International Studies

The interdisciplinary nature of the program aims to foster an acute understanding of the interconnections and interdependencies that shape the world today. The curriculum is designed to support Gonzaga University’s mission to foster students with “a mature commitment to the dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care for the planet.”

THE PROGRAM

Gonzaga University offers two courses of study in International Studies: International Relations and Area Studies. The International Relations major and minor prepare students for careers and post-graduate education in foreign service, diplomacy, security studies, peace and conflict resolution, and international development. The Area Studies majors and minors provide students with a more focused program of study in one of three regions: Asia, Europe, or Latin America.

Because foreign language skills are such a vital part of an International Studies education, all International Studies majors and minors should expect to study a modern language during their time at Gonzaga – through the 302 level for majors and through the 202 level for minors. Students are encouraged to continue a language they studied before coming to Gonzaga in order to maximize their proficiency. Area Studies majors and minors must study a modern language used in their region of study.

Students work closely with faculty advisors to choose courses that match their individual interests and career goals. Given its interdisciplinary composition, the International Studies degree includes courses in communication, economics, history, modern languages, philosophy, political science, religious studies, and sociology.

COURSEWORK

The International Relations major and minor allow students to pursue coursework and research on a variety of global issues with an emphasis on interactions among countries through international organizations, treaties, law, and trade. Course offerings include:

- American Foreign Policy
- Global Citizenship
- Global Economic Issues
- Global Gender Regimes
- Global Migration
- International Organizations
- Interreligious Dialogue
- Model United Nations
OUTCOMES
Many International Studies students choose to undertake international service or teaching positions after graduation. In addition to Peace Corps, recent graduates have been awarded Fulbright Teaching Fellowships in Austria, Bahrain, and Germany. Graduates have also worked with the Borgen Project, the People for Change Foundation, the United Nations, World Relief Services, and Young Adults in Global Mission.

Some of Gonzaga’s recent International Studies graduates have attended graduate programs at the following institutions:

- The Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University
- The London School of Economics and Political Science
- Monterey Institute of International Studies
- Schiller International University (Paris)
- University of Denver, International Development

STUDY ABROAD
International Studies majors are encouraged to study abroad during their time at Gonzaga. This may take a variety of forms from faculty-led summer programs to directly enrolling in an international institution. Living and learning experiences also vary and, in many cases, students have the opportunity to live with a local family or with local students and/or to participate in internship programs during their stay abroad.

Home-Stay Programs:
- Argentina
- Chile
- Denmark
- France
- Italy

Internships Available In:
- Belgium
- China
- France
- Ghana
- Jordan
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Washington, D.C.

AREA STUDIES
Asian Studies gives students a foundational understanding of Asian cultures, history, civilizations, religious traditions, and contemporary political, economic, and social change. Recent course offerings include Japan Past and Present; Politics of the Pacific Rim; Buddhism; Comparative Middle Eastern Politics; Post-Soviet Russia and China; The Politics of Eurasia; and Islamic Civilizations. Asian Studies majors and minors are required to study an Asian language. Gonzaga offers Japanese and Arabic language courses (though the 202 level). Students seeking proficiency through the 300 level in Japanese or Arabic study abroad at Sophia or Akita universities in Japan or the CET Program in Amman, Jordan, as well as arrange individualized study with Gonzaga faculty.

European Studies cultivates an appreciation of European civilization and a knowledge of its history and role in the world, as well as exposure to its contemporary social, economic, and political challenges. Students can study French, German, Italian, or Spanish at Gonzaga. Recent course offerings include: Renaissance Europe; The Age of the French Revolution; Italian Civilization and Culture; Spanish, Italian, French, and German Cinema; Eastern Europe since 1945; and Comparative European Politics. Gonzaga students have studied abroad in: Austria; Belgium; France; Italy; Spain; the UK, and many other countries.

Latin American Studies introduces students to the histories, cultures, and political experiences of Latin America and requires the study of Spanish. Course offerings include: Colonial Latin America, Revolutions in Latin America, Latin American Politics, and Latin American Society. Gonzaga students can participate in faculty-led study abroad programs to Mexico and Colombia as well as study in Buenos Aires, Argentina, or Valparaiso, Chile.

For students interested in continuing their study of International Relations, Gonzaga offers several options in the School of Leadership Studies 4+1 program:

- Online M.A. in Communication & Leadership Studies
- Online M.A. in Organizational Leadership

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For more information:
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