

International Studies



Department of Language, Culture, and Communication
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

The program in International Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn combines an advanced curriculum in a language and culture with structured training in a professional field. A third component, support studies, offers related courses which reinforce the international context and enable students to integrate the two primary components. The program provides an interdisciplinary degree in the liberal arts that has both academic validity and professional marketability.

Campus and Program Activities

The campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn is situated on the 202 acres of the former estate of automotive pioneer Henry Ford. The campus boasts an extensive nature area and a national historic landmark, the Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane, which now serves as the University conference center.

The location of the campus in a western suburb of Detroit offers students the cultural and academic advantages of an urban setting. It also affords them numerous contacts with American and foreign firms and government agencies, based in the metropolitan area, which conduct their business on an international level. Every semester, representatives of these firms and agencies are invited to campus to lecture in courses and meet program concentrators. They also frequently participate in round-table discussions held at the Fair Lane conference center where they express their views on topics of concern in international business and relations.

The Major

Degree-seeking students are required to fulfill the required courses in effect at the time admitted or readmitted to the program. Since these are subject to change, students should see an advisor for current requirements.

Requirements

Required courses are included in the curriculum for important reasons. They are placed there only after careful consideration by the faculty and cannot be substituted or waived except for compelling reasons.

A course taken elsewhere may be accepted in lieu of a listed course if it meets certain criteria. Requests are handled by petition.

Requirements of the Major

The International Studies major consists of 42 semester hours of upper-division courses taken in three component areas.

Component I

Language and Culture

18 hours of upper-level courses in French, German, or Spanish.

Component II

Professional Studies

15 hours of upper-level courses in one of the following disciplines: art administration, business and management, communications, computer and information science, economics, engineering, environmental studies, natural sciences, or political science (international affairs).

Component III

Support Studies

9 hours of upper-level courses in fields such as anthropology, art history, economics, and political science including, if desired, a three-hour internship.

Study Abroad

International Studies majors are encouraged to participate in approved programs of study abroad sponsored by the University of Michigan or other institutions of higher learning. The faculty view study abroad as a unique educational and enrichment experience which allows students to progress rapidly in language learning while acquiring a firsthand knowledge of another culture. Each year, a number of stipends are awarded, on the basis of scholastic achievement, to students planning to undertake course-work abroad.

Employment Opportunities

The International Studies program directly addresses the needs of employers in the Detroit area and elsewhere who are increasingly involved in international trade and who require employees with knowledge of other cultures, languages, and economic systems in addition to a solid professional background. Officers of multi-national corporations in Detroit who were consulted regarding the design of the International Studies curriculum indicate a strong employment potential for graduates of the program.

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Listed below are a few of the occupational opportunities:

Business and commerce

- Export/Import representative
- International purchasing agent
- International marketing coordinator
- Executive and managerial positions

Banking and financial industry

- Financial assistant
- International representative
- International banking officer

Government service (local, state, and federal)

- Customs inspector
- Immigration officer
- Foreign service officer

Interpreting and translating

- Government agencies
- International organizations and conferences
- Trade councils
- Publishers

Travel and tourism

International law

Teaching

Scientific and engineering positions

Clerical and engineering positions

Communications

Faculty

Faculty who teach in the international studies program have received their advanced degrees (generally the doctorate) at leading universities in the U.S. and other countries. The faculties pride themselves on close contact with concentrators and advise them carefully, semester by semester, in the selection of their courses and in their choice of internships and study-abroad programs. A special effort is made to design for each student a personalized curriculum which corresponds to his or her particular needs and interests.

Internships and Co-ops

Area businesses and government agencies offer international studies concentrators a range of internship and co-op experiences. Such on-the-job involvement enables students to supplement their course work with invaluable practical training and to prepare themselves better for future careers in the business world. University internship and co-op coordinators assist students in finding appropriate placements and monitor the work they undertake in these off-campus programs.

For More Information

For more information about the international studies program:

Director of the International Studies Program

The Department of Language, Culture, and Communication

University of Michigan-Dearborn

4901 Evergreen Road

Dearborn, MI 48128-2406

313-593-4778

To request an application or obtain more information about admission to the University:

Office of Admissions and Orientation

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