International Relations and Politics (BS)

Major Deputy Director: Emily Half (BH A55B); Faculty Director: Kiron Skinner (PH 223F) Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips

At Carnegie Mellon University, the study of politics through the discipline of political science with support from other social science disciplines is centered in the Institute for Politics and Strategy (IPS).

The flagship initiative of IPS is the undergraduate major, a Bachelor of Science in International Relations and Politics (IRP). The IRP major investigates the way in which leaders and citizens construct grand strategy and national security policy more generally; the impact of domestic and international forces on states’ security and economic policies; and the significance of alliances, coalitions, and international institutions for world politics. Achieving the core objective of this major – thinking systematically about politics – requires analytical and quantitative training in political science and an understanding of culture, history, and language. The major emphasizes the use of the analytic tools of game theory, economic and statistical analysis, qualitative analysis, rational choice theory, and theories of behavioral decision making. Courses and research opportunities across this diverse intellectual spectrum provide the foundation for IPS studies and are at the heart of the undergraduate major. Students may pursue electives in the following areas:

- International and National Security
- Domestic & Comparative Political Institutions
- Grand Strategy
- Cybersecurity
- International Political Economy
- International Development
- Politics & Public Policy
- Decision Science & International Relations

The Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP), also sponsored by IPS, allows students to study and intern in Washington, DC, for one semester. Courses taken through CMU/WSP will count toward requirements for the major. IRP majors are highly encouraged to spend a semester in Washington, DC, and explore study abroad opportunities.

This following is a suggested schedule for the first two years for a primary major. IRP is also available as an additional major and minor. The remainder of the major and general education requirements can be completed in the junior and senior year.

**1st semester**
- 36-200, Reasoning with Data
- Complete 1: First-Year Writing (FYW) 79-104, Global Histories Freshman Seminar
- 99-101, C@CM
- 21-120, Diff. & Integral Calculus*
- 84-104, Decision Processes in American Political Institutions
- 82-1xx, Elementary Lang. I**

**2nd semester**
- Complete 2: First-Year Writing (FYW) 79-104, Global Histories Freshman Seminar
- 36-202, Statistical Methods
- 82-1xx, Elementary Lang. II**
- 84-275, Comparative Politics

**3rd semester**
- 84-326, Theories of International Relations
- 82-2xx, Intermediate Lang. I**
- 73-102, Principles of Microeconomics
- IRP Elective
- xx-xxx, Elective***

**4th semester**
- 84-265, Political Science Research Methods
- 84-250, Writing for Political Science & Policy
- 82-2xx, Intermediate Lang. II**
- IRP Elective
- xx-xxx, Elective***

*If required to start with 21-111, complete 21-112.

**Students are required to complete the intermediate II level or higher of a modern language other than English. Advanced-level study is strongly encouraged. Students should take a placement test for any language they have studied previously in order to begin at an appropriate level at CMU.

***Elective: This space can be used for a prerequisite course, another GenEd course, a major course elective, or a course that interests you.