

Global Studies Degrees

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Global Studies available as a single degree?

No, Global Studies is only part of double degrees, so if you are wanting to enrol in the Global Studies degree you will also undertake another degree with it. It is possible to apply to transfer to another Global Studies degree if you wish to change your focus.

I am studying a Major or Minor Politics or History, yet POLS104 and HIST115 are core Global Studies units. Do these units also count towards my area/s in Politics and History?

Even though the content of these units may feel similar to your chosen major/minor, these are compulsory units for all Global Studies students, so these units will not count towards your major/minor. What you need to do in this situation is to enrol in other available units in both POLS and HIST to make up the majors (2 x 8 units).

For example:

A student commencing a history major or minor, in 2025:

- would enrol in HIST115 as their Global Studies unit
- and enrol in HIST118 Medieval World or HIST116 Ancient Near East for their History major/minor.

A student undertaking a politics and international relations major or minor, in 2025:

- would study POLS104 as their Global Studies unit
- and enrol into POLS218 for their Politics and International Relations major/minor. (This unit does not have a pre-requisite and you have permission to enrol into it in first year).

To course complete with either a HIST or POLS majors you need to have 8 units of each in addition to the POLS104 and HIST115 by the end of your degree.

I see that the course rules and structure have changed in 2024. I commenced my degree before 2024, do these new rules and course structure apply to me?

No, they do not. While the rules and course structure have changed, if you commenced your degree before 2024, then progress through your degree under the rules and structure that were in place for the year you commenced. For example, if you commenced your degree in 2022 or 2023, then you are still required to complete units from List A, B and C, two Global Studies electives, three core units, and the overseas experience. Units in these components will still be offered and course maps available for you to follow and plan your course progression.

What is the 'overseas experience' and do all students need to do it?

The overseas experience is a full semester overseas where you are either studying abroad or undertaking an international internship. The overseas experience is undertaken in semester 2 of year 3. The overseas experience is normally compulsory and is a wonderful experience to complement your Global Studies learning. You may wish to study with other Australian ACU students at our English-speaking campus in Italy, or at another partner university around the world. Or you may wish to undertake an international internship overseas. You can find more information at the Global Learning website.

If you cannot travel for personal, financial, or medical reasons, carer responsibilities or other relevant considerations, we can provide alternative options. Please submit a special consideration form to your course coordinator to start this discussion.

What if I fail a unit while on Study Abroad?

No problem. We will assess how many credit points to award you towards your degree and then advise you to make up the remaining credit points with Global Studies electives. In most cases if you fail one unit while overseas you can study one Global Studies elective when you return home.

What is an internship?

An internship is a professional work placement in a professional role related to the specific Global Studies degree you are doing. The internship's duration is 10-12 weeks overseas. The value of the internship is that it gives you some fantastic employment experience working in a profession related to your area of study.

Students who commenced their degree prior to 2024

I commenced my degree before 2024, do the new rules and course structure apply to me?

No. While the rules and course structure have changed, the new rules only apply to students who commenced in 2024 or later. You need to carefully follow the course map for your cohort (who commenced in 2023 or prior)

If you commenced your degree before 2024, then progress through your degree under the rules and structure that were in place for the year you commenced.

Students who commenced prior to 2024 are still required to complete the course requirements including:

- One unit from each of List A, B and C,
- two Global Studies electives,
- three core units: POLS104, HIST115, GLST305
- and 40 cp overseas experience.
- 20cp university core curriculum units
- 180 cp from the other degree: Arts, Law, Public Health, Commerce, Business Administration etc as per the course rules.

Units in these components will still be offered and course maps available for you to follow and plan your course progression.

I have completed history and politics units as my List A, B, and C units, do they count towards my major also?

No. For students who commenced prior to 2024, and are following the old course rules, it's important to remember that units counted as your list A, B or C units only count once, so they cannot also count in your major or minor.

I am heading into my final year/semester of the degree, and I'd like to check that my enrolment is on the right track so that I can course complete on time. How can I check that my enrolment is correct for me to course complete?

You have two options to check your course progression.

1. Request the excel course tracking template for students who commenced prior to 2024.
 - Email: Fea.nsah.admin@acu.edu.au stating which Global Studies degree you are in, the year you commenced and your student number.
2. Fill it out, listing the units you have completed within the different components of the degree.
3. Check whether your major or minor has compulsory units and make sure you have completed them all.
4. Make sure you have 2 x 300-level units in your major.
5. Note any gaps and units you still need to complete by the end of the year/semester.
6. Seek help from your course coordinator if you have questions about your course completion.