Language Requirements

IR students must achieve language skills beyond the level of proficiency. For most languages, proficiency is attained by completing a course at the 2000 level, by which point the basic grammar and structure of the language will have been covered.

The requirement can be fulfilled in one of two ways:

- Demonstrated proficiency in two foreign languages, or
- Demonstrated facility in one foreign language (proficiency plus one course that uses the language to explore some aspect of a foreign culture, such as literature or film)

All language courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Study Abroad

IR students are strongly encouraged to study abroad to bring a practical dimension to their expertise in international issues. Those who choose this option will find the requirements for the concentration highly compatible with courses taken abroad.

To learn more about programs available for study abroad, consult the Cornell Abroad Office, 300 Caldwell Hall. (www.cuabroad.cornell.edu/)

More Information

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www.einaudi.cornell.edu/international-relations-minor
About the IR Minor

- An interdisciplinary program for undergraduate students enrolled in any of the seven undergraduate colleges.

- The IR Minor is not a major or a department, but rather a program offering a selection of courses reaching across colleges and departments. Students follow the Minor in addition to their regular degree.

- Provides a structured yet flexible program for undergraduates to take advantage of the vast resources available at Cornell for studying the politics, economics, history, languages, and cultures of the countries and regions of the world.

- International course work and language study provide an opportunity to add a global and cross-cultural dimension to those majors. Spending a semester or year of study abroad can contribute to meeting the course requirements of the IR Minor, including the language requirement.

- Graduates of the program have gone on to pursue further education in fields such as political science and anthropology, and to successful careers in international law, economics, agriculture, trade, finance, and government service. They are working in international and nongovernmental organizations, in cross-cultural affairs, in journalism, in education, and other fields.

Course Requirements

IR students take courses throughout the university, which are grouped into four subject areas:

- International Economics and Development
- World Politics and Foreign Policy
- Transnational Processes and Policies
- Cultural Studies

Courses within these four subject areas are designated as "core" or "elective." Students must complete eight courses selected from the four groups according to one of two options.

Option A emphasizes the politics and economics of international relations.

- One core course from each group
- One elective from each group

Option B puts greater stress on culture.

- One core course from each group
- One elective from either Group 1 or Group 2
- One elective from Group 3, one elective from Group 4, and one additional elective from either Group 3 or Group 4.

In either option, students should ensure that they acquire familiarity with more than one geographic region or country.

All courses used to fulfill the concentration requirements must be taken for a letter grade.

Core Courses

Choose ONE from each group

Group 1: International Economics and Development

AEM/ECON 2300 - International Trade and Finance
AEM 4290 - International Finance
AEM 4300 - International Trade Policy
ECON 4510 - International Trade Theory
ECON 4520 - International Monetary Theory & Policy

Group 2: World Politics and Foreign Policy

GOVT 1817 - Introduction to International Relations

Group 3: Transnational Processes and Policies

DSOC 2050 - International Development
DSOC 3230 - Gender and Global Change
GOVT 3937 - Peace Studies
GOVT 3549 - Capitalism, Competition and Conflict in the Global Economy
GOVT 3897 - Human Rights at War
GOVT 3957 - New Forces in International Politics

Group 4: Cultural Studies

ANTHR 1400 - Comparison of Cultures
ANTHR 2400 - Cultural Diversity & Contemporary Issues
SOC 2480 - Politics and Cultures