

The image features a central blue oval with the text "International Studies" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The oval has a black shadow on its left side. The background consists of several concentric circles, some solid and some dashed, in light gray and white tones, creating a dynamic, swirling effect.

International Studies

International Relations

Diplomacy

Peacekeeping

Foreign affairs

Program administration

Community development

Economic development

Resource development

Public-private partnerships

Governance

Policy making and analysis

Legislative services

Political advising

Public sector reform

Poverty-reduction strategy

Ethics and anti-corruption

Human rights

International Relations Employers

United Nations

Non-governmental organizations

Relief agencies

Religious organizations

Educational institutions

Consulting firms

Research institutes

Foundations

Defense contractors

Legislative officials

Federal government:

Department of State

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense:

US Agency for International Development

National Security Council

National Security Agency

International Relations Strategies

Become fluent in a second or third language.

Study, volunteer, or work internationally. Seek as many experiences abroad as possible.

Complete an internship specifically with a NGO, the US government, or an international government.

Study world governments, economics, and religions.

Be able to demonstrate your depth of dedication, willingness to adapt, and coping mechanisms to combat stress and difficult situations.

Develop skills in the areas of organizing groups, efficiency, and the ability to calm people.

Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with international students.

Learn about geography and international travel regulations.

Stay abreast of international news and politics.

Sharpen your intercultural communication skills.

Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental.

Earn a relevant graduate degree such as international diplomacy, international relations, or law.

Research government hiring procedures and seek assistance from your campus career center.

Social Services

Human services provision

Public health

Disaster/Disease relief

Economic development

Community development

HIV/AIDS work

Policy development

Program administration

Program evaluation

Volunteer coordination

Social Services Employers

Non-governmental organizations

Private voluntary organizations

Humanitarian services

Religious organizations

Relief agencies

United Nations:

- World Health Organization
- UNICEF
- Economic and Social Council

Federal government:

- Peace Corps
- US Agency for International Development
- National Security Council

Social Services Strategies

Become fluent in one or more foreign language(s).

Work or study abroad to gain international/intercultural competency and practical experience.

Complete internships or fellowships to gain experience with social issues of interest.

Participate in an international service learning experience or go on mission trips.

Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills.

Hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) exist in the US. Research organizations' structures, functions, and missions to find a good fit.

Volunteer at relevant social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.

Work with or assist immigrants or refugees in the local community.

Gain experience with intercultural communication and an appreciation for diversity.

Learn about international humanitarian law.

Demonstrate strong analytical and management skills.

Research government hiring procedures and seek assistance from your campus career center.

Consider earning a graduate degree in social work, public administration, or related fields.

Language Services

Teaching

Curriculum development

Tutoring

Translating/Interpreting

Research

Writing

Library science

Higher Education Administration:

- International Student Support Services
- International Houses or Cultural Centers
- Student affairs
- Study abroad programming

Language Services Employers

International schools

Overseas dependents' schools

English language institutes

Professional language schools

Non-governmental organizations

Religious organizations

Colleges and universities

Third-party study abroad providers

Self-employed

Federal government agencies

Language Services Strategies

Gain practical domestic teaching experience and the necessary training or certificate to teach abroad. Teacher training should include supervised classroom experience.

Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.

Research certification options for teaching English (TESOL, CELTA, CELTC, TEFL).

Obtain certificates from schools whose graduates are hired in the international marketplace.

Consider obtaining intensive TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) training.

Volunteer to tutor children and adults in English.

Learn other languages to help understand how languages work.

Sharpen intercultural competency, sensitivity, and tolerance. Those who are successful at teaching abroad tend to be independent, flexible, and patient.

Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.

Notify local hospitals, schools, and chambers of commerce of your availability to translate or interpret for international visitors.

Get involved with student leadership experiences on campus.

Look for positions in developing nations or Asian countries. Teaching positions in Europe are very competitive.

Earn a master's degree in College Student Affairs to work with study abroad programs or with international student services.

International Public Law

Economic law

Trade and investment law

Commercial arbitration

Criminal law

Refugee law

Human rights law

Environmental law

Humanitarian law

International Public Law Employers

Federal government:

- Department of Defense
- Department of State
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Protection Agency

Law firms with an international practice

Overseas law firms

Corporations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), (e.g., Amnesty International, Human Rights First).

Inter-governmental organizations (IGSSs), (e.g., United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)).

Consulting firms

International Public Law Strategies

Develop strong research skills and attention to detail.

Participate in debate teams to hone communication skills.

Gain practical experience through an internship, part-time or summer work in a law firm.

Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.

Get involved in pre-law organizations.

Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree (JD).

Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations. Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).

Research law schools to find those that offer courses in international public law and have a good reputation.

While in law school, gain international experience through internships or summer programs.

Jobs in this field are extremely competitive. Plan to gain several years experience before starting an international law career.

Travel and Tourism

International airline services

Booking and reservations

Travel services/guidance

Ecotourism

Convention and visitors' bureaus

Transportation

Hospitality

Restaurant/Food service

Customer/Guest services

Marketing management

Travel and Tourism Employers

Tour and excursion companies

Travel agencies

Lodging: hotels/motels, resorts, timeshares

Property management companies

Restaurants/Food services providers

Airlines/Airports

Cruise lines

Car rental agencies

Convention centers

Chambers of commerce

Amusement centers, theme parks, and attractions

U.S. Military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs

Travel and Tourism Strategies

Supplement coursework or earn a minor in hotel, restaurant, & tourism administration or recreation & tourism management.

Gain experience through an internship, part-time, or summer work in a hotel, restaurant, or area of interest.

Work or study abroad to gain international/intercultural competency.

Learn about international travel regulations.

Develop office management and technology skills.

Maintain a travel blog.

Show attention to detail.

Build a strong foundation in customer service.

Learn to communicate effectively with a wide variety of people and to work well in teams.

Become fluent in another language.

Understand that employees in this industry typically work long hours including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Prepare to work "from the bottom up" to gain industry experience in order to relocate for promotions.

General International Studies Information

Develop linguistic skills. Become fluent in a second and third language.

Demonstrate intercultural competency, sensitivity, and tolerance.

Gain experience communicating with people from other cultures. Seek opportunities to interact with international students on campus or in your community.

Study abroad, work abroad, or travel to a foreign country while in school to develop language skills and international competency.

Commit to a continuous study of host country's language.

Develop a good understanding of etiquette and business practices in country of target.

Look for temporary or volunteer positions abroad.

Obtain daily papers in target city to determine international and national news, business features, real estate markets, and community calendars.

Get your foot in the door through domestic positions because many international employers promote current employees to international positions.

Develop traits such as creativity, initiative, tenacity, a willingness to take risks, an adventurous spirit, and a sense of humor.

In general, international positions are competitive and difficult to obtain. Be proactive in developing the skills and experiences that will prepare you for an overseas job.

Be very planful about building an international career. It takes time to develop a set of skills and experiences that will prepare you for an overseas job.

Learn about international travel regulations including the specific visa requirements for the country you're traveling to and the jobs you'll be working in.