

EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS?

Our richly interconnected, complex world demands professionals skilled in international relations, an exciting field that presents a globally oriented perspective on issues that transcend national boundaries. The practice of international relations is interdisciplinary in nature, blending the fields of economics, history, and political science to examine topics such as human rights, global poverty, the environment, economics, globalization, security, global ethics, and the political environment.

FREQUENT JOB TITLES

- Foreign Service Officer
- International Policy Advisor
- Immigration Specialist
- Trade Specialist

KEY SKILLS

- A multidisciplinary approach
- Effective written/oral communication
- Specific area studies combined with technical skills
- Program management
- Ability to speak and understand a language other than English

RELATED STUDENT ORGS

- Wisconsin Model UN
- WUD Global Connections

QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience living and working abroad; esp. in non-majority nations
- Willingness to relocate and possibly live under less than ideal conditions
- Skill in negotiations and problem solving
- Genuine understanding of and appreciation for cultural diversity

COMMON EMPLOYERS

- The US Department of State and other federal agencies
- Congressional Committees such as Foreign Affairs, Defense, etc.
- Think Tanks focused on world regions
- The US Military
- International nonprofits/multilaterals

HIRING TIMELINES

- Varies widely, but most hiring in IA is conducted between 1-3 months before you would start your job
- The US Department of State Foreign Service Officer process takes 1+ years and begins with successful passage of a test called the FSOT

TIPS

- Study abroad if possible to increase knowledge of other cultures and improve language skills
- Consider an international internship by meeting with IIP