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 wish 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

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

WRLD 495
World ePass Portfolio
0

Experiential fine arts
1

Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)
0-6

Foreign language through the 202 or 205 level
0-6

Open electives
Select any course.
38-52

Total Hours
120

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.

ANTH/INTL 455
Anthropology of Development and Globalization
12

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

Total Hours
12

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

INTL 101
Human Societies and Globalization (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)

UNIV 101
Introduction to the University

UNIV 111
Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)

Foreign language 101 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)

Foreign language 102 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)

Open electives

Term Hours: 13-14

Spring semester

HUMS 202
Choices in a Consumer Society

UNIV 112
Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)

Foreign language 102 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)

Open electives

Term Hours: 16

Sophomore year

Fall semester

INTL 215
International Studies in the Professional World

UNIV 200
Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)

Foreign language 101 (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)

Open electives

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

Concentration course

Experiential fine arts 1-3
### International Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in international social justice studies

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL 375</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Methods for International Studies Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 300-level or higher (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-campus or study abroad semester:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRLD 302</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communicating Across Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 300-level or higher (ARBC, CHIN, FREN, GRMN, ITAL, RUSS, SPAN)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional study abroad (recommended); credits completed during study abroad will decrease open electives needed in subsequent semesters:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In consultation with an academic adviser, 0-6 credits in INTL, foreign language relevant to concentration or degree electives</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL 465</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rethinking Globalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL 493</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>International Studies Internship (or other experiential learning requirement (if not already satisfied))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INTL 490</td>
<td></td>
<td>or Senior Capstone in International Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRLD 495</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>World ePass Portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language course 300-level or higher (if pursuing minor) or open elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL 490 or INTL 493</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Senior Capstone in International Studies (if not taken in fall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language course 300-level or higher (if pursuing minor) or open elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 120-129