

International Relations Honors Program Guidelines

In order to receive Departmental Honors in International Relations, students must complete a two-semester research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The project must also involve a significant co-curricular component.

The requirements for department honors are as follows:

- Applicant must have achieved senior standing.
- Having an overall 3.5 GPA upon entry into the IR honors program.
- Conducting in-depth research over the course of two semesters, culminating in an honors thesis. Research materials must include non-US sources; these may be in English translation, but special consideration when considering applications for honors projects will be given to those projects that depend on foreign language sources. The languages appropriate to the research may be determined in consultation with the mentor.
- Engaging in co-curricular activities (see below) to be determined by the student and his/her mentor. Co-curricular activities must, in the judgment of the mentor, be related to the topic being written about. Students will be expected to report to their mentors on their participation in co-curricular activities.

Additional details:

- A successful Honors thesis will be counted as two 400-level courses (total 8 credits) in either the regional or functional track as appropriate. One course will be counted in fall, and the other in spring.
- To graduate with Honors in the major, students must complete a thesis, which they must defend before a committee of three Boston University faculty members, two of the three faculty members must be IR faculty. The committee will consider the thesis, the quality of co-curricular activities, and the quality of the oral defense in determining the final grade for the project. A grade of B+ or higher in each semester is required to receive Honors.
- Co-curricular activities: Students must attend and participate in co-curricular activities either sponsored by or approved by the International Relations Department. These can include but are not limited to special symposia, guest lectures, internships, round table discussions or publication of your work on the project. The co-curricular component should constitute a sustained and coherent set of activities that will contribute to the quality of the final paper. Detailed approvals and follow-up will be the responsibility of the faculty mentor. Students will be expected to keep a journal that outlines their experiences.
- Students who wish to study abroad in their senior year as a research component to their project must get approval from their faculty mentor and academic advisor in IR. Students

may only go abroad in the first semester of the honors program and show that the reason for going abroad is appropriate to their honors thesis topic.

Application Guidelines

1. A minimum grade point average of 3.5 overall is required for students applying for Departmental Honors.
2. You must submit a sample of graded written work to your prospective mentor for his/her review before completing the application.
3. Please complete the attached application for the Honors program, in consultation with your proposed faculty mentor, who must be a full-time CAS faculty member at Boston University. The materials to be included in your application are listed on the second page of the application.
4. The faculty mentor must complete the reference sheet, evaluating your potential success in the project. After the application is signed by you and by your faculty mentor, the form must be submitted to the department to be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Department Chair.

Deadlines to submit applications for Honors Program are as follows:

FALL May 15

SPRING November 15

You will be notified of acceptance or rejection by email, and the appropriate course will be added to your schedule by the IR Undergraduate Program Administrator.

APPLICATION FOR IR Honors Program

Student Information (Please print all information)

First and last name: _____

ID number: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Expected graduation date (month/year): _____

Semesters working on project: _____

Overall Grade Point Average: _____

Faculty Project Mentor information (Please print all information)

First and last name: _____

Email address: _____

Project Information

Prospective Title of project: _____

Proposed Co-Curricular Activities:

Application Check List

Please include the following materials to your application.

- Provide a brief description of your intended project. Outline the significance of the proposed work, the method of investigation you will employ, and how you will carry out your project. (1 - 2 pages double spaced)
- Include a preliminary bibliography of readings that are relevant to your work.
- Explain how this project fits in with your academic and career goals.
- Attach an unofficial copy of your BU transcript.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

To be completed by the faculty project mentor:

Student's name:

How long and in what capacity have you known the student?

Please evaluate the applicant's aptitude for independent research according to the criteria listed below. Please add any applicable comments.

	Exceptional	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Judge
Native intellectual ability					
Breadth of knowledge in subject					
Written communication skills					
Ability to work independently					
Level of initiative					
Level of motivation					

Comments:

I have read the student's research and co-curricular activities proposal and recommend that it be accepted as an IR Honors Program Project.

Faculty Project Mentor (PRINT) _____ Date: _____

Faculty Project Mentor (SIGN) _____ Date: _____

Interim Approval:

Director of Undergraduate Studies (PRINT) _____ Date: _____

Director of Undergraduate Studies (SIGN) _____ Date: _____

Final approval:

Department Chairman (PRINT) _____ Date: _____

Department Chairman (SIGN) _____ Date: _____

Course designation assignment:

IR UG Programs Admin. (PRINT) _____ Date: _____

IR UG Programs Admin. (SIGN) _____ Date: _____