

International Studies

Do you want to live an international life and learn about different cultures? Do you want to take your second language skills to the next level? If so, then the International Studies major is for you.

Exciting opportunities are available at NMU for students in the international studies program. While on campus, students can join a language club (French, German, Spanish), All Nations Club, or take part in department-sponsored events. But why limit yourself to campus? As an international studies student, you will study abroad. Because of NMU's partnerships with several universities, students can study in Chile, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Korea, Japan, Scotland, Spain, or elsewhere. International studies majors are strongly encouraged to complete a pre-approved service learning, internship, or work experience abroad. Courses taken abroad can count toward the major, with departmental approval. Students can earn many credits toward their degrees in this way.

The Bachelor's in International Studies NMU's International Studies major includes courses from numerous departments. The core courses ensure that students are exposed to major international issues, while the courses in the then concentrations allow students to specialize in a one of five world regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or the Middle East). International Studies courses fulfill a number of General Education requirements.

Additional Considerations

Many International Studies majors also double-major. Some popular major pairings include French, German, or Spanish (especially for students who plan to study abroad in a French-, German-, or Spanish-speaking country), Biology and Environmental Studies (especially for students who wish to complete field work outside of the U.S.), and Political Science (especially for students who wish to learn more about diplomacy and government systems), just to name a few.

International Studies majors are students who want to live an international life. Students in the international studies program are familiar with world geography, keep up with global events, and take advantage of internationally-related opportunities on campus and beyond.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

Core

- IP190 Introduction to International Studies (4 cr.)
- IP490 International Studies Seminar (2 cr.)
- PL270 World Religions (4 cr.)
- GC164 Human Geography (4 cr.)

Concentration (20 cr.)

Global

Required Course:

- HS201 World History to 1520 (4 cr.)

Africa

Required Course:

- HS254 History of Africa (4 cr.)

Asia

Required Course:

- SO353 Globalization and Asian Societies (4 cr.)

Europe

Required Course:

- HS202 World History since 1400 (4 cr.)

Latin America

Required Course:

- HS251 Latin American History (4 cr.) or
- SN214 Contemporary Latin America Through Film (4 cr.)

Middle East

Required Course:

- HS252 History of the Middle East since 600 (4 cr.)

Additional Requirements

1. Study Abroad
2. Language Proficiency
3. Program Approval

Minor not required, but highly recommended (20 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and cover letter. In the meantime, you should plan your study abroad experience. Your study abroad experience will stand out to future employers because it demonstrates your adaptability and ability to engage with people from diverse backgrounds. A professionally-related internship, membership or leadership in a campus club, or work as a language tutor in the Language Resource Center are a ways to develop your skills, gain experience and enhance your resume. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Skills and Competencies

The multinational tech firm Google surveyed its work force and many of the top characteristics of Google employees are skills acquired international studies courses. Those abilities include:

1. Being a good coach, having empathy, and being supportive.
2. Communicating and listening well.
3. Possessing insights into others (including others' different values and points of view).
4. Being a good critical thinker and problem solver.
5. Being able to make connections across complex ideas.

The international studies curriculum is designed to give students a broad view of the world while understanding and how to navigate constant change. Course-work will develop your knowledge of different countries' cultures, customs, languages, religions, history, and artistic contributions. The ability to relate to people from a wide variety of backgrounds is a must in this field. The International Studies program emphasizes aptitude in cultural diversity, communication, critical thinking, reading, and writing, thus providing students with marketable and practical skills regardless of their career path. Students learn to gauge nuanced cultural differences and to communicate effectively with people of different backgrounds, making them ready to navigate today's diverse professional environment. Students develop critical thinking, leading them to approach difficult and abstract challenges with creativity and confidence. Students learn about international customs, attitudes, politics, history, world views, and artistic contributions of people around the globe to increase their intercultural competency.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and individual work experience. The job market should expand at an excellent rate, as the world continues to have global dependency on foreign markets and international trade becomes the norm.

Potential Careers

NMU's International Studies Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Lawyer and immigration specialist
International business
Customer support
Journalism and writing
Flight attendant and pilot
Government (State Department, etc.)
International Education
Criminal Justice
Military
Non-governmental organizations
International Finance
Tourism and hospitality management

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Languages, Literatures & International Studies
145 Whitman
906-227-2940
www.nmu.edu/languages

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

French Club
German Club

Spanish Club
nmuspanishclub@gmail.com

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov
www.state.gov--U.S.

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.studyabroad.com -Study Abroad Information



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2022



What to do with
a major in...

International Studies

