

International Studies

Transferable Skills

A liberal arts degree in general, reflects a comprehensive education emphasizing analytical skills, critical thinking and communication skills; abilities in high demand for all employers. Concentrating your studies in a major allows you to also gain specific transferable skills of interest to particular employers and industries. Graduates with a major in International Studies are attractive to employers due to their abilities in the following areas:

- Multidisciplinary knowledge about broad global processes and at least one theme of global significance
- In-depth theoretical and factual knowledge of a particular region of the world
- Intermediate to advanced level proficiency in at least one foreign language
- Experience and initial competency in formulating, investigating, evaluating and synthesizing a research or investigative question
- Intercultural sensitivity and awareness of stereotypes and ethnocentrism
- Ability to understand differences in economic, political, and cultural development.

Language Skills

- Reading and understanding sophisticated ideas
- Recognizing complex word patterns and structures
- Understanding cultural differences as reflected in language
- Interpreting complex language
- Reading for tone and attitude
- Translating languages/ideas
- Evaluating translations and original texts

Research/Analytical Skills

- Asking analytical questions
- Generating and developing complex, novel ideas
- Compiling and organizing information
- Analyzing data
- Examining and evaluating evidence
- Evaluating theories about societies and cultures
- Understanding problems about society and cultures
- Making decisions about social processes and policies

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills

- Understanding other cultures and beliefs
- Developing sensitivity to multiple viewpoints
- Appreciating historical continuity and change
- Clarifying others' thoughts and idea

Communication Skills

- Writing clearly
- Persuading people/groups
- Presenting and debating ideas
- Listening critically

Range of Example Positions held by International Studies Majors

Please note that some of these positions require an advanced degree. For more information and descriptions of these careers, visit [O*NET On-line](#).

- Archaeologists
- Communications specialists
- Cultural anthropologists
- Cultural diversity trainers
- Development experts
- Diplomacy careers
- Editors/publicists
- Environmental specialists

- Foreign service officers
- Foreign study coordinators
- Foreign exchange specialists
- Geographers
- Hospitality industry specialist
- Human rights associates
- Import/export brokers
- Insurance specialists
- Intelligence specialists
- International global activists
- International law careers
- International news writers/journalists
- International sales representatives/managers
- International security specialists
- International trade specialists
- International student advisors
- Marketing analysts
- Multiculturalism experts
- Museum & cultural arts personnel
- Natural resource management careers
- Philanthropic agency officer/manager
- Political analysts
- Program officers/managers for international non-profits and NGOs
- Public relations careers
- Research assistants
- Social studies and language teachers
- Teachers of English as a second language (ESL)
- Travel and tourism

Professional Associations

Professional associations or organizations can be a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. Inexpensive student memberships are often available. These are only a sampling of professional associations. Be sure to search for others that may be applicable or helpful.

- [International Studies Association](#)
- [Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs](#)
- [International Public Relations Association](#)
- [British International Studies Association](#)
- [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#)