

# International Politics and Economics

## Learning Goals

1. To demonstrate familiarity with the disciplines of economics and political science by completing six courses within each discipline, and to learn the methodology, theories, and key analytic concepts of these fields.
2. To demonstrate competence in a foreign language taught at Middlebury College as determined by language department standards for study abroad, or through a placement exam, and to study content courses in a foreign language while abroad.
3. To study abroad for at least one semester.
4. To demonstrate the ability to conduct independent work by engaging in research and in-depth analysis that culminates in meaningful written work. Qualifying seniors may also write a senior honors thesis.

## About the major

The carefully structured international politics and economics major provides students with the opportunity to study two disciplines as well as areas that cut across traditional departmental and disciplinary lines. Through courses developed and taught by economics and political science faculty, students examine the globalizing world through a variety of conceptual lenses supplied by the social sciences; they learn multiple ways of solving problems; and they explore areas of inquiry that intersect traditional disciplines.

This approach, in combination with the study of languages and the immersion in another culture during study abroad, prepares students for a wide array of opportunities after college, including further study in graduate and professional schools. International politics and economics alumni are engaged in careers ranging from investment banking to the Peace Corps, from teaching to government service, journalism, public policy, and management consulting.

---

**“An IPE major helps students to develop strong theoretic foundations and then use firsthand experience to creatively solve problems and connect with others.”**

—Alice Urban '12  
*Business Development Manager  
at Tetra Tech ARD*

---

## Reasons you might choose this major

- You have an interest in politics, economics, and globalization, and want to approach the disciplines from both an interdisciplinary and international perspective.
- You are deeply interested in the rapidly changing world and how governments interact with the global economy.
- Your interest in politics extends far beyond the borders of your own background, and you are keen to understand the global nature of it.
- You are looking to build a solid foundation for any number of career paths and graduate education.



## Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

**Critical Thinking:** Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

**Oral/Written Communications:** Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:** Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

**Leadership:** Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

**Professionalism/Work Ethic:** Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

**Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

**Digital Technology:** Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

**Career Management:** Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

## Where international politics and economics majors go

### Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Hawkins International Public Relations	Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights
U.S. Senate Office Patrick Leahy	Endeavor Global
Rural Education Action Program (China)	Moody's
U.S. Department of State: U.S. Embassy Berlin; U.S. Embassy Lisbon; U.S. Embassy Croatia	ImagiNation Afrika
Human Trafficking Search	The White House
International Campaign for Tibet	Emerging Asia
National Committee on U.S.-China Relations	FINCA International
Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program	Goldman Sachs
Bank of China	Banco Popular
Deloitte Consulting	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
	The Peace Alliance

### . . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](#)

American Express, <i>Vice President, Global Diversity and Inclusion</i>	Ford China Trading Company
U.S. Department of State, <i>Foreign Service Officer</i>	LVMH Wines & Spirits (Moët Hennessy), <i>Executive Vice President</i>
Office of U.S. Trade Representative, <i>Executive, Office of the President</i>	Women's World Banking, <i>Chief Product Development Officer</i>
UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), <i>Safeguards Training Expert</i>	Defense Intelligence Agency, <i>Asia Analyst</i>
Repair the World, <i>Senior Director, Operations</i>	GE Onshore Wind, <i>Global Treasurer</i>
Boxagon, <i>CEO and Cofounder—London</i>	Grosvenor Asia Pacific, <i>CEO</i>
SRA International, <i>Human Capital Analyst</i>	Associated Press, <i>Correspondent—Mexico City</i>
The World Bank, <i>Health Specialist</i>	Citi, <i>Director, Trade Head UK and Ireland</i>
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, <i>Director, General Policy, Ministry of Finance</i>	Amazon (Tokyo), <i>Head of Content, Asia Pacific</i>
Singapore Economic Development Board, <i>Senior Officer, Resource Development</i>	Mongolia International Capital Corporation, <i>President, CEO and Founder</i>
Ford Motor Company, <i>Export Operations—</i>	Human Rights Watch, <i>Researcher-Counterterrorism, Extremism, Populism</i>