, if you come upon a course that you think is appropriate for your sub-plan, but it is not on the approved list, we'll review it. To request a course review, you will need to fill out the [PICS Course Approval Form](#). The PICS Director will review your request and get back to you shortly.

2. What if none of the sub-plans fit exactly what I am looking for, may I create my own sub-plan for the major?

No.

3. Can I choose more than one sub-plan?

No.

Language:

1. May I take more than one language in the same region to reach the six semester requirement?

Students may appeal the sixth term of a single language (although six terms of one language is strongly recommended in most cases) and substitute a minimum of four terms of one language combined with two terms of language relevant to their defined program to total six terms of language study. Each case is reviewed individually and students must make a compelling case. For example, if a student has a special interest in Africa and this is reflected in the student's previous coursework, and he/she has four semesters of French and wishes to add two semesters of an African language, this may be permissible. Similarly, if a student has a great interest in the Middle East a combination of Hebrew/Arabic may be permissible. Other possible combinations are Spanish/Portuguese if a special interest in Latin America can be demonstrated. However, a combination of Spanish and Italian or French is not permissible. Please note that if you are planning to satisfy the PICS language requirement through using two different languages (4+2 terms) you must obtain pre-approval. Questions regarding this should be directed to your [PICS advisor](#).

2. What is sixth-term language proficiency?

All International Studies majors must attain six-term proficiency, in a language other than English, during their course of study. To clarify what constitutes language proficiency, please see the PICS Undergraduate Student Handbook or connect with a PICS advisor for more information.

3. Does my language have to match my region?

Yes. If your language of study is Spanish, for example, you may focus on any Spanish-speaking country or region. If you receive approval to study both Spanish and Quechua (an indigenous language of the South American Andes), you would then be required to focus on the region of South America in which both Spanish and Quechua are spoken.

Core Courses:

1. When should I plan to take INTLSTD 301, INTLSTD 390, and INTLSTD 401? Am I required to take them in order?

We would like to see you take the core courses in order, but we understand that this is not always feasible and we do not require it. Take INTLSTD 301, INTLSTD 390, and INTLSTD 401 in whatever order works best with your schedule, even if that means you take them concurrently. Typically, students take INTLSTD 390 in their junior year. Keep in mind that the INTLSTD 401 advanced seminar is restricted to junior standing students or above.

2. What semesters are INTLSTD 101, INTLSTD 301, INTLSTD 390, and INTLSTD 401 offered?

INTLSTD 101, INTLSTD 301, INTLSTD 390, and INTLSTD 401 are offered in the fall and winter semesters of each year. These courses are also sometimes offered in the spring and/or summer terms. Please review the [PICS Courses page](#) to review what is being offered this semester. INTLSTD 390 will be offered for the first semester in winter 2026.

3. Is there a way for me to get a course approved as INTLSTD 301 and 401?

No. You'll have to take an INTLSTD 301 and INTLSTD 401 course. INTLSTD 301, with varying topics, is offered each fall and winter term. There are several INTLSTD 401 seminars, with varying topics, offered each fall and winter term.

Electives:

1. How do I get a course approved as an elective?

Email the course title and course description to a PICS advisor at is-advsing@umich.edu. Include a note with the language you're studying, your sub-plan focus, and your U-M ID number. You may also schedule an [advising appointment](#) for elective course approvals.

2. What kinds of courses may I take as electives?

There is no pre-approved list for electives. You may take additional sub-plan, regional, relevant study abroad courses, or courses approved for other IS sub-plans. Remember, that all electives must be pre-approved by a PICS advisor.

3. May I select courses from a different sub-plan and count them among my electives?

Yes, but all electives must be pre-approved by a PICS advisor.

4. Is there a limit to how many 200- or 300-level courses I might count toward my elective requirement?

The only restriction is that you may not apply 100-level courses toward the satisfaction of your elective requirements.



International Studies students and Public Policy students with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014-18) Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

***Photographs are courtesy of PICS students, PICS events, and office staff. Students submitted original photography as part of their reporting requirements taken in conjunction with research, study, or an internship completed abroad.**

Resources for Students

Academic Services

Library Services for Undergraduate Students

Email: contact-mlibrary@umich.edu

Phone: 734.764.7490

Services for Students with Disabilities

Email: ssdoffice@umich.edu

Phone: 734.763.3000 | (TDD): 734.615.4461

Sweetland Center for Writing

Email: sweetlandinfo@umich.edu

Phone: 734.764.0429

Plagiarism

University of Michigan's policies on [plagiarism](#) and [academic integrity](#) on the library website.

Health Services

University Health Service (UHS)

Email: ContactUHS@umich.edu

Phone: 734.764.8320

Wolverine Wellness

Email: ContactUHS@umich.edu

Phone: 734.763.1320

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Email: caps-uofm@umich.edu

Phone: 734.764.8312

Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC)

Email: sapac@umich.edu

Phone: 734-764-7771

Career Services

Career Center

Email: careercenter@umich.edu

Phone: 734.764.7460

LSA Opportunity Hub

Email: lsa-opphub@umich.edu

Phone: 734.763.4674

Mapping Your International Studies

Major or Minor Experience

Major		
34 credits, sixth-term language proficiency		
Sub-Plans: Students must choose one sub-plan and take four courses to satisfy requirement	International Security, Norms and Cooperation	Focus is on human rights, security, and international relations.
	Political Economy and Development	Focus is on international economics, development and business.
	Comparative Culture and Identity	Focus is on cultural comparisons.
	Global Environment and Health	Focus is on global health and environmental issues.
Other Requirements:	Prerequisites	Students must complete INTLSTD 101 with a grade of C- or better; must be enrolled in fourth semester of language (or placed out). Students planning on electing the Political Economy and Development sub-plan must complete ECON 101 with a grade of C or better. To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101. Additionally, students pursuing the PED sub-plan must be enrolled in or have completed ECON 101 in order to declare.
	Core Courses	INTLSTD 301: Topics in International Studies INTLSTD 401: Advanced Topics Seminar
	One Research Design Course	INTLSTD 390: Designing Research in International Studies* <i>*Students admitted for Fall 2025 and beyond will follow the International Studies major requirements effective Fall 2025 and complete INTLSTD 390 as the required Research Design Course. Students who were admitted and began coursework at the University of Michigan prior to Fall 2025 should follow requirements for the International Studies major depending on effective term dates and can review the approved PICS Course Lists for Research Methods course options.</i>
	Elective and Regional Requirements	Students are required to take one regional course related to their language focus and three advisor-approved electives related to their region, sub-plan, or relevant study abroad experience.
<u>Honors Plan:</u>	Prerequisites	For majors with an overall GPA of 3.5, a major GPA of 3.5 or higher, and an A minimum grade in INTLSTD 390 - <i>Designing Research in International Studies</i> (effective Fall 2025). Students must apply to be accepted in the plan.
	Courses	INTLSTD 390: Designing Research in International Studies INTLSTD 489: Senior Honors Pro-seminar INTLSTD 499: Senior Honors Pro-seminar
	Requirements	Students elect INTLSTD 498 in the fall and INTLSTD 499 in the winter (the senior Honors pro-seminars) during their senior year and write a major research paper under the direction of a faculty advisor.

PICS Funding:	Study Abroad Funding	For majors and minors who will be participating in a formal, for credit, U-M sponsored and organized study abroad program.
	Summer Internship and Research Grants	For majors and minors who have already been appointed to an abroad internship; and to conduct innovative, self-designed research outside the U.S.
	Arctic Internships	For any undergraduate student seeking summer internship in the arctic region.
	International Human Rights Fellowship	For LSA undergraduates from any major seeking a summer internship focused on international human rights.

Minor		
18 credits, sixth-term language proficiency		
Focus Areas:	Thematic Focus	Students must choose three classes to take that center around a common theme. One course may be a 200 level, the other two must be 300 level or above.
	Geographic Focus	Students must choose a region related to their language and take three classes focused on that region of the world. One course may be a 200 level, the other two must be 300 level or above.
	INTLSTD 401	Advanced Topics Seminar
Theme Examples:	- o International Development - o Global Environment - o International Conflict and Security - o Gender and Sexuality - o Governance and Democratization - o Human Rights - o Global Health - o Race and ethnicity - o Globalization - o Religion	
Regional Examples:	- o Russia - o Middle East - o Latin America - o Western Europe - o Eastern Europe - o China - o Africa - o India - o Japan - o Southeast Asia	
Funding:	Study Abroad Funding	For majors and minors who will be participating in a formal, for credit, U-M sponsored and organized study abroad program.
	Summer Internship and Research Grants	For majors and minors who have already been appointed to an abroad internship; and to conduct innovative, self-designed research outside the U.S.
	Arctic Internships	For any undergraduate student seeking summer internship in the arctic region.
	International Human Rights Fellowship	For LSA undergraduates from any major seeking a summer internship focused on international human rights.

Mapping for the International Security, Norms and Cooperation Sub-Plan

International Studies Major: 34 credits, sixth-term language. Students must receive a letter grade of C- or better in all International Studies related courses. Students must choose one sub-plan and take at least four courses from that sub-plan. One of the courses must be at the 400 level and the four courses must be taken in two or more academic subjects.

International Security, Norms and Cooperation (ISNC)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them reason about the international system of nation-states and of peoples with both competing and overlapping interests. Among the topics covered are international relations, human rights, human security, international organizations, transnational social movements, war-making and peace-making, intra- and inter-state violence.

First Year

Prerequisites: Students must complete INTLSTD 101 with a grade of C- or better and must be enrolled in fourth semester of language (or placed out).

To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101.

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 101	1	POLSCI 160 (suggested, not required)

Suggestions for First-years:

- Visit the [PICS website](#) and attend a [PICS Information Session](#) to learn more about the International Studies major or minor.
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to discuss the International Studies major or minor further and make a study plan for [coursework](#).
- Research study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to start working on professional development (resume, cover letter, networking, etc.).
- Research intern, volunteer, and funding opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#).

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	International Studies elective	1	ISNC sub-plan course
1	Regional course		

Suggestions for Sophomores:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and declare major/minor.
- Choose a research methods course. Research methods course requirements differ between sub-plans, so please review the requirements for each [sub-plan](#).
- Explore International Studies career options on the [PICS Career page](#) and visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) and the [U-M Career Center](#) to discuss potential internship options and career paths.
- Join the [PICS LinkedIn](#) group to see what peers and alumni are doing in their careers.
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Junior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 301	1	Research Design course
1	ISNC sub-plan course	1	ISNC sub-plan course

Suggestions for Juniors:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and determine when you will be ready to request your senior release (at least 90+ credits).
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Interested in an Honors Plan for International Studies? Learn more information about the [PICS Honors Plan](#) and apply prior to the start of the senior year fall semester.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#). Make sure all coursework planned to be taken abroad is pre-approved by an International Studies advisor if you intend to use the coursework towards the International Studies major or minor.
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Senior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 401	1	ISNC sub-plan course at 400 level
1	International Studies elective	1	International Studies elective
1	INTLSTD 498, Honors (optional)	1	INTLSTD 499, Honors (optional)

Suggestions for Seniors:

- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to complete a senior release the semester before the last planned semester of enrollment (ex: if graduating in the winter semester, complete your senior release with an advisor in the fall semester).
- Know the proper steps [How to Graduate](#) and RSVP for the [PICS Graduation Ceremony](#).
- Visit the [U-M Career Center](#) and [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to discuss employment opportunities and career paths.

Mapping for the Political Economy and Development Sub-Plan

International Studies Major: 34 credits, sixth-term language. Students must receive a letter grade of C- or better in all International Studies related courses. Students must choose one sub-plan and take at least four courses from that sub-plan. One of the courses must be at the 400 level and the four courses must be taken in two or more academic subjects.

Political Economy and Development (PED)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them reason about the global economy and about comparing the political economies of nation-states and regions. Among the topics covered are international economics, political and economic development, regulation of economies, international trade, political contestation over economics, government budgeting, comparative labor economics, and political-economic history.*

*Students who select this sub-plan, must take one economics course from the approved PED sub-plan list from the Economics department at U-M. Please be aware that you may need to take ECON 102 and/or ECON 401 AND get a C or better grade to get into upper level economics courses.

First Year

Prerequisites: Students must complete INTLSTD 101 with a grade of C- or better and must be enrolled in fourth semester of language (or placed out). Students must also successfully complete ECON 101 with a grade of C or better, if selecting PED as a sub-plan focus.

To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101. Additionally, students pursuing the PED sub-plan must be enrolled in or have completed ECON 101 in order to declare

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 101	1	ECON 101

Suggestions for First-years:

- Visit the [PICS website](#) and attend a [PICS Information Session](#) to learn more about the International Studies major or minor.
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to discuss the International Studies major or minor further and make a study plan for [coursework](#).
- Research study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to start working on professional development (resume, cover letter, networking, etc.).
- Research intern, volunteer, and funding opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#).

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	International Studies elective	1	PED sub-plan course
1	Regional course		

Suggestions for Sophomores:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and declare major/minor.
- Choose a research methods course. Research methods course requirements differ between sub-plans, so please review the requirements for each [sub-plan](#).
- Explore International Studies career options on the [PICS Career page](#) and visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) and the [U-M Career Center](#) to discuss potential internship options and career paths.
- Join the [PICS LinkedIn](#) group to see what peers and alumni are doing in their careers.
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Junior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 301	1	Research Design course
1	PED sub-plan course	1	PED sub-plan course with ECON subject

Suggestions for Juniors:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and determine when you will be ready to request your senior release (at least 90+ credits).
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Interested in an Honors Plan for International Studies? Learn more information about the [PICS Honors Plan](#) and apply prior to the start of the senior year fall semester.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#). Make sure all coursework planned to be taken abroad is pre-approved by an International Studies advisor if you intend to use the coursework towards the International Studies major or minor.
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Senior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	INTLSTD 401	1	International Studies elective
1	International Studies elective	1	PED sub-plan course at 400 level
1	INTLSTD 498, Honors (optional)		INTLSTD 499, Honors (optional)

Suggestions for Seniors:

- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to complete a senior release the semester before the last planned semester of enrollment (ex: if graduating in the winter semester, complete your senior release with an advisor in the fall semester).
- Know the proper steps [How to Graduate](#) and RSVP for the [PICS Graduation Ceremony](#).
- Visit the [U-M Career Center](#) and [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to discuss employment opportunities and career paths.

Mapping for the Comparative Culture and Identity Sub-Plan

International Studies Major: 34 credits, sixth-term language. Students must receive a letter grade of C- or better in all International Studies related courses. Students must choose one sub-plan and take at least four courses from that sub-plan. One of the courses must be at the 400 level and the four courses must be taken in two or more academic subjects.

Comparative Culture and Identity (CCI)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them understand the global richness of behavioral, literary, and artistic expressions reflecting the diversity of the human experience. Among the topics covered are theories of culture, theories of identity, comparative belief systems and societal organizations, nationalism, comparative literary and film traditions, comparative ideologies, colonialism and post-colonialism, global arts, comparative gender studies, and cultural transmission.

*Students who select this sub-plan, must take COMPLIT 240, INTLSTD 205 or HIST/JUDAIC/ROMLANG 253 as one of the required four sub-plan core courses. Please review the [CCI page](#) for more information.

First Year

Prerequisites: Students must complete INTLSTD 101 with a grade of C- or better and must be enrolled in fourth semester of language (or placed out).

To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101.

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 101	1	ANTHRCUL 222, COMPLIT 240, INTLSTD 205 or HISTORY/JUDAIC/ ROMLANG 253

Suggestions for First-years:

- Visit the [PICS website](#) and attend a [PICS Information Session](#) to learn more about the International Studies major or minor.
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to discuss the International Studies major or minor further and make a study plan for [coursework](#).
- Research study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to start working on professional development (resume, cover letter, networking, etc.).
- Research intern, volunteer, and funding opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#).

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	International Studies elective	1	Regional course

Suggestions for Sophomores:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and declare major/minor.
- Choose a research methods course. Research methods course requirements differ between sub-plans, so please review the requirements for each [sub-plan](#).
- Explore International Studies career options on the [PICS Career page](#) and visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) and the [U-M Career Center](#) to discuss potential internship options and career paths.
- Join the [PICS LinkedIn](#) group to see what peers and alumni are doing in their careers.
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Junior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 301	1	CCI sub-plan course
1	Research Design course	1	CCI sub-plan course

Suggestions for Juniors:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and determine when you will be ready to request your senior release (at least 90+ credits).
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Interested in an Honors Plan for International Studies? Learn more information about the [PICS Honors Plan](#) and apply prior to the start of the senior year fall semester.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#). Make sure all coursework planned to be taken abroad is pre-approved by an International Studies advisor if you intend to use the coursework towards the International Studies major or minor.
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Senior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	International Studies elective	1	INTLSTD 401
1	CCI sub-plan course at 400 level	1	International Studies elective
1	INTLSTD 498, Honors (optional)	1	INTLSTD 499, Honors (optional)

Suggestions for Seniors:

- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to complete a senior release the semester before the last planned semester of enrollment (ex: if graduating in the winter semester, complete your senior release with an advisor in the fall semester).
- Know the proper steps [How to Graduate](#) and RSVP for the [PICS Graduation Ceremony](#).
- Visit the [U-M Career Center](#) and [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to discuss employment opportunities and career paths.

Mapping for the Global Environment and Health Sub-Plan

International Studies Major: 34 credits, sixth-term language. Students must receive a letter grade of C- or better in all International Studies related courses. Students must choose one sub-plan and take at least four courses from that sub-plan. One of the courses must be at the 400 level and the four courses must be taken in two or more academic subjects.

Global Environment and Health (GEH)

In this sub-plan, students take courses that help them understand global trends in public health and in the natural environment as these intersect with the human experience. Among the topics covered are global public health, comparative health policy, epidemics and pandemics, comparative environmental policy, comparative history of mental health treatments across countries, environmental disasters, and climate change.

First Year

Prerequisites: Students must complete INTLSTD 101 with a grade of C- or better and must be enrolled in fourth semester of language (or placed out).

To Declare: Students must be enrolled in or have completed INTLSTD 101.

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 101	1	GEH sub-plan course

Suggestions for First-years:

- Visit the [PICS website](#) and attend a [PICS Information Session](#) to learn more about the International Studies major or minor.
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with a PICS advisor to discuss the International Studies major or minor further and make a study plan for [coursework](#).
- Research study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to start working on professional development (resume, cover letter, networking, etc.).
- Research intern, volunteer, and funding opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#).

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	International Studies elective	1	Regional course

Suggestions for Sophomores:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and declare major/minor.
- Choose a research methods course. Research methods course requirements differ between sub-plans, so please review the requirements for each [sub-plan](#).
- Explore International Studies career options on the [PICS Career page](#) and visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) and the [U-M Career Center](#) to discuss potential internship options and career paths.
- Join the [PICS LinkedIn](#) group to see what peers and alumni are doing in their careers.
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#).
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Junior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	Language course	1	Language course
1	INTLSTD 301	1	GEH sub-plan course
1	International Studies elective	1	Research Design course

Suggestions for Juniors:

- [Meet with a PICS advisor](#) to review your progress to degree (PTD) worksheet and determine when you will be ready to request your senior release (at least 90+ credits).
- Consider joining an [International Studies related student organization](#) such as the University of Michigan Chapter of [Sigma Iota Rho](#) – Honor Society for International Studies.
- Interested in an Honors Plan for International Studies? Learn more information about the [PICS Honors Plan](#) and apply prior to the start of the senior year fall semester.
- Research and apply for study abroad opportunities through the [Center for Global and Intercultural Studies \(CGIS\)](#). Make sure all coursework planned to be taken abroad is pre-approved by an International Studies advisor if you intend to use the coursework towards the International Studies major or minor.
- Visit the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) to receive help in securing a summer internship opportunity.
- Apply for funding and fellowship opportunities through [PICS](#) and the [LSA Opportunity Hub](#) for study abroad, research, and internships.

Senior Year

Fall Semester		Winter Semester	
Number of Courses	Course	Number of Courses	Course
1	GEH sub-plan course at 400 level	1	INTLSTD 401
1	International Studies elective	1	GEH sub-plan course
1	INTLSTD 498, Honors (optional)	1	INTLSTD 499, Honors (optional)
Suggestions for Seniors: • Schedule an appointment with a PICS advisor to complete a senior release the semester before the last planned semester of enrollment (ex: if graduating in the winter semester, complete your senior release with an advisor in the fall semester). • Know the proper steps How to Graduate and RSVP for the PICS Graduation Ceremony. • Visit the U-M Career Center and LSA Opportunity Hub to discuss employment opportunities and career paths.			