

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Explore the forces that shape our interconnected world. The International Relations major at Franklin invites you to study global politics, culture, and economics while developing the analytical and cross-cultural skills essential for leadership in diplomacy, business, law, and beyond.

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MAJOR OVERVIEW

The International Relations (IR) major provides a multidisciplinary foundation for understanding how nations, institutions, and individuals interact on the global stage. Drawing from political science, sociology, history, economics, and cultural studies, you will learn to examine the causes and consequences of global change.

Whether pursuing careers in international organizations, government, or the private sector, you will graduate prepared to think critically and act effectively in an increasingly complex world.

YOUR DEGREE

A 120-CREDIT DEGREE DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

To earn a Bachelor's degree at Franklin, students must complete 120 credits across university-wide core requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. The curriculum combines a shared liberal arts foundation with specialized study in your chosen major, giving you both breadth and depth throughout your undergraduate experience.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Courses and academic experiences shared by all Franklin students, designed to build essential skills and knowledge across disciplines.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses specific to your chosen major, including foundational, required, and elective courses within the discipline

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

Courses selected from across Franklin's curriculum to explore additional interests and complement your major.

Shared by all Franklin students

66 CREDITS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	WHAT IT DEVELOPS
First-Year Seminar, 3 credits	Introduces students to Franklin's liberal arts approach and develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills.
Academic Travel, 12 credits	Connects classroom learning with experiential study across different cultural and geographic contexts.
Academic Writing, 12 credits	Develops written and oral communication skills for academic and professional contexts.
Global Responsibility, 18 credits	Examines intercultural competencies, international engagement, and social responsibility.
Modern Language, 15 credits	Builds language skills and cultural literacy, with a focus on Swiss languages.
Quantitative Literacy, 6 credits	Develops the ability to interpret, analyze, and communicate numerical information and data.

Please note: in some cases, courses may fulfill both a Core Requirement and a Major Requirement.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REQUIREMENTS — 51 CREDITS

FOUNDATION COURSES — 15 credits

POL 100	Introduction to Political Science
POL 101	Introduction to International Relations
POL 112	Markets, Policy and Administration
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology
	And one of the following
HIS 100	Western Civilization I: Ancient and Medieval
	Or
HIS 101	Western Civilization II: Modern
	Or
HIS 104	Global History I: Traditions, Encounters, and Adaptation from the Stone Age to the 16th Century
	Or
HIS 105	Global History II: Globalization, the Emergence of the Modern State, and Coping with Change

REQUIRED COURSES — 12 credits

POL 300	Comparative Politics
POL 301	Theories of International Relations
POL 321	International Organization
POL 377	International Political Economy

MAJOR ELECTIVES — 12 credits

Four of the following

POL 2XX	Any POL 200-level course
POL 3XX	Any POL 300-level course
POL 499	Senior Thesis
	Any language at the 301 level

CAPSTONE COURSE — 6 credits

POL 495	Senior Research Project: Group Based Senior Research Project
POL 497	Readings and Methods in Political Science and International Relations

The remaining credits required to complete the degree are fulfilled through ***interdisciplinary electives,*** *allowing students to explore courses across Franklin's academic offerings.*

CLICK HERE TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE MAJOR

3-YEAR OPTION

This major is also available as a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree for students who qualify for advanced standing based on their high school academic credentials. Students admitted with 30 U.S. credits of advanced standing receive a head start on their university studies, allowing them to complete their degree in three years.

GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY



BERND BUCHER

Associate Professor and Program Director, Political Science



MORRIS MOTTALE

Professor Emeritus, International Relations and Political Science



ARMANDO ZANECCHIA

Professor Emeritus, Political Science and International Management



OLIVER STRIJBIS

Associate Professor, Political Science



ELISA VOLPI

Assistant Professor, Comparative Politics



GAIA CLARA BARCILON BRENNA

Adjunct Professor, Legal Studies



GORAN PATRICK FILIC

Adjunct Professor, Political Science

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLACES YOU STUDY

Academic Travel courses allow students to learn beyond the classroom by exploring real-world environments alongside knowledgeable and passionate professors, turning travel destinations into immersive, living classrooms.

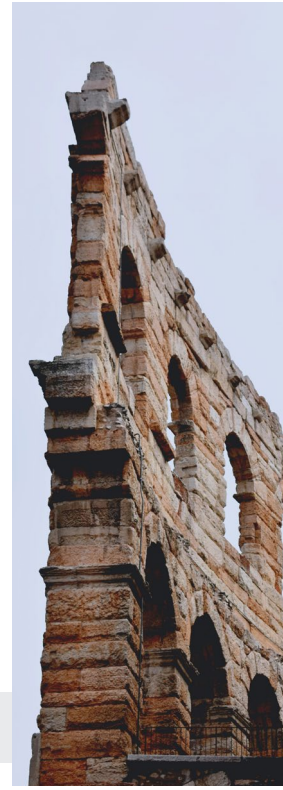


EXPLORE SOME MAJOR-RELATED ACADEMIC TRAVELS

POL 216T CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL CHALLENGES
Examine the key forces shaping today's international order—from power politics to climate diplomacy. Travel to explore how states and global actors interact to address war, energy, and human rights challenges.

POL 281T POLITICS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT
Explore how nations across the world pursue sustainability through politics, economics, and culture. Through case studies and field research, investigate renewable energy, agriculture, and biodiversity in global context.

POL 376T INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
Discover how international cooperation tackles urgent environmental challenges from climate change to biodiversity loss. On-site in Botswana, study conservation, sustainability, and the role of global organizations in protecting our planet.



LEARN MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC TRAVEL AND EXPLORE OUR COURSES

WHY CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Dual Accreditation
United States (MSCHE) & Switzerland (Swiss Accreditation Council)

Residential Campus
with 6 residence halls

350+ Students representing
55+ Countries
8K+ Alumni Community

Academic Travel
once a Semester for Experiential Learning

19 Majors
1 Master
(Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation)

Language
Programs fully taught in English

Small Class Sizes
with 16 students on average; 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Career-Ready Graduates
75% of Franklin students secure full-time employment within 6 months of graduating; 95% within 12 months.



HOW TO APPLY

1. **Online Application**
   Apply online through our **website** or **Common App.**
2. **Academic Transcripts**
   Submit at least 3 years of High School transcripts.
3. **Personal Statement**
   Share what motivates you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the goals you hope to achieve.
4. **Recommendation Letter**
   The recommendation letter can come from a teacher, counselor, or other staff member who is well acquainted with your academic profile.
5. **English Proficiency (if required)**
   If your studies were not in English, submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.
6. **WELCOME TO FRANKLIN**

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Write to our counselors at **admissions@fus.edu** or visit **www.fus.edu**