International Politics and Economics

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.

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
- U.S. Senate Office Patrick Leahy
- Rural Education Action Program (China)
- U.S. Department of State: U.S. Embassy Berlin; U.S. Embassy Lisbon; U.S. Embassy Croatia
- Human Trafficking Search
- International Campaign for Tibet
- National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
- Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program
- Bank of China
- Deloitte Consulting

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