International Studies

7045 Batten Arts and Letters
757-683-5700

Regina Karp, Graduate Program Director

Old Dominion University offers M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in international studies through the Graduate Program in International Studies (GPIS).

GPIS is an interdisciplinary unit, offering advanced research and graduate training in global problems and transnational issues. Fields of concentration include: U.S. foreign policy and international relations, conflict and cooperation, international political economy and development, interdependence and transnationalism, and comparative and regional studies, modeling and simulation, and cultural studies.

Master of Arts—International Studies

Admission Requirements

1. All candidates for admission into the M.A. must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores;
2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate or prior graduate course work submitted directly by all universities attended;
3. Two letters of recommendation addressing the candidate’s capacity to undertake graduate work in international/global issues;
4. An essay of not more than 500 words describing interest in and capacity for advanced training in global/transnational issues; and
5. One example of writing or research (a paper submitted to a seminar, a publication or report, or another comparable example).

Any prior graduate course work taken at Old Dominion University (e.g., in nondegree status) or at another institution can be counted toward the M.A. degree only in accordance with the provisions governing transfer of credit and the director’s approval.

Admission Standards

1. All applicants to the M.A. program must hold a baccalaureate degree or equivalent.
2. Candidates for the M.A. must attain a 3.00 cumulative GPA in all undergraduate courses. A GRE score of 146 Quantitative, and 156 Verbal is normally expected. (1100 Old Score).
3. Individuals whose native language is not English must submit a score of 230 on the computer-based TOEFL (the equivalent of 570 in the older, paper-based score scale) or 80 on the TOEFL IBT.

Application Deadline, M.A.

Applications for fall semester admission to the M.A. program and for financial assistance must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions no later than February 15. Applications for spring semester admission to the M.A. program (only) are accepted on a limited basis and must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions by October 15.

Degree Requirements

Credits for the M.A.

The M.A. requires 33 credits, of which at least 27 must be at the 600 level or above. The required course work for all M.A. students includes the basic methodology course (IS 600), but does not include any courses needed for demonstrating foreign language competency. M.A. candidates writing theses will incorporate into their 33-credit program six credits of directed research on the thesis. Students pursuing a non-thesis track will take a four and 1/2 hour comprehensive examination after the completion of their course work.

Curriculum

All GPIS Students, both MA and PhD, will NOT be allowed to take more than 9 credit hours per semester. All MA and PhD students must take IS 600, Research Methods; IS 655, International History OR IS 606, American Foreign Policy and World Order; ECON 650, International Economics; and IS 601, International Relations Theory. Each required course must be completed with a grade of B (3.00) or above. M.A. students must fulfill the requirements of nine credit hours in one field of concentration.

Required Courses, M.A. in International Studies Course List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IS 600</td>
<td>Research Methods in International Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 601</td>
<td>Seminar in International Relations Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 650</td>
<td>International Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS 606</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy and World Order</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 655</td>
<td>International History</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Field of concentration

Electives*

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IS 698</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or IS 699</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 33

* If thesis option, 6 of these credits will be directed research. Up to six credits of elective coursework may be taken at the 500 level.

Fields, Area/Region, Methodology, Language and Foreign Experience Requirements

Fields of concentration include U.S. foreign policy, conflict and cooperation, international political economy and development, interdependence and transnationalism, comparative and regional studies, modeling and simulation, and cultural studies.

Methodology Requirements

The M.A. requires one methodology course (IS 600). M.A. students are encouraged to take further methods courses as electives.

Language Requirements

M.A. students must demonstrate reading competence in one foreign language other than English. International students who have English as a second language fulfill this requirement.

Foreign language competence can be demonstrated in one of two ways:

1. Students may complete a third year of language instruction at Old Dominion University (students may choose to enter the third year through a University placement test) or other institutions. A grade of B or above in both semesters of third-year instruction will demonstrate competency in that language.
2. Students may take a language test. Exams are administered (for a fee) by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. GPIS requirements concern reading comprehension competence. For more information about which skills will be tested and what standards of competency are required, contact GPIS. If a student wishes to demonstrate competency in an uncommonly taught language, GPIS will endeavor, so far as practicable, to arrange an examination by Old Dominion University faculty and/or consultants. For more information about this method for demonstrating language competency, contact GPIS.

Comprehensive Examinations

In consultation with their advisors, M.A. students will select either a thesis or non-thesis option. Students selecting the non-thesis track must pass a written comprehensive examination. Thesis students must pass an oral defense of their thesis.

The M.A. comprehensive examination may not be scheduled before students have completed all core and methodology requirements, nor may the M.A. comprehensive examination be scheduled prior to the last semester in which regular course work is taken. M.A. examinations are scheduled twice a year. If M.A. students fail the written comprehensive on the first attempt, they may retake the entire written comprehensive exam only once, no earlier than one semester later.
Theses
M.A. students choosing the thesis option will submit a thesis prospectus to the chair of their thesis committee for approval after the completion of 18 credits or at the beginning of the third semester in the program. The thesis should be submitted to the thesis committee for its approval at least two weeks before a defense is scheduled. The committee will schedule the student’s oral defense of the thesis when the thesis appears to meet GPIS standards for master’s theses. The oral defense will concern questions of substance and methodology.

Grade Requirements
All M.A. students will be graded on the traditional A, B, C, F scale (with pluses and minuses) in all courses. Pass/Fail evaluations will be utilized only in the case of registration for internships or for thesis or dissertation research, or when specifically approved by the director.

Graduate students for whom grade point averages fall below 3.00 (B) will be placed on a probationary status. After two consecutive semesters below this average or the accumulation of two grades of “C” or below, the director will take under consideration, in consultation with faculty, termination of the student’s program.

Time Limit and Residency Requirements
The master’s degree can be completed in four full-time semesters, although many M.A. candidates continue the degree over a longer period on a part-time basis. The M.A. must be completed within a six-year period.

Additional Information
Please see the GPIS Handbook and website at al.odu.edu/gpis. For other issues concerning GPIS, please contact:

Graduate Program in International Studies (GPIS)
7045 Batten Arts and Letters Building
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529-0086, USA
Telephone: 757-683-5700
Fax: 757-683-5701
E-mail: isgpd@odu.edu (//isgpd@odu.edu)

Doctor of Philosophy-International Studies

Admission Requirements
All candidates for admission into the Ph.D. must submit:

1. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores;
2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate or prior graduate course work submitted directly by all universities attended;
3. Three letters of recommendation (at least two of which should be from prior professors) addressing the candidate’s capacity to undertake graduate work in international/global issues;
4. An essay of not more than 500 words describing interest in and capacity for advanced training in global/transnational issues; and
5. One example of writing or research (a paper submitted to a seminar, a publication or report, or other comparable example).

Any prior graduate course work taken at Old Dominion University (e.g., in nondegree status) or at another institution can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree only in accordance with the provisions governing transfer of credit and the director’s approval.

Admission Standards
1. Applicants to the Ph.D. program must hold a master’s degree in a related field of study.
2. Ph.D. candidates are generally expected to attain a GRE score of 148 Quantitative and 160 Verbal (1200 Old Score) and have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA in undergraduate and graduate courses, with a somewhat higher GPA for courses related to international, global or transnational issues.
3. Individuals whose native language is not English must submit a score of 230 on the computer-based TOEFL (the equivalent of 570 in the older, paper-based score scale) or 80 on the TOEFL iBT.
4. The Admissions Committee strongly recommends prior international experience (residence, study or work) and foreign language training for all Ph.D. applicants. Evidence of substantial international and foreign language background is highly desirable for applicants.

Application Deadline, Ph.D.
Applications for fall semester admission to the Ph.D. program and for financial assistance must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions no later than January 15.

Degree Requirements
The Ph.D. requires 78 credits, which must include 48 hours at the post-master’s level (i.e., courses at the 800 level). These 48 hours include a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 dissertation credits. The 78 credits do not include any courses needed for demonstrating foreign language competency. Each student’s program of study is supervised by a faculty committee.

Upon completion of coursework, Ph.D. students must pass a written and an oral comprehensive examination, submit a dissertation prospectus, write a dissertation, and undergo an oral defense of the dissertation.

Curriculum

Required Courses, Ph.D. in International Studies
All Ph.D. students must take:

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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15

Each required course must be completed with a grade of B (3.00) or above. Ph.D. students must take 15 credit hours in one field of concentration and nine credit hours from another field, totaling 24 credit hours. They must also take 6 hours of elective coursework. Twelve to 18 credit hours of dissertation preparation credits must be taken to complete the credit hour requirement of 48 hours at the post-masters level.

Fields, Area/Region, Methodology, Language and Foreign Experience Requirements
Fields of concentration include U.S. foreign policy, conflict and cooperation, international political economy and development, interdependence and transnationalism, comparative and regional studies, modeling and simulation, and cultural studies.

Methodology Requirements
All Ph.D. students must complete a sequence of two basic methods courses beginning with IS 600. Students holding an M.A. from another institution who are entering the Ph.D. program may present transcripts showing a B (3.00) or above, plus syllabi and other documentation, from a similar introductory methods course to be exempted from IS 600.

Language Requirements
Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading competence in one foreign language other than English. International students who have English as a second language fulfill this requirement.

Foreign language competence can be demonstrated in one of two ways:

1. Students majoring in the third year of language instruction at Old Dominion University (students may choose to enter the third year through a University placement test) or other institutions. A grade of
B or above in both semesters of third-year instruction will demonstrate competency in that language.

2. Students may take a language test. Exams are administered (for a fee) by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. GPIS requirements concern reading comprehension competency. For more information about which skills will be tested and what standards of competency are required, contact GPIS. If a student wishes to demonstrate competency in an uncommonly taught language, GPIS will endeavor, so far as practicable, to arrange an examination by Old Dominion University faculty and/or consultants. For more information about this method for demonstrating language competency, contact GPIS.

Comprehensive Examinations

All Ph.D. students must pass a written comprehensive examination. Students who pass the written comprehensive examination must then pass an oral comprehensive examination.

The Ph.D. comprehensive examination may not be scheduled before students have completed all core and methodology requirements, nor may the Ph.D. comprehensive examination be scheduled prior to the last semester in which regular course work is taken. Ph.D. students are also required to fulfill the foreign language requirement before taking the comprehensive examination. Ph.D. examinations are scheduled twice a year. Ph.D. students failing the written comprehensive on the first attempt may retake the written comprehensive exam only once, no earlier than the following semester.

Dissertations

A dissertation is required of all Ph.D. students. A dissertation prospectus will be prepared after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination. If the student’s graduate committee approves the prospectus, the student will proceed to research and write the dissertation. An oral defense of the dissertation will be scheduled after a draft is approved by the committee.

Grade Requirements

All Ph.D. students will be graded on the traditional A, B, C, F scale (with pluses and minuses) in all courses. Pass/Fail evaluations will be utilized only in the case of registration for internships or for thesis or dissertation research, or when specifically approved by the director.

Graduate students for whom grade point averages fall below 3.00 (B) will be placed on a probationary status. After two consecutive semesters below this average or the accumulation of two grades of “C” or below, the director will take under consideration, in consultation with faculty, termination of the student’s program.

Time Limit and Residency Requirements

The doctoral program must be completed within eight years of entry into Ph.D. course work.

Transfer Credit

Twelve graduate credits earned at other institutions or at Old Dominion University may be applied toward the fulfillment of degree requirements. Transfer credit, including nondegree credit earned at Old Dominion, is accepted as degree credit at the discretion of the director.

Financial Aid

Full-time students are eligible to apply for University fellowships, teaching and research assistantships, and tuition grants which are awarded on a competitive basis.

Nondegree Students

Nondegree students must obtain the approval of the director before enrolling in graduate international studies classes.