

Instructions for the IS Major Application Proposal 2006-2007

These guidelines are to help you structure your proposal that will be read by the Panel of Advisors of the International Studies Program. This proposal will accompany fully completed "pink card" and "green sheet." Your proposal should be in narrative form and reflect your academic interests and personality, but the Panel does need the following issues to be addressed in the order that they are presented here. As you start the paragraph that will deal with each of these issues please denote by using the appropriate letter (A, B, C, etc.). Whenever you mention a course, be sure to state its title as well as its course number (in addition to any other information requested).

Your proposals should be written in close consultation with the director, student intern or any other member of the program faculty with whom you have worked closely. Please come to us with any questions that arise and seek consultation on any concerns you may have. Remember also to consult the catalogue carefully.

A. Why do you think IS is the major for you? What substantive, thematic concerns or curiosities guide and underlie your curricular plans for a major in International Studies?

B. What disciplines will form your concentration? Within which disciplines do you envision your curricular development to the advanced level? Explain why, in your judgment, study in these disciplines will satisfy the curiosities you express in "A."

C. What sequence of courses will you take in these disciplines? List the courses within these disciplines that you plan to take to fulfill the requirement of the IS major. Make a different list for each discipline, and list the courses in the order you plan to take them, noting the semester and year as well. Be sure to check with the appropriate department or program that the course you have selected will be offered (to the best of its knowledge). Place an asterisk next any courses you have already taken. Include any courses you plan to take JYA. (An example: POLI 264 "The Foreign Policy of the United States," second year, A*)

D. Why will these courses meet your intellectual objectives? Explain any thematic relationships between the courses you list in D and the curiosities you express in A that in your judgment require explanation.

E. Languages. In which language will you achieve competency? If this will be satisfied by course work, list the courses you will take to fulfill this requirement, noting with an asterisk those you have already taken. (Competency is the equivalent of six semesters of Vassar language study in one language.) If this will be satisfied in a way other than course work, explain.

F. Area specialization. What geographic area or areas command your attention mostly, and why? Please be as general or as specific as you can be.

G. Study abroad. How will you complete the structured educative experience outside of Vassar? (Describe plans for JYA here.)

H. Use of 100 level courses. What 100-level work are you planning to count you count to the IS major? Note that in general 100 level work outside of the program does not count to the major. (Refer to catalogue).

I. 200 level work in social sciences. List the courses that you will complete to fulfill the following requirement: "One unit of intermediate work directly relevant to international issues in each of three departments. One of these departments must be Economics and the other two may be drawn from Political Science, History, and Geography." Please note that some of these courses have clear prerequisites. List these as well.

J. Plurality, research methods and ethics. List the courses you plan to take to satisfy 1) the "American plurality" requirement, 2) "Research Methods" strong recommendation, and 3) the "Ethics" strong recommendation. Note as well the semester in which you plan to take these courses.

K. Total credits. What is the total number of credits you will accumulate with the course work listed above?

L. Thesis ideas. Thesis topics are formulated in light of an IS major's course work and experience. Here describe with as much precision as possible any preliminary ideas you have about your thesis topic. (To reply to this, you might wish to consult one of the members of the program's Steering Committee who works within your areas of thematic and disciplinary interest.)

M. Career Objectives. Students differ with regard to how they understand the relationship between their course work at Vassar and their post-graduation plans. Please describe briefly here how a major in International Studies relates, if at all, to your plans following graduation.

N. Other information. State here any additional information here that you think would be relevant to the Panel of Advisors when they review your application to the program.

O. Whom did you consult? Please list the representatives of the program with whom you have been in conversation and the dates you communicated with them.

Please proofread your proposals.