

## ***University of Southern California (USC) International Relations Program and Internship Course Requirements***

The International Relations major at USC requires completion of 48 units consisting of four lower-division and eight upper-division courses. Of the eight, one must be from each of the four fields, one must be a regional course, one must be a 400-level course, and the remaining two are electives.<sup>1</sup> In addition, students are required to complete four semesters of a single foreign language. International Relations Global Business students apply for admission into the major with junior standing after they have completed specific courses required for admission with a 3.0 GPA or better. Half of their units include IR coursework and the other half are courses in the Marshall School of Business. In IR, they take one course from the field of International Political Economy, one regional course, one 400-level course and three upper-division electives.<sup>2</sup>

Our internship course is an elective, independent study course centered on the internship experience where students are responsible for their own placements. A central objective is to build a connection between academic training and career possibilities for any IR major. As a result, it does include a significant learning component separate from the work experience itself.

### Course requirements include:

1. Orientation meeting with the faculty instructor to discuss internship placement and/or pre-approval of placement.
2. Successful completion of the minimum 120 hours of internship verified with a supervisor evaluation form (35% of the student grade).
3. An 8-10 page original research paper (35% of the grade) on a topic selected by the student and verified by the instructor. Students are encouraged to select a topic that links career interests to their internship work and their research interests. Students meet a minimum of three times with the faculty advisor to review their method selection, outline, and first draft of the paper.
4. Attendance at least one pre-professional session organized by the Career Office in the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences or another off-campus event that can serve as an appropriate substitute for career exploration and preparation. Students report back by summarizing the key takeaways from the event (15% of the grade).
5. Career-related assignment where students have choice of completing: 1) an informational interview with an individual outside of the University, for those who are unsure of what career path they would like to pursue, 2) an event write-up for those who are pursuing more research-oriented careers or are learning about substantive issues in international affairs, or 3) an exit interview for those who have identified positions post-graduation and need to engage in an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses in a professional setting (15% of the grade).

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<sup>1</sup> Our fields include 1) Culture, Gender and Global Society, 2) Foreign Policy Analysis, 3) International Political Economy, and 4) International Politics and Security Studies.

<sup>2</sup> IRGE major consists of 48 units distributed across Economics and IR coursework. This is an interdisciplinary major for students who wish to develop strong foundations in economic analysis and to be able to apply these tools in the context of global economy. INCO requires between 51 and 54 units of courses that include a mix of IR and Information Technology courses. This is an interdisciplinary major developed in conjunction with the Viterbi School of Engineering. In the IR Department, students take courses focused on intelligence, technology, security, violence, finance, and regional coverage. It is our impression that the IRGE majors pursue research opportunities during the year and apply for lucrative, paid, data science-oriented opportunities during the summer. The program does not attract students from the INCO major because it is a brand new major for the IR program and their students typically do not take internships for course credit. Opportunities are identified through an established network managed by the student organization Cyborg and their faculty advisor.