

# **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

## **Application for Admission to the Honors Program in International Studies 2023-2024**

The Honors Program in International Studies is for outstanding and engaged majors who wish to take on the challenge of actively researching and writing about a topic in international studies. Students accepted to the program enroll in a two-quarter seminar during senior year, INTL\_ST 398-1 (Fall) and INTL\_ST 398-2 (Winter), through which they plan, research, and write their thesis. Honors students who want to take on the unique challenge of primary research are strongly encouraged to apply for university research support and conduct research either during study abroad or in the summer, though this is not required for honors.

Admission to the honors program is competitive. Outstanding International Studies majors must apply during the spring quarter of their junior year. Acceptance into the program is based on strength of the proposed research and the student's demonstrated ability as an independent and critical thinker. Students are also required to maintain a cumulative GPA above 3.3 overall and 3.5 in the major throughout the program. Students apply by submitting a thesis topic proposal which includes a research question and describes how their background prepares them for this particular research (not to exceed 3 pages). Applicants must also submit a transcript including a calculation of their major and overall GPA.

To apply, please submit the following to [international-studies@northwestern.edu](mailto:international-studies@northwestern.edu) no later than Friday, April 21, 2023:

1. Application form (1 page, attached)
2. Letter of support from your thesis advisor (1 page, attached)
3. Thesis topic proposal
4. A copy of your unofficial transcript

# Application for the 2023-2024 International Studies Honors Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Grad. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Intl. St. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Overall GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address:

Campus Address:

Proposed Project Title:

2-3 sentence summary of your research question. Use additional page if you'd like to submit a longer statement:

Potential Research  
Awards/Grants:

Study Abroad Programs  
(please include quarter,  
program name & location):

Faculty Advisor & Department:

Dear Thesis Advisor:

As an interdisciplinary cross-university program, International Studies encourages its students pursuing honors to reach out to faculty on the basis of shared regional or thematic interests to guide them through the thesis writing process. Since this often means that our students are reaching out to faculty outside of their primary major who might not be familiar with their work or the IS program, this letter provides information about the IS Honors Program in terms of its structure, objectives, and deadlines. I ask that you read through and discuss this letter with the student and, upon agreeing to serve as an advisor, sign and date the letter. The student will need to hand in a signed copy of this letter in order to enroll in the fall quarter honors seminar.

IS offers a two-part honors seminar that begins in the fall quarter senior year and continues through the winter quarter. Students apply during spring quarter of junior year and are admitted based on GPA (3.3 overall and 3.5 in the major), two-page statement of research interest, faculty recommendation, and interview with the Honors Director.

Honors projects must be individual and driven by an analytic research question that the student derives through engagement with a scholarly debate in International Studies. Students have typically studied abroad, and the two-part seminar that begins in senior year is designed to encourage students to apply for university research funds to conduct international field research. The IS Program also has limited funds available for thesis writers to use towards translation and field research.

Given the challenges associated with writing a senior thesis, we only accept students who show the ability and commitment to independent scholarship. Having said this, undergraduates benefit tremendously from faculty mentorship. Therefore, the agreement to supervise the thesis project entails the following faculty responsibilities:

- Meeting at least once a month to discuss progress.
- Reading drafts and revisions in a timely fashion.
- Providing the IS Honors and Awards Committee a detailed evaluation of the completed thesis in terms of the following: (1) quality of the literature review and analytic framework, (2) strength of the thesis in terms of originality and whether it is clearly articulated and supported, (3) strength of the overall argument, (4) strength of the methodology and use of primary sources including use of foreign language, (5) writing style, etc.

If you agree to the supervisory responsibilities stated above, please sign below. The student will submit this letter with their application.

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Advisor Signature

Department

Date

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Student Signature

Date