

International Plan

Academic Advisor Information Packet



Thank you for your continued support of the International Plan!

This packet has been prepared to provide helpful tips and resources that you may draw upon when advising on the International Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the program.



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How can advisors contribute to the success of the IP?

- Encourage students to **stay on track**; remind them about taking the globally-focused coursework and language classes in a timely manner.
- Help students determine how the IP globally-focused courses **may be used for other degree requirements**.
- Encourage students to consider international programs that work well for their major and graduation timeline.
 - **Recommended IP Pathways** for each major should help students determine how to select coherent international experiences that also provide coursework they can use towards their degree requirements.
- Rising seniors – If they are about to take their **Capstone** course, they should consult with the major's faculty representative and notify the IP Manager and/or Director.
- Upcoming graduates must complete the IP **Degree Designation form** during the semester they are planning to graduate.
- If students are no longer interested or know that they will not complete the requirements, they should **officially withdraw** from IP via the online cancellation form:
<http://oie.gatech.edu/content/international-plan-cancellation>

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Resources and Tools

OIE has made several resources and tools available to help you (and your students) understand IP requirements and track student progress:

- **[IP Roadmap to Completion & Checklist](#)** – New guide that breaks down IP requirements into general guidelines for each year at Tech.
- **IP-specific reports on GT Reports.** These reports are used primarily by OIE for IP administrative purposes, however, academic advisors are encouraged to use them as well. If you would like access to these reports, you must first have access to BPROD and DWPROD databases in Banner. To request access to the reports, send your GT username (ex: jevanuik3) to internationalplan@oie.gatech.edu.
- **Periodic data reports.** Each semester, OIE will provide up-to-date reports to each academic unit. These reports will tell you which of your students are in the IP, which requirements they have completed/are lacking, and which students are on track to graduate with the IP designation. Future reports will try to be more user friendly.
- **Advising Worksheets.** A variety of advising sheets are available on the IP website, such as: “How to choose your international experience”; “How to register for globally-focused courses”; and “How to prepare for the ACTFL language proficiency interview”. Also online is the requirements checklist and the Recommended Pathways.
- **Lists of the IP globally-focused courses** that are being offered each term are circulated by the IP Manager.
- The **IP Newsletter** is sent approximately once a month during the fall and spring to all IP students and the IP Committee. If you would like to receive the newsletter, contact the IP Manager.

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IP Roles and Who to Contact

There are many resources available for students and staff who work with the International Plan. The list below helps distinguish who best to refer to for particular concerns and questions.

	IP Faculty Representatives	IP Staff (Director and Manager)
Who:	Faculty in participating majors who form the committee that establishes academic policies for the IP.	Full-time employees in the Office of International Education who are responsible for the leadership and management of the IP.
Contact for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working IP into major Coherence of plan Approval of international experiences Capstone course options and requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General IP policies, procedures, and advice Recruitment, events, and communications Petitions/appeals; suggestions Graduating student paperwork Adding new participating majors
How:	See Participating Majors list on website.	internationalplan@oie.gatech.edu 404.894.7475

Academic Advisors: Help students make strategic decisions about IP course work and the best time to go abroad. www.advising.gatech.edu

Study Abroad Advisors: Guide students in researching and selecting study abroad programs suited for their needs and academic goals. Contact for faculty-led programs and exchange programs, deadlines, application procedures, etc. <http://oie.gatech.edu/content/study-abroad>

Global Internship Advisor: Assist students with exploring and applying for work abroad opportunities in their major. Contact for international internship opportunities and related preparation. <http://oie.gatech.edu/gip/welcome>

Modern Languages: Advise students on how to best fulfill IP language requirement and prepare for the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Exam. Contact for language courses, placement tests, and permits. <http://modlangs.gatech.edu/>

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the IP and what is its value?

What is the International Plan?

The IP is a challenging program for undergraduate students focused on **developing global competency** in one's major. Students in the IP complete a **set of academic and experiential components** as part of their degree requirements, including **globally-focused coursework**, a minimum of six months spent **studying, working, or conducting research abroad, foreign language proficiency**, and a senior level **capstone course**. Successful completion of the IP results in a special **designation on the diploma** and transcript.

Why should students join?

The IP is designed to position students to **become leaders** in this increasingly globalized economy. By participating in the program, students have the opportunity to gain the skills and perspectives that are highly valued by top global employers. Students learn to **adapt to and be successful in diverse** environments and gain the ability to **effectively communicate** in different cultures. IP students also understand how their field is practiced in different cultural settings. IP graduates have an overall **better job outlook** in terms of opportunities, salaries, and future job advancement.

How is the IP different than studying abroad?

While studying or interning abroad may be a component of the IP, it does not end there. The IP asks students to take part in **internationally-focused academic and experiential elements** throughout their time at Tech.

Students in the IP will complete coursework which complements their international experiences and develop (at minimum) an intermediate level of second language proficiency (2002-level or equivalent).

The main identifying feature of the IP is the idea of **coherence**. All of the components of the IP should relate to each other in such a way that each participant develops a **unique outlook on their major from a specific linguistic and cultural context**. Some students choose to focus on two different countries/cultures rather than one in order to gain a comparative perspective of their major.

"The International Plan was always the thing employers noticed first on my resume!" – Cristina Lara, '14 B.S. Business Administration - IP

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IP Admission

<p>Who is eligible?</p>	<p>The IP is open to any Georgia Tech degree-seeking undergraduate student in a participating major. Ideally students should apply within the first two semesters of their college career, although students of all years are welcome to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2.7 GPA (no requirement for first-semester freshmen) • Have a strong interest in developing global competencies in an intentional and coherent way vis-à-vis the major • Submit an online application: http://oie.gatech.edu/content/apply-now
<p>Can Dual Majors participate?</p>	<p>Yes, they can even earn the International Plan designation for both majors (assuming both are participating majors). The only additional requirement is that both of the major advisors must approve of the student's international experiences and the IP capstone must be taken for both majors. All other requirements are only required to be completed once.</p>
<p>Can international students participate in the IP?</p>	<p>Yes, but there are two stipulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They must not return to their home country for their international experiences. 2. They must be working on a Georgia Tech undergraduate degree (degree-seeking); exchange students cannot participate.
<p>Can transfer students participate?</p>	<p>Yes, but international experiences must be fulfilled while enrolled at GT. If coursework taken elsewhere transfers to GT as an equivalent course that is on the list of IP approved course, then that coursework will count toward the IP.</p>

“Joining the IP as a freshman gave me something extra to pursue while at Tech and I firmly believe that it helped to push me out of my comfort zone to try new and challenging things. Study and work abroad are two of the biggest highlights of my college career and I doubt I would have pursued them without the encouragement of the IP. Being about to speak Japanese after 5 years of studying is immensely rewarding.”

– Taylor Meares ‘16, Computer Engineering - IP

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IP Requirement Details

<p>What are the basic requirements?</p>	<p>The International Plan requirements are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 3 globally-oriented courses. 2. Complete at least 26 weeks abroad (two terms) participating in coherent international experiences. 3. Demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to the 2002 level. The language is usually related to the international experiences. 4. Complete a major-related IP capstone. 5. Maintain an overall 2.7 GPA.
<p>What does the language proficiency entail?</p>	<p>The language should relate to the location of the international experience (except in cases where the language is not taught at GT). The typical way students attain this requirement is by taking through the 2002 level of their IP language. Students who develop proficiency outside of the classroom must show their proficiency through a language placement test, AP score, ACTFL exam or other method as determined by the School of Modern Languages. Students who develop advanced proficiency may pursue the optional "Language Proficiency Distinction" by passing the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (telephone or computer version).</p>
<p>What do the globally focused courses entail?</p>	<p>Students must take one course in each of three areas: international relations, global economics, and a course pertaining to the country/region of the international experience. A full list of approved IP courses is in the GT course catalog. (Courses not currently listed can be petitioned to count.) Most of the courses also count toward SS, HUM, and/or Ethics.</p> <p>http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/academics/special-academic-programs/international-plan/</p> <p>*Please note AP course credit does not count toward this requirement.</p>

“Not only did I personally enjoy my time studying and living abroad, but in terms of academic and career opportunities, I was able to relate so many of my experiences to a skill my employers were seeking whether it was problem solving or thriving in a team environment.”

– Michelle Lee ‘15 B.S. Industrial Engineering - IP

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IP Requirement Details

<p>What does the international experience entail?</p>	<p>Students must complete a minimum of 26 weeks abroad engaged in study, internship, and/or research. The 26 weeks should occur over two terms; only one term can be a summer. Students are free to go abroad more, but should pick the two most coherent experiences to count toward the International Plan.</p> <p>It is important to note that the two experiences abroad must be coherent.</p>
<p>What do we mean by “coherence”?</p>	<p>Coherence refers to the relationship between the international experiences and, in most cases, the student’s IP language. Coherence can be linguistic/cultural or intellectual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linguistic/Cultural: The international experience destinations share the same language or have similar cultures (e.g. Spain and Argentina). • Intellectual: The international experiences do not share a language or culture, but do share a connection related to a specific aspect of the student’s field of study (e.g. an ISyE student who takes logistics coursework in Singapore and interns with logistics group of DHL in Dubai; a CM student who participates in the CS-focused Barcelona summer program and then studies for a semester at GT’s exchange partner in Copenhagen which has a special CM program). <p>Intellectual coherence must be approved by the major IP Faculty Representative before a student goes abroad. The student must make their case through a written argument attached to their International Experience Approval Form. All program on the Recommended Pathways lists are considered coherent for that major and do not require additional approval.</p>
<p>What does the globally focused capstone entail?</p>	<p>Depending on the major, students must take their senior capstone/design/seminar course and include an international component into their project (such as a comparison of domestic versus foreign use of a product). This capstone is typically the same one that other seniors take, but contains an added component for International Plan students. Students should contact their IP Faculty Representative for details before registering for the capstone. Approved capstone courses are listed on the IP section of the GT course catalog: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/academics/special-academic-programs/international-plan/</p>
<p>What does a student need to do leading up to graduation?</p>	<p>Students who are eligible to receive the IP Designation should meet with the IP Advisor a semester prior to their graduation to complete a degree audit and to fill out the IP Degree Designation Form. The form must also be signed by someone in the major school.</p>