Master’s in Global Studies
Thesis Guidelines
2018–2019
Global Studies Thesis Guidelines

The Global Studies Master’s thesis is an integral requirement for the Global Studies program. Students complete a wide range of thesis topics from across several disciplines. Each student must sign up for the one semester, guided research course and prepare a major research paper (60-75 pages) on a field and subject of interest. The completed papers will be submitted to the Brandeis Institutional Repository (IR) in mid-April for a May graduation date.

Thesis papers cover a range of past and current global issues through a variety of disciplinary lenses. Methods, literature, paper format, and citation styles vary according to discipline. Research papers range from 60-75 pages in length and must be both comparative and analytical in nature. Policy recommendations are appropriate in some cases, but are not required. GS theses are not formally defended. However, research papers must be approved by the thesis advisor and the Global Studies Director before a final thesis draft is submitted to GSAS in mid-April (for May graduation).

GS 204a Master’s Thesis Course

During the Spring term, students enroll in a one-semester thesis course with a thesis advisor and prepare a major research paper (60-75 pages) on a topic related to global studies. The master’s thesis represents the culmination of a students’ academic work at Brandeis. Since students in the program are working from multiple disciplinary perspectives under the direction of faculty members from across campus, we keep these “guidelines” as flexible as possible:

First, a formal thesis, submitted to fulfill a graduate degree requirement, differs from a course paper or essay in significant ways. Most importantly, a thesis should defend an argument and not just review a range of scholarly or public opinions. This does not mean that a student cannot decide to agree with an established scholarly conclusion; but the strength of a thesis depends on the merits of the arguments presented, not only authorities cited.

Second, a thesis is grounded in data, that is, in evidence that can be collected, tabulated, inspected, viewed, transcribed, etc. In many cases it will not be possible for students to gather their own original data, so most students will need to rely on published, archived, or on-line sources of information. Given the short amount of time available, it is a good idea for students to engage a topic with which they are already generally familiar, either from previous courses or real-world experiences.

Third, given that different disciplines have different formats for presenting scholarly writing, there is no required citation and bibliographic style for your thesis. What is important is that, whether you are following an established format or not, citations and bibliography need to be clear, consistent, and comprehensive. Every Brandeis student’s academic life is governed by the principles of academic integrity outlined in Section 4 of the Rights and Responsibilities document.
Fourth, there is no set length for a master’s thesis in Global Studies. It would be anticipated that thesis might range from 60-75 pages of text, not including any tables, appendices, or bibliography attached. While a thesis is not a course paper, it is entirely proper for a student to integrate material, sources, and knowledge from writing done in connection with courses taken in the program.

And fifth, your research and writing for master’s thesis is under the supervision of a faculty advisor, and our affiliated faculty are well known for having different styles of mentoring and advising, so it is important that you and your advisor agree on clear guideless for this process, including dates for submitting drafts and expectations for the final product. Students are, of course, responsible for following the official Registrar’s procedures for submitting theses.

Thesis Advisor

Thesis advisors work closely with graduate students to develop research topics, choose literature, determine methodologies, review thesis chapters, and set reasonable short- and long-term deadlines for completion of the project. In the spring, students enroll in GS 204a – Master’s Thesis course under the direction of the advisor, meeting regularly throughout the term to review progress, discuss chapters, and support. Advisors may recommend other faculty with relevant expertise to serve as consultants on the project. Global Studies theses are not formally defended, however, they must be graded and approved by the advisor (in consultation with the GS Director) before theses are submitted to the IR. Primary thesis advisors receive a $500 stipend after their advisee’s thesis has been approved and submitted. Students must receive a grade of B- or higher on theses to qualify for graduation.

Important Dates for a May 2019 Graduation:

- Oct 22 – Project proposal due with bibliography
- Nov. 1 – Dec. 12 – Secure an advisor
- Nov. 30 – Complete literature review on thesis topic
- Dec. 5 – Jan 7 – Enroll in GS 204a with advisor
- Dec. 19 – Jan 14 – Winter Break
- Jan 11 – First installment due (introduction, methods, literature review)
- Feb 15 – Second installment due
- March 1 – Deadline - Degree Application (for May graduation)
- Mar 1 – Third installment due
- March 26 – Final draft to advisor (sign Certificate of Thesis Accept. Form)
- April 9 – Final draft to GS Director (sign Certificate of Thesis Accept. Form)
- April 12 – Deadline - Certification of Thesis Acceptance form to GSAS
- Apr 15 – Deadline - electronic thesis deposit to GSAS
- April 30 – Advisor submits GS204b grade with comments to GS Director
- May 6 – Final grades due for graduating students
- May 19 – May degrees conferred at Commencement
Global Studies Thesis Contact:

Kristen Lucken, Ph.D.
Director, Master's in Global Studies Program
Mandel 125, Mailstop 092
klucken@brandeis.edu Tel: 617-470-0016

Global Studies Thesis Specifications

Global Studies theses fall within a variety of disciplines, therefore, a degree of flexibility is accepted with regard to thesis structure, research methods, and citation style (APA, MLA and Chicago). Theses will follow standard disciplinary guidelines as approved by individual thesis advisors and the Global Studies Director. Global Studies theses generally fall between 60-75-pages in length and must follow formatting specifications outlined by GSAS. Below is one example of a Global Studies thesis outline:

I. Title Page, Abstract, and Copyright Page

II. Introduction: What is your research problem? Why is important? What have others said about the topic? What will you compare? What are the parameters of the study? Revise this section once your concluding remarks are completed. Make sure Introduction and Conclusions are parallel.
   - rationale for study (gap in literature, solving a specific problem, professional development of researcher)
   - literature review or theoretical framework with definition of terms and concepts. Outline the research problem and define main concepts addressed. Choose literature that helps to critique, identify new ideas, provide historical context, and offer interdisciplinary insights into your research question. Where is the literature helpful and where is it lacking?
   - methods (varies according to discipline)
   - parameters of study (timeframe, populations, geographies)
   - brief chapter overview (1-2 paragraphs)

III. Historical Overview: Explain the context of your research problem within the parameters defined.

IV. Findings: Create a framework for understanding the data you uncovered. What analytical categories are helpful in organizing complex data across comparison cases?

V. Analysis: Here, you move from component parts to a holistic view of the data. Search for patterns and themes that illuminate the deeper meaning of your findings. What similarities and differences exist among comparative cases, and how do you explain these trends? What is surprising and what is predictable? Are your findings consistent with the body of literature on the
VI. **Conclusions:** What is the broader significance of your study, and can lessons learned be applied across time or space? How does your study further our understanding of the topic? What questions require further investigation? Do your findings offer any predictive potential? Policy Implications: Students may conclude with policy implications, but this is not required.

VII. **Bibliography and Addendums:** List all references. Additional tables, graphs, and other information may be listed at the back of the paper.

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**Thesis Completion Workshops**

Global Studies offers thesis workshops throughout the fall to guide students as they begin their thesis projects.

Additionally, GSAS offers two workshops each semester: one for expected Master's degree recipients and one for expected Ph.D. degree recipients. These sessions offer an overview of the procedures and guidelines for dissertation and thesis submission. Workshop dates will be announced in the GSAS e-newsletter *Highlights* or by email, and registration is required. Contact Emily Goldberg in GSAS with questions.

**GSAS Submission Guidelines**

Review the key due dates below. Make sure you’ve submitted your application for degree and Certification of Thesis Acceptance. Early submissions are welcome!

**February 2019 Graduation**
- Degree Application: November 1, 2018
- Certification of Thesis Acceptance: January 15, 2019
- Electronic Thesis Deposit: January 16, 2019
- Degrees Conferred: February 1, 2019

**May 2019 Graduation**
- Degree Application: March 1, 2019
- Certification of Thesis Acceptance: April 12, 2019
- Electronic Thesis Deposit: April 15, 2019
- Degrees Conferred: May 19, 2019

**August 2019 Graduation**
- Degree Application: June 21, 2019
- Certification of Thesis Acceptance: August 7, 2019
- Electronic Thesis Deposit: August 8, 2019
- Degrees Conferred: August 31, 2019

**Master's Thesis Approval Form** - Before submitting your completed thesis to GSAS, this form must be signed by your thesis advisor and the Director of Global Studies indicating they have approved your completed thesis project.
IRB Process and Submission

Brandeis University’s Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) provides important institutional review over human subjects research conducted by investigators at the university. The core mission of HRRP is to ensure that federal, state, and university guidelines are followed in research involving human participants. It protects not only the rights of the people involved, but also the ethicality of the research. So, before you begin collecting data on human participants (surveys, interviews, participant observation), you must gain IRB approval in order to use that data.

Students should allocate several weeks toward complete the CITI training and IRB application process. Most proposals require revisions before meeting HRPP approval.

- IRB Dates and Deadlines
- IRB Initial Application Guide and Checklist
- IRB Forms and Instructions
- Initial Application
- Advice on Preparing IRB Applications for Qualitative Research
- CITI Training for IRB
GSAS “Quick Guide” for Master's Thesis Submission
Margins and Fonts

Margins
Top margin of the first page of each chapter/section of the body of your thesis: 2 inches
Left, bottom, and right margins: 1 inch
Top margin for all other pages of your thesis: 1 inch

Fonts
Times New Roman, Arial, Cambria, and Calibri are recommended fonts
Size 12, but longer quotations, references, and notes can be size 10 or size 11

Layout
Title Page, Abstract, and Copyright Page
Follow the templates, exactly, as they are shown.
Where there are parentheses, you will remove the parentheses and replace the text with your own text.
Include permission letters, if applicable, in your thesis.
Check the controlled vocabulary when listing your department or program.
(sub-headers for this section as follows):

Spacing
Double-space all text, aside from the following exceptions:
Single space all notes, bibliographic references, and long quotations

Orientation
No blank pages, all single-sided text
Moving between and landscape and portrait is fine, but refer to pagination guidelines when doing so

Pagination
Pay close attention to the transitions from Roman to Arabic numerals. All page numbers should be centered at the bottom of the page, when turned to portrait. Landscape pages still need to appear centered at the bottom of the page when in portrait orientation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section/Page</th>
<th>Page Numbering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title Page</td>
<td>number not printed on the page, but is still considered page i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright Page</td>
<td>number not printed on the page, but is still considered page ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements (Optional)</td>
<td>number is printed on the page, start with iii or ii if no Copyright page is used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Continue with Roman numerals, printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface (Optional)</td>
<td>Continue with Roman numerals, printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>Continue with Roman numerals, printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Pagination Style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>Continue with Roman numerals, printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Illustrations/Figures</td>
<td>Continue with Roman numerals, printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Start Arabic Numerals, beginning with page 1, printed on the page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Body, Appendices, Bibliography</td>
<td>Continue with Arabic numerals, printed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPLANATION OF PAGINATION—Printed v. Not-Printed:** While page numbers are not printed on the Title and Copyright pages, these pages still count (they are pages i and ii), which is why your Acknowledgements page is page iii.

**Submission to the IR**

**Naming**

Name your file with your last name, thesis, and year of degree conferral. Example: Peck Thesis2019.PDF

Your file should be a PDF for submission to the BIR. Embed all fonts when converting to a PDF.

**IR Portal**

Once your thesis is in a PDF format for submission, go to [http://bir.brandeis.edu](http://bir.brandeis.edu) and select “login” under My Account. Use your Unet ID and password to log in. Select the Submissions option under My Account. This will take you to the first step of the submission process.

**Completing Your Program**

**Application for Graduate Degree**

In order to receive your graduate degree, all graduate students must file an [Application for Degree form](http://bir.brandeis.edu) with the Office of the University Registrar by the deadlines specified in the academic calendar.
Certification of Master’s Thesis Acceptance

______________________________, a candidate for the Master’s Degree in ____________________________

(Print) Student’s Name Department

has successfully completed the Master’s Thesis entitled

__________________________________________________________________________________________

which requires no additional revisions and has been reviewed and approved by:

Thesis Advisor signature ____________________________ Printed Name ____________________________ Date ____________

Second Reader signature (if applicable) ____________________________ Printed Name ____________________________ Date ____________

Graduate Chair signature ____________________________ Printed Name ____________________________ Date ____________

Anticipated Graduation:   □ August 20_   □ February 20_   □ May 20_

Other Committee Members (if applicable):

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

GSAS Signature ____________________________ Date Received ____________

By Submission deadline (refer to dates in Academic Calendar):
(1) This form must be signed by both Graduate Chair and Thesis Advisor (even if it is the same individual) and returned to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Katz Hall, 2nd Floor at least one day prior to submission deadline.
(2) Thesis must be electronically deposited by submission deadline.

(Thesis Title)
Master’s Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Brandeis University
(Write in your department or Graduate Program: Ex. Department of Philosophy)
(Advisor’s name), Advisor

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree

(Master of Arts/Science: write in which degree you are receiving)
in
(Your Program. Ex. Philosophy)

by
(Your Name)

(Month and Year of Graduation: Just write the month and year here, so this will be
February 2019, May 2018, or August 2019)
ABSTRACT

(Title of Thesis)

A thesis presented to the (name of Department or Graduate Program. Check controlled vocabulary!)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Brandeis University
Waltham, Massachusetts

By (Your Name)

(Text of abstract begins here, double-spaced)
Recent Global Studies Master’s Theses

Global Studies students have produced thought-provoking theses tackling and analyzing issues such as growth and development, the refugee crisis and its impact on globalization, remittances, migration and conflict resolution. Below are some theses produced by the Global Studies cohort over the years.

Kathleen Hossack
This paper offers a new perspective on the current refugee crisis, using Kant’s moral philosophy to understand accountability towards refugees.
*Duties of Virtue and Justice: Rethinking Responsibility in the Global Refugee Regime*

Selene Campion
The study investigated Islamist extremist inspired radicalization recruitment methods in France’s mosques and prisons, as well as online, to determine each strategy’s relative efficacy.
*Islamist Extremist Inspired Radicalization in France: Analyzing Recruitment Methods in Mosques, Prisons, and Online*

Wanbo Li
This thesis assesses the three types of social remittances that were being transferred to China by Western-educated Chinese students and scholars in the three study-abroad waves between 1872 and the present.
*Study Abroad Waves and China’s Development*

Marisa Saraci
The purpose of this research is to outline the vital role remittances have played in the economic development of Albania following the fall of Communism in 1990, and to emphasize the potential they hold for future economic growth and development for the country.
*Leveraging Albanian Remittances for Economic Growth and Development*

Shayna Straus
This paper seeks to understand assimilation patterns of Moroccan immigrants in France. Through the study of quotidian Moroccan life, starting with the establishment of the French protectorate, both the reasons and conditions of migration are outlined.
*Moroccan Migration to France: Historical Patterns and Effects on Assimilation*
Jannat Akhter
This paper examines how perpetuating corruption, historical aspects of colonialism and extractive institutions are significantly linked and affect the democratic institutions and economic development of a country.
Corruption, Democracy and Development in Bangladesh

Samantha Minshull
Many journalists and governments today assume that new media technologies (including mobile communications and social media) play an important role in the diffusion of a protest action.
An Examination of the Effects of New Media on the Non-Contiguous Geographic Dispersion of Contentious Collective Action

Laura Ernst
This paper explores various factors that might explain these twin ‘Arab gaps’--factors such as oil-dependent economies, robust tribal-patriarchal norms, the special cultural centrality of Islam, the anti-imperialist drive for cultural authenticity, and even the impact of one gap upon the other.
The Predicament Perpetuated: How Progress Toward Democracy and Gender Equality in the Arab World is Held Hostage by the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Talal Ahmed
The purpose of this research is to find out how different domestic, regional, and international stakeholders view the current situation in Afghanistan. This paper is a humble endeavor to lay down the interests of all the major parties currently involved in Afghanistan.
Clash of Interests among Afghan and Foreign Players and Limits to Cooperation to bring Peace and Stability in Afghanistan

Ellen Sarkisian
The Russian state has shifted from monarchy to totalitarianism and now, in theory, a democracy. Liah Greenfeld argues that Russian national identity first emerged in the 18th century as a result of shifts in the Empire.
Russia: A Nation in Progress

Stephen Ernst
Scholars have commonly understood the brain drain phenomenon as mostly a loss of human capital for developing countries--and little more. As many scholars consider human capital to be an important determinant of economic growth, the brain drain may actively deprive low-income countries of their engines of development.
The Paradox of High-Skilled Migration: Is the Brain Drain the Best Antidote to the Brain Drain?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop/Add—</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to sign up for IGS 99a</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IRB Proposal submitted</td>
<td>Rolling basis</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Oct. review</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRB Proposal submitted</td>
<td>Rolling basis</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Nov. review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prospectus &amp; preliminary bibliography</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>to GS Dir. &amp; Thesis Advisor if you have one</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Literature Review/ Theoretical Framework</td>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
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<td>Winter Break—</td>
<td>Dec. 19-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good time to focus on thesis</td>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enroll in GS 204a (thesis class)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<td>Advisor’s signature required</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec 5 2018 - Jan 7 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit first major installment (first chapter) to Thesis Advisor &amp;</td>
<td>January 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit second major installment (second chapter) to Thesis Advisor &amp;</td>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>File application for degree (May 2019)</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit third major installment to Thesis Advisor &amp; GS Director</td>
<td>March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Draft of Thesis to Advisor (for any final edits)</td>
<td>March 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Draft to Global Studies Director (Kristen Lucken)</td>
<td>April 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete additional edits suggested</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Format thesis following Brandeis criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Submission of Certification of MA Thesis Acceptance</td>
<td>April 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for electronic submission of approved MA thesis to GSAS for</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Graduation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor submits GS204b thesis grade to registrar</td>
<td>By April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final grades due for graduating students</td>
<td>May 6-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Day - May Degrees Conferred</td>
<td>Sunday, May 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day for August graduate degree candidates (final and continuing</td>
<td>June 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s) to file Application for Degree</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of Certification of Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>Aug. 7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance Form and electronic submission of Thesis to GSAS</td>
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<td>August Degrees Conferred</td>
<td>August 31</td>
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