



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 2021-2022

Department of Government

109 Morris Hall, (507) 389-2721

<https://sbs.mnsu.edu/academics/international-relations/>

The International Relations degree (Bachelor of Arts, BA) offers students the opportunity to study politics and governments of various countries around the world, examine the ways these countries interact, and explore vital global issues such as war and peace, democracy, climate change, welfare, health, technology, and commerce. International Relations graduates can work in local, national, and international organizations (NGOs), government agencies such as the U.S. State Department, multinational corporations, and law firms, to name just a few. International Relations major also offers good preparation for graduate programs in academic and professional fields (JD, MA, Ph.D.).

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Admission to the major requires a cumulative GPA of 2.50. No minor is required but it is highly recommended for students who want to pursue comprehensive and well-rounded, internationally-oriented education.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAJOR

Required Core Courses (16 credits)

POL 231 World Politics	(4)
POL 241 Introduction to Comparative Politics	(4)
POL 431 International Relations	(4)
POL 300-400 Any comparative politics course	(4)

See your advisor for course sequences. Complete your major planning sheet as soon as possible.

Major Restricted Electives: Advanced International Relations and Comparative Politics (16-32 credits)

With the advice of an International Relations Advisor, each student will select 16-32 credits from an approved list of Advanced International Relations and Comparative Politics courses.

Major Restricted Electives: Interdisciplinary (0-16 credits)

With the advice of an International Relations Advisor, each student will select 0-16 credits from an approved list of Interdisciplinary International Relations degree courses.

(Please note: The 16 credits for the electives option are to be completed in addition to the core credits (16) and the major restricted credits (16). Courses taken in one category cannot double count in another category. The total credits needs to be 48.

Required for Major (Foreign Language, 8 cr.):

All students must take a year sequence of a foreign language. The student may satisfy this requirement by completing a college level foreign language sequence with grades of C or above, or by demonstrating equivalent proficiency in a foreign language. Examples of the latter include scoring 3 or higher on an advanced Placement Exam in a foreign language. Language credits do not count toward the IR degree.

Required for Major (International Experiential Learning, 3-12 cr.)*

(Please note: Officially registered international students are exempt from the study abroad requirement.)

The international experiential learning component consists of a minimum of 3 credits and a maximum of 12 credits. Wherever possible, students are encouraged to satisfy this requirement by undertaking study at a university abroad. However, under exceptional circumstances, a student may be allowed to satisfy the requirement through an approved internship.

In consultation with their academic advisors, students will design the international experiential learning component of their major. The proposed study abroad or internship must be approved in advance by the advisor and by other relevant university authorities prior to undertaking the courses or internships in question, and students must earn the equivalent of a grade of C or better for these credits to be counted toward the IR major.

The credits earned under this requirement may not be used to satisfy the major common core requirements, which must be fulfilled at MSU. However, they may be used to satisfy the student's Major Restricted Electives (which includes Advanced International Relations and Comparative Policies Electives and the Interdisciplinary Elective) credits. Note that the student may not use credits from language courses to satisfy his or her major emphasis or as major elective credits and that no more than 6 credits taken for POL 491 (Internship) count toward the International Relations major.

****International Experiential Learning Requirement has been temporarily suspended do to the Covid-19 pandemic. Contact your major advisor for details and updates.**

Required Minor. No but it is highly recommended for students who want to pursue comprehensive and well-rounded, internationally-oriented education.

No more than 8 credits taken toward completing the Political Science major or the Political Science minor can be counted toward the International Relations. *

Check with your IR advisor if majoring in Political Science.

The information listed comes from the University Catalog, for discrepancies refer to the Catalog.