# International Studies

## FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Housed in the Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS) at the International Institute (II), the International Studies (IS) program is intended for students planning to pursue advanced degrees or careers in international law, international business, public policy, global health, and government or nongovernmental organizations with an international focus. The concentration is ideal for students interested in learning a foreign language and exploring international topics from a comparative perspective.

As an IS concentrator, you will develop the ability to understand differences in economic, political, and cultural development. Through language training and study, you will also develop excellent analytical and communication skills. IS concentrators are strongly encouraged, but not required, to study abroad.

**Related fields include** Political Science, History, Economics, Public Policy, Public Health, Program in the Environment, Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, Law, Business, and Communications.

## SKILLS AND ABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Skills</th>
<th>Research/Analytical Skills</th>
<th>Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills</th>
<th>Communication Skills</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and understanding sophisticated ideas</td>
<td>Asking analytical questions</td>
<td>Understanding other cultures and beliefs</td>
<td>Writing clearly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognizing complex word patterns and structures</td>
<td>Generating and developing complex, novel ideas</td>
<td>Developing sensitivity to multiple viewpoints</td>
<td>Persuading people/groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding cultural differences as reflected in language</td>
<td>Compiling and organizing information</td>
<td>Appreciating historical continuity and change</td>
<td>Presenting and debating ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpreting complex language</td>
<td>Analyzing data</td>
<td>Clarifying others’ thoughts and ideas</td>
<td>Listening critically</td>
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<td>Reading for tone and attitude</td>
<td>Examining and evaluating evidence</td>
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<td>Translating languages/ideas</td>
<td>Evaluating theories about societies and cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluating translations and original texts</td>
<td>Understanding problems about society and cultures</td>
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## BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. IS students are encouraged to participate on the CICS student advisory board and attend the CICS lecture series, focusing on themes such as international human rights, international conflict and security, and international development.

Student organizations, research with IS faculty, and campus employment offer additional opportunities to add to the skills developed in class. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to improve language proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

International Studies concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural proficiency may be equally useful whether working as a foreign-service officer, a manager of an international branch of an American organization or corporation, or a journalist. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by IS graduates.

**Language Skills**
- United Nations interpreter
- Consular assistant
- Translation specialist
- Foreign affairs journalist

**Research/Analytical Skills**
- Foreign policy analyst
- International finance analyst
- Immigration inspector
- Congressional staff member
- Foundation researcher
- Intelligence agent
- College professor
- Librarian
- Historian
- International affairs lawyer

**Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills**
- Affirmative action officer
- Foreign service officer
- Consultant, cross-cultural relations
- Travel agent
- Export/import sales manager
- Hospitality manager
- International hotel manager
- Leader or manager of international NGO
- Administrator within international organization

**Communication Skills**
- K-12 teacher
- Advertising copywriter
- Museum exhibit assistant
- Museum curator
- Journalist/writer, all media
- Editor, all media
- Arts reviewer

Moreover, students must take a research methods course and at least one course focusing on the region/country of their chosen language. The minor requires three years of language study, along with a minimum of 18 credits.

For more information, see the LSA Bulletin, the CICS website below, or make an appointment with a CICS academic advisor.

**CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

IS concentrators choose one of four tracks:

- International Security, Norms, and Cooperation
- Political Economy and Development
- Comparative Culture and Identity
- Global Environment and Health

For each track there is a prescribed menu of courses available on the CICS website. Many IS concentrators choose to double-major with another concentration.

Concentration requirements include a minimum of 36 credits, at least three years of a modern language, and three CICS courses, Intro to International Studies (CICS 101), Principles of International Studies (CICS 301), and a senior year capstone seminar (CICS 401).

**NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES**

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis/](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis/) or [http://globalportal.umich.edu/study.php](http://globalportal.umich.edu/study.php)

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: [www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html)

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/)

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On campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx](https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize](http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize)

Volunteer Connection lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/](http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/)

**Center for International and Comparative Studies**
International Institute, Suite 2607
1080 S. University Avenue
734-764-2268
[www.ii.umich.edu/cics/academics/](http://www.ii.umich.edu/cics/academics/)

**Newman Advising Center**
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
[www.lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/advising)

**The Career Center**
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)
[www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich](http://www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich)
[http://twitter.com/careercenter](http://twitter.com/careercenter)

[= Further Study Required]