
What Can I Do with a Major in **International Studies**

How to use this guide

DePaul's [Career Roadmap](#) was designed to help students and alumni navigate the career development process by describing the Career Center's services and resources as they relate to four steps: Know Yourself, Explore and Choose Options, Gain Knowledge and Experience, and Putting it all Together. This major guide uses the same four steps to help you explore and consider the possibility of pursuing a degree in International Studies:

Step 1 *Know Yourself*: Helps you explore whether this field suits your interests, skills, and values.

Step 2 *Explore and Choose Options*: Provides you with information about the major and occupations related to it.

Step 3 *Gain Knowledge and Experience*: Teaches you how to gain relevant knowledge and experience for your occupational interest.

Step 4 *Putting It All Together*: Helps you embark on your job search process.

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Step 1: Know Yourself

Think about what has attracted you to International Studies and why it might be the right major for you. Take some time to consider your interests, skills, and values, and compare them with the information below. Keep in mind that you may not identify with everything noted below, but be conscious of whether the listed interests, skills, and values complement or run contrary to how you identify.

Interests, Skills and Values:

People who major in International Studies often have:

Interests	Skills	Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International relations• Culture/Language• Research• Policy, Law, and Regulation• World events• International business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Fluency in a foreign language (or a desire to become fluent)• Leadership/Management• Cross-Cultural understandings• Research/Analytical• Adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equality/Social justice• Globalization• Working with diverse cultures• Working in a self-directed manner

If what is listed above matches, or is related in a way to your own interests, skills and values, a degree in International Studies may be for you. Continue to explore this resource to learn more.

Another Look at Interests:

John Holland's Occupational Themes

Learning about your interests will help you identify opportunities to pursue and the topics you are most naturally drawn to. John Holland developed a theory of occupational interests that described six major interest areas (learn about all six interest areas [here](#)). Of those six interest areas, International Studies students often identify with interests in the following categories:

Social: People with social interests enjoy professions that involve helping, training, or teaching abilities and enjoy working with other people in service-oriented environments.

Learn more: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon_social.pdf

Investigative: People with investigative interests have a strong scientific, inquiring orientation and enjoy gathering information, uncovering new facts or theories, and analyzing and interpreting data.

Learn more: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon_investigative.pdf

Enterprising: People with Enterprising interests value positions of leadership, power and status.

Learn more: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon_enterprising.pdf

Learn more about “Step 1: Knowing Yourself”...Check out these Career Center Workshops

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
- Skills and Accomplishments
- Strong Interest Explorer
- Work Values

Step 2: Explore and Choose Options

Whether you have already chosen International Studies as a major or are still considering it among other possibilities, it is important to explore the career and academic options this major will open up for you.

Curriculum:

Please follow this link to review the curriculum for a degree in International Studies. Also, note the classes you will need to take.

Learn more about these classes: <http://las.depaul.edu/int/Courses/index.asp>

Concentrations:

DePaul’s International Studies Program allows students to design their area of concentration in consultation with their academic advisor. Once they have decided upon a concentration topic, the student chooses five elective concentration courses. In addition, the department encourages students to apply for fellowships, scholarships, internships and foreign study programs. Possible concentrations *may* include the following:

Cultural/Area Studies: These types of concentrations focus on a region, country, or culture.

For Example:

Asian Studies	Latin American Studies
Africa and Black Diaspora	The European Union
European Studies	Religion and Nationalism in the Middle East

Topical Studies: These types of concentrations are concerned with an over arching theme that can cross state or regional borders.

For Example:

International Development	International Political Economy
International Environmental Policy and Planning	International Social Movements
International Law	Peace and/or Conflict Studies

Learn more:

DePaul: <http://las.depaul.edu/int/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp>

DePaul: <http://las.depaul.edu/int/Programs/Undergraduate/Major/ChooseConcentration.asp>

Occupations:

The following list, organized by suggested career focus, offers a *sampling* of career paths that might appeal to International Studies students. It is not meant to be all inclusive or limiting, but rather is **intended to provide you with a starting point for considering the possibilities.**

<p>Cross Cultural Communications <i>This focus can be tailored for students who wish to acquire or enhance their knowledge, understanding, and skills in cross-cultural communication. Focuses on written, oral, and interpersonal communication in professional cross-cultural contexts in the public, private, or non-profit sectors.</i></p>	<p>Career possibilities include: Bilingual Program Director, Cross Cultural Trainer, Educational Program Coordinator, ESL Educator, Foreign News Correspondent, International Relations Specialist, International Student Advisor, Interpreter/Translator, Journalist, Professor*, Public Relations Specialist, Writer/Author</p>
<p>International Commerce (Corporate or Entrepreneurial) <i>This focus can prepare students for careers in large multinational or small international firms. Recommended for students who would like to diversify their skills in international business, management, or commerce to improve understanding of cultural and economic differences across national boundaries.</i></p>	<p>Career examples include: Business Consultant, Commerce Officer, Economic Officer, Finance Advisor, Foreign Market Analyst, International Banker, International Business Specialist, International Marketing Manager, International Trade Specialist</p>
<p>International Law and Policy <i>This focus is ideal for prospective law students who wish to present themselves to law firms as international legal specialists or for students interested in becoming leaders in government or political realms.</i></p>	<p>Career possibilities include: Congressional Aide, Immigration Lawyer*, International Law Consultant, Legislative Aide, Lobbyist, Policy Analyst, Political Scientist*, Senate Aid</p>
<p>International Public Service <i>This focus may be appropriate for students wishing to work in various cross-sector relations including government agencies, non-for-profit, or strategic planning for international organizations in the U.S. and overseas.</i></p>	<p>Career possibilities include: Caseworker, Consultant, Customs Officer, Foreign Service Officer, Humanitarian Relief Worker, International Planner, Peace Corps/VISTA Worker, Public Diplomacy Officer, Social Services Specialist</p>

* These occupations may require additional training and/or a graduate or doctoral degree. Speak with a Career Advisor to learn more

Learn more: Source detailed descriptions of these and other occupations, including job responsibilities, educational requirements, associated interests and values, job outlook, salary data, and more using the following resources:

O*NET: <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook:

<http://www.bls.gov/search/?cx=011405714443654768953%3AAbtgx18qv780&cof=FORID%3A10%3BNB%3A1&ie=ISO-8859-1&hq=inurl:bls.gov%2Foco%2F&q=international&filter=0&sa=Search#906>

Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK):

Learn from DePaul alumni about how they have used their International Studies degree. ASK is a great way to begin building your network by connecting with these mentors. Below is a *sample* of job titles reported by alumni with International Studies degrees:

Claims Analyst	Professional School Counselor
Director, Stewardship and Donor Relations	Residential & Commercial Sales Agent
Freelance Writer	Vice President – IT
Lead Organizer	
North American Project Coordinator	

Learn more about how to connect with alumni: <http://ask.depaul.edu/>

Online Resources:

Research more about International Studies:

- **American Foreign Service Association:** www.afsa.org
- **American Translator's Association:** www.atanet.org
- **Americorps:** <http://www.americorps.gov/>
- **Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs:** www.cceia.org
- **Chicago Council on Global Affairs:** <http://www.globalchicago.org/consul/>
- **Council on Foreign Relations:** <http://www.cfr.org/>
- **Foreign Affairs:** <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>
- **Institute of International Education:** www.iie.org
- **Institute of World Affairs:** www.iwa.org
- **International Association of Business Communicators:** www.iabc.com
- **International Studies Association:** www.isanet.org
- **Peace Corps:** www.peacecorps.gov
- **The Chicago Council on Global Affairs:** <http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/>
- **Teach for America:** <http://www.teachforamerica.org/>
- **U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:** <http://foreign.senate.gov/>
- **United States Department of State:** www.state.gov
- **World Business Chicago:** <http://www.worldbusinesschicago.com/data/international>
- **World Chicago:** <http://www.worldchicago.org/>

Learn more about “Step 2: Explore and Choose Options”...Check out these Career Center Workshops

- Beyond Mingling: Networking Strategies
- LinkedIn & Other Social Media
- Networking Skills

Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience

Complementing your coursework in International Studies with internship, volunteer, work, and organization experiences is one of the smartest moves you can make in relation to your career development. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to apply and build upon the knowledge you are gaining in the classroom, while also developing content for your resume in preparation for future opportunities.

Internships:

Here is a *sample* list of internships you might consider while pursuing a degree in International Studies. Please note, any mentioned internship below is not restricted to its respective concentration.

Cross Cultural Communications	Asia Destination Specialist Intern, Bilingual Financial Aid Intern, Curriculum Assistant Intern, International Marketing Intern, International News Intern, Museum Education Intern, Programming Intern, Public Relations Intern, Social Media Intern
International Commerce (Corporate or Entrepreneurial)	Bilingual Business Intern, Human Resources Intern, International Finance Intern, International Management Intern, Operations Intern, Underwriting Intern
International Law and Policy	British Consulate Intern, Civil Rights Law Clerk Intern, Foreign Policy Research Intern, General Counsel Intern, Legal Intern, Paralegal Intern
International Public Service	Community Management Intern, Development Intern, Foreign Relations Intern, International Services Intern, Public Affairs Intern, Public Policy Marketing Communications Intern, Public Service Intern, Research Assistant Intern, Volunteer Program Intern

Search and apply for internships listed by employers specifically seeking DePaul candidates at: <http://depaul.experience.com>

Find Internships:

Visit these sites to search and apply for more internships:

DePaul Resources:

- **Career Center's DePaul.Experience website:** <http://depaul.experience.com>
- **Going Global:** <https://international.depaul.edu/loginAll.asp>
- **Information of International Studies Internships:** <http://las.depaul.edu/int/StudentResources/InfoOnInternships/index.asp>

International Studies Specific Resources:

- **Americorps:** <http://www.americorps.gov/>
- **Chicago Council on Global Affairs:** <http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/>
- **International Jobs Center:** <http://www.internationaljobs.org>
- **Language Corps:** <http://www.languagecorps.com>
- **Overseas Jobs:** <http://www.overseasjobs.com>
- **Peace Corps:** www.peacecorps.gov
- **Teach for America:** <http://www.teachforamerica.org/>
- **Transitions Abroad:** <http://www.transitionsabroad.com>

Additional Resources:

- **Idealist.org:** <http://www.idealist.org/>
- **Indeed.com:** <http://www.indeed.com>
- **Collegegrad.com:** <http://www.collegegrad.com>
- **CollegeRecruiter.com:** <http://www.collegerecruiter.com>
- **Careeronestop.org:** <http://www.careeronestop.org>
- **Careerbuilder.com:** <http://careerbuilder.com>
- **Nonprofit Job Board:** <http://www.npo.net/>

Student Organizations and Professional Organizations:

To gain more knowledge and experience, as well as to network and build your resume, consider joining student and professional organizations related to International Studies.

Professional Organizations	Student Organizations at DePaul
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- American Foreign Service Association www.afsa.org- American Translator’s Association www.atanet.org- Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs www.cceia.org- Institute of International Education www.iie.org- International Studies Association www.isanet.org- Institute of World Affairs www.iwa.org- Peace Corps www.peacecorps.gov- United States Department of State www.state.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Amnesty International studentaffairs.depaul.edu/ministry/dcsa/amnesty.html- Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC) www.aiesec.org/- DePaul International Students Organization (DISO) sites.google.com/site/disosite/- Model United Nations - Society For International Affairs (MUN - SIA) condor.depaul.edu/siamun/- Political Activist VIA Engagement (PAVE) studentaffairs.depaul.edu/ministry/pave.html

Research and Guide Books:

Find these and more International Studies research and guide books at DePaul’s libraries.

- *Careers in International Law* by Salli Anne Swartz
- *Opportunities in Overseas Careers* by Blythe Camenson
- *Internships in International Affairs* by Career Education Institutes
- *Careers in International Affairs* by Maria Pinto Carland & Candace Faber
- *Guide to Careers in World Affairs* by Foreign Policy Association
- *Getting a Job Abroad: The International Jobseekers' Directory* by Roger Jones
- *International Job Finder: Where the Jobs Are Worldwide* by Daniel Lauber & Kraig Rice
- *Global Manager's Guide to Living and Working Abroad : Eastern Europe and Asia* by Mercer
- *Work Worldwide: International Career Strategies for the Adventurous Job Seeker* by Nancy Mueller
- *Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Directory of Global Volunteer Opportunities* by Jennifer Sage Willsea

Learn more about the library and how to borrow these books: <http://library.depaul.edu/>

Graduate and Doctoral Programs:

Learn more about DePaul's graduate and doctoral International Studies programs:

<http://las.depaul.edu/int/Programs/Graduate/index.asp>

List of other University programs:

<http://compassioninpolitics.wordpress.com/2010/11/26/top-phd-programs-in-international-relations/>

U.S. News and World Report Graduate Schools Rankings:

<http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools>

Learn more about “Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience”...Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Prepare for Graduate School
- How to Work a Job & Internship Fair
- University Internship Program (UIP) Orientation
- Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Orientation
- iPrep: Find Your Dream Internship
- Navigating Student Employment

Step 4: Putting it all Together

The job search process can be challenging, but with the right tools, guidance, and persistence, success can be yours. Below are a number of resources that you are invited to take advantage of as a DePaul student and/or alumni.

Career Advisors for LA&S:

If you have not already done so, set an appointment with a Career Advisor to discuss your post-graduation goals and strategies for achieving them. To set an appointment with your advisor, please call the Lincoln Park Career Center at (773) 325-7431.

Attend Workshops:

The Career Center's career development workshops are designed to help you build and strengthen your career-related skills so you can make well-informed decisions and prepare for your job or internship search.

The Career Center offers free workshops on over 25 topics throughout the year, including resume writing, interviewing skills, effective self-marketing techniques, networking, managing your career path and many more. Workshops facilitators have in-depth knowledge in the topics covered and allow you the opportunity to ask questions throughout each session.

Pre-register for all workshops online through DePaul.Experience.

Learn more: <http://careercenter.depaul.edu/events/default.aspx>

Prepare your Resume:

Depending on the internship or job you are applying to, consider including the following types of information on your resume:

Entry Level Professionals	Experienced Professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Study Abroad Experience • Relevant Coursework • Relevant Experience (Work and/or Internships) • Research Experience • Course Projects • Organizations/Activities • Volunteer Work • Professional Associations • Skills (Language, Computer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifications (at the top if related to career) • Professional Experience • Research • Publications • Presentations • Professional Affiliation • Awards/Recognitions • Volunteer Work • Skills (Language, Computer) • Education

To view resume samples and an online resume tutorial, visit:

<http://careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/default.aspx>

Meet with a Peer Career Advisor to plan, develop and/or critique your resume. Peer Career Advising is a good place for students and alumni to begin the process of career planning. The Peer Career Advisors are undergraduate and graduate students who have been carefully selected and trained by the Career Center to work with students and alumni in an advisory capacity.

Prepare for Interviews:

To prepare for an interview for an internship or job, the Career Center offers:

- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Practice Interviews** – Sign up in DePaul.Experience for a practice interview with DePaul alum. This real interview scenario will allow you to gain feedback from your practice interviewer on your interviewing strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Mentors** – ASK mentors are willing to meet with you individually to help you with your interviewing skills. ASK mentors are a good option to consider as they have valuable industry-specific interviewing tips.
- **Peer Career Advisors** – Meet with a Peer Career Advisor on a walk-in basis to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a mock interview. Peer Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you need quick interviewing help.
- **Career Advisors** – Set up an appointment with your Career Advisor to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a more advanced mock interview. Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you are seeking more job specific interviewing tips.
- **Career Center Workshops** – Register for such interviewing workshops as “Interviewing Skills” or “Advanced Interviewing Skills” in DePaul.Experience.
- **For other interviewing resources** – Please visit:
<http://careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/interviewprep.aspx>

Salary Resources:

- **Salary.com:** <http://www.salary.com>
- **Wage web:** <http://www.wageweb.com>
- **Indeed.com's Salary Search:** <http://www.indeed.com/salary>
- **HigherEdJobs.com's Salary Surveys for Higher Education:** <http://www.higheredjobs.com/salary/>
- **Monster.com's Salary and Benefits Information:** <http://career-advice.monster.com/salary-benefits/home.aspx>
- **Vault.com's Salaries and Compensation:** <http://www.vault.com/salaries.jsp>
- **Collegegrad.com's Salary Information:** <http://www.collegegrad.com/salaries/index.shtml>
- **Careeronestop.org's Salary Information:** <http://www.careeronestop.org/SalariesBenefits/SalariesBenefits.aspx>

Learn more about “Step 4: Putting it all Together”...Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Build a Portfolio
- Interviewing Skills
- Job Search Strategies in a Challenging Job Market
- Negotiation Skills