

**Program in International Studies**

A proposal for a new interdisciplinary program in the College of Arts and Sciences

Submitted to the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Miami

College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Miami

October 15, 2013

## **Executive Summary**

International Studies is at a crossroads at the University of Miami. The degree programs that currently reside in the Department of International Studies have served our student population well as evidenced by the popularity of their courses, the number of majors (~300), and size of their graduate student population (currently 66). However, changes in the INS faculty and the nature of scholarship at UM (and in US research universities more generally) argue for a broadening of the program to include different perspectives from relevant subfields in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences (e.g., from the disciplines of political science, geography and regional studies, sociology, anthropology, history, environmental science and policy, etc.). This document lays out a rationale for why an interdisciplinary program in International Studies is needed at this particular time. It also describes a proposed governance structure that is consistent with other interdisciplinary programs in the College, including the appointment of a Program Director and an Academic Steering Committee drawn from faculty who have taught recently in the INS degree programs and other faculty in allied disciplines. The establishment of such a program will not entail any major budgetary changes or major changes in regular faculty composition at this time, but instead will leverage our current strengths and emerging areas of inquiry within the College including such topics as immigration, the growing global influences of investment and trade with and from Asia, global urbanization, energy, sustainability, climate change, and global public health. While the current INS degree programs address these issues, the vision for the new program will include more emphasis on these and other emerging areas of inquiry in the College through the involvement of College Faculty and new and/or existing courses in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Once a Director is appointed and a Steering Committee established, any curricular or programmatic changes will be approved through normal procedures involving consultation with the College Curriculum Committee and College Faculty, as needed.

## I. Background and Current Context

The field of International Studies is inherently interdisciplinary and draws upon diverse sub-fields in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences including political science, economics, law, geography, sociology, history, and anthropology. Accordingly, the Department of International Studies (INS) at the University of Miami consists of a diverse faculty with a range of different backgrounds, interests, and perspectives. Over the past decade, INS has faced a number of major challenges including numerous changes in departmental leadership (including three interim chairs), several Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and, since 2009, a set of protracted and difficult negotiations over a proposed merger with the Department of Political Science (POL). The stalled negotiations between INS and POL have led to considerable uncertainty over the future of the academic degree programs in INS, which consist of BA, MA, and PhD degrees in International Studies.

Notwithstanding recent challenges, these degree programs have experienced sustained growth in enrollments over the past decade, with the number of undergraduate majors increasing from fewer than 200 in 2002 to around 300 today, making INS the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular major in the College behind Psychology, Biology, Economics, and Political Science. Moreover, under the leadership of the past Department Chair (Prof. Bruce Bagley) and the past Director of Graduate Studies (Prof. William Smith), the enrollments in the MA and PhD programs have remained very high in recent years [i.e., from 57 students in 2009 (36 PhD and 21 MA) to 66 students today (46 PhD and 20 MA)]. At the same time, meeting the current academic needs of the large number of INS majors and graduate students has become increasingly difficult with faculty administrative assignments and reduced teaching loads. For example, of the current regular faculty of twelve in INS, two have been assigned major administrative responsibilities elsewhere in the College and University; two senior faculty have opted for phased retirement; and two are currently on sabbatical leave with another planning to be on research leave in the spring semester of 2014.

This situation, coupled with the difficulties associated with the proposed INS-POL merger, prompted the College to appoint, for the current year, a series of lecturers, part-time instructors, a new interim Chair, a new Director of Graduate Studies (who also serves as a lecturer), and an interim Director of Academic Programs to ensure that required INS courses are offered and that proper mentoring and guidance is given to the large cohort of existing MA and PhD students. Moreover, with diminished teaching capacity associated with faculty leaves, retirements, and administrative assignments, the College has imposed a temporary moratorium on new admissions to the PhD program until such time as the number of students reaches a sustainable level through graduation and/or attrition.

Further, during its meeting on April 29, 2013, the College Faculty addressed the many difficult issues surrounding the proposed INS-POL merger and the concomitant need for an interdisciplinary program when it voted overwhelmingly (67 Yes, 1 No, and 4 Abstain) to adopt the following motion:

*“The faculty of the College of Arts & Sciences recommends to the Faculty Senate and the Administration that the Departments of International Studies and Political Science be re-created as two separate departments; an interdisciplinary program will be created under the name Program in International Studies; following Faculty Senate approval, this program will have responsibility for the current BA/BS, MA and PhD degrees in international studies. No change will be made in the descriptions, degree requirements, objectives and learning outcomes of these programs. Regular Faculty who teach or have taught in these programs over the most recent, and subsequent, three-year periods will form the Steering Committee that will oversee them.”*

After review of the motion, the Faculty Senate adopted two new pieces of legislation (see Appendix I) that codify the above motion, while at the same time asking for further consultation with the College Faculty concerning the rationale, governance, and budgetary implications of the proposed Interdisciplinary Program in International Studies. This document addresses the Faculty Senate’s request and the sections below describe the proposed program in detail.

## **II. Intellectual and Academic Rationale for an Interdisciplinary Program**

The current rationale of the INS degree programs emphasizes an educational experience that aims to familiarize students with the key structural features and dynamics of the international system and prepares them to enter the growing international job market. Globalizing and internationalizing higher education is not a choice, but a necessity. It is the responsibility of today’s Universities. Students face a world that previous generations could not easily have imagined: global health and pandemics, environmental issues, financial crises, poverty issues and their implications, water shortages, refugee flows across state boundaries, genocides, the political impact of religion, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, security concerns, and conflicts leading to regional or civil warfare. All this occurs against the backdrop of the global flow of ideas propelled by ever-growing networks based on information technology and a range of social movements. These processes of globalization, in part driven by global capital flows and expanding trade, have affected virtually everyone in every country. These developments often pose serious problems for government and other societal institutions, while also creating a demand for individuals who understand international processes. Jobs in virtually all sectors have acquired a decidedly international dimension, whether in trade, tourism, finance, public policy, government, or education. Thus, there remains a clear need to maintain a strong curriculum in International Studies in the College as a way to prepare our students for global-scale challenges that societies will face this century and beyond. A major instructional task is to connect these multiple issues, so that students grasp the complexity of today’s world and, further, to understand also how to relate the trans-national issues above to the foreign policies of powers and states.

With continuing support from the College over the past decade, the INS Department has organized its curriculum around three major areas of thematic emphasis within the broad field of International Studies: 1) International Politics, Foreign Policy and, Peace Studies; 2) Comparative Studies of Politics and Societies; and, 3) International Economics, Political

Economy and Development. A key element that ties these areas together is analysis, which addresses religious, ethnic, nationalist and economic conflicts within and between societies, growing interdependence among the world's states, economies and societies, as well as the enduring divides within and between them. The INS curriculum also addresses the fact that societies can no longer be understood in isolation or at a particular point in time and must be understood through careful evaluation of their legacies from the past within rapidly shifting contexts—political, military, economic, social, environmental, and cultural—posing complex dilemmas of national and global governance. Because of the sheer variety and complexity of the global issues and crises it is not a matter for any particular department or discipline to analyze and adequately cover them. It must be a truly multi-disciplinary process, as international affairs and global issues are now tackled by a range of academic fields and disciplines and across various departments. As such, International Studies transcends traditional area studies programs (e.g., Latin American Studies, East Asian Studies, American Studies, etc.), which typically address unique issues and problems that define particular regions such as similar cultural patterns, natural resources, languages, histories, etc.

The INS faculty who have assumed the most active roles in teaching, mentoring graduate students, and scholarship over the past decade have developed and taught a range of courses that naturally reflect their own scholarly interests and orientations (see Appendix II for further details on the current curriculum). These interests have resulted in a set of electives that emphasize current affairs in the Western Hemisphere (e.g., drug trafficking, security, trade, international institutions and economics), as well as modern Europe (e.g., the European Union and the development of post-Soviet states); whereas INS courses that address important problems in East-West relations and large parts of the developing world (e.g., South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa) have been taught much less frequently if at all. Nevertheless, as the composition of the faculty in the College has changed over the past decade, so too have their interests, which now include topics such as foreign direct investment and trade between Asia and developing countries, immigration, and refugee movements, global urbanization, the effect of natural disasters on economic growth and well-being, global health and its impact on societies, energy, climate change, and global environmental sustainability, environmental monitoring and assessment, and growing income inequality within and between societies worldwide to name but a few.

These emerging areas of inquiry all possess a decidedly global dimension, yet remain largely under-represented in the current INS curriculum. Moreover, faculty who are exploring these emerging areas come from a range of social science, humanities, and natural science departments including INS, POL, Geography and Regional Studies (GEG), Anthropology (APY), History (HIS), and Sociology (SOC), etc. With the exception of several faculty members from POL who hold secondary appointments in INS, faculty from these departments have played a very limited role in teaching and mentoring INS students over the past 10 years. Thus, the College possesses the faculty expertise and interest necessary to broaden the International Studies curriculum.

A broad curriculum in international issues characterizes other International Studies (or Affairs) Programs in leading schools and universities around the country. For example, at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), considered by some academics as the leading International Studies graduate school in the country, the curriculum emphasizes such themes as conflict management, energy, resources and environment, global theory and history, international development, international law and organizations, international relations, and strategic studies (see <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/graduate-studies/degrees> for more details). The core undergraduate curriculum at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service emphasizes such areas as political and social thought, philosophy, theology, government, history, economics and humanities courses (see <http://bsfs.georgetown.edu/academics/core/>). At Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, concentrations range from economic and political development, energy and environment, human rights to international security policy, and urban social policy (<http://new.sipa.columbia.edu/>). While it is unlikely that a new interdisciplinary program in International Studies at UM can span all the topics covered by these larger schools, the diversity of social science interests and research in the College argues for broader inclusion of faculty and courses with international content consistent with the leading schools within other major research universities in the US and abroad.

Therefore, in order to expose our students to the diversity of emerging global research interests in the College, we hereby propose a new interdisciplinary program in International Studies. The proposed program will incorporate not only a growing breadth and depth of subject matter related to global issues and problems examined by the College Faculty, but also address the limited capacity of the INS Department to meet the needs of its current curriculum. Below, we describe the governance, budget, faculty involvement, and general considerations of transitioning to a new program.

### **III. Governance**

Oversight of the interdisciplinary degree programs will be the responsibility of a Steering Committee, the initial membership of which will be Regular Faculty who are currently teaching or have taught in these three degree programs during the last three academic years. Each member shall have a term of 3 years that may be renewed if the conditions for initial membership remain current. Individual Regular Faculty may apply for membership if they meet these same terms.

Administrative responsibility for implementing the degree programs and their curricula belongs to the Program Director who is appointed by the Dean of the College for a three-year term in consultation with the Steering Committee.

The Program Director and the Steering Committee will jointly review the curricula at least every five years.

#### **IV. Budget**

The College of Arts and Sciences will continue to maintain full budgetary support to the INS department, including all costs of the proposed interdisciplinary program. Costs of the proposed program, other than personnel, are expected to be minimal. Salaries and benefits for personnel in INS and affiliated departments represent the largest share of the budget, and therefore we do not anticipate any net increase at this time other than normal increases. Currently, the College is funding seven teaching assistants and will continue to do so. Tuition revenue from the MA program will be used to support another seven TA lines through the 2015 academic year, and we will continue to provide this support assuming maintenance of this revenue stream. In addition, the operating budget of the INS departmental supports the teaching and research of the faculty. Any new support from fellowships, gifts, or awards that support graduate students will become part of the budget of the proposed interdisciplinary program. The budget will be reviewed each fiscal year to accommodate the needs of the INS department and of the new interdisciplinary program, as is the case for all departments and interdisciplinary programs.

#### **V. Faculty Effort and Lines**

The current INS degrees will be taught under the auspices of the new interdisciplinary program through academic collaboration among individual departments within the College and the University as is currently done with our other interdisciplinary degrees in the College. Faculty in INS will continue to teach courses in the new program. Additionally, departments within the College and the University may request the appointment of faculty who will have partial teaching duties (e.g., cross-listed courses) in the INS interdisciplinary degrees. This academic year, for example, the College has approved searches in the Departments of History and Geography and Regional Studies that will involve significant teaching responsibilities in the INS degree programs. If these positions are filled, joint or secondary appointments between the INS interdisciplinary program and their home departments may be considered, and will be made in accordance with the requirements of the Faculty Manual (a memorandum of understanding between the affected units, approval by the Provost, etc.). Over a period of time, additional tenure-track hires will be considered in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences that will support the instructional and scholarly mission of the new program. Consistent with past practices, faculty from other colleges and schools will be invited to teach relevant courses in International Studies. For the longer term, we hope to expand cooperation with other schools and colleges with interest and expertise in international studies, but there are no firm plans to do so at this time.

#### **VI. Transitioning from the Current INS Curriculum to a New Program**

The curricula for the INS degree programs will remain as they currently are. Therefore, the new INS program will maintain the current degree requirements, rules, and advising arrangements

for all student currently enrolled in the BA, MA, and PhD programs. As described in the Governance Section, the Director and Steering Committee can initiate changes in consultation with the Program Faculty. Once a Director is appointed and the Steering Committee established, any curricular or programmatic changes will be approved through normal procedures involving consultation with the College Curriculum Committee and College Faculty, as needed.



**Appendix I: Senate Documentation Pertaining to INS-POL and the Proposed Interdisciplinary Program**

UNIVERSITY  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President

**From:** Richard L. Williamson  
Chair, Faculty Senate

**Date:** August 29, 2013

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2013-05(B) – Faculty Senate Resolution Concerning the Status of the Departments of International Studies and Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences

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At its August 28, 2013 meeting, the Faculty Senate adopted by majority with one abstention the following resolution. Senate action at this time is a follow-up to Legislation #2011-57(D) (Faculty Senate Resolution Concerning the Merging of the Departments of International Studies and Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences), which requested the Dean of Arts and Sciences to take no further action on the merger, and requested the views of the Arts and Sciences faculty as to whether it still considered it desirable for the merger to take place.

The Senate' resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate, in Legislation #2010-03(B) dated October 28, 2010, had authorized but not required the merger of the Department of International Studies with the Department of Political Science, and

WHEREAS as a consequence of subsequent developments, the Faculty Senate on April 18, 2012, adopted a resolution calling on the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to take no further

steps to effectuate the merger, and requested the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences to advise the Senate on whether or not, in its opinion, such a merger was still in the best interests of the College and University, and

WHEREAS the Faculty of the College on April 29, 2013, voted overwhelmingly that the merger should not take place,

NOW THEREFORE,

THE FACULTY SENATE DECIDES that effective immediately, there shall be both a Department of International Studies and a Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences.

IT FURTHER ENDORSES the plan of the Dean of the College to enter into arrangements with those members of the International Studies faculty who wish to move to the Department of Political Science to do so, provided they continue to teach in the degree programs in International Studies for an agreed upon period of time;

THE SENATE TAKES NOTE of the Dean's plan to establish an interdisciplinary program in International Studies at some time in the future, with the understanding that doing so would require the approval of the Faculty Senate and the President.

This legislation passed unanimously except for one abstention. However, the critical vote was whether to retain the issue on the agenda, which passed by majority with nine negative votes and three abstentions. It is now forwarded to you for your action.

RLW/rh

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

## DRAFT PROPOSED LEGISLATION

### Establishment of an Interdisciplinary Program in International Studies

WHEREAS the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, in its meeting of April 29, 2013 voted overwhelmingly in favor of the establishment of a Program in International Studies (itself inherently an interdisciplinary subject); and

WHEREAS at its meeting of August 28, 2013, the Faculty Senate – unanimously but for one abstention – approved legislation maintaining a separate INS department; and

WHEREAS the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has provided additional details and clarifications concerning the planned interdisciplinary program in International Studies; and

WHEREAS the College of Arts and Sciences has had considerable success with the several interdisciplinary programs it now has; and

WHEREAS, given its location and the interests of its faculty in many departments and schools, the University needs a vigorous program in International Studies;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the requirements of *Faculty Manual* Sections A6.5 and B6.4, the Senate:

1. Approves the creation of an interdisciplinary program in International Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences that awards degrees of BS/BA, MA and PhD in International Studies contingent upon approval by the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences of the curriculum for these degree programs. REGULAR FACULTY who are currently teaching or have taught in these three degree programs during the last three academic years will be consulted on the curriculum, degree requirements, and program structure that are to be presented to the faculty of the College for its consideration.
2. Has the understanding that any tenured faculty members in the INS Department who wish to do so shall also become faculty of the Program upon the execution of an Agreement that conforms to the requirements of *Faculty Manual* provision C4.4(c) and (d).

3. Expresses the expectation that the Program will be strengthened over time through joint degrees, team-taught courses, cross-listed courses, conferences, publications and other scholarly endeavors.
4. Requests the College take steps over time to bring about greater participation by interested faculty members from other schools and colleges.

## Appendix II: Current Degree Program Requirements

### PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Undergraduate Major & Minor

#### Rationale:

International Studies provides a focused educational experience aimed at familiarizing students with the key structural features and dynamics of the international system and preparing them to enter the growing international job market. Processes of globalization, in part driven by global capital flows, expanding trade and the unrelenting development of communication and information technologies, have affected virtually everyone in every country, often in ways we are just beginning to understand. These developments often pose serious problems for government and other societal institutions, while also creating a demand for individuals who understand international processes. Jobs in virtually all sectors have acquired a decidedly international dimension, whether in trade, tourism, finance, public policy, government, or education. INS Graduates have moved on to the corporate world, the public sector, started their own businesses, or have continued their studies at the graduate level (i.e. Law, Business, and International Studies).

#### Requirements:

#### **Major in International Studies (30 credits)**

The International Studies major consists of three components:

*I. Core Requirements*

*II. Thematic Core*

*III. INS Electives*

#### **I. Core Requirements (12 credits)**

INS 101\* Global Perspectives – Introduction to International Studies.

INS 102 Global Economics.

INS 201\* Globalization and Change in World Politics.

INS 202 Research Methods in International Studies.

\* These courses must be completed before taking the Thematic Core courses.

#### **II. Thematic Core (12 credits):**

Students should choose at least one course from each of the following four fields. Additional classes will be counted toward the elective portion of the INS major, if taken. Other courses, including classes in other disciplines, may be taken with the approval of the INS Advisor.

*International Politics, Foreign Policy and Peace Studies:*

INS 341 Nationalism, Ethnicity and Conflict

INS 540 International Peace and Conflict Resolution

INS 542 Drug-Trafficking in the Americas

INS 560 US Foreign Policy

INS 561 Negotiation and Bargaining

INS 566 US-Latin American Relations

*Comparative Studies of Politics and Societies in a Globalizing World:*

INS 330 Introduction to Comparative Analysis

INS 335 Democratization

INS 533 Transnational Social Movements

INS 534 The Military, State and Society  
 INS 565 The World Before European Domination  
 INS 584 Latin American Thought  
*International Economics, Political Economy and Development:*  
 INS 320 Global Economics II  
 INS 321 Global Political Economy  
 INS 322 Economics of Development and Environment  
 INS 420 Global Trade  
 INS 520 Environmental Economics and Policy  
 INS 571 International Development and Human Welfare  
*International Law, Organizations, and Global Governance:*  
 INS 460 United Nations Seminar  
 INS 564 International Law  
 INS 570 Globalization and Health  
 INS 573 Disasters, Terrorism and Global Public Health  
 INS 591 The European Union  
 INS 595 European Social Movements

**III. INS Electives and Interdisciplinary Options (6 credits):**

Students are required to take a total of 6 additional credits of elective course work from INS courses at the 300 level or above. With the approval of the INS Advisor, students may take courses from other departments outside of INS such as Geography and Regional Studies, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Religion, Art History, Foreign Languages, Environmental Science, et cetera. Appropriate study abroad courses, an approved internship (INS 519), or an honors thesis (INS 418 & 419) may also be used to fulfill elective credit requirements.

**Important Advising Notes for all International Studies Majors**

**1) Double Counting**

Of the combined courses in the Thematic Core and the INS Electives, no more than 6 credits may count double towards a second major. A student may not count any course used to fulfill the requirements of the INS major toward a minor requirement.

**2) Study Abroad**

Students are strongly encouraged to study abroad for a summer, a semester, or an entire year, depending on the program. Study abroad at carefully selected institutions will complement the student's curriculum and area of specialization, will enhance fluency in the foreign language, and will result in heightened affinity for a foreign culture. The study abroad experience need not result in credit overloads or extended time spent in the program.

**3) Internship Credit**

Students are encouraged to find a suitable internship during their undergraduate career. Upon approval by an advisor in the International Studies Undergraduate Program Office, 3 credits may be earned with an internship (INS 519), either toward the major or as elective credits (depending on the relevance of the particular internship to the INS major). The University's Toppel Career Planning and Placement Center regularly advertises internships.

**4) Academic Standing**

Only courses in which a grade of C- or better is attained, may be counted towards the International Studies major and students must maintain a GPA of 2.75 or better in all major requirements (30 credits).

Minor in International Studies

**Requirements for the Minor in International Studies (15 credits)**

The International Studies Minor consists of two parts: (I) a 6-credit set of introductory courses; (II) 9 credits in advanced courses.

**I. Base (6 credits)**

Two of the following core requirements must be taken:

INS 101 — Global Perspectives - Introduction to International Studies

INS 102 — Global Economics

INS 201 — Globalization and Change in World Politics

INS 202 — Research Methods in International Studies

**II. Advanced courses (9 credits).**

In order to graduate with a minor in International Studies, students must take three INS courses at the 300-level or above. Advanced level courses from other departments may be taken if approved by the INS advisor.

Only courses in which a grade of C- or better is attained may be counted towards the minor in International Studies, and students must maintain a GPA of 2.75 or better in all minor requirements (15 credits).

**PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Graduate Degrees

Master of Arts in International Studies,

Doctor of Philosophy in International Studies

Rationale:

The Program in International Studies offers interdisciplinary social science instruction leading to the Ph.D. and MA degrees. Ph.D. and MA programs offer advanced students the opportunity to study issues such as globalization, democratic governance, comparative and international political economy, post-Cold War conflicts and security threats, and new forms of civil society mobilization in world politics. To organize the study of these debates in the social sciences, the Program offers three fields of specialization:

- **International Relations:** international relations theory; globalization; social movements beyond the nation-state; security studies; peace and conflict studies; international law and organization; international political economy; foreign policy analysis, global public health, and related fields.
- **Comparative Politics:** theory and methods of comparative analysis; authoritarian and democratic political regimes; democratic governance and citizenship, comparative political economy; contentious politics and social movements; civil-military relations; and appropriate courses on selected regions, such as the European Union, Latin America, or the Post-Soviet countries.
- **International and Comparative Political Economy:** the politics and institutions regulating the global trade, investment, and financial regimes; comparative international development; the politics and economics of international environmental regimes; democracy, partisan politics, and global governance, the domestic and international distributive impacts of globalization; and international economic theory.

## Requirements:

### **Ph.D. Degree Requirements**

The primary objective of the Ph.D program is to prepare a select group of highly qualified doctoral students for careers in academic teaching and research. The requirements include:

- Complete a total of 66 degree credits (12 semester courses) to obtain the Ph.D. degree (i.e., 36 credits at the doctoral level beyond the MA degree).
- Complete one seminar on quantitative methods and one seminar on qualitative methods in the social sciences.
- Complete a sequence of two core seminars in two of the Program's three major fields of study: International Relations; Comparative Politics; and International and Comparative Political Economy.
- Pass written and oral examinations in two of the Program's three fields of study.
- Complete at least one of the basic core seminars in the third (non-examination) field.
- Complete the Doctoral Workshop.
- Successfully defend a dissertation proposal/prospectus.
- Pass a foreign language examination.
- Complete 12 dissertation credits.
- Research, write and orally defend a dissertation that makes an original contribution to knowledge.
- See the *INS Graduate Student Handbook* (<http://www.as.miami.edu/internationalstudies/pdf/Graduate%20Student%20Handbook.Fall%202010.pdf>) for a complete description of the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

### **MA Degree Requirements**

The MA degree prepares students for careers in international diplomacy, business, trade and finance, for service in government and non-governmental organizations and international institutions, and with the necessary degree and academic training to enter a doctoral program. The requirements include:

- Complete ten semester courses (30 credits).
- Complete a seminar on social science methodology.
- Complete two of the core seminars in one of the Program's fields of study, and at least one of the core seminars in either of the other two fields. These fields include: International Relations; Comparative Politics; International and Comparative Political Economy.
- Pass a written qualifying (comprehensive) examination in one of the three fields of specialization.
- Pass a foreign language examination.
- MA candidates with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 may, with permission, substitute the qualifying examination with a written MA thesis.
- See the *INS Graduate Student Handbook* for a complete description of the requirements for the MA degree.