



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

at BOSTON COLLEGE

Information for the Class of 2027

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Director, International Studies Program



Why choose an interdisciplinary major?

- **The toughest challenges require globally engaged, ethically informed, multi-disciplinary responses.**
 - Climate change, economic inequality, migration, war and peace, racial and gender inequality, artificial intelligence, the breakdown of social trust... to name just a few.
- **Interdisciplinary approaches help you appreciate complexity and combine insights.**
 - The IS Program combines economics, politics, history, sociology, ethics, geography, and other disciplines

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About the IS Program

The International Studies Program offers a flexible and rigorous interdisciplinary undergraduate major and minor in the Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences that develops keen analytical skills and ethical reasoning amidst complex global dynamics.

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The IS Program across the University

An IS major or minor complements a wide range of other majors/minors, including...

Traditional Departments

- MCAS: Economics, Political Science, Theology, History, Biology, Sociology, Communication, etc.
- CSOM: Management, Finance
- LSOEHD: Secondary Education, Applied Psych

Area Studies

- African & African Diaspora Studies
- Asian Studies
- East European/German/Russian Studies
- Irish Studies
- Hispanic Studies / Latin American Studies

Other interdisciplinary programs

- Environmental Studies
- Global Public Health & the Common Good
- Faith, Peace and Justice
- Islamic Civilization & Societies
- Medical Humanities, Health, and Culture
- Journalism
- Managing for Social Impact & the Public Good
- Religion & American Public Life
- Catholic Studies/Jewish Studies
- Women & Gender Studies

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The IS Major

The Path of the IS Major

1. Explore the major's core courses
2. Focus your interests in one of four concentrations
3. Learn a language (or two)
4. Study abroad
5. Complete a senior research seminar or thesis

The IS Major Core Courses

1. Where on Earth? Foundations in Global History *Fall semester of sophomore year*
2. Where on Earth? Foundations in Political Geography *Fall semester of sophomore year*
3. Introduction to International Relations *Spring semester of sophomore year*
4. Principles of Economics *Any semester*
5. One economics elective at the 2000+ level *Any semester after Principles of Economics*
6. One pre-approved comparative politics course *Any semester*
7. Ethics, Religion, and International Politics *After studying abroad*

The IS Major Concentrations

1. Choose a concentration

- Cooperation and Conflict
- Ethics and Social Justice
- Global Cultures
- Political Economy and Development Studies

2. Begin with two approved foundations courses in each concentration

- Foundation 1: Theories
- Foundation 2: Methods

3. Finish with four approved electives

- Choose from dozens of pre-approved electives for each concentration

The IS Major Language Requirement

Advanced proficiency in one modern foreign language

- Satisfied through coursework, top scores on an AP or SAT II exam, or demonstrating native fluency to a BC faculty member or designate.

or

Intermediate proficiency in two modern foreign languages

- Satisfied through coursework, high scores on an AP or SAT II exam, or demonstrating proficiency to a BC faculty member or designate.

Study Abroad

- Almost 90% of IS majors typically study abroad for a summer, semester, or full year (2x the BC average)
- Two courses per semester abroad can apply toward IS electives; other courses apply to other majors/minors or general credits
- Study abroad opportunities in 50+ countries through the Office of Global Education
- Research and internship opportunities
- Language acquisition
- Weekend retreat for students studying abroad. (IS Summit in London 2019, Amsterdam 2023; re-branded as Outpost for Amsterdam 2024)

The International Studies Program at BC presents:
The SUMMIT
A free retreat
March 24-26, 2023

ARRIVE
Fly yourself to Amsterdam by noon on Friday March 24th to join 20 other BC juniors for the weekend Summit.

CONNECT
Stay at the ClinkNOORD for FREE for 2 nights. Get to know BC students, faculty & staff mentors from the IS Program & beyond.

REFLECT
Spend Friday & Saturday with the group at the Tolhuistuin cultural center to reflect on the academic & personal aspects of your study abroad experience.

A weekend for BC students abroad to reflect, connect, & explore
Study abroad can be a life-changing experience, but it can also be a blur while you're in the middle of it. At The Summit, you'll explore and integrate the challenges, insights, and growth experiences that arise in your academic and personal life while studying abroad.

Register at bc.edu/issummit • Questions? Email Formation@bc.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
BOSTON COLLEGE presents:
THE SUMMIT
A weekend abroad for IS majors to reflect and connect
March 15-17, 2019 in East Sussex, England

Study abroad can be a life-changing experience, but it can also be a blur while you're in the middle of it. At The Summit, you'll explore and integrate the challenges, insights, and growth experiences that arise in your academic and personal life while studying abroad.

is to a collaboration with the Center for Student Formation: the entire weekend in England and many other discover details. We can host only 20 students at the inaugural IS Summit, so register soon (starting Nov. 27) to participate in this extraordinary opportunity.

WHAT YOU DO?
academic and personal study abroad experience:
• follow IS majors
• and others from
English estate just
at

HOW DOES IT WORK?
• **Eligibility:** Open to IS majors studying abroad Spring 2019 on a first-come basis starting Nov 27.
• **Size:** This Summit we can host 20 students; sites will fill.
• **Location:** Ashdown Park Estate, East Sussex, England
• **Travel:** Students must arrive at Gatwick Airport (code: LGW) by noon on Friday March 15; we will depart early Sunday, March 17. Transport to/from Gatwick is provided.

Ashdown Park, Hotel & Country Club
East Sussex, England

REGISTER NOV. 27: bc.edu/issummit QUESTIONS: student.formation@bc.edu

Senior Research Seminar or Thesis

Senior seminar

- One-semester course taught by IS faculty; substantial research paper
- Recent examples: “Human Rights in East Asia” “Critical Approaches to Development”
“The History of Global Trade” “Global Citizenship in Theory and Practice”
“Keynes in His Time and Ours” “Contentious Social Movements in the Middle East”

Senior Thesis

- Major year-long research project supervised by IS-affiliated faculty; 3 credits each semester
- Recent examples:
“Masking Up: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Spectrum of Health Security in Latin America”
“Forging New Fields of Feminine Identification in Morocco”
“Exploring the Role of Nonviolent Islamist Organizations in Individual Radicalization”
“Why Do States Accept Refugees? The Latin American Policy Response to the Venezuelan Exodus”
“Breaking the Wheel: The Forgotten and Enduring Genocide of the Rohingya”

The IS Major Application Process

Why is there an application?

- Selected interdisciplinary majors at BC (e.g. global public health, environmental studies, Islamic studies, etc.) cap enrollment to ensure seats in classes, faculty advising, etc.

When do I apply?

- Freshmen apply by February 1; decisions are announced by March 1 (before Fall registration)

What does the application entail?

- Select your concentration; tell us about your academic interests and language plans
- Write a short essay on a global problem in need of better understanding or urgent action
- Write a short personal statement (much more casual than the college personal statement!)

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The IS Minor

The Path of the IS Minor

1. Take two foundations courses
2. Focus your interests with four electives in one of four tracks
3. Learn a language at the intermediate level
4. Total credits: 18 (in six courses)

The IS Minor Foundations Courses

Foundation 1 course options

- Globalization (INTL/POLI 3510)
- World Politics (INTL 2546)
- Intro to International Politics (POLI 1081)

Foundation 2 course options

- Choose from a list of approved courses in your selected concentration

The IS Minor Concentrations

1. Cooperation and Conflict
2. Ethics and Social Justice
3. Global Cultures
4. Political Economy and Development Studies

The IS Minor Language Requirement

Intermediate proficiency in one modern foreign language

- Satisfied through coursework, high scores on an AP or SAT II exam, or by demonstrating proficiency to a BC faculty member or designate.

Becoming an IS Minor

- All students are accepted
- Can declare any time, but sooner is better so you can take advantage of everything the IS Program has to offer.

Comparing the IS Major and Minor

IS Major

- 45 credits across 14 courses
- IS Core + Foundations + Electives + Study Abroad + Senior Thesis/Seminar
- Advanced proficiency in one modern foreign language or intermediate proficiency in two
- By admission only (Freshman spring)
- Must start Sophomore year

IS Minor

- 18 credits across 6 courses
- Foundations + Electives + Study Abroad (if possible)
- Intermediate proficiency in one modern foreign language
- Open to all
- Can declare any semester

Where can International Studies take you?

Where can International Studies take you?

Across disciplines

- IS faculty are trained in many disciplines and teach in eight different departments
- Approved courses for the IS major/minor are offered across six of BC's schools...
 - Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences
 - Carroll School of Management
 - Connell School of Nursing
 - Lynch School of Education & Human Development
 - School of Social Work
 - Law School
- ... and from the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science & Society

Where can International Studies take you?

Into a wide range of careers...

- **Government**
U.S. Departments of State, Defense, and Justice; CIA, NSA; US Navy; USAID; NYC Emergency Management
- **Financial Services & Consulting**
Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup; EY, PWC, Deloitte; Gartner, Forrester; Kantar
- **NGOs & Advocacy Orgs**
American Red Cross; Arab American Institute; LA Center for Law & Justice; Bloomberg Philanthropies
- **Education and EdTech**
World Education, Nova Pioneer; Urban Catholic Teacher Corps; Duke Kunshan Univ.; Harvard Univ.; STEM Preparatory Academy
- **Think Tanks**
Brookings Institution, Center for Strategic & International Studies
- **Law**
Ropes & Grey, Sullivan & Cromwell, Southern Africa Litigation Centre
- **Healthcare & Biotech**
Boston Children's Hospital; Partners In Health; Mount Sinai Hospital; Ora; Moderna; Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation
- **Tech, Media, Advertising**
Google, Palantir, ZS Associates, Jun Group, The American Interest
- **National/International Service**
Peace Corps, Teach for America, Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- **And more:**
Proctor & Gamble, WeWork, Terra-Gen, The Topocean Group, Centrica

...and graduate programs


- in law, public policy, public health, international affairs, business, education, medicine, social work, and more.

Where can International Studies take you?

Around the world

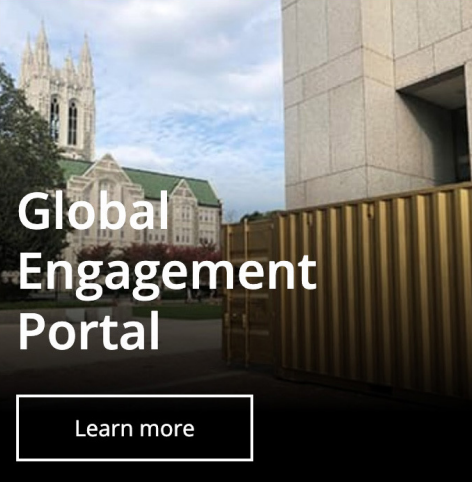
- Study abroad opportunities in 50+ countries through OIP
- Post-graduate fellowships at 4x the rate of other BC grads
 - 60 Fulbright Scholarships for IS majors since 2000
- A year or more of service at 2.5x the rate of other BC grads
- Graduates frequently live or work abroad after graduation
 - Recent grads have worked in Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America, and the Middle East

Ongoing Projects



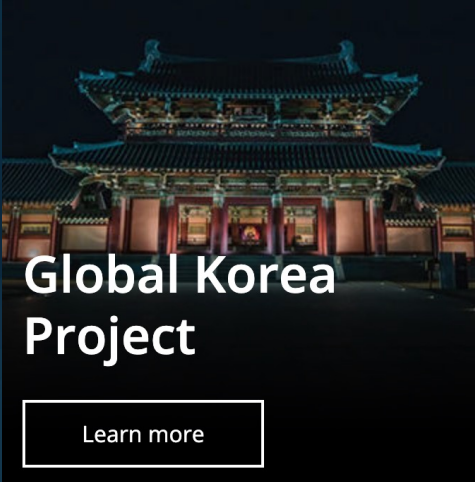
**Global
Conversations**

[Learn more](#)



**Global
Engagement
Portal**

[Learn more](#)



**Global Korea
Project**

[Learn more](#)



**Global
Citizenships
Project**

[Learn more](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
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Core faculty



Erik Owens
IS + Theology



Hiroshi Nakazato
International Studies



Jennifer Erickson
IS + Political Science



Brian Gareau
IS + Sociology



Joe Getzoff
International Studies



Ingu Hwang
International Studies



Ali Kadivar
IS + Sociology



Stacie Kent
IS + History



Jonathan Kirshner
IS + Political Science



Peter Krause
IS + Political Science



Elizabeth Prodromou
International Studies



Matt Sienkiewicz
IS + Communication



Nelly Wamaitha
IS + Theology

Affiliated Faculty



Kristin Heyer
Theology + IS



Can Erbil
Economics + IS



Priya Lal
History + IS



Devin Pendas
History + IS



Kalemba Kizito
Communication + IS



Elitsa Molles
Pol. Science + IS



Tim Crawford
Pol. Science + IS



Bob Murphy
Economics + IS



Franziska Seraphim
History + IS



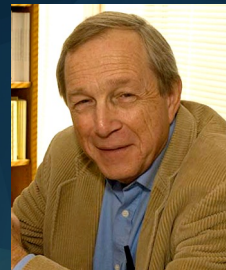
David Deese
Pol. Science + IS



Prasannan Parthasarathi
History + IS



Caitlyn Bolton
Education + IS



Jim Anderson
Economics + IS



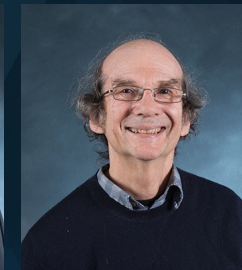
Elizabeth Shlala
MCAS Core + IS



Paul Christensen
Pol. Science + IS



Charles Gallagher
History + IS



Charles Derber
Sociology + IS



Peter Martin
President's Office + IS

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
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Peer Advisors



Sophie Bormann



Bradford Campbell



Thalia Chaves



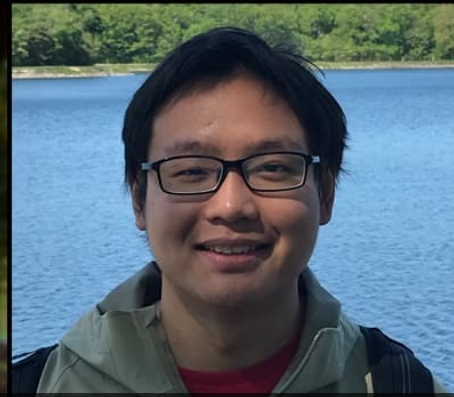
Maisie Li



Sophia Limperis



Moira Ujda



Rongwei Zhu



INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

Peer Advisors
2023-24



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Thank you!

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Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

Q: What courses should I take freshman year to prepare for the major?

- It can help to take IS-related courses in your first year. Consider Principles of Economics, a comparative politics course, or a Core Renewal course related to international issues. And start or continue your language studies.

Q: How can I prepare to write the application?

- Learn about the IS Program's concentrations/tracks
- Consider your interests in:
 - a specific **region** of the world
 - a professional **sector** (healthcare, diplomacy, public policy, business, journalism, education, etc.)
 - a **topic** (security, poverty, peacebuilding, global health, political economy, social movements, etc.)
- Decide which BC faculty member knows you and your work best

FAQs

Q: How many new majors will be admitted this year?

- We expect to admit about 105 new majors each year.

Q: How many applications does the IS Program receive?

- This varies and has ranged from 100-150 applications in a year. Generally, we can now accept all qualified applicants who apply.

Q: What criteria are used to admit new majors?

- We are seeking a diverse cohort of majors who can flourish amidst the rigorous expectations of the program. The admissions committee considers evidence of academic ability and personal interest in the applicants' essay and short answers as well as their BC transcript. On occasion we will reach out to the faculty member listed as a reference.

FAQs

Q: Does my native language count toward the foreign language requirement?

- Yes (once your proficiency has been assessed by a faculty member), but we also encourage you to learn a language that is new to you.

Q: Can I use AP credits to fulfill the major?

- No. You can use AP credits to place out of Principles of Economics (with a 4/5 on both AP micro and AP macro), Fundamentals of Politics II, or Comparative Politics requirements within the IS major—but you must replace them with higher-level electives to meet the IS course requirement.

Q: Can I double-count classes for the IS major and another major or minor?

- Yes. In most circumstances you can double-count one class for both an IS major/minor and another major/minor. But the rules are complicated, so see your advisor.



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Thank you!