

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN LATIN AMERICAN 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

Latin American studies concentration-specific learning outcome:

- Demonstrate historical, political, literary and cultural competency in the region

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 Latin American studies

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• 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
Ancillary requirements		
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 ¹	1-3
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

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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 Latin American studies requires a total of 12 credits of interdisciplinary course work. A maximum of six credits within the concentration may be taken from 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 348	South American Ethnography	
ANTH 349	Rethinking a Continent: Latin America	
ANTH 391	Topics in Anthropology (when appropriate, e.g. Postcolonial Processes, Ethnographic Film)	
ANTH/INTL 455	Anthropology of Development and Globalization	
ARTH 335	Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture	
ARTH 338	Colonial Art and Architecture of Latin America	
ARTH 339	Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture of Latin America	
FLET 391	Topics in Foreign Literature in English Translation (when appropriate)	
HIST 109	Survey of Latin American History	
HIST 110	Survey of Latin American History	
HIST 370	History of Central America	
HIST 371	History of Mexico	
HIST 372	History of Brazil	
HIST 373	History of the Andes to 1800	
HIST 374	History of the Andes From 1800	
HIST 376	Caribbean History to 1838	
HIST 377	Caribbean History Since 1838	
INTL 325	Nature, Culture, Justice	
INTL 341/ RELS 340	Global Ethics and the World's Religions	
INTL 385	International Migration and Displacement	
INTL 445	Activism and Dissidence	
INTL 491	Topics in International Studies (when appropriate)	
POLI 353	Latin American Governments and Politics	

RELS 336	Religions in Latin America
RELS 391	Topics in Religious Studies (when appropriate)
RELS 491	Topics in Religious Studies (when appropriate)
SPAN 321	Latin American Civilization I
SPAN 322	Hispanic Immigrants in the U.S.
SPAN 331	Survey of Latin American Literature
SPAN 332	Latino Writers in the U.S.
SPAN 421	Civilization of Latin America II
SPAN 422	Spanish and Latin American Cinema
SPAN 430	Literary Genres (when appropriate)
SPAN 491	Topics in Spanish (when appropriate)
WRLD 391	Topics in World Languages and Cultures (when appropriate)
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		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 (Spanish or Portuguese)		3
General education course (select quantitative foundations)		3-4
Term Hours:		13-14

Spring semester

HIST 109	Survey of Latin American History	3
or	or Survey of Latin American History	
HIST 110	or History of Central America	
or	or History of the Andes to 1800	
HIST 370	or History of the Andes From 1800	
or	or Caribbean History to 1838	
HIST 373	or Caribbean History Since 1838	
or		
HIST 374		
or		
HIST 376		
or		
HIST 377		
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		

Foreign language 102 (Spanish or Portuguese)	3
Open electives	6
Term Hours:	16

Sophomore year

Fall semester

UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
WRLD 210	International Social Justice Studies	3
Foreign language 201 (Spanish or Portuguese)		3
General education course		3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

INTL 215	International Studies in the Professional World	3
WRLD 302	Communicating Across Cultures	3
Experiential fine arts		1-3
Foreign language 202 (Spanish or Portuguese)		3
General education course		3
General education course		3

Term Hours: 16-18

Junior year

Fall semester

INTL 375	Interdisciplinary Methods for International Studies Research	3
Concentration course		3
Foreign language 300-level or higher (Spanish or Portuguese)		3
General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)		3
General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

On-campus or study abroad semester:		
Concentration course		3
Foreign language 300-level or higher (Spanish or Portuguese)		3
Open electives		9

Term Hours: 15

Summer semester

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
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Term Hours: 0-6

Senior year

Fall semester

INTL 465	Rethinking Globalization	3
WRLD 495	World ePass Portfolio	0

SPAN 300-level (if pursuing Spanish minor) or open elective	3
Concentration course	3
Experiential learning requirement (if not already satisfied)	0-3
Open electives	6

Term Hours: 15-18

Spring semester

INTL 490	Senior Capstone in International Studies	3
SPAN 300-level (if pursuing Spanish minor) or open elective		3
Concentration course		3
Open electives		6

Term Hours: 15

Total Hours: 120-132

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