

# BA, International Honours

## Guide for the International Relations Major



### Guidelines for the International Relations Major

#### **COLL 150**

Your COLL 150 *does not need* to be in International Relations or Economics. In fact, it can be advantageous to choose a COLL 150 that also meets a Knowledge Objective.

#### **Sub-Honours (lower-level) International Relations courses**

During sub-honours years, IR students take several required courses. The IR BA Int Hons Planning Matrix for IR students includes the required courses in the appropriate order. We recommend that IR students also take a research methods course at W&M—this is particularly important for those who plan to pursue a honors thesis at W&M in their fourth year. Note that students can use pre-matriculation credit to meet the first year requirements, though credit will not be awarded. Students should work with their major advisor to substitute appropriate IR credits for courses met with pre-matriculation credit. Not all classes require substitutions.

#### **Honours (upper-level) International Relations courses**

During honours years, students should focus on earning enough credits at the 300(0) and 400(0) levels. W&M courses at the 300-level or above on IR topics count as 4000-level courses for the purposes of the degree: check the [list of pre-approved courses](#) or ask your advisor. Topics classes on the list (for example, GOVT 391 or HIST 311) have to be on an IR topic to count at the 300(0) or 400(0) level for the JDP. At W&M, any of the 300-level and 400-level courses can be taken in year 3 or year 4, but not all upper-level courses in the catalog are offered every year.

#### **Fourth Year Research Requirement**

##### *At St Andrews*

All International Relations majors spending Year 4 at St Andrews must do a full year dissertation: IR4099.

### *At W&M*

International Relations majors spending Year 4 at W&M can satisfy the Fourth Year Research Requirement in one of three ways: 1) take any seminar with a COLL 400 designation that is on an IR topic (different topics are offered in fall and spring, varying from year to year), 2) conduct a 3-credit one-semester independent study on an IR topic (INRL 480), *OR* 3) do a two-semester Honors Thesis on an IR topic (INRL/GOVT 495 and 496, 6 credits total). The Honors program at W&M is selective and it is not guaranteed that all students who desire to complete an Honors Thesis will be able to do so.

Students who are interested in completing an Honors Thesis should first consult the Honors Projects in International Relations [website](#). Students are encouraged to explore possible research topics for their Honors Thesis during their junior year *at the latest*. The best way to do this is to discuss potential areas of interest or specific topics with individual faculty members. For BA Int Hons/JDP students, earlier discussions with potential faculty advisors and continued contact via email or zoom meetings while away at St Andrews will be critical.