



# International Studies

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## The Passion

In today's global society, cross-cultural understanding plays an increasingly vital role in business, government, and academic scholarship. Gonzaga University's International Studies major develops students' awareness of the political, religious, economic, and cultural diversity among nations. Students also explore the interdependence of nations and the rights and obligations which arise from that interdependence by examining significant transnational issues.

## The Program

Gonzaga University offers a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (42 credits) based on two academic tracks: Area Studies or International Relations. Students pursuing Area Studies must specialize in the languages and cultures of Asia, Europe, or Latin America. In contrast to this regional focus, International Relations emphasizes developing a global perspective and an appreciation of the issues and challenges that face all nations.

### Area Studies Programs

The following is a brief description of the Area Studies programs Gonzaga offers:

**Asian Studies** develops a broad appreciation of East Asian civilization while requiring students to specialize in at least one Asian language and national culture. Emphasis is placed on Japan and China. Course options include Modern Japan, Politics of the Pacific Rim, Chinese Philosophy, and World Religions and Global Religious Perspectives.

**European Studies** cultivates an appreciation of European civilization in general while requiring specialization in at least one language and European national culture. Emphasis is placed on France, Germany, Spain, and Italy. Course options include Europe: 1914-1945, Modern Germany, Politics in Western Europe, Democratization in Eastern Europe, and the Age of the French Revolution.

**Latin American Studies** fosters a broad appreciation of Latin American civilizations while requiring specialization in Spanish and at least one Latin American national culture. Course options include Colonial Latin America, Revolutions in Latin America, Latin American Politics, and Narrative Fiction in Latin America.

## The International Relations

The International Relations track allows students to pursue course work and research on a variety of global issues. These students study any of the modern foreign languages offered at Gonzaga University. International Relations majors also take courses which focus on international interactions and the ways in which countries are similar or different from one another.

### International Studies Core

All International Studies majors complete the International Studies core curriculum, including:

- The first two years of a single foreign language (students should start completing language classes as early as the first semester of their freshman year).
- A third year of a foreign language, or its equivalent, in courses studied abroad.
- Survey of International Studies (3 credits).
- Perspectives on Global Issues (3 credits).
- A senior project (students research a topic related to their area of emphasis and then write an academic research paper and give an oral presentation on that topic).

### Recent Senior Project Titles Include:

- Japanese Agriculture: Protectionism and its Problems and Prospects for Reform
- Voting Participation in the United States and the United Kingdom
- First World Assistance for the Third World Crisis: A Case Study of Botswana and Uganda
- The Silent Revolution: Economic Neoliberalism in Mexico
- Coubertin's Olympics and their Political Implications

International Studies majors are encouraged to spend at least one semester on a study abroad program. Students pursuing area studies should participate in programs which promote foreign language proficiency and cultural immersion in their region of specialization. Although study abroad programs are generally designed for junior year participation, students should consult the Study Abroad Office as early as their freshman year to begin planning appropriate course work.

After completing the International Studies core, students work closely with faculty advisors to develop programs that match individual interests and career goals. An interdisciplinary program, the International Studies major includes courses in political science, history, economics, religious studies, philosophy, and sociology.

### **The Potential**

Many students choose a major in International Studies as the beginning of a more intensive course of academic or professional education.

#### **Gonzaga's Recent International Studies Graduates Have Attended the Following Schools:**

- Monterey Institute of International Studies
- Schiller International University (Paris, France), International Business and International Relations
- University of Denver, International Development

#### **Gonzaga's Recent International Studies Graduates Are Working in the Following Fields:**

- Business
- Foreign Service
- Peace Corps
- State Government

### **The People**

The International Studies major incorporates faculty from throughout the University. Students are encouraged to solicit information and advice about coursework, careers, and graduate studies from professors in the departments which participate in the program.

History Department Assistant Professor Ted Nitz (Ph.D., Washington State University) serves as Gonzaga University's International Studies Director. He specializes in German history, the modern Middle East, and Islamic civilization and history. Students pursuing International Studies majors should consult the director in conjunction with any additional faculty advisors they may choose.

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**For more information, please contact:** Assistant Professor Ted Nitz, Director, International Studies, [nitz@gonzaga.edu](mailto:nitz@gonzaga.edu), (509) 313-3602 or (800) 986-9585 ext. 3602