

Master of International Studies



Graduate Student Handbook

This handbook is intended to provide up-to-date information regarding the requirements for the Master of International Studies at NC State. In addition to reading this document, all graduate students should refer to the [Graduate School website](#) for additional information on university policies.

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1. Introduction to MIS Graduate Program

Welcome to the Master of International Studies (MIS) program! The Master of International Studies is a professional degree program that prepares students for exciting careers in government service, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations. An affiliate member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (www.apsia.org), the MIS program joins distinguished universities around the world in providing global education for the 21st century.

2. General Program Requirements

The MIS is a 36 credit hour, non-thesis degree program that is multi-disciplinary in its requirements. **Of the 36 credit hours, only 6 credit hours can be taken at the 400-level.** Additionally, 15 credit hours (5 courses) must come from core courses, selecting at least one course (3 credit hours) from each of the five fields listed below:

Group A: International Relations

[PS 530 Seminar in International Relations](#)

[PS 533 Global Problems and Policies](#)

[HI 554 History of US Foreign Relations](#)

Group B: Comparative Politics/Societies

[PS 540 Seminar in Comparative Politics](#)

[PS 541 Political Islam](#)

[PS 542 European Politics](#)

[PS 543 Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

[PS 544 Contemporary African Politics](#)

[PS 545 Comparative Systems of Law and Justice](#)

[PS 546 The Politics of East Asia](#)

[PS 547 Russian Politics](#)

Group C: International Law and Organization

[PS 531 International Law](#)

[PS 532 Seminar in Global Governance](#)

[PS 536 Global and Environmental Law and Policy](#)

Group D: International Economy/Development

[ECG 540 Economic Development](#)

[ECG 548 International Economics](#)

[PS 539 International Political Economy](#)

Group E: Research Methods*

[PS 571 Research Methods](#)

[PA 515 Research Methods](#)

500-level methods course from a different department*

Two GIS (Geospatial Information Science) courses

*Students may also take a methods course in another discipline (e.g., Anthropology, Communication, Psychology, Public Administration) as warranted by their specialization if approved by their advisor in consultation with the MIS Director of Graduate Programs (DGP).

3. Individual Specialization

An individualized specialization of 12-15 credit hours is also required. The specialization may be in a geographical region (e.g., Latin America), a global issue (e.g., environment and sustainable development), a professional field (e.g., public administration), or a technical specialty (e.g., Geospatial Information Science). The specialization should include an appropriate research methodology course, if recommended by the student's advisor. Examples can be found on the [MIS website](#).

4. International Work or Study Experience

Domestic students must have a significant international study or work experience up to 12 weeks if possible. This may be prior experience within 5 years of entering the program that includes employment, study abroad, or volunteer activities. Students may also study abroad while in the MIS program. More information is available at the [NC State's Study Abroad Office website](#). International students fulfill this requirement by living and studying in the United States while pursuing the program.

5. Capstone Seminar

Students nearing completion of the program are brought together in a seminar that explores broader issues in international studies and facilitates writing a unique capstone paper supervised by their advisor. The final project is then presented to other students and faculty in a symposium setting.

The Capstone Seminar (MIS 601) is 3 credit hours and counts toward the total of 36 credit hours required for graduation.

6. Language Competency

Competency in a foreign language is also required and is certified by the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. More information is available at the [Foreign Languages and Literatures Graduate Certification website](#). **It is strongly advised that you complete this requirement no later than your second semester to assure clearance for graduation.**

7. Advisement

You will be assigned a temporary advisor for your first semester. You will need to be in touch with your temporary advisor for permission to register for your fall and spring courses. You should identify a permanent advisor in your specific area of interest by your second semester.

Dr. Heidi Hobbs is the current Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) for the MIS program.

8. Course Registration

All degree students should meet with their advisor to determine the best course options prior to the opening of registration windows. A full-time course load is 3 courses (9 credits) per fall and spring semesters. All registration is handled through MyPack Portal and the Student Information System (SIS). Students not registered for the preceding semester due to a leave of absence must notify the Graduate School and the DGP of the program to have their advising hold released.

The [online Graduate Catalog](#) is the most current description of NCSU's graduate program requirements. Course descriptions also are available through the [Registration and Records online course catalog](#).

9. Inter-Institutional Registration

The [Inter-Institutional Registration Program](#) is comprised of NCSU, Duke University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University

of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The program allows students to enroll at another institution for a course or courses not offered on their home campus. Other activities include a cooperative library arrangement, joint student activities, and faculty cooperation.

MIS students may take two courses at other universities in one semester but must also be enrolled in one course at NC State. The process is as follows:

1. Find a course and confirm with your advisor that it is a good fit;
2. Contact the professor teaching the course and ask for permission to enroll;
3. Fill out the [interinstitutional registration form](#) with the host instructor's approval attached; and,
4. Be sure that both you and your advisor sign the form, then turn it into the DGP, who will forward it to the College Dean for approval.

10. Plan of Work

A Plan of Work (POW) should be submitted online through the [Graduate School Information systems](#). Students should begin working on their POW with their advisor by the second semester.

11. Certificates

[Graduate Certificates](#) are offered across the university in many areas. The School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) hosts certificates in [Nonprofit Management](#), [Policy Analysis](#), and [Nuclear Nonproliferation Science and Policy](#).

12. Multiple Masters

Interested in getting a second master's degree while enrolled in the MIS Program? The following Graduate School rules apply to the process: More specific guidelines on MIS/MPA are available from the MIS and PA DGP.

[3.10 Dual Master's Degrees](#)

Students enrolled in a master's degree program at NC State University may pursue additional master's degrees simultaneously provided that:

1. *the Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) of each program approves the pursuit of multiple degrees;*
2. *an approved Plan of Work for each master's degree is submitted;*
3. *18 hours are unique to each degree program;*
4. *all other requirements and Graduate School rules are met for each degree; and,*
5. *the time limits in place for the initial degree apply to all others.*

13. Internships and Career Placement

The internship program is an integral part of the MIS degree and can be critical to career placement following graduation. Students work individually with our internship coordinator, Dr. Tracy Appling (tracy_appling@ncsu.edu) to identify an internship opportunity. Internship credit hours apply towards the 36-hour total for the degree. Students can receive 3 credit hours for 200 hours of internship work and 6 credit hours for 400 hours of internship work.

There are many career opportunities for MIS graduates. A great place to get an overview of the breadth of options is the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs' [International Career Guide](#).

14. Financial Aid Resources

The Graduate school has many [Financial Resources for students](#). There is also a dedicated Graduate Fellowship Specialist, Courtney Hughes (chughes5@ncsu.edu) who can help as well.

15. Leave of Absence

Students can take up to two semesters [leave of absence](#) if needed. The request begins with the student's advisor and requires approval by the DGP. The six-year time limit on completion of the degree is not extended.

16. Academic Integrity

Graduate student success is dependent on academic integrity and full compliance with [NC State's Code of Student Conduct](#). Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, aiding and abetting others to cheat or plagiarize, and destruction of academic materials.

17. Academic Difficulty

Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum of a 3.00 Grade Point Average (GPA) for graduation. Students facing academic difficulty will receive a series of warnings that can ultimately lead to termination unless addressed. For more information, review the [Academic Difficulty policies](#).

18. Applying for Residency

Out-of-state students (not including International students) are strongly encouraged to reapply for in-state residency prior to the start of their second year. The Graduate School lays out specific directions as to how to apply for [Residency for Tuition Purposes](#). There are several actions that must be taken at least 12 months prior to the request for residency classification. Please be sure to read them carefully.

19. NC State University Police Department

The [NC State University Police Department](#) is responsible for the safety of students from criminal activity and fires. All students can sign up to receive [Wolfalerts emergency text messages](#). University police also coordinate an escort service for students as they travel to/from their cars or between areas of the campus between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Requests for this service can be made by calling 919-515-3000.

20. Graduate Student Life and Resources

There are many opportunities for graduate students at NC State. To learn about Graduate Student Life, expectations, services and opportunities, please visit the [Graduate Student Life website](#).

Need help with writing a paper? Visit the [Graduate Writing Center](#). Want to connect with other Graduate Students for support? Check out the [Graduate Peer Mentoring Collaborative](#). Having trouble meeting your basic needs? [Pack Essentials](#) can help.

21. MIS Chapter of the Graduate Student Association

MIS-GSA is a university-recognized graduate student organization that represents students in the MISs program at NCSU. This student-led group acts as a liaison

between the Graduate School, the Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the students of the MIS program by attending GSA meetings twice a month, including subcommittee meetings. MIS-GSA uses the funds granted by GSA, based on attendance to these meetings, to sponsor MIS student events each semester.

In the past, these activities have included basketball and football games, monthly pub nights, networking events, and cultural outings. Family and friends are welcome to accompany students to these occasions.

During the spring semester of each year elections are held to appoint four new officers. MIS GSA is active on Facebook for current students at [MIS GSA Events](#). There is also a broader Facebook site that includes alumni at [MIS @ NC State](#). All students are invited to join both groups.

22. The North Carolina State University Journal of International Studies

Created and managed by MIS students, the *North Carolina State University Journal of International Studies* is a peer-reviewed graduate student publication featuring work by MIS students. Each issue publishes work from the spring semester of the previous academic year and the fall semester of the current academic year (i.e. Spring 2019 and Fall 2019).

Students can become involved in its publication by sitting on the editorial board or submitting a paper. The editorial board recruits new members at the beginning of the fall semester. A call for papers will be issued at the beginning of the spring semester, and the final product will be available at the end of the academic year.

23. Active MIS Faculty Contacts

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