Honors Program

The IR honors program offers qualified students the opportunity to conduct a major independent research project under faculty guidance. Such a project requires a high degree of initiative and dedication, significant amounts of time and energy, and demonstrated skills in research and writing.

The IR honors program is interdisciplinary and enables students to undertake a wide variety of research projects. Previously, students have written theses on topics such as international political economy, international security, regional integration, human rights, and domestic issues in foreign countries. Students can select to work with faculty throughout the university, and will be equipped with the professional tools necessary to undertake independent research, analyze findings, and write a final thesis.

Prerequisites

- Minimum of 3.5 overall grade point average
- Good academic standing
- Successful experience writing a research paper
- An honors thesis proposal approved by the student’s faculty advisor and the IR Program

For further information please check the IR website.
Minor Requirements (35 Units)

A minor in International Relations is intended to provide an interdisciplinary framework to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary international issues. Students complete the minor by taking at least seven courses (that do not overlap with their major) for a total of 35 units from the IR curriculum. Declaration of the minor should take place the junior year.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (5 UNITS)
- Political Science 101

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- International Relations 154
- International Relations 168
- International Relations 173
- International Relations 174
- Political Science 110C
- Political Science 110D
- Political Science 110G
- Political Science 121R

APPLIED ECONOMICS (5 UNITS)
Consult the IR website for approved courses

COMPARATIVE GOVERNANCE (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- History 102
- Political Science 104
- Political Science 114D

INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- Economics 1
- Economics 50
- Economics 51
- Economics 52

SKILLS CLASS (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- Econ 102A
- Statistics 60

About IR

International Relations (IR) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate major focusing on political, economic, and cultural relations among peoples and states in the modern world. Students majoring in International Relations will pursue a course of study that includes classes in Political Science, Economics, History, Languages, and other fields. IR majors may focus on a range of issues including international security, international trade and finance, political and economic development as well as history, politics and culture of other countries and world regions. All IR majors must spend at least one quarter studying abroad and show proficiency in a foreign language.

The purpose of the program is to provide students with both foundational skills and specific knowledge necessary to analyze contemporary international relations. The major prepares students for a variety of careers — both domestic and international — in government, non-governmental organizations, and business. In addition, many IR students go on to pursue graduate study in Law, Business, Economics, Political Science, or Public Policy.

Major Requirements (70 Units)

IR Majors are Required to
1. take a set of Core Courses in Political Science, Economics, History and Statistics;
2. complete a Primary and a Secondary Specialization;
3. demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language;
4. complete a quarter of study overseas through the Bing Overseas Studies Program or a pre-approved non-Stanford program.

Core Courses (30 Units)

Check the Stanford Bulletin for course availability

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (5 UNITS)
- Political Science 101

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- International Relations 154
- International Relations 168
- International Relations 173
- International Relations 174
- Political Science 110C
- Political Science 110D
- Political Science 110G
- Political Science 121R

INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- Economics 1
- Economics 50
- Economics 51
- Economics 52

SKILLS CLASS (5 UNITS)
One of the following courses:
- Econ 102A
- Statistics 60

Primary and Secondary Specializations (40 Units)

Complete 20 – 25 units in a primary specialization and 15 – 20 units in a secondary specialization from the list below.

- Africa
- Comparative International Governance
- East and South Asia
- Economic Development/ World Economy
- Europe (East and West) & Russia

Additional Policies
- At least one course must be an upper division seminar or colloquium.
- At least one course must be from the list of IR designated writing intensive (WIM) courses.
- All IR courses have to be taken for a letter grade, and a grade of “C” or better is required (with the exception of foreign language courses used to satisfy the language requirement, which may be taken for C/NC).

- International History and Culture
- International Security
- Latin American and Iberian Studies
- Middle East and Central Asia
- Social Development and Human Well-Being

- Proficiency in a foreign language may be demonstrated by completing two years of university-level instruction or by passing a proficiency exam administered by the Language Center.
- Advanced Placement units do not fulfill the foreign language requirement.
- Foreign language units do not count towards the major.

WWW.INTERNATIONALRELATIONS.STANFORD.EDU