

Student Quotes

Read what past participants have to say about the IS Honors program!

"I look[ed] forward to completing my International Studies Honors Thesis with gusto, as both a summary capstone to my UCSD studies, and a preparatory project for future graduate studies."

Patrick Johnson
IS-Economics and History '14

"Research was a central component of several career options that interested me, and these experiences were invaluable in giving me a further sense of direction."

Michael Plouffe
IS-Economics '07
Lecturer (Asst. Professor) in International Political Economy at University College London School of Public Policy

Benefits of the Honors Program

The IS Honors Program is designed for a limited number of students who have demonstrated excellence in the major. It is recommended for students who have a strong interest in doing original research and those who intend to pursue graduate or professional study. Students who successfully complete the program will:

- Graduate with honors on your diploma
- Work closely with faculty advisors to complete an honors thesis of your choosing
- Conduct original research
- Produce a writing sample for graduate or professional study



International Studies Program

The International Studies Program challenges students to explore the processes and consequences of interactions among institutions and individuals at the international, global, national, and local levels. The curriculum provides students with both a firm grounding in academic disciplines and the intellectual flexibility to reason through the diversity of interests behind human actions.

International Studies students benefit from the strong international network on campus. In addition to the renowned UC San Diego academic environment, International Studies students can take advantage of the activities and programs of the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), the only UC graduate degree program in international affairs.

UC San Diego INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

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Honors Program





Honors Program Overview

The IS Honors Program consists of a two quarter sequence: INTL 190H (fall quarter) and INTL 196H (winter quarter).

INTL 190H: Senior Honors Seminar (4 units)

- The thesis topic is finalized and the first chapter of the thesis is completed. The course is graded by the faculty member teaching the seminar. The grade earned in INTL 190H will appear on your official transcript whether or not you go on to complete INTL 196H (the honors thesis).

INTL 196H: Senior Thesis Research (4 Units)

- Research and writing of the senior thesis is completed. This is a self-paced class, requiring discipline and steady commitment, with the opportunity for regular feedback from the faculty advisor. The course grade is determined by your faculty thesis advisor.

Permission to enroll in INTL 196H is contingent upon a grade of B+ or better in INTL 190H.

Past Theses Topics

Theses topics from the 2014-2015 cohort included diverse topics such as:

- Clearing the Haze: How Domestic Pressure in Response to Air Pollution Includes Transparency in China
- For Deportees in Tijuana Patience is a Virtue
- Liberte, egalite, fraternite n'existent pas: A Look at Policy and Hip-Hop in French Integration Efforts
- Rethinking the Discourse of Substance Abuse in Iran: Context, Culture and Representation

International Studies Honors Program

The Honors Program in International Studies recognizes and promotes academic excellence in the major by allowing qualified students to complete an honors thesis in close collaboration with a member of the UCSD faculty.

Program Eligibility

Admission to the IS Honors Program is based on eligibility requirements and is determined by application only. Completed honors program applications should be submitted to the ISP undergraduate advisor by Monday of Week 10 spring quarter of their junior year.

Eligibility Requirements for Admission:

- Senior standing at the time of enrollment in INTL 190H.
- Minimum GPA of 3.5 in upper division major courses (including courses taken through the Education Abroad Program and Summer Session).
- Completion of INTL 101 and INTL 102 with a C- or better .
- Completion of five upper division track courses in the major with a C- or better .
- Approval of a faculty thesis advisor. The thesis advisor must be a member of the UCSD faculty and his/her research interests should match your thesis topic and/or region.

Students will not be allowed to enroll in INTL 190H until their faculty advisor, ISP undergraduate advisor, and ISP Director have approved their honors application.

Honors Distinction

To receive honors in International Studies, students must complete all requirements for the major, and:

- Attain an exit GPA of 3.5 in courses in the International Studies major, and includes all coursework through winter quarter of senior year including INTL 190H and INTL 196H.
- Receive a thesis grade of A- or better.
- Each student whose honor thesis also earns a grade of A- shall be entitled to the designation "**with distinction.**"
- Each student whose honors thesis earns a grade of an A shall be entitled to the designation "**with high distinction.**"
- Each student whose honors thesis earns a grade of an A+ shall be entitled to the designation "**with highest distinction.**"

Role of the Faculty Advisor

The faculty thesis advisor determines the feasibility of the project, helps to locate sources, suggests research methods, and reads drafts of proposals and chapters. It is the student's responsibility to set up regular meetings with the adviser and to propose a timetable for the submission of the thesis prospectus, bibliographies, outlines and drafts.

The thesis project is largely self-paced, requiring discipline and steady commitment. Students often find it helpful to create stages in the writing of the thesis that allow for steady development of the project and regular feedback from the faculty advisor. **The faculty advisor should provide direction at each step, but, once again, the student is responsible for submitting completed research and writing.**