



Why Study **International Relations** at Azusa Pacific University?

A subfield of Political Science, International Relations comprises the study of the several levels of political interaction between nations—from national security and military power, to diplomatic negotiations and treaty-making, to economic negotiations about international trade and commerce.

The major in International Relations at Azusa Pacific University prepares students for a variety of careers in the public and private sector relating to these government to government negotiations. These include vocations in the federal government focusing on foreign policy formulation or analysis, aid programs, development and cultural exchange, as well as careers dedicated to national security problems, including counterterrorism and cybersecurity. In the private sector, some students find the major useful as they prepare for careers in international business and commerce, while others have used the major as preparation for non-profit development enterprises in agriculture and food production, or toward improving delivery of health services and clean water. Still others devote their time and energy to stopping human rights abuses including human trafficking.

An International Relations major can prepare a student for a career in one of over a dozen federal agencies, or it can be an important part of a student's preparation for a career in private industry or business, broadening one's horizons and deepening one's understanding of how nations and economies depend on each other.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAJOR IF YOU:

- Follow current international events and consider their global effects
- Seek to understand different cultures and compare various forms of government
- Enjoy learning foreign languages and interacting with people from other cultures and nations
- Plan, organize, and prioritize your work
- Work well with others and perform well under pressure
- Set and formulate goals and objectives
- Enjoy research on international political problems, and local or state issues as they relate to other nations or international organizations.
- Appreciate clear, cogent argument and persuasive rhetoric
- Think critically, rationally, and creatively
- Possess and develop strong research skills
- Continue to develop your strong writing and verbal communication skills



JAMES DI PANE '15

Member of the Young Leaders Program
The Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center

At the Hertiage Foundation, James is learning from experts in a variety of fields by way of policy briefings, in-house mentorships, and accountability of work. His first published article was featured in the *Daily Signal* and *The National Interest*. James is also working on his Master's Degree at the Institute of World Politics.

"The guidance and encouragement I got from my professors at APU was instrumental in steering me toward this career track."



ANN-ELISE QUINN '02

Research Analyst
Homeland Security

Ann-Elise graduated from the Institute of World Politics and now works with Homeland Security where she researches and analyzes potential visa violations and related national security matters.

"My years at APU were integral to my desire to protect and serve our country. I am deeply thankful to my professors, fellow alumni, and God for giving me such a strong foundation."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Working in any and every career
- Effective leadership in their community, nation, and world
- Promoting and defending truth and justice
- Confronting the moral ramifications of past and present international organizations, laws, and conflicts
- Evaluating possible solutions for current and future international crises
- Writing and speaking well, thinking critically, and judging wisely
- Pursuing careers calling for clear, cogent reasoning
- Promoting and developing intellectual curiosity in themselves and others

GRADUATES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WORK AS:

- Foreign Policy Analysts
- Foreign Service Officers
- Military Officers
- Federal Law Enforcement Officers
- Intelligence and Homeland Security Analysts
- Teacher/Professors
- International Lawyers
- Lobbyists
- Journalists

**Many of these careers may require additional training and/or graduate education*



ANDRE BORDEAUX '12

Foreign Service Officer
United States Department of State

Andre holds the diplomatic title of Secondary Secretary at the US Embassy in Berlin, Germany. He monitors and deciphers the political, economic, and security climate as related to US interests, negotiations, and policies in Germany.

"I am greatly blessed to have the opportunity to directly impact foreign relations. It is a profound honor to serve my country and to do so based on the guiding priciples of my faith."

STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

BE CALLED.

EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI 180)**
Understand how the world's nations interact with each other through trade, diplomacy, and matters of national security, and how foreign policies are forged in the U.S. and the West, as well as in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (POLI 150)**
Deepen your understanding of the principles and practices of American government on the local, state, and national levels, and how they apply to current political debates.
- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS (POLI 160)**
Consider together with faculty and student colleagues the great political questions that connect us over time to the earliest human civilizations.

- **LEARN HOW TO APPLY YOUR STRENGTHS WITHIN YOUR ACADEMICS, LIFE, AND CAREER**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or Strengths Mentor.
- **CONSIDER CAREER OPTIONS FOR YOUR MAJOR**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or your faculty advisor to explore and discuss requirements for your career options.

BE PREPARED.

IDENTIFY. STRENGTHEN. PRACTICE.

- **DEVELOP YOUR WRITING SKILLS**
Required of all International Relations majors during their Sophomore year, Research and Writing (POLI 300) includes discipline-specific writing components such as resume-writing, formal correspondence, etc.
- **SECURE AN INTERNSHIP**
An internship - Political Science Practicum (POLI 399) - allows the student to make and build relationships with established leaders in foreign policy and development organizations, federal agencies devoted to national security, or research organizations focusing on foreign affairs. Students anticipating future employment in organizations and agencies focusing on international relations are encouraged to seek out, with faculty guidance, internships in appropriate federal agencies and research organizations in Washington, D.C., other major U.S. cities, or in foreign countries.
- **IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GRADUATE-LEVEL EDUCATION**
Meet with professors and the Center for Career and Calling to narrow your choices and apply.

- **RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR INTERVIEWING ABILITIES**
Complete a Mock Interview with a Career Consultant*
- **CREATE A RESUME TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your resume and cover letter. Run them by your professors, too.
- **GROW YOUR SKILLS IN AN ON CAMPUS JOB OR STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITION**
Talk to Student Employment or Student Life about the available opportunities.
- **VOLUNTEER LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY TO SHAPE YOUR PERSPECTIVE**
Talk to the Center for Student Action about how you can serve.
- **GAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**
Do informational interviews or go to a career-related event to learn more about your career, degree, and experience requirements.

BE CONNECTED.

JOIN. NETWORK. BE ACTIVE.

- **ATTEND SPECIAL LECTURES AND OTHER CAREER EVENTS**
The department sponsors several lectures each year; attend and participate.
- **CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS**
With faculty advice, intentionally seek out and meet professionals (alumni and others) willing to explain the nature of their work and life experiences.
- **REQUEST AN INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW**
Talk with a professional in the field you're interested in pursuing. Prepare ten questions about the field. Learn about their perspectives on the profession.

- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**
Join [APUConnect.com](https://www.apu.edu/apuconnect) and start reaching out. You can also email clasalumni@apu.edu* for help connecting with alumni.
- **GET ACTIVE ON LINKEDIN**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your profile and learn how to use LinkedIn.
- **ATTEND CAREER-RELATED EVENTS**
Keep an eye out for career events related to your major or that are happening around campus.
- **HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON HAND**
Request them from professors and advisors at least a month before due.

* Visit [apucareer.youcanbook.me/](https://www.apucareer.youcanbook.me/) to make an appointment with a Career Consultant

* Use subject line: Connect me with APU alumni

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

EXPLORE.



Learn more at
www.apu.edu/career/graduateschool

SELECT.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP IDENTIFY THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOU

[Peterson's Guide](#)
[GradSchools.com](#)
[The Princeton Review](#)
[National Assoc. of Graduate Professional Students](#)
[The Council of Graduate Schools](#)
[APU Pew Society Graduate Guide](#)

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAJORS:

[The Institute of World Politics](#)
[California State University, San Bernardino](#)
[The London School of Economics](#)
[The University of Chicago](#)
[Georgetown University](#)

APPLY.

- APPLICATION FORM AND FEES**
Follow instructions carefully and have one or more people check for errors.
- ENTRANCE ESSAY**
Provide a writing example that shows your personal objectives.
- TRANSCRIPT**
Ask APU to send it directly to the school you are applying to.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
Schools usually require three letters, so get them early.
- INTERVIEWS**
If your potential school requests an interview, treat it as a job interview.

FINDING YOUR CAREER

IDENTIFY.

- Search online job boards and professional associations in the Political Science field
- Regularly check-in with your organizations of interest and network with those who can inform you of opportunities
- Look on APU Career Network for possible opportunities

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATIONS:

[International Studies Association](#)
[Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs](#)
[International Association for Political Science Students](#)
[International Political Science Association](#)
[European Political Science Association](#)
[American Association for Chinese Studies](#)
[Christians in Political Science](#)

PREPARE.

BRAINSTORM YOUR EXPERIENCE
What have you done? What is relevant?

▼
TAILOR YOUR RESUME
What does the job description say?

▼
WRITE GOOD BULLET POINTS
Do you focus on your accomplishments?

▼
FORMAT YOUR RESUME
Is it easy to read and follow?

▼
PRACTICE INTERVIEWING
Know yourself.
Know the position.
Know the organization.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

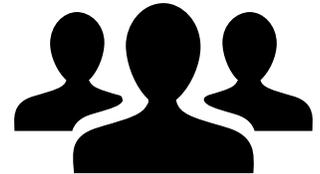
OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK
www.bls.gov/ooh/

O*NET ONLINE
www.onetonline.org

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REFERENCE
www.weddles.com/associations

NETWORK.

WHO DO YOU KNOW?
WHO DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?



WHY NETWORK?

- Learn about different options in your field
- Research companies and positions of interest
- Find hidden opportunities that are not advertised
- Obtain referrals from those who have influence

EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT HIRE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAJORS:

Department of State, United States
United States Congressional Offices
United States Foreign Service
California State Senate and State Assembly
U.S. Attorney's Office, Los Angeles
Foreign Service of the United States
The Central Intelligence Agency
The National Security Agency
The Agency for International Development
The United Nations