

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

at **BOSTON COLLEGE**

Information for the Class of 2024

April 2020





INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
at BOSTON COLLEGE

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 by the Numbers

- Started in 1995 as a minor, with independent study option for majors
- Major launched in 2001; has always been capped in size to guarantee appropriate resources for students
- As faculty resources expanded, accepted majors have risen to approx. 105 per year.
- Total ISP cohort in April 2020:
 - **369 majors** (including class of 2023)
 - **120 minors**

Class of 2023 majors

- 108 students were accepted in February 2020 into the IS major; 25 placed on wait list.
- Average 1st semester GPA: 3.55
- 41% are AHANA students*
- Average of ~10% international students

* At BC, "AHANA" is a statistical term used for people of African, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent who are U.S. citizens.

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
- 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 Econ*
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 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.

The IS Major Study Abroad Program

- Almost 90% of IS majors study abroad for a summer, semester, or full year—more than twice the BC average.
- Two courses per semester abroad can apply toward IS electives
- Study abroad opportunities in 50+ countries through OIP
- The Summit weekend retreat
- Research and internship opportunities
- Language acquisition

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
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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. So the International Studies Program is offering a unique opportunity to reflect on that experience while it's happening. At the IS Summit, you'll explore and integrate the challenges, insights, and growth experiences that arise in your academic and personal life while studying abroad.

Thanks to a collaboration with the Center for Student Formation, the **entire weekend in England is offered at no cost**. Students need only to pay for their airfare to/from Gatwick Airport—home to EasyJet and many other discount airlines. We can host only 20 students at the inaugural IS Summit, so register soon (starting Nov. 27) to participate in this extraordinary opportunity.



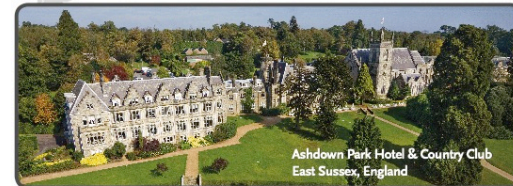
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Reflect** on the academic and personal aspects of your study abroad experience
- **Connect** with your fellow IS majors
- **Get to know** IS faculty and others from the BC community
- **Enjoy** a spectacular English estate just two weeks before Brexit



HOW DOES IT WORK?

- **Eligibility:** Open to IS majors studying abroad Spring 2019
- **Size:** This Spring, we can host 20 students; slots will fill on a first-come basis starting Nov. 27.
- **Location:** Ashdown Park Estate, East Sussex, England
- **Travel:** Students must arrive at Gatwick Airport (05:00 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: “Bodies Politic” “What is the Global Modern?”
“A History of Food Globalization” “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:
“Breaking the Wheel: The Forgotten and Enduring Genocide of the Rohingya”
“Mujer y Poder: The Impact of Women's Political Participation in Latin America”
“A Two-Level Games Approach to US-Russian Relations in the Obama Era”
“Bubu Wei Ying: The Transformation of China's State-Owned Enterprises”

The IS Major Application Process

Timeline

- Info sessions for prospective majors held in October and January; peer advising available
- Late in the fall semester: Online application posted at bc.edu/isp
- Applications due first Monday in February (Feb. 1, 2021)
- Decisions announced before March 1

Components of the application

- Select a track; tell us about your academic interests and language skills/interests
- Write a 500-word essay about a global problem, and a 200-word personal essay
- Name a BC faculty member who can speak to your interests/abilities
- Authorize access to your BC transcript



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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 before mid-October of junior year.
(The date varies, so be attentive!)

Comparing the IS Major and Minor

IS Major

- 45-48 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

IS Minor

- 18 credits across 6 courses
- Foundations + Electives
- Intermediate proficiency in one modern foreign language
- Open to all



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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
- Courses in the new Schiller Institute for Integrated Science & Society will come online in 2021

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

Where can International Studies take you?

Around the world

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

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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 in 2021?

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

Q: How many applications does the IS Program receive?

- This varies, but in recent years we have received 120-150 applications

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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