

School of Social Sciences



International studies majors go on to pursue careers in international affairs, public policy, finance, business and teaching.

I chose my major after traveling throughout Latin America during my sophomore year. I began as a Computer Science major but never truly enjoyed the subject the way I enjoyed learning about global health and social injustice.

Then at some point it dawned on me that people could make a career out of tackling those important issues. After I returned from my trip, the choice became clear; International Studies was definitely for me.

-Diego Solares
International Studies Major

International Studies

What is international studies?

The major in international studies provides an interdisciplinary perspective on global issues, societies, and cultures. International studies majors acquire twenty-first century analytical skills and knowledge that will enable them to understand and contribute to shaping the rapidly evolving global community.

Four focal areas provide international studies majors an opportunity to develop expertise in specific aspects of international life:

- Global issues and institutions
- Global conflict and negotiation
- Global role of California and the U.S.
- Global society and culture

Learn more at internationalstudies.ss.uci.edu.

Topics of research in international studies

International studies faculty at UC Irvine are truly interdisciplinary and maintain expertise in a number of areas including: global economic and urban development and planning; military relations and change; global labor markets and human rights; global cultures and organizations; immigration; and many more.

Many faculty also specialize within a defined region of the globe. Learn more at internationalstudies.ss.uci.edu.

What can I do with an international studies degree?

The degree in International Studies prepares students for careers in a variety of fields such as:

- International affairs
- International public policy
- International business and finance
- International organizations
- Academic research and teaching

Opportunities in international studies at UC Irvine

Explore the opportunities available to students interested in studying international studies at UC Irvine.

Honors Program

Are you looking for a challenge? The honors program in international studies provides qualified students an opportunity to pursue specialized research in an area of their choosing.

The program is open to junior and senior majors in International Studies with an overall grade point average of 3.0 and a 3.5 in the major. Students formally apply to the honors program at the end of the junior year.

Learn more online at internationalstudies.ss.uci.edu.

Suggested curriculum for an international studies major

Freshman¹ (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Lower Division Writing (two courses)
International Studies 11, 12, 13 (three courses)²
Social Science 3A
General Education II or IV (three courses)
General Education VI³
General Education VII (one course)

Sophomore (16 units per quarter)

Social Science 10A-B-C or Math 2A-B-7
Lower division major courses (three courses)
General Education II or IV (three courses)
International Studies module (two courses)
Foreign Language up to level 2B

Junior (16 units per quarter)

Upper Division Writing (one course)
International Studies regional (four courses)
International Studies module (three courses)
Electives

Senior (16 units per quarter)

UCDC or Educational Abroad Experience⁴
Electives

¹Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load sometime in first year, when comfortable with the change

²These courses can satisfy General Education VIII

³Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation. Note: the major in International Studies requires language up to the 2B level. For those pursuing the honors program in international studies, language up to 2C level is required

⁴UCDC/EAP satisfies General Education IX

Opportunities in international studies at UC Irvine (continued)

Minor in Conflict Resolution

The Minor in Conflict Resolution is sponsored by the International Studies Program. It offers an interdisciplinary curriculum that can help students both discover and prepare themselves for any career. The course of study provides skills in conflict analysis and resolution and a useful understanding of integrative institutions at the local, regional, and international levels. Conflict plays a key role in all areas of our lives. It can have destructive or constructive potential. This program explores how conflict arises, how it is represented and discussed, how it is prevented, mitigated, managed, and used for change in interpersonal relations, within and between organizations and other groups inside nations, and in conflict between nations.

The curriculum includes training to become a certified mediator in the State of California.

As an enrolled minor you will be invited to special engagements where you can interact with leading community and government officials from the U.S. and other countries, prominent scholars, and other experts in local and international conflict resolution.

The program provides a *residential theme house in Arroyo Vista* for all interested students. You can live with people who share your interests in the issues of cooperation and conflict. House activities include frequent informal discussions with UCI professors and our distinguished visitors, and trips to sites of interest off campus.

Undergraduate Counseling Office

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduate students including course planning, change of major requests, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, and careers and internships. Visit the Counseling Office online at www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs or call (949) 824-6803 today to set up an appointment.

Academic Resource Center

A great starting point for information about academic-related endeavors is the School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and prospective careers in a number of Social Sciences related fields. Visit the Academic Resource Center online at www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc or call (949) 824-8322 today to set up an appointment.

