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.
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 take a set of core courses in political science, economics, history and statistics; complete a primary and a secondary specialization; demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language; and 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
- Political Science 110
- Political Science 114

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (5 UNITS)
- International Relations 154
- International Relations 168
- International Relations 173
- International Relations 174
- Political Science 110C
- Political Science 110D
- Political Science 214R

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

COMPARATIVE GOVERNANCE (5 UNITS)
- History 102
- Political Science 104
- Political Science 114D

INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS (5 UNITS)
- Economics 1
- Economics 50
- Economics 51
- Economics 52
- Economics 101

SKILLS CLASS (5 UNITS)
Consult the IR website for approved courses

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.

- Comparative International Governance
- Economic Development/World Economy
- International History and Culture
- International Security
- Social Development and Human Well-Being
- Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources
- African Issues
- Economic Development/World Economy
- Political Science 154
- Political Science 168
- Political Science 173
- Political Science 174
- Political Science 110C
- Political Science 110D
- Political Science 214R

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 (Wi) courses.
- All IR courses must be taken for a letter grade (with the exception of foreign language courses used to satisfy the language requirement, which may be taken for C/NC).
- 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 toward the major.

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
- Political Science 110
- Political Science 114
- Political Science 114D
- Political Science 124

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (5 UNITS)
- International Relations 154
- International Relations 168
- International Relations 173
- International Relations 174
- Political Science 110C
- Political Science 110D
- Political Science 214R

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES (25 UNITS)
Complete 25 units within one of the following specializations:
- Comparative International Governance
- Economic Development/World Economy
- International History and Culture
- International Security
- Social Development and Human Well-Being
- Africa
- East and South Asia
- Europe (East and West) & Russia
- Latin American and Iberian Studies
- Middle East and Central Asia