

8/21/2018

**Accelerated Bachelor's / Master of International Studies**  
Proposed by the Master of International Studies Program  
in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
August 2018

**I. Objectives**

The Accelerated Bachelor's / Master's degree in Master in International Studies (MIS) Program is designed for exceptional undergraduate students from across the university with a curriculum that will provide the opportunity to complete a Bachelor's degree and a MIS degree on an accelerated schedule.

The Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) for MIS will work closely with each ABM student and with his/her Director of Undergraduate Programs (DUP) before official admission to the graduate program, to make sure that the requirements for both degrees will be fulfilled appropriately.

This ABM program will provide benefits to students by reducing the amount of time needed to complete both the bachelor's degree and the advanced degree. From the graduate program recruiting perspective, this program will appeal to the high performance students in undergraduate programs across the university.

**II. Degree Programs involved in this ABM program in International Studies (MIS)**

*Graduate program:* Master in International Studies

The Master of International Studies (MIS) is an interdisciplinary, professional degree program that prepares students for exciting careers in government service, international institutions and non-governmental organizations.

*Undergraduate programs:*

Students from all NC State undergraduate programs would be eligible to apply for the ABM, just as those with bachelor's degrees in any undergraduate major currently can apply for admission to the MIS Program. Students from political science and international studies are particularly encouraged to apply. There have been extensive consultations with both the political science chair (Traciel Reid) and international studies program director (Seth Murray), as well as the Assistant Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies in HHS, Blair Kelley. All enthusiastically support this initiative.

**III. Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2018**

The proposed effective date of Fall 2018 would allow undergraduate students completing their junior year (or credit hour equivalency of at least 75 hours) to apply to the International Studies ABM for their upcoming senior year,

#### **IV. Program Eligibility**

- Students seeking admission to the ABM program in MIS should begin the application process once they have completed 75 hours toward their undergraduate degree, including credits earned from advanced placement.
- Transfer students are also required to have completed a minimum of 24 hours as a full-time student at NC State.
- All students must have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.5 at the time of admission to be considered for participation in the ABM Program.

#### **V. Program Admission**

- A prospective student who meets the eligibility requirements should schedule an initial meeting with the DGP.
- All students recommended by the DGP are required to schedule a meeting with the DUP and DGP by the end of the second semester of the Junior year. During this meeting, the eligible student will develop an ABM Plan of Work that outlines how the student will complete the required coursework and requirements for both the bachelor's and master's degrees within the remaining 2 years of study. The Plan of Work must be approved by the student's undergraduate academic advisor, DUP and DGP before the completion of the bachelor's degree.
- Students with an approved ABM Plan of Work will be directed to make application to the Graduate School seeking a Master's degree in International Studies in the semester they will complete their undergraduate degree. Applications consist of the standard Graduate School Application form, application fee, official transcripts, a statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation, resume, the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and a draft Plan of Work approved by the undergraduate adviser, DUP and DGP.
- Application to the Graduate School constitutes formal application to the ABM Program in MIS. The MIS Admissions Committee will review all applicants for the program.
- Students must complete the Bachelor's degree prior to formal enrollment in the MIS degree.

#### ***Plan of Work***

Contents of the Plan of Work (POW) for the MIS should contain the following, consistent with the Graduate School's ABM Plan of Work form available online at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/faculty-and-staff/docs/forms/abm-plan-of-work.pdf>

1. A list of graduate courses (500 or 700 level) taken as an undergraduate student totaling no more than 12 credit hours that will be double-counted toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. These courses should have a grade of B or better.
2. If applicable, a list of additional courses taken as an undergraduate student totaling up to a maximum of 6 credit hours that will count toward the graduate degree only (credit hours at the 400 level are subject to the restrictions stated in

Section 3.1 subsection D.4 in the NC State Graduate Handbook. These courses should have a grade of B or better.

3. A list of all graduate courses that will be taken after matriculating to the graduate program to be completed within 12 months of earning the bachelor's degree. **The exception would be for students who need to complete an international experience as required by the MIS degree. Their completion of degree could be extended for an additional three months – i.e., the summer following their enrollment in the MIS degree.**
4. Approval from the undergraduate academic adviser, DUP, and MIS DGP.

## **VI. Curriculum Requirements**

### *General Curriculum Requirements for the Master of International Studies*

All students pursuing a Master of International Studies must meet the following requirements ([https://spia.ncsu.edu/graduate/international\\_studies.php](https://spia.ncsu.edu/graduate/international_studies.php)):

A minimum of 36 graduate credit hours as follows:

- MIS Core Requirements (15 hours)
- MIS Specialization (12-18 hours, internship option included)
- MIS Capstone Project (3 hours)
- International Experience– any significant experience of either study abroad or international work prior entry to MIS program will be considered.
- Foreign Language competency as determined by the Foreign Languages Department - <https://fl.chass.ncsu.edu/graduate/certification.php>

### *Special Arrangement for ABM students*

1. 12 graduate credit hours may be double-counted for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.
2. A minimum of an additional 18 hours must be earned to count toward the graduate degree only.
3. 6 undergraduate credit hours at the 400 level not included in the degree audit for the undergraduate degree may also be applied.

## **VII. Requirements for Participation and Graduation**

1. Students must complete the Bachelor's degree including all GEP and degree specific requirements prior to entering the Master's program. Students in the ABM program may not bypass the Bachelor's degree.
2. Students must complete all the degree requirements, including the final project, within the Graduate School ABM designated time period of 12 months after the completion of the Bachelor's degree with the exception detailed above regarding in international experience. **(The exception would be for students who need to complete an international experience as required by the MIS degree. Their completion of degree could be extended for an additional three months – i.e.,**

**the summer following their enrollment in the MIS degree.)**

- 3. If the Master's degree is not completed within this timeframe, the student will no longer be eligible for the ABM program and courses that were previously double-counted will no longer be eligible for credit toward another graduate degree at NCSU.**

#### **VIII. Progress Requirements and Ineligibility/Withdrawal**

- 1. Any student whose cumulative GPA drops below the established ABM Program minimum requirements (3.5 cumulative GPA and 3.5 major GPA) upon graduation will be ineligible to continue in the ABM Program, and will only be eligible for the Bachelor's degree.**
- 2. All ABM students must maintain a graduate GPA of at least 3.00 in all coursework being counted toward the master's degree, inclusive of courses taken as an undergraduate. Students may earn credit for courses in which they have received a B, but the overall graduate GPA must remain at or above 3.00 to remain in good standing as per Graduate School regulations.**
- 3. The DGP and DUP must approve any courses that are substantially different from those submitted in the ABM Plan of Work and those changes must be submitted for Graduate School approval. Failure to consult as indicated may result in the student being dismissed from the ABM Program.**
- 4. A student may withdraw from the ABM program in MIS at any time by submitting written notification to the DGP. A copy of the notice should be sent to the NCSU Graduate School after a student has submitted an application for graduate admission.**