

Major Possibilities: International Studies



Summary

- Students with International Studies majors have the advantage of being able to understand cultural diversity and evaluate information from a global perspective.
- The major offers hard-working students the chance to become fluent in a foreign language.
- Because students focus on more than one area of study, they are well-suited to a variety of jobs.
- International Studies can lead to further education, such as law school or graduate school. Some occupations within the fields of social science and art history require a PhD.
- Studying abroad for one semester is a requirement of the major, so consider that when you are planning your courses.

International Studies major synopsis

International Studies is a three-part major which allows students to choose a disciplinary major, a geographical area of emphasis, and a language that corresponds to the chosen geographic area. Students may petition to study disciplines and areas besides those listed below.

Major: Art History, History, or Political Science (For students with a Latin American concentration, Anthropology may also be selected)

Geographical Area of Emphasis: East Asia, Europe or Latin America

Language: Chinese, French, German, or Spanish (if not already majoring/minoring in relevant language)

Study Abroad: Directly related to the students' geographic area of emphasis

Sample occupational areas

Political Science

Political scientists study the origins of political systems and public policy. They may conduct polls and analyze information and ideology. To become a political scientist, advanced education is necessary. However, a myriad of careers are available to political science majors, including legal professions, journalism, employment with federal or state government, business management, or any other occupation you may desire. Many students focusing on political science move on to become lawyers. Lawyers may specialize in a number of areas, such as bankruptcy, probate, international, or environmental law. Most lawyers are in private practice, concentrating on criminal or civil law.

Art History

A degree in Art History can lead to many unique and exciting careers, such as curator at a museum or university library or arts writer for a magazine or local arts council. The employment outlook for graduates is competitive, but jobs are available in art publishing, art journalism, libraries, public art councils, art galleries, and with companies specializing in furniture and architectural restoration. There are some entry-level jobs in museum work, but most jobs in this field require advanced degrees. Because the field of art history increasingly considers art in the larger political and social context of its culture, choosing the interdisciplinary Art History major as part of your International Studies major will make your education all the more rewarding and applicable in your future career.

History

Historians research, analyze, and interpret the past. They usually specialize in a country or region, a particular period, or a particular field, such as social, intellectual, cultural, political, or diplomatic history. They can do work in unusual settings, preserving historical sites or artifacts. History majors also have multiple other occupations open to them: teaching, researching, information management, consulting, filmmaking, writing, archiving, advocating for the underprivileged, civil or foreign service, and being a lawyer, among others.

Anthropology

Anthropologists study the origin and the physical, social, and cultural development and behavior of humans. Anthropologists are able to find jobs almost anywhere. There are four fields in which an anthropologist can focus: social/cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, biological anthropology, and archaeology. Applied anthropology is an up-and-coming subfield of anthropology; professionals in this field often work for non-academic clients (e.g. governments, NGOs, educational agencies, businesses) applying the theories and methods of anthropology to the analysis of practical problems.

Sample job titles

Industry and Commerce

Appraiser
Archaeologist
Banking
Consultant
Commodities Trader
Curator
Economist
Entrepreneur
Financial Planner
Global Management
International Trade Mgmt.
Marketing

Sales Analyst
Stock Broker
Travel Agent

Government, Service and Educ.

Ambassador
Attorney
Bill Analyst
Cultural Advisor
Export Administration
Foreign Service Officer
Intelligence Analyst
International Education

International Trade
Interpreter/Translator
Library of Congress
Linguist
Paralegal
Peace Corps
Private Investigator
Program Administrator
Public Policy Analyst
Public Relations Specialist
Social Scientist
Teacher
Translator

U.S. Information Agent

Arts, Media & Entertainment

Advertising Executive
Art Historian
Editor
Foreign Rights Manager
Foreign Correspondent
Gallery Manager
Media Planner
News Programming
Production
Travel Writer

Sample internship employers of SU students

Alma de Mujer (Austin, TX)
Boys and Girls Club (Georgetown, TX)
Committee on Education and Labor (Washington, DC)
Eckerd Youth Alternatives (Candor, NC)
Fresh and Local CSA (Shepherdstown, WV)
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce (Georgetown, TX)
Jarrell ISD (Jarrell, TX)

Office of State Representative Dan Gattis (Austin, TX)
Public Citizen-Texas (Austin, TX)
SU Chinese Program (Georgetown, TX)
SU Special Collections (Georgetown, TX)
US Dept. of State Western Hemisphere Affairs (Washington, DC)
World Affairs Council of America (Washington, DC)

Possible international internship sites

Agency for International Development
AIESEC International
Culture Diversity Success International
Center for International Education Exchange (CIEE)

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
International Cooperative Education
United Nations Association of USA
United States State Department

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Admission Recruiter (Southwestern University)
Assistant Director of Admissions
Assistant Language Teacher (JET Program)
Bill Analyst (Texas Senate Research Committee)
Business Analyst (Hewitt Associates)
Case Clerk (Brown McCarroll LLP)
Coordinator of Civic Engagement (Southwestern University)
English Conversation Teacher (Shenzhen, China)
English Teacher (Horizon International School)
English Teaching Assistant (U.S. Department of State Fulbright Program)
Gallery Educator (Austin Children's Museum)
Gender & Trade Research (Center of Concern)
Latin America & Caribbean Programs Assistant (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy)

Legal Assistant (Law Offices of Richard Pena)
Legal Secretary (The Meyerson Law Firm)
Manager (Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce)
NGO Development Volunteer (Peace Corps)
Office Clerk (United States Census Bureau)
Office Manager (Vocabulary Enterprises)
Project Coordinator (Zane Segal Projects)
Research/Grant Writer (The Salvation Army)
Sales & Marketing Affiliate (Harris Publishing)
Study Abroad Advisor (Int'l Studies Abroad)
Teaching Assistant (France)
The Experiment in International Living (Mexico)
Web Facilitator (KZTV ACTION 10)

Professional associations

American Anthropological Association: www.americananthro.org
American Foreign Service Association: www.afsa.org
American Historical Organization: www.historians.org/index.cfm
Association for International Educators (NAFSA): www.nafsa.org
The Federation of International Trade Associations: www.fita.org/jobs
Foreign Policy Association: www.fpa.org
International Association of Business Communicators: www.iabc.com
International Studies Association: www.isanet.org
The American Political Science Association: www.apsanet.org/
Women in International Security: <http://wisglobal.org/>

Additional Web resources

American Institute for Foreign Study: www.aifs.com/
Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/index.html>
Centre for Intercultural Learning: www.intercultures.ca
Careers in International Affairs: <http://net-savvy.com/international/careers-in-international-affairs.html>
Export-Import Bank of the United States: www.exim.gov
Federal Bureau of Investigation: www.fbi.gov
Institute of Cultural Affairs: www.ica-usa.org
International Relations and Security Network: www.isn.ethz.ch
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: www.oecd.org
United Nations: www.un.org
U.S. Department of State: www.careers.state.gov

Career Services' print resources

Alternatives to the Peace Corps
Becoming an Urban Planner
Best Resumes and CVs for International Jobs
Career Diplomacy: Life and Work in the U.S. Foreign Service
Career Opportunities in Library and Information Science
Career Opportunities in Politics, Law, and Activism
Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados and Other Multilingual Types
Careers in Applied Anthropology in the 21st Century
Careers in International Affairs
Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors
Inside a U.S. Embassy
Insider's Guide to the Peace Corps

International Business Etiquette
Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands
Making a Living While Making a Difference
Opportunities in Foreign Language Careers
Opportunities in Museum Careers
Opportunities in Overseas Careers
Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Realities of Foreign Service Life
Teaching English Overseas: A Job Guide for Americans and Canadians
Vault Career Guide to International Careers
Vault Career Guide to International Development
US Dept. of State Guide to the Foreign Service Officer Selection Process
Working World: Careers in Int'l. Education, Exchange & Development