

# 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 NCSU. In addition to reading this document, all graduate students should refer to the Graduate School website for additional information on university policies. (<http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/>).

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## 1. Introduction to MIS Graduate Program

Welcome to the Master of International Studies (MIS) program! MIS 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](http://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 units, 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 these five fields: International Studies, Comparative Politics/Societies, International Law and Organization, International Economy/Development, and Research Methods.

### *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 Western European Politics
- PS 543 Latin America and the Caribbean
- PS 545 Comparative Systems of Law and Justice
- PS 598 African Politics
- PS 598 Politics of East Asia

### *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*

- EC 540 Economic Development
- PS 539 International Political Economy

### *Group E: Research Methods\**

- PS 571 Research Methods
- 500 level methods course from a different department\*
- Two GIS courses

\* Students may also take a methods course in another discipline as warranted by their specialization if approved by their adviser in consultation with the MIS DGP – e.g., Anthropology, Communication, Psychology, Public Administration.

### **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), an international topic (e.g. sustainable development), a professional field (e.g. public administration), or a technical specialty (e.g. GIS). The specialization should include an appropriate research methodology course, if recommended by the chair of the student's faculty advisory committee. A list of possible specialization options can be found on the MIS website at [https://spia.ncsu.edu/graduate/international\\_studies.php](https://spia.ncsu.edu/graduate/international_studies.php).

### **4. Language Competency**

The MIS program requires that you be proficient in a foreign language for completion of the degree. The Foreign Languages and Literature department provides the certification. It can be done through testing, previous or current coursework. The best source for the current policy is on their departmental website at <https://fll.chass.ncsu.edu/graduate/certification.php>. Please note that they only provide certification during the regular academic year and not summer sessions.

**It is strongly advised that you complete this requirement no later than your second semester to assure clearance for graduation.**

### **5. Advisement**

You will be assigned a temporary advisor for your first semester. It is strongly recommended that you take courses that fulfill the core requirements. You may refer to the list of suggested courses sent to you with the recommendation for admission. All students must take one course from each of the Group A-E core areas. A full time load is three courses, or nine credits. You may also take courses related to your specific area of interest. You will need to be in touch with your temporary advisor for permission to register. You should identify a permanent advisor by your second semester.

### **6. Course Registration**

All degree students should meet with an advisor to determine their best course options prior to the opening of registration windows. All registration is handled through the 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 director of the program to have their advising hold released.

The online Graduate Catalog (<https://www.ncsu.edu/grad/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 - <https://www.acs.ncsu.edu/php/coursecat/>

## **7. Inter-Institutional Registration**

The Inter-Institutional Registration Program (<https://studentservices.ncsu.edu/your-classes/exchange-programs/inter-institutional-program/>) is a voluntary organization 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 for the purpose of developing and conducting cooperative educational activities. 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 courses at other universities in the area, including UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke, through inter-institutional registration.

## **8. Plan of Work**

A Plan of Work (POW) should be submitted online through the SIS system. Students should begin their plan of work by the second semester. Directions on how to use SIS for graduate students can be found at <https://grad.ncsu.edu/faculty-and-staff/information-systems/>.

## **9. Certificates**

Graduate Certificates are offered across the university in many areas - <http://www.grad.ncsu.edu/catalog/default.asp#CERT>. The School of Public and International Affairs host certificates in Nonprofit Management, Public Policy and Nuclear nonproliferation Science and Policy.

## **10. The Capstone Seminar**

Students nearing completion of the program are brought together in a seminar in which they build upon their course work, internship experiences and academic interest to write a capstone paper that is presented to other students in a symposium format. The Capstone Seminar (MIS 601) is 3 credits and counts toward the total of 36 credits required for graduation.

## 11. Multiple Masters

Interested in getting a second Master's degree while enrolled in the MIS Program? The following rules from the Graduate School apply to the process:

<http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/handbook/sections/3.11-awarding-multiple-masters.html>

*Graduate Handbook Section 3.11*

A. *Multiple Master's Degrees to Students in a Master's Program*

*Students admitted and 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 department approves the pursuit of multiple degrees;*
- 2. the requirements for each master's degree are met;*
- 3. a Plan of Work for each master's degree is approved by the Graduate School;*
- 4. 18 hours are unique to each; and*
- 5. all other Graduate School rules are met for each degree, including time limits.*

## 12. International Experience

There are many study abroad opportunities at NCSU - <http://studyabroad.ncsu.edu/>. Graduate students in the MIS program often have specific summer options available to them each year. We have traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, Turkey and Brazil. These programs are designed to work with our graduate student's busy schedules and vary from one to four weeks long.

## 13. Graduate Student Life

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: <https://grad.ncsu.edu/students/>

## 14. MIS Chapter of the Graduate Student Association

Consisting of four officers elected by MIS students, MIS-GSA is a university-recognized graduate student organization that represent students in the Master of International Studies program at NCSU. This 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 outings to Mitch's Tavern, 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 new officers. To contact, please e-mail us at [mis.ugsa@gmail.com](mailto:mis.ugsa@gmail.com). MIS is also active on Facebook at MIS @ NC State. All students are invited to join.

## **15. 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 2017 and Fall 2017). 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.

## **16. Leave of Absence**

A student in good academic standing who must interrupt his/her graduate program may request a leave of absence from graduate study for a definite period of time, not to exceed one year within a given graduate degree program. The student should initiate the request with the Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) for approval before the DGP submits it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School should receive the request at least one month prior to the first day of the term involved. The time that the student spends on an approved leave of absence will be included in the time allowed to complete the degree, i.e., six (6) years for the Master. Time limits are not extended.

## **17. Academic Difficulty**

Graduate students may be terminated from the program at any time if, in the judgment of the degree-granting Department and the Graduate School, a student fails to make satisfactory progress towards the completion of the degree. The definition of satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree program may differ among degree offering units. Examples of unsatisfactory progress may include, but are not limited to, inadequate grade point average (GPA), inadequate research and/or research skills, or failure to obtain satisfactory grades in required courses for the program. A GPA of at least 3.0 for all graduate course work at NCSU is required for graduation.

More information on academic difficulty can be found at <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/handbook/sections/3.20-academic-difficulty.html#A>.

## **18. Applying for Residency**

In order to be considered for a reclassification as a resident of NC for tuition purposes at the end of a minimum 12-month period, a person must do the following things:

1. Have 12 months of physical presence in North Carolina.
  - Have held legal residency for at least 12 months prior to the start of the requested term.
  - Demonstrate that you are a legal resident of North Carolina and not just temporarily residing in the state as a student.
  - Have not had any significantly long breaks in physical presence in North Carolina for the past 12 months.
2. Have the financial and legal ability to establish a domicile.
  - Be (mostly) financially independent from non-North Carolina parents or guardians.
  - Not be a tax dependent of non-North Carolina parents or guardians.
  - Be able to show that you can financially support yourself independent of any out of state sources.
  - Have an independent financial aid status, if using financial aid.
3. Demonstrate the intent to make North Carolina your home aside from attending school.
  - Complete a cluster of residency acts a year prior to the start of the requested term.
  - Not hold ties to another state that would indicate you are a resident of that state.
  - Explain why some residency acts may not have been able to be completed, if that is the case.

More information can be found at <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/tuition-residency/>.

## **19. NC State University Police Department**

The NC State Police Department is responsible for the safety of campus students from criminal activity and fires. They also coordinate an escort service for students as they travel to/from their cars or between areas of the campus at night. Requests for this service can be made by calling 919-515-3000.

## 20. MIS SPIA Faculty Contacts

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