

International Relations Honors Program

Requirements and Policies

Prerequisites:

- Minimum 3.5 overall grade point average.
- Successful experience writing a research paper.
- An Honors Thesis proposal.
- A Thesis Advisor.
- IR Program approval.

Advisor(s):

- Your Thesis Advisor must be a Stanford Academic Council faculty member (the IR Office can confirm Academic Council status for you).
- Your Thesis Advisor is responsible for assigning your grade for INTNLREL 198 (see below).

Requirements:

- The spring quarter of your junior year you will take the INTNLREL 200A: IR Honors Field Research course, which is mandatory for all IR Honors students (3 units). This course is letter-graded.
- The autumn quarter of your senior year you will enroll in INTNLREL 200B: IR Honors Seminar, which will focus on the analysis of research findings and initial steps in writing the thesis (3 units). At the end of the quarter, you should expect to have 1-2 chapters of their thesis submitted in draft form.
- The winter quarter of your senior year you will take INTNLREL 200C: IR Honors Thesis Writing, in which you will continue to write your honors thesis and present your research (1 unit). You will also receive feedback on your work from Honors cohort members and provide feedback on their work.
- Present your thesis findings at the IR Honors Conference in the spring quarter of your senior year (usually in mid-May).
- Over the autumn, winter, and spring quarters, you should enroll in a total of 8-15 units of INTNLREL 198: Senior Thesis, in which you will work on your Honors thesis in coordination with your Thesis Advisor(s). Enrollment in units will be monitored (INTNLREL 200A/B/C do not count within these 8-15 units).
- Complete 15-22 total honors units (200A/B/C and 198). Honors units are taken above and beyond the IR major 70-unit requirement. Note: 200B can satisfy your IR WIM and SEM/COL requirements, if need be.

Grading:

- You must receive at least a B+ in IR 198: Senior Thesis to graduate with honors. You will receive an N grade for IR 198 in the autumn and winter quarters and a final letter grade for spring quarter, which will be retroactively assigned to autumn and winter quarters.

Other Policies:

- There is no fixed length for your Honors Thesis, but most IR Honors Theses are between 70-100 pages, plus notes and bibliography.
- If you are conducting interview or survey research, you must contact the Human Subjects Protocol Panel at <http://humansubjects.stanford.edu>.
- If you have completed all of your IR degree requirements, you may register as [Permit for Services Only](#) (PSO) in the spring quarter of your senior year while completing your thesis (international students cannot register for PSO status).

Sample Timeline

JUNIOR YEAR

- Attend an IR Honors information session in February.
- If you haven't already, enroll in a course related to the subject you wish to pursue in your honors work.
- If you haven't already, take a writing seminar to help develop research and writing skills.
- Formulate a preliminary thesis topic and consult with faculty members who might serve as your thesis advisor. Confirm your Thesis Advisor, finalize your thesis topic, and develop a work plan with your Thesis Advisor.
- Contact UAR early winter quarter if you wish to apply for a grant to conduct summer research.
- Submit your IR Honors Program application by the deadline (usually late February).
- Once again, if you are conducting interview or survey research, you must contact the [Human Subjects Protocol Panel](http://humansubjects.stanford.edu) for appropriate protocol at <http://humansubjects.stanford.edu>.
- In spring quarter, enroll in INTNLREL 200A: IR Honors Field Research.

SUMMER

- Sharpen your proposal and start your research. The more research you do over the summer, the more you can concentrate on writing once you get back to campus.
- We strongly recommend that you participate in [Bing Honors College](#), which is a free program that provides you with the opportunity to work on your theses with a cohort of Honors students and faculty advisors for three weeks in September before the start of your senior year.

SENIOR YEAR

Autumn Quarter

- All Honors students should enroll in the Autumn quarter course INTNLREL 200B: IR Honors Thesis Seminar, which will focus on the analysis of research findings and initial steps in writing the thesis. At the end of the quarter, you should expect to have two chapters of their thesis submitted in draft form.
- Enroll in INTNLREL 198: Senior Thesis with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units.
- In consultation with your advisor, establish a detailed timeline for draft completion progress.

Winter Quarter

- Enroll in INTNLREL 200C: IR Honors Thesis Writing.
- Enroll in INTNLREL 198: Senior Thesis with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units. Continue to meet with your Faculty Advisor(s) as agreed.

Spring Quarter

- Enroll in INTNLREL 198: Senior Thesis with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units. You should plan to submit to your Thesis Advisor(s) a first draft of your completed thesis by the second week of the quarter so that comments and revisions can be made.
- Present your honors thesis findings at the IR Honors Conference in mid-May.
- Submit an electronic copy of your thesis to your Thesis Advisor(s), one bound copy and one electronic copy to the IR Program Office, and one electronic copy to the Stanford library by the announced due-date (usually early June). To be considered for a thesis prize, you should submit your completed thesis to your Thesis Advisor(s) by the awards deadline (usually in mid-May).