The minor in International Studies is an interdisciplinary minor meant to compliment any major on campus either by adding an international component to that major or by strengthening an existing international emphasis. The minor provides a broad overview of international issues while also permitting some degree of specialization on a particular issue or region of the world. These objectives are accomplished not only through a flexible selection of courses outside the major, but also through direct engagement that might include study abroad, internships, homestays, the study of foreign language and the development of a final senior project that allows the student to integrate learning from both major and minor into a project with an international focus.

Program Mission

The minor in International Studies in general seeks to diminish barriers between societies and peoples, promoting intercultural contacts, dialog, and understanding, while recognizing the differences that exist between and among the world’s multiplicity of cultures. Such study also provides significant context within which one can conduct exploration of one’s own self-identity and personal beliefs.

Minor in International Studies

The International Studies Minor is administered and supervised by the Committee on International Studies (CIS), an interdisciplinary faculty committee, centered in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. Programs of Study and Senior Projects must be approved by the committee.

Students entering the program may be advised by any member of the Committee on International Studies or by their Major advisor in collaboration with the CIS. The Program of Study should have either a topical or regional focus, and courses should be selected from at least two disciplines outside the student’s major. Study Abroad is an important component of this Minor and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities for overseas study offered by Radford University or other academic institutions.

The content of the minor will vary with each student. The following suggest some of the possibilities, but are not fully inclusive: The Role of Dance in Culture; Economics of Developing countries; Japanese (or European) Studies; Educational Systems in Africa; the Politics of Fundamentalist Islam.
Requirements for the minor in International Studies total 18 semester hours, including:

A. Introductory: 3 semester hours, one of the following courses:
   INST 101 Introduction to International Studies, SOCY 121 Understanding Cultures, HIST 101 World History to 1500, HIST 102 World History since 1500

B. Experience in a Target Culture: no credit
   This requirement may be met in any number of ways including Study Abroad, Internships, homestays, or Service Learning Projects. While the Study Abroad option is not required, it is strongly encouraged. Students receive no specific credit for the Study Abroad experience, but courses taken overseas and transferred to Radford University may be used to meet requirements in the minor (if appropriate to their area of study), in their major or towards the student's Core Curriculum program.

C. Core: 12 semester hours
   Hours should be chosen from at least two disciplines outside the student's major and reflect in some fashion the topical or regional focus of the student's minor in International Studies.

D. Senior Project: 3 semester hours, INST 488: International Studies Senior Project
   Ideally this course is taken during the student's last semester and is a culmination of the international knowledge and experiences gained. The project may be a research paper, a work of art, or multi-media presentation, a film, series of articles, etc. A Senior Project Proposal must be submitted to the Committee on International Studies for approval in the semester prior to the student's enrollment in the course. The project is supervised and graded by a designated faculty member, preferably in the student's major department. Students must earn a grade of A or B in the course to have fulfilled requirements for the minor. Students are encouraged to give a public presentation of their work in some forum.

E. Recommended: The following elective coursework is recommended in conjunction with the minor in International Studies:
   COMS 451, Intercultural and International Communication
   FORL. The study of Foreign Languages is important in the understanding of other cultures, and, as such, students are encouraged to complement their minor with Foreign Language study, particularly as part of a Study Abroad experience.

Below are two examples of completed Programs of Study by RU graduates. Each program reflects a different major, as well as various experiences and interests of the individual student. With the partnership of strong advising, creative and challenging Programs of study can be created.

**Focus: Japanese Studies**
(Interdisciplinary Studies Major)
Intro: HIST 102 World History Since 1500 (3)
Target Culture: One year in student exchange program in Japan
Core: Language Study in Japan (8)
   Transferred to RU: Japanese culture (3)
   Transferred to RU: Economies of East Asia (3)
Senior Project: INST 488 Comparative Research on Systems of Elementary Education in Japan and the United States (3)

**Focus: Islamic North Africa**
(Anthropology/History Major)
Intro: ANTH 121 Cultural Anthropology (3)
Target Culture: Summer experience with archaeological dig in Tunisia
Core: HIST 319 The Middle East (3)
   HIST 408 Ancient Greece & Rome (3)
   HIST 492 Independent Study: Readings in Islamic Culture (3)
   ART 492 Independent Study Islamic Art and Architecture (3)
Senior Project: INST 488 Comparative Research On the Changing Roles of Women in Modern Iran and Saudi Arabia (3)