Information for Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS)
Interested Honors Plan Students
updated as of April 16, 2019

Students interested in the International Studies Honors plan should review the Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) Honors plan page and the LSA Honors plan page for a Senior Honors thesis.

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts has its own requirements and will trump Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) policies relating to Honors.

Students will receive a “Y” grade for INTLSTD 498 (fall term) which simply means “extended course” or “work in progress”. At the completion of the thesis, one letter grade will be assigned for INTLSTD 499 (winter term). Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) will also submit four possible recommendations to the LSA Honors office: “No Honors”, “Honors”, “High Honors”, or “Highest Honors” for each student.

“No Honors” is given for work that does not meet the INTLSTD 499 standards and for students with GPAs under 3.4.

Steps to Apply for the International Studies Honors Plan

1. Make a decision that you really want to do it.
2. Find a tenure-track faculty advisor willing to oversee your project, start now!
3. Submit an application to pics.honors2020@umich.edu by 12 PM on Friday, August 30, 2019 and include a brief letter of support from your faculty advisor.

What is INTLSTD 498 and 499 like? What can you expect from these courses?

Both courses are 3 credit seminars to develop your thesis, pitch arguments to your peers, and share pieces of your writings for review and critiques. Your thesis advisor will help you format your questions and chose an appropriate research methodology for your thesis.

Beware of complications that can arise. Examples: GPA falls below a 3.4, advisor is not a good fit, possibly not being able to study abroad during your senior year because of the required INTLSTD 498 and 499 courses (requires a case-by-case approval).

If you plan to conduct interviews with human subjects this summer prior to joining the International Studies Honors plan, please contact Anthony Marcum, PhD, International Studies Honors instructor, at amarcum@umich.edu first. He can help you navigate this process. All students will need to complete an application with the U-M Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Consider applying for LSA Honors grants for research, travel, and special projects. Applicants will typically be third-year students advancing to their senior year. Information is available in the LSA Honors office and can be found here.