

# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDIES

The international studies program offers a varied interdisciplinary humanities curriculum, global in scope and designed to increase students' knowledge about the cultures and traditions, languages, literature and media, history, values, concerns, and aspirations of peoples in different countries and regions of the world. The goal of the program is ultimately also to both broaden students' comparative intercultural perspectives and develop their cross-cultural communication abilities. Within each chosen concentration, the interdisciplinary range of offerings allows for flexibility in configuring each individual's course of study, which can be organized in a manner that best suits a student's particular needs.

## Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know how to do the following:

### International studies core learning outcomes

- Critically analyze culturally specific as well as global issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives
- Demonstrate knowledge of universals and differences in worldviews and ethical systems (values) across a range of cultures
- Demonstrate cross-cultural communication skills and cultural sensitivity to interact effectively in international and/or multicultural settings, and engage with cultural difference in an informed and compassionate fashion
- Demonstrate intermediate college-level proficiency in a second language in each of the four modalities: speaking, listening, reading and writing

### International social justice concentration-specific learning outcome:

- Demonstrate knowledge of international social justice issues and challenges

## Experiential learning and study abroad

Each student completing a degree program within the School of World Studies is required to complete a World ePass as part of their experiential learning requirement; students are also encouraged to participate in a study abroad program. For more information on the ePass portfolio and study abroad opportunities, students may visit the overview page for the School of World Studies (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/school-worldstudies/>).

## Special requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, students must complete 120 course credits, at least 36 of which must be in the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.25. Students must take at least 21 credits total of upper-level (300- or 400-level) courses within the major, with a minimum of **nine** credits at the upper level earned at VCU (not through transfer credit). The focus of a degree in international studies

is interdisciplinary and should reflect a well-rounded mix of courses completed in a variety of disciplines (e.g. ANTH, HIST, POLI, SOCY, WRLD and foreign language).

International studies majors are encouraged to complete the course requirements for a minor that will broaden their international studies perspectives. Minor options are varied and may be chosen from a broad range of subject areas. Students also may want to consider a second major. Advisers will work with students to explore the benefits of a double major and a minor.

Students must fulfill an experiential learning requirement through an approved internship, service-learning course or study-abroad program. Within the core requirements, students must complete six credits of foreign language study through the advanced level (300 level or higher). Native speakers of a language not taught at VCU can demonstrate fluency through evaluation to meet the requirement and then substitute six credits of additional course work chosen from the concentration electives to complete the degree. For students studying a foreign language not taught at VCU, or for which no upper-level courses are offered on campus, the School of World Studies advisers will assist the student in identifying appropriate language study options at other U.S. institutions or abroad. International studies majors also must fulfill the college general education requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

To major in international studies, students must take course work that fulfills the requirements for the concentration chosen.

## Degree requirements for International Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in international social justice studies

Course	Title	Hours
<b>General education</b> ( <a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a> )		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
<b>Major requirements</b>		
• Major core requirements		
INTL 215	International Studies in the Professional World	3
INTL 375	Interdisciplinary Methods for International Studies Research	3
INTL 465	Rethinking Globalization	3
INTL 490	Senior Capstone in International Studies	3
WRLD 210	International Social Justice Studies	3
WRLD 302	Communicating Across Cultures	3
• Additional major requirements		
Foreign language courses (300 level or higher)		6
• Concentration requirements		
Select courses to complete the requirements described in the list below.		12
<b>Ancillary requirements</b>		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
INTL 101	Human Societies and Globalization (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)	3

WRLD 495	World ePass Portfolio	0
Experiential fine arts <sup>1</sup>		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
Foreign language through the 202 or 205 level		0-6
<b>Open electives</b>		
Select any course.		38-52
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

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Courses offered by the School of the Arts

**The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.****Concentration courses**

The concentration in international social justice studies requires a total of 12 elective credits of interdisciplinary course work. A maximum of six elective credits within the concentration may be taken from within the same discipline to fulfill these requirements. Courses marked "when appropriate" require preapproval from the School of World Studies Advising Office.

Course	Title	Hours
Select a minimum of 12 credits from the following, with a maximum of six credits per discipline.		12
ANTH/INTL 455	Anthropology of Development and Globalization	
FLET 391	Topics in Foreign Literature in English Translation (when appropriate)	
FREN/INTL 450	Francophone Literatures and Cultures (when appropriate)	
GRMN 421	The Postwar German Scene (when appropriate)	
GSWS 309	Gender and Global Health	
INTL 291	Topics in International Studies (when appropriate)	
INTL 316	Religious and Ethnic Minorities in the Middle East	
INTL 325	Nature, Culture, Justice	
INTL 332	Revolutions and Counterrevolutions in the Middle East	
INTL 385	International Migration and Displacement	
INTL 445	Activism and Dissidence	
INTL 491	Topics in International Studies (when appropriate)	
POLI/AFAM 318	Politics of Race, Class and Gender	
POLI/INTL 365	International Political Economy	
POLI/GSWS 366/INTL 368	Women and Global Politics	
RELS 340/INTL 341	Global Ethics and the World's Religions	
RELS 450/INTL 449	Religion, Globalization and Social Justice	
RELS/INTL/AFAM 451	Religion, Racism and Social Justice	

RELS/INTL/GSWS 453	Western Religions, Women and Social Justice	
SPAN 322	Hispanic Immigrants in the U.S.	
SPAN 332	Latino Writers in the U.S.	
WRLD 220	Human Rights and Literature	
WRLD 325	The Humanities in International Studies	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

**Freshman year**

Fall semester		Hours
INTL 101	Human Societies and Globalization (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)	3
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111	Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I		
Foreign language 101 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)		3
General education course (select quantitative foundations)		3-4
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>13-14</b>

**Spring semester**

HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
WRLD 210	International Social Justice Studies	3
Foreign language 102 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)		3
Open electives		6
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>16</b>

**Sophomore year****Fall semester**

INTL 215	International Studies in the Professional World	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Foreign language 201 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)		3
General education course		3
Open elective		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

Concentration course		3
Experiential fine arts		1-3

Foreign language 202 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)	3
General education course	3
General education course	3
Open elective	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>16-18</b>

**Junior year****Fall semester**

INTL 375 Interdisciplinary Methods for International Studies Research	3
Foreign language 300-level or higher (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)	3
General education course	3
General education course	3
Open elective	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

On-campus or study abroad semester:	
WRLD 302 Communicating Across Cultures	3
Concentration course	3
Foreign language 300-level or higher (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)	3
Open electives	6
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15</b>

**Summer semester**

Optional study abroad (recommended); credits completed during study abroad will decrease open electives needed in subsequent semesters:	
In consultation with an academic adviser, 0-6 credits in INTL, foreign language relevant to concentration or degree electives	0-6
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>0-6</b>

**Senior year****Fall semester**

INTL 465 Rethinking Globalization	3
INTL 493 or INTL 490 International Studies Internship (or other experiential learning requirement (if not already satisfied)) or Senior Capstone in International Studies	3
WRLD 495 World ePass Portfolio	0
Concentration course	3
Foreign language course 300-level or higher (if pursuing minor) or open elective	3
Open elective	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

INTL 490 or INTL 493 Senior Capstone in International Studies (if not taken in fall) or International Studies Internship	3
Concentration course	3
Foreign language course 300-level or higher (if pursuing minor) or open elective	3

Open electives	6
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>120-129</b>

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.