ABOUT THE PROGRAM
The international and global studies (IGS) program is an interdisciplinary program that provides students with an opportunity to understand the complex processes of globalization that today so profoundly affect politics, economics, culture, society and the environment. Students take an introductory course on key issues of global affairs that gives them an orientation to the options for international internships and study abroad. Students also must take three core courses in the disciplines of anthropology, economics and politics. Students may then select six elective classes from more than 100 courses offered across the university, in disciplines ranging from politics and economics to fine arts — even biology.

What makes the program distinctive?
Why does democracy flourish in one society and languish in another? Why does one country’s economy boom when another’s stagnates? IGS students may ask political scientists and economists for data on voting patterns and capital formation, but they also will look to anthropological studies for answers — maybe even literary and artistic portrayals of a society.

FAST FACTS
Current number of majors and minors: 225
Number of faculty: 26
Can you minor in this program? Yes
Emphasis within the major: anthropology, political economy, world history
Popular second majors: economics, history, politics
Website: brandeis.edu/programs/igs
ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Hands-on experience
Invested in experiential learning, the program requires students to study abroad or hold an internship with an international organization.

International research
During the Libyan civil war of 2011, Tess Raser ’11 volunteered in a Sicilian refugee camp that accepted thousands of refugees from the conflict. She returned to Brandeis to write an honors thesis on migration that built on dozens of interviews she had conducted at the camp. Bryan Flatt ’12 was working at a routine legal internship in London when his firm was hired to represent people whose privacy had been invaded by “phone-hacking” tabloid journalists. Bryan worked on lawsuits that ultimately brought down several British newspapers.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Student awards and fellowships
Iyvon Edeblur ’13 won a Fulbright Scholarship to study intercultural theater in Italy. Iyvon’s project included building a show at the Teatro della Albe in Ravenna with African and Italian artists designed to spark discussion about immigration.

Matt Kupfer ’12 won a Carnegie Junior Fellowship from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a year-long fellowship for graduating seniors and recent college graduates that allows them to serve as research assistants to the Carnegie Endowment’s senior associates. Matt had previously worked on AIDS relief in Central Asia and wrote his honors thesis about the origins of ethnic conflict in Kyrgyzstan.

Jesse Appell ’12 won a Fulbright Scholarship to study improv comedy in China. During his fellowship, he became a regular performer at Beijing nightclubs, even winning some YouTube fame for “Laowai Style,” his satirical video about Western expats in Beijing.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

International justice
Many IGS students take advantage of Brandeis’ unique program on international justice at The Hague in the Netherlands. Students in the program meet international prosecutors and judges and witness trials in courts like the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the special criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Sierra Leone.

Coexistence and the arts
Marnina Cowan ’10 organized a cross-cultural coexistence performance showcasing Israeli and Palestinian music and dance in spring 2010. The event, titled “Musika Rox” (combining the words meaning “music” in Hebrew and “dance” in Arabic), was meant to build bridges between cultures.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Diverse career fields
IGS graduates often go on to fields such as diplomacy, law, investment banking, nonprofit advocacy on international issues (e.g., human rights in Darfur) and education. Many continue graduate studies toward a law degree, a master of public administration, a master of business administration, a medical degree, or advanced degrees in international relations, anthropology, and other social sciences.

Making an impact
IGS graduate Khayam Allen ’07 received a master’s degree from the London School of Economics and has been working for the French NGO Solidarités International in Afghanistan. He is currently in charge of implementing an emergency shelter program in a secluded area that was hit by an earthquake in 2010.

“Studying for four years through a variety of courses — looking through the cultural lens, the political lens, the economic lens — really opened my eyes. It helped me to understand what’s going on in the world a lot better.”

A recent IGS major

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