

Writing an Honors Thesis for International Studies

International Studies is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to create a personalized major by taking approved courses offered in departments across the University of Utah campus.

The honors thesis for International Studies is similarly personalized. Its form and content depend on the discipline or department in which the student's thesis advisor is housed. Honors students who carry two or more majors may be able to combine more than one of their majors in the thesis, provided that the topic and scope of the thesis are relevant to the majors in question, and provided that students complete the necessary honors requirements for those majors. Students wishing to pursue this path should check with advisors in each of their majors before proceeding.

In any case, honors students within International Studies who wish to write an honors thesis may choose to do so under the guidance of any faculty member of their choosing, as long as that faculty member meets the following criteria:

A thesis advisor must be a member of the University's research-active faculty (either tenure or career line) with a demonstrated record of scholarly publication and with expertise in the chosen subject area. Co-advisors are acceptable, where appropriate, to meet these criteria.

Students who are not yet sure which faculty member(s) they would like to work with can check out the [faculty guide](#). It lists professors who teach approved electives for International Studies. They can also meet with the Honors Faculty Advisor and International Studies Director, [Hugh Cagle](#), to discuss ideas and next steps.

In general students will want to choose a thesis advisor with whom they feel they can build a good working relationship—a faculty member who not only has the appropriate expertise but who will be responsive to student needs and interests, and who is able to commit time and attention to overseeing and evaluating the project.

Throughout the writing process—and in addition to collaborating with their faculty thesis advisor—students will need to work with their Honors Advisor and their International Studies major advisor to be sure that they are meeting Honors College and University deadlines, registering the appropriate Honors courses, and fulfilling all requirements for their major(s).

Once a student has found a thesis advisor, they should work with them to define an agreed-upon, and discipline-appropriate form, scope, and content for the thesis. Once the thesis is complete and has been approved by the thesis advisor, it is ready for approval by the International Study Honors Faculty Advisor.