



PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES (PICS)

Encouraging students and faculty to globalize their horizons

The Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) launched the International Studies minor in 2006, the major in 2009, and is one of the fastest growing and largest undergraduate programs at the University of Michigan. The IS major is one of the largest undergraduate programs at LSA and top 10 major by number of degrees awarded. PICS has graduated nearly 260 minors since 2007 and over 2500 majors since 2010. Our mission is to train and develop U-M students to be the future global leaders that can create visionary change for generations to come.

What makes PICS so unique, and so popular with students?

- We are a hub for the interdisciplinary study of issues that transcend borders, engaging students to study in over 35 disciplines and seven schools across campus.
- Students and faculty globalize their horizons while deepening their knowledge of particular cultures and political, economic, and social contexts.
- International studies is a gateway field for students planning to pursue advanced degrees or careers in, for instance, international law, international business, public policy, global health, the environment, and government or non-governmental organizations.
- An international and global curriculum and co-curricular experiences prepare students to apply their knowledge and talents in a global context.

PICS provides faculty and students with resources, networking opportunities, and an interdisciplinary environment to pursue international studies across these central pillars:

- Human rights
- International development
- International security and cooperation
- Global health
- Environment
- Global culture and society

We offer both an undergraduate international studies major and minor, as well as fellowship support for students and faculty. Our rigorous degree programs require three years of foreign language study and offer students the opportunity to take courses across multiple disciplines, bringing diverse methods and concepts together to address global issues and challenges.

PROGRAM STRATEGIC FUND

PICS seeks gifts of all sizes to fund curriculum development, research, public affairs programming, and conferences throughout the year. Expendable funds of \$10,000 to \$50,000 are especially needed to make important collaborations possible so that students will have opportunities to interact with global leaders and experts in international affairs through innovative courses, lectures, and conferences.

PICS uses funds to cover travel expenses for visiting speakers, afford events space for lectures, seminars, and training, and secure special technology and telecommunications tools to foster global communication. Strategic funds have paid for many campus events in international affairs; luncheons that engage students with world renowned thinkers and leaders, Nobel Laureates, and global human rights heroes like Paul Rusesabagina, Michael Ignatieff, Jody Williams, and Jared Genser; and career events to help students get acquainted with and explore careers with U.S. government and international organizations related to human rights, international development, security and cooperation, and global environment and health.



“Receiving PICS funding, particularly as a Black student, relayed a message that spoke to disproving the stereotypes that exist for myself and other members of this minority group. The most rewarding part about this experience is that I learned that I’m capable of more than I think. I’m grateful for that recognition because I feel a new sense of purpose in my professional plan.”

–Victoria Lucas, B.S. '20



NAMED PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES

A named, endowed program would ensure a permanent home for international studies at the University of Michigan and continue the center's innovative work and research in the field in perpetuity. A transformative gift of \$7M would allow us to compete for and to recruit the leaders and best in international studies, to raise the program's profile at the University of Michigan, and to gain standing beyond the university commensurately with other top programs of international studies and affairs, such as Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, the Korbel School of International Studies, Tufts Fletcher Graduate School of International Affairs, and Stanford's Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies, to name a few.

Annual endowment distributions would provide funding for the following core activities:

- Endowed director position to recruit, retain, and inspire faculty leadership
- Curriculum and resource development
- Undergraduate study and research abroad fellowships
- International internships and other global experiences for undergraduates
- Strategic funds to support a wide variety of activities and programs within the program, including conferences, lectures, publications, research-related travel and resources, and visitors

NAMED PROGRAM DIRECTORSHIP

Outstanding leadership is what drives the robust programming in PICS, from curriculum development, to unique opportunities to study, research, volunteer, intern, and work abroad, to international conferences, pre-professional events, and seminars here at U-M. A gift of \$2.5M to endow the directorship ensures a globally prominent scholar and administrator will lead the program. The PICS director also serves an important external role as representative for the program and as an expert in public and global affairs, sharing that expertise with U-M faculty and students.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The cost of study abroad is prohibitively expensive for many Michigan students. PICS receives strong applications for study or research abroad, but current resources are not enough to fund all the students who merit support and demonstrate financial need. An annual gift of \$75,000 would allow PICS to grant support of \$5,000 to 15 students in their study abroad programs, while an endowment of \$1.5M would continue this support in perpetuity.



VISITING SCHOLAR AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

When considering the immediate and long-term impact on the education of our students, interaction with and mentorship by prominent professionals and scholars in the field are essential. To attract both prominent scholars or professionals in the field of international and global studies, as well as young upcoming scholars, we would like to establish both a visiting scholar and post-doctoral fellowship. A gift of \$180,000 annually would support both positions. These would be temporary one-year positions that would require teaching one course per semester as part of the residency, through which undergraduate students' experiences at Michigan would be significantly impacted. This would set us on the path to expanding the program and establishing it as an intellectual hub for international and global studies, in close collaboration with the regional centers of the International Institute. This hub would resemble Harvard's Weatherhead Scholar Program or Yale's MacMillan Visiting Scholar Program.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

PICS provides undergraduate students with exceptional international work experiences through the International Internships program. Students secure their own internships abroad and apply for PICS funding to help offset the cost of travel and housing while they work in another country. Typically these internships take place during the summer. At present, PICS partially funds approximately 15 international internships per year, and we would like to increase this number to ensure that all students involved in PICS can have this valuable experience, regardless of financial constraints. A gift of \$3,000 could partially support one student internship, while \$45,000 would fund the 15 international internships that PICS currently supports each year.

Our students have worked in a variety of locations including Portugal, Brazil, Argentina, Kenya, South Africa, Japan, Ireland, and Peru. They have gained skills interning with non-profits, public affairs organizations, and consulting groups. Some have even started their own social-entrepreneurship ventures. These experiences of deep immersion in other cultures, societies, polities, and economies are of crucial importance to students in both the PICS major and minor. Serving the diverse needs of our students with regard to internships is a top priority for the program going forward.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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