DEPARTMENTAL DISTINCTION IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Introduction

The Departmental Distinction Program in International Studies seeks to promote the integration of advanced knowledge in the field of international relations with valuable research and analytical competencies. In order to graduate “with Distinction” in International Studies, eligible students are required to complete the Distinction curriculum outlined below, which includes an INTS thesis project. The thesis is an in-depth research & writing project, which focuses on a particular area of interest within the field of International Studies, and often marks the start of specialization in relation to future academic and/or professional objectives.

Eligibility Criteria

Interested students must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for Departmental Distinction in INTS:

- Declared major in INTS;
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.50 and major GPA of 3.70 (at time of application and at time of graduation);
- Pre-requisites: successful completion of all INTS core courses (i.e. INTS 1500, 1700 and 2975), and at least two, 3000 level INTS courses;
- Submission of Departmental Distinction application, by November 01 of junior year. Applications will be reviewed by the BA Program Committee in INTS and, if accepted, students will be notified prior to the registration period for Spring Quarter of their junior year. The application form is available on our BA Program Portfolio Community site, under the “Distinction in INTS” tab. Failure to apply on time will invalidate a student's eligibility to participate in the program.

NOTES:

1) Students that plan to study abroad during Spring Quarter of their junior year must apply for the Distinction in INTS Program by November 01 of their sophomore year, in order to participate in all required elements of the program and remain eligible for Departmental Distinction.

Given competing timelines and requirements, students pursuing the Distinction in INTS Program and dual degree BA/MA must plan their program of study carefully and meet regularly with their advisors.

Required Curriculum

Students accepted to the Departmental Distinction Program must successfully complete the following curriculum in a satisfactory manner in order to achieve distinction in INTS:

- INTS 3000 - Research Methods & Design (4 credit hours) - Spring Quarter of junior year.
- INTS 3990 - Thesis (4 credit hours) - Fall or Winter Quarter of senior year.

Participation in the INTS Departmental Distinction Program is a requirement for INTS majors who are also enrolled in the University Honors Program. It is an option for INTS majors who are not enrolled in the University Honors Program and who have met all eligibility requirements, including a minimum 3.50 overall and 3.70 major grade point average.

Students who successfully complete the aforementioned curriculum and are approved by their thesis advisor, will graduate “with Distinction” in International Studies. This achievement will be reflected in the student’s transcripts and in the Commencement Ceremony book.
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DISTINCTION CURRICULUM & REQUIREMENTS

INTS 3000 - Research Methods & Design (4 credits, requires departmental approval to register) – Spring Quarter of junior year
This course is designed for advanced International Studies majors, including Departmental Distinction, that intend to write a thesis in INTS. It introduces students to the fundamental elements of social science research and will serve as a workshop to complete a literature review and write a research prospectus. The basis of any scientific investigation is this research proposal in which you formulate a question and design a process by which you will explore that question through a systematic collection and analysis of evidence. The design process is the same whether you are writing a short class research paper, or are conducting a major research project, such as a thesis. The manner in which evidence is gathered and analyzed, however, will vary based upon the research question, research goals, and resources. We will therefore go through the process of research design. Because the discipline of international studies provides multiple methods of inquiry, we will also explore quantitative and qualitative methods that may be used to gather and analyze evidence.

INTS 3990 - Thesis (4 credits, requires departmental approval to register) – Fall or Winter Quarter of senior year
The INTS thesis project will be an original contribution to the understanding of issues relevant to international studies and to at least one of the specialization areas in INTS. The thesis is not meant to be a report or survey of literature of an area of interest. Instead, the thesis goes well beyond a typical class paper in both length and depth, and represents a rigorous, analytical, and complete work of research and analysis. The thesis must feature original research and should critically investigate a theoretically informed hypothesis, using critical and scholarly sources to support an evaluation of the research question. The INTS thesis must show clearly the following elements: excellent critical thinking and writing quality, coherent presentation, and adherence to the general guidelines set forth by the department and faculty advisor.

Note: Both INTS 3000 and INTS 3990 require explicit departmental permission in order to enroll. In order to obtain the required authorization and thereby register, students must either be invited to participate in the Distinction in INTS Program based on successful application, or must set-up an appointment with the Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs to discuss their particular situation further.

General Thesis Requirements

- Successful completion of INTS 3000 – Research Methods & Design.
- A viable research topic and approval from a participating JKSIS faculty member that is willing to advise the thesis. Bear in mind that it is the student’s responsibility to seek out and secure an appropriate INTS faculty advisor for the thesis. Faculty collaboration is entirely voluntary, and is based on the alignment of appropriate and mutual research interests.
- 50-75 pages (typed, standard font and margins, with cover page and table of contents included).
- Thesis format should adhere to the Turabian style (Kate L. Turabian: A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 7th edition, 2007). Additional resources can be found at: http://www.du.edu/writing/writingcenter/index.html. Note: If appropriate for the thesis, another style format may be used, as long as the student obtains written permission from both the thesis advisor and the Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs.
- Final, electronic copy must be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format by the deadline. Note: students enrolled in the University Honors Program may be required to submit a copy to the Honors Program as well.

NOTE: Once a student has secured an advisor, work on the thesis may begin. Generally, a student is expected to submit several drafts before a final thesis is accepted and graded. It is important that the student and faculty advisor establish clear expectations of one another during this process, as well as a specific timeline that is considered reasonable for comments/edits to be provided on a student's work for the purpose of revision. Students should not expect faculty advisors to examine their work at the last minute or beyond the agreed upon timeline.
# INTS Distinction Timeline

## Junior Year:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 01</td>
<td>Application to INTS Departmental Distinction Program due. Please deliver application to Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Quarter</td>
<td>Register for INTS 3000 - Research Methods &amp; Design (offered Spring Quarter of junior year).</td>
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| Spring Quarter | 1) Successfully complete INTS 3000 - Research Methods & Design  
                          2) Obtain departmental permission to register for INTS 3990 - Thesis during Fall or Winter Quarter of senior year. |

## Senior Year (if graduating in Winter Quarter):

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<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Quarter</td>
<td>Conduct research for and begin writing thesis (INTS 3990), working in conjunction with faculty advisor.</td>
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| Winter Quarter   | 1) Final, electronic version of thesis due in .doc,.docx, or .pdf format. Please email to Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs.  
                          2) Ensure that your faculty advisor submits the “BA Thesis Approval” form directly to the Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs by this deadline. |
|                  | * Distinction candidates are required to submit a final, graded thesis by week 4 of the quarter in which they intend to graduate, in order to comply with University timelines governing official graduation and commencement records. Late submissions will disqualify a student from earning Distinction in INTS and may result in a failing grade for INTS 3990. |
| Spring Quarter   | 1) Final, electronic version of thesis due in .doc,.docx, or .pdf format. Please email to Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs.  
                          2) Ensure that your faculty advisor submits the “BA Thesis Approval” form directly to the Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs by this deadline. |

## Senior Year (if graduating in Spring Quarter):

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<tr>
<td>Fall Quarter</td>
<td>Conduct research for and begin writing thesis (INTS 3990), working in conjunction with faculty advisor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Quarter</td>
<td>If needed, continue writing thesis, working in conjunction with faculty advisor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Spring Quarter   | 1) Final, electronic version of thesis due in .doc,.docx, or .pdf format. Please email to Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs.  
                          2) Ensure that your faculty advisor submits the “BA Thesis Approval” form directly to the Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs by this deadline. |

* Distinction candidates are required to submit a final, graded thesis by week 4 of the quarter in which they intend to graduate, in order to comply with University timelines governing official graduation and commencement records. Late submissions will disqualify a student from earning Distinction in INTS and may result in a failing grade for INTS 3990.

NOTE: All Departmental Distinction related materials, including the application and thesis approval forms, can be accessed online via the “Distinction in INTS” tab located on the [BA Program Portfolio Community](https://example.com) site.

Finally, please note that deadlines for the University Honors Program are determined by that office and may be different than the INTS Distinction timeline outlined above. For more information about these specific deadlines and requirements, please contact the [University Honors Program](https://example.com) directly.