

## **Bachelor of Philosophy in International & Area Studies (BPhil IAS) Global Studies Track**

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The Bachelor of Philosophy in International and Area Studies, **Global Studies Track**, is an interdisciplinary research-based degree offered by the University Honors College in collaboration with the Global Studies Program of the University Center for International Studies. The Global Studies Track is geared toward students interested in building international careers working on issues of major global concern. It enables students to think critically about their world and to gain “global competence.” Global competence includes the ability to work effectively in different international settings; an awareness of the major currents of global change; and the capacity for effective communication and personal adaptability across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

### **General Requirements:**

The BPhil IAS emphasizes scope, in-depth study, critical thinking and validated independent scholarship. Students attempting the BPhil IAS must have a minimum QPA of 3.25/4.00 (B+), complete an approved program of study involving coursework, foreign language and study abroad, and must complete and publicly defend a research thesis before a faculty examining board that includes a faculty member from outside the University. To insure in-depth study and to serve as a failsafe mechanism should the research/thesis work not progress, a student must complete a second disciplinary major.

### **Global Studies Track Requirements:**

Global Studies Track students build an interdisciplinary plan of study that integrates the study of *transnational global trends* with a *regional specialization* including foreign language proficiency and study abroad. Students complete between 33 credits (with foreign language proficiency) and 55 credits (including foreign language course work). They complete and defend an honors thesis and attend Global Studies Colloquia.

### **Global Concentrations:**

*Sustainable Development* explores challenges and solutions to improving quality of life without increasing the use of natural resources beyond environmental capacity or compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It addresses issues such as global population growth, economic and human development, global resource management, environmental change and international environmental law.

*Global Economy and Global Governance* explores the changing reach and nature of economic flows and political organization under conditions of globalization, raising issues such as international economic growth and crisis, global competition, the United Nations and human rights, global civil society and international non-governmental organizations, and state sovereignty in global relations.

*Changing Identities in a Global World* asks how our understanding of who we are changes under globalization, exploring issues such as race, religion, nationality, and gender. It considers how identities are affected by changing patterns of human interaction, the evolution of culture and cultural clashes, the interchange of ideas between cultures, movements of people, international rights and other factors impacting cultural development in different parts of the world.

*Communication, Technology, and Society* addresses how technological change creates new kinds of global connectedness, exploring the international impact of the communications revolution, the role of the media in international relations, technology, and the arts, and implications for issues ranging from work to politics to leisure.

*Global Health* explores the risks and opportunities of globalization for the health of the world population, including the increased spread of diseases across borders and oceans, and the enhanced ability to alert populations and health organizations about epidemics. It addresses major global epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and SARS, as well as international emergency response systems for health epidemics in different parts of the world.

*Conflict and Conflict Resolution* explores the causes and consequences of international, ethnic and religious conflicts, and considers ways of preventing and resolving conflicts, including negotiation and fostering of deeper cross-cultural understanding. It raises issues such as the role of the United Nations, peacekeeping and armed intervention, non-governmental organizations and humanitarian relief, terrorism, international law and diplomacy.

**Regional Specializations include:**

African Studies, Asian Studies, European Union Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Russian & East European Studies, West European Studies

**International Learning Opportunities include:**

Through the Study Abroad Office, students may participate in programs in over 40 countries. In the International Studies Living Learning Community, students participate in a dynamic living environment on the Pitt campus where they can explore, exchange and experience world issues, views, and cultures. Scholarships for study abroad are available from the Nationality Rooms, Study Abroad Office, and other sources.

**Overview of Global Studies Track Course Requirements**

- 3 core courses: Introduction to Global Studies, Scopes and Methods in Global Studies, Global Studies Capstone Seminar (2 terms)
- 7 approved courses (21 credits), including 3 courses across 2 disciplines outside secondary Major: 2 *Regional content courses* in 1 region where the language studied is spoken, 4 *Global thematic content courses* in 1 global concentration; 1 methodology course appropriate to research topic
- 3 years college level language study or equivalent proficiency in a language spoken in the region studied)
- Honors Thesis
- International Learning Experience (min. 5 weeks)

**To find out more, contact:**

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