

BA, International Honours Planning Guide



We have developed this guide and planning tool to assist students in planning their path through the BA Int Hons degree. It is a good idea to review this guide and plan prior to each advising meeting. For a complete list of regulations and policies, consult the W&M Catalog and St Andrews policy documents. While this guide summarizes the key points of the degree, students are expected to also consult and become familiar with all degree requirements and policies in the W&M catalog and St Andrews Policy documents. Links to these documents are found in the Resources section.

Resources

[DegreeWorks](#) – This site allows you to track your progress through your major and degree. Note that your advisor is also listed here. Requirements that have been met will have a green checkmark. Those in progress are marked blue. Contact your advisor if you have questions about what is marked or not marked as completed.

[W&M JDP website](#) – “For Current Students” section has more detailed information about the curriculum and contact information for your advisor. Also contains information on resources available to JDP students while at W&M.

[St Andrews BA Int Hons website](#) – information about advising and resources available to BA Int Hons students while at St Andrews.

[W&M Catalog](#) and [St Andrews policy document](#) – explains all policies and regulations for the BA Int Hons degree including continuance standards, leave, and grading.

Sub-honours Years

During sub-honours years, students should focus on passing all major-required classes/modules, passing a COLL 150 (the Lower Division Writing Requirement) at W&M, and meeting (nearly) all proficiencies and breadth requirements. Note that proficiencies and breadth requirements can be met with pre-matriculation credit (AP, IB, etc). Items met with pre-matriculation credit will show as completed in DegreeWorks but note that no credit will be awarded. A single class (either pre-or post-matriculation) can meet up to two breadth requirements and/or proficiencies. For example, a COLL 150 in BIOL can meet the World of Nature breadth requirement AND satisfy the Lower Division Writing Requirement).

In the spirit of the liberal arts, students are encouraged to take classes that interest them outside of their major. These classes may also enable exploration of possible minors. Completing the introductory courses for a minor during sub-honours is often required in order to meet minor requirements. Consult the W&M catalog for a list of minors and their requirements. Note that completing a minor is difficult and requires advance planning.

In late January of the second year, students will decide where to spend the third year of the degree. To make this decision, we recommend that students consider what kind of research experience they wish to pursue during their fourth year: St Andrews dissertation or project, W&M Honors Thesis, or W&M independent study or capstone coursework (see details in the major guidelines section). Students are encouraged to speak with their major advisor, peer advisors and 3rd and 4th year students in the Programme to learn more. This is particularly important if a student wishes to complete a W&M Honors Thesis: each major has different processes, so early conversations are necessary to facilitate finding the right thesis advisor and meeting requirements in a timely manner.

Honours Years

During honours years, students should focus on

- 1) passing all major-required courses/modules;
- 2) ensuring that all proficiencies and breadth requirements will be met prior to graduation;
- 3) passing sufficient 300(0) and 400(0) classes/modules; and
- 4) completing the research requirement/capstone.

Nearly all courses/modules taken during honours should be at the 300(0) or 400(0) level. When taking a normal load of 60 credits during honours years, no more than 7.5 credits can be at 100 and 200 level. Students who are completing minors should be especially careful of the credit count requirements. Consult the BA International honours checklist or the W&M catalog for the list of the credit requirements during honours years.

Students may participate in graduation ceremonies at both institutions. In addition, students will need to apply to graduate at both institutions, regardless of whether they will attend both ceremonies or attend only one. W&M Latin Honors will be determined based upon the student's GPA calculated across *all four years*. St Andrews Degree Classification will be determined based upon the GPA of all 300(0) and 400(0) level courses taken *during honours years*. See the St Andrews policy documents for a description of how Degree Classifications are calculated.

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 breadth requirement.

Sub-Honours (lower-level) International Relations courses

During sub-honours years, IR students take a large number of 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.

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.