Advisor Information Sheet

The International Degree:
Oregon State University’s innovative International Degree was developed in 1992 to allow students in any major on campus the opportunity to internationalize their undergraduate curriculum. By completing the requirements for this degree program, students graduate with two degrees: a B.A. or B.S. in their major and a B.A. in International Studies in their primary degree or major. OSU students representing every undergraduate college and many departments have graduated from Oregon State University with an International Degree. Many of these students have gone on to enroll in graduate and professional programs or to work for companies with an international focus.

Degree Requirements:
- Students must study, work, or complete approved research abroad for a minimum of ten weeks. Normally, they go to a country where their second language is spoken.

- Students must attain fourth-year proficiency in a second language with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all foreign language courses. Foreign language courses must be taken for a letter grade.

- Students must enroll in four additional baccalaureate core courses in selected areas. Details of these courses are provided in the International Degree Passport.

- Students must complete a senior thesis which places their major in an international context. The senior thesis is a mentored activity which is supervised by an OSU faculty advisor. It is this requirement for which the student has requested your assistance.

- The total credits earned for completing the above requirements must be at least 32 credits beyond those required for the primary degree.

Departments award the International Degree:
The International Degree is awarded by departments. Although it is administered centrally, all decisions regarding admissions and graduation are made at the departmental level. Advising and graduation audits are also performed in the student’s host department. You, as this student’s advisor, will be the individual who makes the final decision regarding the acceptability of the thesis for a B.A. in International Studies.
What about a joint thesis to satisfy requirements in another program on campus?

We encourage students in programs which also require a thesis, such as the University Honors College and the Bioresource Research Program, to internationalize their programs by participating in the International Degree program. In such cases, we work closely with other departments involved to ensure that all relevant requirements are met. Please contact the International Degree office, the Honors College, or the appropriate academic department for details.

Thesis Logs

An additional component of meeting the International Degree’s WIC requirement is that students maintain a thesis log. Although the format may vary somewhat from student to student, the log may record a student’s thoughts, ideas, frustrations and progress. We ask you to monitor student progress by monitoring the thesis log.

Credit

We require students to register for credit (typically, 3-6 credits) to complete the thesis (about 180 hours of total effort). Students must enroll through their major department to meet this requirement, using the appropriate departmental course number 403 (Thesis). You, as the student’s advisor, will become the instructor of record. Credits may be allocated to one quarter or taken sequentially.

Introduction to Thesis class

We offer “Introduction to Thesis” (INTL407, 1 credit, Pass/No pass grading), a class designed to help students and their advisors understand the requirements of the thesis and establish a plan for fulfilling these requirements. The course is taught as an evening seminar during fall and winter terms, meeting three times during the term. Faculty advisors are asked to attend the third meeting, normally scheduled during the sixth week of the term.

Developing a successful advisor:student relationship

Your relationship with the ID student should be an integral and meaningful aspect of your work at OSU. Please be sure you have the time to invest in this relationship and that the student’s thesis is within your area of expertise.

We suggest you address the following points with your ID student at your first formal meeting.

1. Will the student’s thesis follow a traditional scientific model, i.e., formulating a hypothesis and testing that hypothesis via experimentation? Or will the thesis represent a collection of information, analysis of this information, and summary of new insights and perspectives?
2. What are the objectives of the thesis? Are the objectives realistic? Can the focus be narrowed?
3. How will your student accomplish the objectives? (i.e., What methods will be used? What resources are necessary?)
4. If the thesis is a scientific investigation, what is the hypothesis and how will it be tested?
5. How is the thesis placing your student’s major in an international context? In what ways is it comparative?
6. Time table. This is very important! Can your student accomplish the thesis within the proposed time frame?
7. Frequency of meeting. How often do you expect to meet with your student during the program? (Once per week, once per month? Other?)
8. What are your expectations?
9. Will you be available to evaluate and grade the final thesis and attend an oral presentation at the time your student is intending to complete his or her program?

**Requirements, Milestones, and Contacts**

- Please plan to attend the third session of the “Introduction to Thesis” class (INTL 407).

- We encourage advisors to monitor progress by meeting with their students periodically, by reading rough drafts and providing suggestions for revisions, and by monitoring the thesis log.

- A senior thesis approval form is attached. Once you have reviewed this with your student, please sign it and have the student return it to the International Degree Program, Snell Hall 444.

- When you are satisfied with the thesis, your student will provide you with a final copy of the thesis which contains a signature page. **Your signature on this page is your indication that the thesis is approved** and, if other requirements for the International Degree are met, will result in conferral of a B.A. in International Studies in the student’s primary degree or major.

- Once you have approved the thesis, your student will schedule a final oral presentation. For International Degree students, this is **not a final exam**. (University Honors College thesis presentations follow a slightly different format; ID students who are also in the UHC follow UHC guidelines for the presentation.) We ask you to attend the final oral presentation and introduce your student. Students are responsible for scheduling the final oral presentation with you and for inviting members of your faculty. We will provide invitation cards.
The International Degree Program has several publications available which describe aspects of the program more fully. These include:

- **Passport to the International Degree.** This provides a thorough overview of the program and of its requirements. It is a useful advising manual.

- **Introduction to Thesis syllabus (INTL 407).** This describes, in detail, aspects of the International Degree Program’s thesis requirement. Your student’s responsibilities are emphasized.

- **International Degree Thesis Guidelines.** This document outlines the format for preparing the final thesis. It is based on the Graduate School’s publication *Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation at Oregon State University*.

- **Examples of past theses.** We can forward you a listing of previous ID thesis titles. These will give you information about what has been done in the past and a sense of the latitude you have in advising your student.

Please note that many of these are available online. We will be happy to provide the specific URL for these resources, or send copies to you.

Whenever you have questions, feel free to contact us.

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