

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

(48 Credits)

This Ph.D. program is designed to provide students with a regional expertise in an area study of the globe, be that Russia, China, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia or the Americas. To develop such an expertise the students will, first, be exposed to all the different regions of the world by taking at least one class in each area and, second, complete a 12-credit dissertation (INR-698 and INR-699 combined) in one specific area. For this purpose, students must complete 36 credit hours or 12 of the Ph.D. courses below, pass a language requirement and a written comprehensive examination, defend orally a dissertation proposal, and, finally, defend successfully the 12-credit dissertation (INR-698 and INR-699 combined).

Admission Criteria

To assure success in the Program, admission criteria will be highly selective. In order to qualify for application, individuals should:

1. Possess both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree earned from an accredited U.S. institution of higher learning or equivalent degrees from a nationally accredited, English-speaking, college or university outside the U.S. If the institution is outside of the U.S., documentation of degree equivalencies must be submitted by an agency authorized to do so. Applicants from non-English-speaking institutions will need to provide proof of oral and writing proficiency in the English language such as Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). They must also be able to submit a certified English translation of all non-English transcripts.
2. Have five years of related practical professional experience such as working for an international governmental or non-governmental agency, being deployed overseas, serving overseas, or living overseas.

Qualified applicants may complete an online application and submit:

1. Two letters of recommendation that support the ability to engage in doctoral studies, preferably from instructors from the applicant's MA study. Recommenders must include professional title and contact information.
2. A personal statement that demonstrates solid writing skills and motivation for doctoral studies.
3. A complete resume
4. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts

Applications are accepted throughout the year. In reviewing applications, the Admissions Committee looks at the complete package of the application. Application files must be completed within one year of the initial application submission or individuals may be required to resubmit materials. All application materials become a permanent and confidential part of the University records and are not returned. All prospective students are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies as well as the program director for more information.

Applicants from accredited military universities with transferable credits available may have up to 9 credits of the International Relations Ph.D. required credits transferred with the permission of the program director.

Program Requirements

Each of the courses below will train students in finding and reviewing academic literature, formulating and refining research questions, academic writing, and qualitative research. For quantitative research students will rely on the course INR-675, which will be a required course. INR-690, which will also be required, will emphasize qualitative research and its major emphasis will be on preparing students for writing and defending a dissertation proposal, on conducting qualitative research and on writing a dissertation.

International Relations Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
INR-602	American Foreign Policy	3
INR-603	American Foreign Policy Decision Making	3
INR-612	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
INR-613	The Korean Peninsula and Japan	3
INR-622	Russian Foreign Policy	3
INR-623	Chinese Politics	3
INR-633	Comparative Politics of Russia	3
INR-643	The Middle East in World Affairs	3
INR-652	South Asia in World Affairs	3
INR-653	Latin America in World Affairs	3
INR-662	Europe in World Affairs	3
INR-672	Africa in World Affairs	3
INR-675	Quantitative Methods	3
INR-685	Culture, Society and the Global Condition	3
INR-690	Dissertation Proposal and Research	3
INR-695	Dissertation Research and Writing	3
INR-698	Dissertation I	6
INR-699	Dissertation II	6

Language Requirement

By the time of completion of all coursework, students must have also fulfilled a language proficiency requirement, either by passing a translation test administered by the program coordinator or passing two 200-level (or above) courses with a grade of "B" or better. No graduate credit will be awarded for language courses. International students, whose mother language is not English, can use their mother language to fulfill the language proficiency requirement. The language requirement must be completed before taking the comprehensive exams. The language examination, when needed, will be administered during the first Monday in May and December of each year. In special situations, an alternative date can be arranged. Students may sign up for the examination by emailing the program coordinator no later than two weeks prior to it. It will require students to translate a short text, between one and two pages long. The text will be from a source related to the international relations field, such as a journal article. The exam will be graded on a simple pass/fail system. The language exam may be retaken until passed.

Comprehensive Examination

Upon completion of language requirement and the coursework (INR-690 may be an exception) students will be required to pass

a comprehensive written examination. They will be required to answer two out of three general questions from two different areas of study covered by the curriculum. The two areas will be chosen by the students. Students will have four hours to complete the two questions. Comprehensive examinations will be administered through teleconference. They will require students to be familiar with the area studies literature, be analytical, comparative, critical, and insightful. Students who fail the exam may be allowed to repeat it one time only. Second time failure will result in the student's termination from the Ph.D. program. Comprehensive examinations will be graded by either High Distinction, Distinction, Pass or Fail.

There will be two specific dates the comprehensives can be taken each year: the last Thursday-Friday in May, and the second Monday-Tuesday in December. Students may sign up to take the exam, and also declare the two areas of study, by emailing their intention to the program coordinator no later than two weeks prior to the exam date (in special situations, an alternative date can be arranged).

Dissertation

Upon the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, students will move to the dissertation-writing phase. This phase of the program will expose students to the systematic, in-depth, and detailed study of their preferred area in order to generate original, publication-ready research. The process starts with INR-690, which is a manual on how to think, plan, develop, and complete the dissertation. By the time of enrolling in INR-690, Ph.D. candidates should have secured a first reader from the list of faculty teaching in the Program. The student and the first reader will discuss possible dissertation topics and focus on a specific one. Once the topic is decided, the Ph.D. candidate and the first reader will discuss possible second readers and settle on a second reader. The first task of the work will be to prepare and defend a dissertation prospectus. The prospectus will be developed in INR-690. Typically, the focus of the dissertation will be in one of the area studies included in the curriculum.

The Dissertation Committee will be composed of three members: the two readers and another member of the faculty of the Political Science and International Relations Department or a member of another department or academic institution. The Ph.D. candidate, in consultation with the first and second reader, is responsible for securing the outside member of the Dissertation Committee. Candidates should only consider defending if readers recommend it and the program director concurs. The successful defense of the prospectus in INR-690 denotes the elevation of the candidate to the A.B.D status

Students must retain active status by enrolling in at least one course in each academic semesters, summer included. ABD students must retain active status by enrolling in INR-695 for both fall and spring semester.

A typical dissertation will be at least 200 pages and should definitely be undertaken with the intention of making it an original contribution to the international relations field. It should be publication-ready, and its substance should not be covered by existing literature unless it fundamentally questions existing literature. The dissertation process will end with the successful defense of the work before the Dissertation Committee.

Dissertations will be graded on a pass/fail scale where pass denotes the grade of "A" and fail the grade of "F"

Students must complete the program in no more than seven years after matriculation.

Degree Plan for Ph.D. in International Relations

Required Courses

Course	Title	Credits
Fall		
INR-675	Quantitative Methods (Also offered in Summer)	
INR-690	Dissertation Proposal and Research	
INR-695	Dissertation Research and Writing (Also offered in Spring) This course is offered Fall/Spring terms and is repeated as long as necessary until approved to register for INR-698.	
INR-698	Dissertation I (Also offered in Summer)	
INR-699	Dissertation II (Also offered in Spring)	
Credits		0
Total Credits		0

Electives

Students choose 10 courses from the list of courses below for a total of 30 credits.

Course	Title	Credits
Fall		
INR-623	Chinese Politics	
INR-652	South Asia in World Affairs	
INR-662	Europe in World Affairs	
INR-672	Africa in World Affairs	
Credits		0
Spring		
INR-612	Chinese Foreign Policy	
INR-613	The Korean Peninsula and Japan	
INR-622	Russian Foreign Policy	
INR-653	Latin America in World Affairs	
Credits		0
Summer		
INR-602	American Foreign Policy	
INR-603	American Foreign Policy Decision Making	
INR-633	Comparative Politics of Russia	
INR-643	The Middle East in World Affairs	
Credits		0
Total Credits		0