

## International Studies Major Proposal 2012-2013

These guidelines are meant to help you structure your proposed International Studies (IS) major.

Please address each of the questions on this form thoughtfully and clearly, in the order in which they appear. *Be sure to include both the course number and title* whenever you mention a course. Your answers to the questions below – along with your “Coursework work sheet for International Studies majors,” which you can find at the end of this document -- will constitute your IS major proposal.

Before and while working on your proposal, you should consult the Vassar Catalogue (<http://catalogue.vassar.edu/courses/intl/>) and the IS website, especially the links to “Requirements” and “Supplement to the Major Requirements” (<http://internationalstudies.vassar.edu/major/supplement.html>). These sources should answer many of your questions. You should also feel free to ask for help from the IS director, the IS student intern and/or any other member of the IS program faculty (you can find a list of IS faculty members here: <http://internationalstudies.vassar.edu/bios/index.html>).

Your proposal is meant to help you clarify and convey your goals and concrete plans as an IS major. Please be as clear and precise as you can about your plans. This said, we understand that it is unlikely that you will execute your IS major precisely as planned. Specific courses may not be offered when you plan to take them, new courses that suit your needs may be offered, and/or your interests may change. Do your best to be specific, but do not worry too much that you are locking yourself into something that you will later regret.

**Your initial proposal should be turned in by Thursday, October 25, at 3:00. Please deliver a hard copy to the IS office (New England 204) and attach a copy to an email sent to the IS Director ([tikoechlin@vassar.edu](mailto:tikoechlin@vassar.edu)).** Your proposal will be reviewed by the IS Panel of Advisors – a small group of IS faculty. We will return your proposals as soon as we can-- in some cases with suggestions for revisions and/or clarification.

**The IS Director is Tim Koechlin. You can reach him at [tikoechlin@vassar.edu](mailto:tikoechlin@vassar.edu).**

**The IS Intern is Natalie Allen. You can reach her at [naallen@vassar.edu](mailto:naallen@vassar.edu)**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

### OVER

**Please address each of the questions on this form thoughtfully and clearly, in the order in which they appear. Please type your answers, and save a copy of your completed proposal.**

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

**B. In what two disciplines will you concentrate?** Within which two disciplines do you envision your curricular development to the advanced level? Briefly 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 two disciplines?** List the courses plan to take within your areas of concentration (the two disciplines you choose). The IS major requires at least two 200 level courses and one 300 level course in each discipline. Make a separate list for each discipline, and list the courses in the order that you plan to take them, noting the semester and year in which you hope to take each. 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. (An example: POLI 264 "The Foreign Policy of the United States," second year, fall\*).

**D. How will these courses help you to meet your intellectual objectives?** Explain briefly any thematic relationships between the courses you list in C and the curiosities you express in A.

**E. Languages.** In which language will you achieve competency? If this requirement 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 language study at Vassar.) If this will be satisfied in a way other than course work, explain.

**F. Geographic specialization.** On which geographic area or areas do you plan to focus? Why?

**G. Study abroad.** How will you complete the "structured educative experience outside of Vassar"? (Describe plans for JYA here, to the extent possible at this point.)

**H. Use of 100 level courses.** What 100-level work are you planning to count as part of the IS major? Note that 100 level work outside of the program generally does not count toward the major, and so for many students INTL 106 is the only course that will count as part of the IS major. (Refer to catalogue.) Include a list of 100 level courses that you will need to take as prerequisites for courses that will be part of your IS major.

**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 disciplines. One of these disciplines 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 prerequisite courses as well. (Note that INTL 255: Political Economy of Globalization counts as an "economics" course in this context.)

**J. Plurality, research methods and ethics.** List the courses you plan to take to satisfy 1) the "American plurality" requirement, 2) "Research Methods" and 3) "Ethics." Specify the semester in which you plan to take these courses. For a more detailed discussion of these components of the major, see "Supplement to the Major Requirements," especially the "Recommendations" section (<http://internationalstudies.vassar.edu/major/supplement.html>).

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

**L. Thesis ideas.** Describe with as much precision as possible any preliminary ideas you have about your thesis topic. Thesis topics are formulated in light of an IS major's course work and experience. This means that (a) your thesis topic should be related to the themes and emphases of your overall major and (b) your thesis plans are likely to change over the next couple of years. (To reply to this question, 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.** Provide here any additional information that you think would be relevant to the Panel of Advisors when they review your IS major proposal.

**O. Whom (if anyone) did you consult in preparing this proposal?** Please list the representatives of the program with whom you have consulted (in person, or otherwise, e.g. email or phone). If you attended one of the open meetings about the IS major offered earlier this fall, please make a note of it here.

Please proofread your proposals.

And please make sure to fill out and submit the final page of this proposal form (below),  
“Coursework work sheet for International Studies Majors”

## **Coursework work sheet for International Studies Majors**

Please list the courses you plan to take as part of your International Studies Major on this form. Please hand this in as part of your proposal. Remember to include the course number and course title of each course.

### **100 Level Course Work (including prerequisites for courses in the major)**

INTL 106: Perspectives in International Studies

### **Language Courses**

### **200 Level Courses**

**Disciplinary Concentration I** (2 courses)

**Disciplinary Concentration II** (2 courses)

**Economics** (at least 1 course)

**Social Sciences (other than Economics)**

(2 courses; 1 each from 2 of the following: Geography, History, Political Science)

### **300 Level Courses**

**Disciplinary Concentration I** (at least 1 course)

**Disciplinary Concentration II** (at least 1 course)

**International Studies courses**

INTL 301: Senior Thesis

INTL 305: Senior Seminar

### **Ethics**

**Diversity and/or Inequality in the United States**

**Global Plurality**

**Research Methods**