



## What Can You Do With an International Studies Degree?

Written by Jason Harper

June 9, 2025

International studies students pursue a variety of careers upon completion of their program. Understanding more about career paths can help individuals determine which degree program to choose. If you're considering a degree in international studies, reviewing the career field and job information can help you decide if this program is the right fit for you. In this article, we discuss what an international studies degree is, explore where you can work with this type of degree and review 26 careers that international studies students can pursue.

### What is an international studies degree?

An international studies degree is a program that researches and analyzes the connection between international and regional issues. Many programs help students understand more about international languages, cultures and customs. Common classes in many international study degrees include:

- **Global health:** This course helps students learn about key indicators of global health, such as health or disease burden. These courses also examine social, economic, political and environmental indicators that contribute to the health of a population.
- **Human rights:** Human rights courses examine international law as it relates to national and international human rights. These courses also inform students about economic, social, regional and national rights systems and protections.

- **International politics:** This course helps students understand more about human rights, community conflict, terrorism, political development and a variety of other global political topics. International politics courses also review political science, economic, geographic and historical factors that contribute to these political topics.
- **Economic development:** Economic courses educate students about classic and modern economic development and growth. Courses also often discuss population growth, human capital and international trade that affect economic development.
- **Nations and nationalities:** Nations and nationalities classes inform students about various cultures. These courses also review political, economic and cultural transitions, which help students understand more about the evolving cultures of the world.

### **Where can you work with an international studies degree?**

Companies and organizations hire candidates with international studies degrees to manage communication and facilitate interaction. These are some places you can work with an international studies degree:

- Banks
- Charities
- Intergovernmental organizations
- International businesses
- Law firms
- Universities
- Local and national government
- Media companies
- NGOs
- Cybersecurity companies

## What skills do you learn in an international studies degree program?

Each program helps students develop and expand skill sets that can help them succeed in future careers. Some skills students develop include:

- **Research:** Many international studies degree courses involve researching nations, cultures, customs, policies and other various topics. Each course often details how to conduct research and find information from reputable sources, which can help you find reputable information in your future career.
- **Communication:** Many courses can involve written and verbal presentations, which help students develop their [communication skills](#) and hone their ability to convey information precisely and succinctly.
- **Interpersonal:** Forming professional relationships is an essential skill developed during many courses. Classes often encourage collaboration and [networking](#), which can help students apply these concepts in future duties.
- **Language:** Certain programs also educate students about different languages and cultures. This is helpful for students wanting to pursue careers in different countries or with companies that have international partnerships.
- **Critical analysis:** Critical analysis is a skill that candidates can use to assess information and better understand situations.
- **Global awareness:** Global awareness allows candidates to apply a diverse field of knowledge to decisions.

## What can you do with an international studies degree?

There are many applications for an international studies degree. Common career fields many graduates pursue upon completion of their program include:

### International relations

International relations careers focus on the various relationships between regions, states or nations. Professionals can help a company or agency navigate trade, commerce or a variety of international relations topics. Those in this career field often specialize in several topics, such as political economy, global governance, intercultural relationships, foreign policy analysis, international security and social movements.

## **Educator**

Upon completion of an international studies degree, individuals who pursue a career in education can find positions in elementary, high school and secondary education institutions. Many graduates can apply their degree in history and ethics courses, while others may teach new students in international studies programs.

## **Politics**

Some graduates pursue careers in politics because an international studies degree often educates students about several political topics. Many professionals seek political careers in local, state or federal government positions. They can also find political career opportunities with foreign ministries and private and nonprofit organizations. **Related:** [15 Political Science Careers To Choose From](#)

## **Language specialist**

Some international study programs enable students to specialize in a language. This can help students pursue careers such as language interpreter, document translator and policy reviewer. Language careers exist with many nonprofit, private and public companies. Many government agencies and departments also seek language professionals.

## **International studies jobs**

Review this list of six international studies professions to help you understand how you can apply your degree.

### **1. [Immigration officer](#)**

**National average salary:** [\\$58,446 per year](#). **Primary duties:** Immigration officers review and analyze foreign individuals entering the United States. They verify paperwork and identifications to ensure people can enter and reside in the country. These officers also monitor and manage entry points at country borders, airports, seaports and other entry locations.

### **2. [International partnerships manager](#)**

**National average salary:** [\\$103,980 per year](#). **Primary duties:** International partnership managers develop and maintain strategic relationships with other companies or ministries. They also conduct research to identify beneficial relationships and generate interest. These managers also negotiate, develop and manage partnership contracts to maintain compliance with legal regulations and partner expectations.

### **3. [Political analyst](#)**

**National average salary:** [\\$58,162 per year](#). **Primary duties:** Political analysts help research and analyze political subjects to identify political or economic trends. Many analysts collaborate with a company's management or [leadership](#) team to create strategies that align with predicted political or market trends. These professionals also write reports and conduct presentations to educate a company about political policies, current events and changes in legislation.

#### 4. [Political affairs officer](#)

**National average salary:** [\\$88,296 per year](#). **Primary duties:** Political affairs officers analyze and monitor foreign politics or other foreign affairs. These officers also advise companies or government agencies about foreign affairs policies and help create or implement risk management measures. They might also create reports about situations, such as investigations, missions or operations.

#### 5. [Public policy manager](#)

**National average salary:** [\\$84,321 per year](#). **Primary duties:** A public policy manager helps an organization or government agency implement new or changing legislation. They analyze public policies and verify compliance with all regulations and manage regulatory departments to ensure the implementation of government policies. These managers also perform public liaison duties and inform the community about policy changes within their organization or agency.

#### 6. [Diplomatic agent](#)

**National average salary:** [\\$97,246 per year](#). **Primary duties:** Diplomatic agents can have six different functions to support diplomacy operations between companies or foreign entities. These professionals can act as a representative for a sending state, protect state nationals and negotiate with the receiving state's diplomatic agents. These agents can also notify their state of conditions or developments, promote friendly relationships and develop beneficial relations with the receiving state.

**Extra international studies jobs**

These are some other jobs you can pursue with an international studies degree:

1. [Cross-cultural relations consultant](#)
2. [ESL instructor](#)
3. [Export manager](#)
4. [Foreign area specialist](#)
5. [Foreign correspondent](#)
6. [Foreign language teacher](#)
7. [Foreign service official](#)
8. [Fundraiser](#)
9. [Humanitarian relief worker](#)
10. [Intelligence agent](#)
11. [International banker](#)
12. [International hotel manager](#)
13. [International relations specialist](#)
14. [Journalist](#)
15. [Political scientist](#)
16. [PR representative](#)
17. [Researcher](#)
18. [Sales coordinator](#)
19. [Tour guide](#)
20. [Translator](#)

The information on this site is provided as a courtesy and for informational purposes only. Indeed is not a career or legal advisor and does not guarantee job interviews or offers