Proposed New Degree or Credit-Bearing Certificate: Academic Component

NOTE: The Library Impact Statement is required for the review of a new degree program. Proposers should contact the Library as early in the proposal development process as possible.

Title of Degree or Credit-Bearing Certificate (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History):

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations/Master of Arts in International Affairs

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

Henrik Selin

Director of Curricular Innovation and Initiatives, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies; Associate Professor of International Relations

selin@bu.edu

2. Please briefly describe the proposed new degree:

To ensure the retention of the best and brightest undergraduate students in their ongoing studies, we propose the following rigorous and academically challenging combined BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs. The following program is designed to ensure that participants meet the expectations of all students in the undergraduate and graduate programs, develop a rich and varied research experience, participate in adequate graduate-level courses, and earn both their BA and MA degrees in a program that does not require additional elective credits. The last year of undergraduate study is integrated with the first year of graduate work, eliminating duplication of courses and reducing the time required to earn the two degrees. The BA/MA Program is not open to students outside of CAS.

3. Please provide a rationale for the proposed new degree:
The creation of a BA/MA program will allow us to retain our best and brightest undergraduate students through their graduate studies. Pardee School faculty observe that our best BA students are as capable and often better-prepared than our regular MA students, and they can therefore improve the quality of our upper-level classes and the overall experience for all MA students.

Currently, only 4 former International Relations undergraduates matriculated into the MAIA program in 2013, 2 in 2014, and 1 in 2015, only half of whom had a cumulative GPA above a 3.5 (out of graduating classes of 229 in 2012, 192 students in 2013, 189 in 2014, and 150 in 2015). By contrast, the admission standards for the BA/MA program will require a minimum of a 3.5 cumulative and 3.6 major GPA, enhancing the academic excellence of the MA program as well as attracting our most competitive undergraduate students to stay at BU for their MA. By creating a program that is geared towards the most accomplished undergraduates, we ensure not only the retention of our best students into a fifth year of study but also strengthen our graduate program by attracting more of our top students to the program.

The program is in line with similar BA/MA programs throughout the University, particularly in the social sciences. Currently, IR students only have the option to double-major in a tangential field that offers a BA/MA program such as Political Science, Earth & Environment, or Economics. The new program would allow students to focus on IR as their primary field of study and would not force them to choose a program that is more peripheral to their interests.

4. Please describe how the proposed new degree advances the Strategic Plans of the department, school/college, and University:

The BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs enhances the Pardee School’s ability to build a community of students who are committed to the improvement of the University and Pardee School and will create an even more impressive alumni network. The program will allow students to enter the labor market with extensive research experience, strong written and oral communications skills, and adequate graduate coursework to obtain pertinent employment and remain engaged as global citizens.

The proposed BA/MA program in IR and IA fulfills several key tenets of the University Strategic Plan, including:

- Creates an opportunity to leverage the current strengths of the BA and MA programs of the Pardee School to retain students through a fifth year of graduate study;
- Enhances the student life experience for IR undergraduates who wish to complete an MA in International Affairs at BU but do not wish to duplicate coursework;
- Strengthens the scholarship and research of the disciplinary MA program by retaining the best undergraduate students in the program;
• Enhances the Pardee School of Global Studies curriculum by offering additional program options for students;
• Emphasizes interdisciplinary research through graduate education, especially through the study abroad requirement and Master’s thesis requirement;
• Fosters a deeper relationship between student, faculty, and university and encourages engagement in global citizenship past graduation;
• Commits to global engagement by requiring that students study abroad a minimum of one semester or summer session as well as requiring MA language proficiency.

5. Please list the program requirements for the proposed new degree (denote new courses in bold print):

The requirements for a BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs are as follows:

• Students must complete fourteen courses in the BA in International Relations program, including the two pre-requisites, four required courses, and eight track courses, in addition to the College of Arts & Sciences’ General Education requirements.
  o Students are required to complete three 500-level and above courses in their BA tracks, instead of the normal requirement of 2 upper-level courses.
  o Students must achieve a C or higher in all BA classes.
• Students must enroll in corresponding tracks of the BA and MA program. The equivalencies are as follows:
  o Regional: Students may enroll in any corresponding MA regional track. Students in the Middle East or Asia undergraduate regional track may enroll in the MA program’s The Muslim World with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
  o Functional: (for students who matriculate prior to Fall 2016)
    ▪ BA: Foreign Policy & Security Studies = MA: Security Studies
    ▪ BA: International Systems & World Order = MA: Theory & Policy
    ▪ BA: International Economics, Business & Politics = MA: Political Economy
    ▪ BA: Environment & Development = MA: Political Economy
    ▪ BA: Regional Politics & Cultural Anthropology = MA: any second Regional track, including Muslim World
  o Functional: (for students who matriculate in or after Fall 2016, contingent upon curriculum approval)
    ▪ BA: Culture, Religion & Society = MA: Theory & Policy
    ▪ BA: Human Development and the Environment = MA: Political Economy
    ▪ BA: Foreign Policy & Diplomacy = MA: Security Studies or Theory & Policy
    ▪ BA: Global Political Economy & Business = MA: Political Economy
    ▪ BA: Global Governance & International Law = MA: Theory & Policy
    ▪ BA: Security & Conflict Studies = MA: Security Studies
• Students must complete 9 additional courses towards their MA degree with a B- or better.
  o 5 required courses of the MAIA:
- IR 701
- IR 702
- IR 703
- IR 704
- IR 799
  - 4 additional MA courses (500-level or above) that count towards the student’s MA tracks.
    - Two of these courses may be at the 500-level or above, and two must be at the 700-level or above.
    - Two courses must be taken in each MA track.
- Students must complete a total of 160 credits.
- Students must successfully pass the MA language test by the end of their 5th year of study at the latest.
- Students must successfully write and defend a cumulative research or policy paper by the end of their 5th year of study at the latest.
- Students must study abroad, either on a BU program or an external program, at minimum for one summer session or one semester in the course of their BA/MA program.
- Students must fulfill a 5-year (10 academic semesters) residency requirement regardless of external credits or summer courses, enabling students to complete double-majors and minors if they so choose during their undergraduate phase.
  - Transfer students must fulfill a 3-4 year (6-8 academic semester) residency requirement dependent on transfer credits. Transfer students with 32 transfer credits or above must fulfill a 3-year residency requirement. Transfer students with 16-31 transfer credits must fulfill a 4-year residency requirement.

6. Please list program learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the program, students will have a thorough knowledge of how the world works, secure relevant employment opportunities, and apply and deepen the knowledge they gain through continued engagement with global citizenship. They will also possess a broad mastery of international affairs, demonstrate in-depth expertise on multiple significant issues, and acquire detailed knowledge of their chosen specialties. Specifically, students will fulfill the learning outcomes of both the BA in International Relations and MA in International Affairs.

Students graduating with a BA in International Relations are expected to:

1. Demonstrate substantive interdisciplinary knowledge of legal, political, economic, social, cultural, and historical factors influencing international affairs
2. Display an in-depth understanding of an important functional subfield of the discipline and a major geographical region of the world
3. Conduct theoretically informed and empirically-based analysis of real-world conditions and events and present the results of that analysis persuasively in written and oral forms.

Students graduating with an MA in International Affairs are expected to:

1. Possess a broad mastery of international affairs
2. Demonstrate in-depth expertise on at least one significant global issue.
3. Be prepared for successful careers as international relations professionals.
4. Acquire detailed knowledge of a chosen IR functional or regional specialty.

7. For master’s or professional doctorate degrees, please describe what this program prepares students for after they have graduated:

The BA/MA in International Relations prepares students for a wide variety of careers in the international relations field, including work for national governments and a broad range of IGOs and NGOs, as well doctoral or other graduate work in social science disciplines.

8. Please describe how the proposed new degree relates to existing programs at the University:

The BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs would be housed under the existing BA in IR and MAIA programs in the Pardee School of Global Studies. It would draw from the same courses currently offered by each program, both from the Pardee School’s Division of International Studies and from other departments around BU from which these degree programs currently accept credits. The BA/MA program is modeled on similar programs in the Political Science and Economics Departments, and its curriculum thus fits into the broader structure of BA/MA programs at the University.

9. Please place the proposed program in the context of comparable programs at peer institutions:

Peer universities in the region lack BA/MA programs, including: Harvard University, Princeton University, Yale University, Dartmouth College, Tufts, Northeastern, and Boston College, giving BU a direct recruitment advantage over these schools if a BA/MA in IR and IA is implemented.

The BA/MA Program in IR and IA is similar to those offered by American University’s School of International Service, Columbia University/Science Po, Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, New York University, University of Chicago’s Center for International Relations, University of Southern California’s BA/MA or BS/MS programs in international relations (titles of programs vary). The general structure and requirements of these programs are as follows:
• **American University (BA/MA, multiple programs):** 4.5-5 years; minimum of 3.5 GPA; formal application, recommendations and essay to apply; can double-count up to 4 graduate-level courses between BA and MA.

• **Columbia University/Sciences Po (BA/MA in Public and International Affairs):** 5 years; no minimum GPA but “strong academic record required”; 3 years of college French; application is reviewed by a committee and student must be interviewed in English and French; some classes from BA may be used towards MA; begin Senior year as MA student at Sciences Po.

• **Georgetown University (BS/MS in Foreign Service):** 5 years; minimum of 3.5 GPA; students submit application and Supplemental form (similar to Plan of Study) as well as interview for admission; fourth and fifth year are entirely in the MS program.

• **Johns Hopkins University (BA/MA in International Studies):** 5 years; strong academic performance (given on the website as around a 3.7 GPA); students apply with transcript, resume, personal statement, and then selected students are interviewed; students spend first three years on Homewood campus then two on SAIS with options to spend fourth and fifth years abroad; fourth and fifth years entirely MA studies.

• **New York University (BA/MA in Politics/International Relations):** 5 years; minimum of 3.5 GPA; students complete application, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, transcripts; study abroad is required of all undergraduate students; apply in junior year and become MA student whenever BA requirements are complete.

• **University of Chicago (BA/MA in International Relations):** 4.5-5 years; minimum of 3.55 GPA; students submit application, recommendations, optional GRE scores, 10-20-page writing sample of a research paper, personal statement, as well as Proposed Curriculum document; may count up to 3 BA classes towards MA; all undergraduates are required to study abroad; apply in junior year and complete BA and MA requirements within a quarter of each other (taking courses in both concurrently).

• **University of Southern California (BA/MA in International Relations):** minimum major and cumulative GPA of 3.75; students can apply after taking 4 IR courses; apply with application form, personal statement, two recommendations, official transcript; students may develop a BA Honors thesis into MA thesis; one-third of MA “units” may be applied towards the BA; students take courses for both programs concurrently.

While each of these peer schools has a similarly structured program to the proposed BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs, some areas of difference have been identified and used to enhance the proposed BU program. Students in the BU program must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 like the majority of external programs, and the additional requirement of a major GPA of 3.6 ensures that students are prepared for graduate studies. Students are also required to fulfill a 5-year residency requirement to ensure we are not granting MA degrees to students who are simply advanced undergraduates.

It is not necessary for students to submit a GRE score, but all other aspects of the application process to GRS are preserved as they are in most external programs. By allowing students to
take BA and MA courses concurrently until they finish both degrees, we provide them with the flexibility to select the exact courses they feel are the most appropriate for their program of study each semester. This standard is in line with other BA/MA programs at BU.

Rather than allowing students to double-count classes between the two degrees, we have eliminated the four elective requirements of the MA program. Although students take additional 500-level classes in their BA program, nine discrete courses are taken to complete the MA program, similar to the 8 discrete courses required by the BU Political Science BA/MA program. We are also somewhat unique in requiring that students study abroad at least once during the program (prior to the fifth year of study) to ensure that they have adequate international experience to support their studies. By including the MA language exam requirement in our program, we ensure that students not only meet the undergraduate foreign language proficiency requirement, but meet graduate language standards as well.

10. Please list the program’s faculty:

The participating faculty will include the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Joseph Fewsmith, and the Director of Graduate Studies, Robert Loftis, Associate Dean William Grimes, as well as the Dean of the Pardee School Adil Najam. Prof. Henrik Selin will serve as the contact person for the degree. They will serve the students in their current capacities during the appropriate phase of study. Students will also meet with undergraduate faculty mentors during the BA phase of study, a current requirement of all IR undergraduate students. Additionally, students will work with Pardee faculty as advisors for their MA thesis during the final phase of study. The faculty will be drawn from the current pool of GRS faculty, particularly from the Pardee School of Global Studies faculty.

Division of International Studies Faculty:

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<th>Faculty Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Aftandillian</td>
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<td>Ivan Arreguin-Toft</td>
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<td>Cornel Ban</td>
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<td>William W. Grimes</td>
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<td>Paul Hare</td>
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11. Please provide an administrative plan for the proposed new degree:

The graduate admissions committee faculty will review all applications. The undergraduate administrators will administer the students’ BA programs for the first through fourth years of study. The graduate administrator will administer the program for the fifth and final year of study.

12. Please provide an advising plan for the proposed new degree:

The undergraduate advisors will advise students until they are accepted to the BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs program. Upon acceptance, students will be required to have once per semester meetings with both their undergraduate advisor and their graduate advisor to select classes for the upcoming semester and ensure they are fulfilling all requirements. Advisors will collaborate extensively during the period of overlap, which will generally take place during a student’s fourth year of study.

13. For a proposed graduate program, please provide the admissions standards involved:
Students must submit a complete application to GRS, which includes:

- Application form and questionnaire
- Two faculty recommendations
- A 1,000 word personal statement
- Official BU transcript and official transcripts from any other institution attended by the student
- Plan of Study that includes major GPA verification signature from undergraduate academic advisor/administrator

Students do not need to take any standardized tests such as the GRE to be considered for admission. Additionally, students are only eligible for consideration if they have obtained at the time of application:

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.5
- Minimum major GPA of 3.6
  - Students must have taken a minimum of four IR classes at the time of application, excluding the pre-requisites CAS EC 101 and CAS EC 102, and including at least one regional or functional track class.
  - The major GPA excludes CAS EC 101 and CAS EC 102, which are pre-requisites for the BA program.

Students must apply in their junior year of study. Students applying in the fall must apply by October 15, while students applying in the spring must apply by April 15. Students who apply late must submit a Request to File Late form with their application. Applications will be submitted to the International Relations undergraduate office, 156 Bay State Rd.

Admitted applicants must return the reply card sent by the Graduate School with the offer of admission to Room 112 of the Graduate School Arts and Sciences Admissions Office to finalize their enrollment in the program. BA/MA students are governed by the rules and regulations of the Graduate School Arts and Sciences upon completion of 32 courses in CAS. It is the student’s responsibility to refer to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Bulletin for details on these rules and regulations.

14. Please document any implications that the formation of the proposed new degree has on professional accreditation or licensure at the program or school/college level:

None.

15. For a proposed undergraduate program, please provide sample pathways through the new degree or certificate:

See sample curriculum, attached.
16. If the new program includes a new course or courses, please indicate who will teach the course and how the rest of that faculty member’s course load will be affected (courses(s) redistributed to other faculty, taught less frequently, no longer taught, etc.). Please be specific about affected courses. This information should be reflected in the budget form that accompanies the proposal, e.g. the cost for a new faculty member to teach the new course or a redistributed course [NOTE: new courses will need Course Inventory Forms submitted to the Office of the Registrar]:

The BA/MA degree itself will not necessitate new courses or sections. However, if the total number of MA students (including BA/MA and students admitted as MA students) rises sufficiently, it may become necessary to offer new sections of some of the required courses. While IR 701 already has two sections, which will suffice until the total number of incoming MA students exceeds approximately 50, there may be need for new sections of IR 702 and IR 703. (Note that not all of our MA students are required to take those two courses.) We are currently planning to create a second section of IR 704 to meet existing student demand; as with IR 701, two sections should suffice at least until the total number of incoming MA students exceeds 50. In the budget sheet, we estimate the cost at the Pardee School’s per-course fee for senior lecturers, or $10,000, for the years in which we expect the BA/MA student body to require the establishment of second sections for IR 702 and IR 703. (For the purposes of planning, we are predicting that the $20,000 expense, plus inflation, will hit the budget in years 3-5.)

17. Please list other resources needed including new staff, IT, technology enhanced classrooms, office space, and other facilities. This information should be reflected in the budget:

N/A

18. What charges (tuition, fees, etc.) are to be applied to this program? How will the charges be structured?

Regular tuition and fees will be charged.

19. Please describe the proposed enrollment or the enrollment required to cover the start-up costs of the proposed new degree:

Since there are no anticipated start-up costs to the new degree, there is not a minimum enrollment required to cover costs.
20. Please provide the bulletin copy (exactly as it will appear) for the proposed new degree including all text connected to the program (requirements, description, program goals/outcomes)[NOTE: this bulletin copy is in a final form and cannot be changed]:

BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs

The BA in International Relations/MA in International Affairs is intended for exceptional students who wish to pursue thorough studies in a variety of specialized areas of international relations beyond the BA level. Application should be made no later than April 15 of the junior year. Applicants must have completed four International Relations courses, excluding the pre-requisites CAS EC 101 and CAS EC 102, and including at least one regional or functional track course, by the time of application. Students should have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 and major GPA of 3.6 (excluding CAS EC 101 and CAS EC 102).

Requirements

The BA/MA program of study must be approved by the undergraduate academic advisor, and any subsequent changes must be approved by both the undergraduate and graduate academic advisors. Students are required to study abroad at minimum for one semester or one summer program. Students are also required to fulfill a 5-year (10 academic semesters) residency requirement, excluding summer coursework. Transfer students will fulfill a 3 to 4 year residency requirement, depending upon the number of transfer credits they have. Students select two tracks for their BA program and also select the corresponding tracks in the MA program.

Course Requirements

The BA/MA program requires a total of forty 4-credit courses (160 credits). In addition to the course requirements listed below, remaining credits should be fulfilled through approved elective courses.

Required BA Courses

All BA courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher

- CAS EC 101
- CAS EC 102
- CAS IR 292
- CAS IR 271
- CAS IR 349
- CAS IR 350
- 4 regional track courses
- 4 functional track courses
- 3 of the 8 track courses must be at the 500-level or above

Required MA Courses

All MA courses must be passed with a grade of B- or higher
• GRS IR 701
• GRS IR 702
• GRS IR 703
• GRS IR 704
• GRS IR 799
• 2 track courses at the 500-level or above
• 2 track courses at the 700-level or above

Track Coursework

Students enroll in two corresponding tracks of the BA and MA program, one regional and one functional. Students must take two graduate (500-level or above) classes in each track. Two of the four courses must be at the 700-level or above. The track equivalencies are as follows:

- Regional: Students may enroll in any set of corresponding regional tracks. Students in the Middle East or Asia undergraduate regional track may enroll in the MA program’s The Muslim World with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
- Functional:
  - BA: Foreign Policy & Security Studies = MA: Security Studies
  - BA: International Systems & World Order = MA: Theory & Policy
  - BA: International Economics, Business & Politics = MA: Political Economy
  - BA: Environment & Development = MA: Political Economy
  - BA: Regional Politics & Cultural Anthropology = MA: any second Regional track, including Muslim World

Language Requirement

All students pursuing an MA in International Affairs are required to demonstrate graduate-level reading proficiency in a foreign language prior to completion of the degree. Language proficiency can be demonstrated either through a language examination or successful completion of a fifth-semester foreign language course offered by Boston University (or a transfer course that has been equated to the fifth semester of a foreign language). In the case of non-native English speakers who were required to submit a TOEFL score report as part of their application for admission, knowledge of English fulfills this requirement.

Master’s Paper

Students write a Master’s Paper (commonly referred to as an MA Paper) as the capstone component of their degree. The paper may take one of two forms: either a traditional research paper or a policy paper. Students are given broad latitude in selecting topics and approaches, in consultation with their advisors.

All MA Papers must be defended orally in front of a panel of three professors, chosen by the Director of Graduate Studies of the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies (with the student’s paper advisor serving as one of the three). The purpose of the oral examination is to test the student’s knowledge in the area of research related to the MA Paper as well as the student’s ability to discuss that knowledge at length in a clear and compelling manner.