

Major Possibilities: International Studies



Career Services

Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas
McCook-Crain Building, 512.863.1346, 512.863.1270 fax
career.services@southwestern.edu
www.southwestern.edu/careers
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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 enables students to study one or more foreign languages, but to become fluent a student must exert extra effort.
- 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 major, a geographical area of emphasis, and a language. Other disciplines besides the four main majors listed below may be selected with permission of board. The geographical area of emphasis and language must correspond with each other.

Major: Anthropology (only with Latin America emphasis), Art History, History or Political Science

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

Language: Chinese, French, German or Spanish

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. Other careers include law, journalism, federal or state government, corporate, 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, elder, 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 art history is increasingly interdisciplinary, considering art in the larger political and social context of its culture, choosing the Art History major within the context of International Studies makes your education all the more rewarding and applicable in your later 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 can also have multiple other occupations, perhaps as a teacher, researcher, information manager, consultant, documentary editor, journalist, archivist, librarian, or advocate/lawyer.

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 many fields in which an anthropologist can focus, such as sociocultural anthropology, linguistic, biophysical, business or physical anthropology. Sociocultural anthropologists study the customs, cultures, and social lives of groups in settings that range from unindustrialized societies to modern urban centers. Linguistic anthropologists investigate the role of, and changes to, language over time in various cultures. Business anthropologists can work with companies and help them gain a better understanding of their activities and customers.

Sample job titles

Industry and Commerce

Appraiser
Archaeologist
Banking
Buyer
Consultant
Commodities Trader

Economist
Entrepreneur
Financial Planner
Global Management
International Trade Mgmt.
Marketing
Sales Analyst

Stock Broker
Travel Agent

Government, Service and Educ.

Ambassador
Attorney
Cultural Advisor

Export Administration
Foreign Service Officer
Intelligence Analyst
International Education
International Trade
Interpreter/Translator
Judge

Sample job titles, continued

Library of Congress	Public Policy	Arts, Media & Entertainment	News Programming
Linguist	Public Relations	Advertising Executive	Production
Paralegal	Social Science Research	Editor	Reporting
Peace Corps	Assistant	Foreign Rights Manager	Travel Writer
Private Investigator	Teacher	Foreign Correspondent	
Program Admin.	U.S. Information Agency	Media Planner	

Sample internship employers of SU students

Committee on Education and Labor (Washington, DC)	Public Citizen-Texas (Austin, TX)
Eckerd Youth Alternatives (Candor, NC)	SU Chinese (Georgetown, TX)
Office of State Representative Allen Vaught (Austin, TX)	SU Special Collections (Georgetown, TX)
Office of State Representative Dan Gattis (Austin, TX)	World Affairs Council of America (Washington, DC)

Possible international internship sites

Agency for International Development	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
AIESEC International	International Cooperative Education
Culture Diversity Success International	United Nations Association of USA
Center for International Education Exchange (CIEE)	United States State Department

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Assistant Director of Admissions	NGO Development Volunteer (Peace Corps)
Business Analyst (Hewitt Associates)	Office Manager (Vocabulary Enterprises)
Case Clerk (Brown McCarroll LLP)	Project Coordinator (Zane Segal Projects)
English Conversation Teacher (Shenzhen, China)	Research/Grant Writer (The Salvation Army)
Gallery Educator (Austin Children's Museum)	Sales & Marketing Affiliate (Harris Publishing)
Gender & Trade Research (Center of Concern)	Study Abroad Advisor (Int'l Studies Abroad)
Legal Assistant (Law Offices of Richard Pena)	The Experiment in International Living (Mexico)
Manager (Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce)	Web Facilitator (KZTV ACTION 10)

Professional associations

American Anthropological Association: www.aaanet.org/index.cfm
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 Association: www.apsanet.org/index.cfm
Women in International Security: wiis.georgetown.edu

Additional Web resources

American Institute for Foreign Study: www.aifs.com/
Central Intelligence Agency: www.cia.gov/careers/index.html
Centre for Intercultural Learning: www.intercultures.ca
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

The Almanac of International Jobs & Careers	How to Get a Job in Europe
Alternatives to the Peace Corps	Inside a U.S. Embassy
Best Resumes and CVs for International Jobs	International Jobs
Careers in International Affairs	Opportunities in Overseas Careers
Careers in International Business	Vacation Work's Directories of Jobs Abroad/Voluntary Work
Careers for Travel Buffs & Other Restless Types	Vault Career Guide to International Careers
Financial Aid for Research Abroad	Work Abroad: Guide to Finding A Job Overseas
Great Jobs Abroad	Work Your Way Around The World

