



LSA

PROGRAM IN
INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS)

The Power

The Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS) is a relatively new offering at the University of Michigan. PICS launched the International Studies minor in 2006, the major in 2009, and is already one of the fastest growing and largest undergraduate programs at the University of Michigan. PICS has graduated nearly 220 minors since 2007 and over 1300 majors since 2010; and in 2016 we were proud to confer 240 Bachelor Degrees.

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

- We provide a hub for the interdisciplinary study of issues that transcend borders, engaging students to study in over 35 disciplines and seven schools across campus.



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- Our mission is to encourage students and faculty to globalize their horizons while they deepen their knowledge of particular cultures and political, economic, and social contexts.
- International studies is an ideal 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.
- The international basis of the curriculum and co-curricular experiences prepare students to apply their knowledge and talents in a global context.

The Opportunities

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

1. human rights
2. international development
3. international security and cooperation
4. global health
5. environment
6. 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.

The Impact

PICS seeks funding to enable students to participate in innovative courses, lectures, and conferences with international figures and experts in international affairs, and to support faculty leadership of the program.

Named Program in International and Comparative Studies

**\$7 million endowed
\$350,000 annually**

A named, endowed program would ensure a permanent home for international studies at the University of Michigan in perpetuity, and continue the center's innovative work and research in the field. A transformative gift 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



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International Affairs, The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, the Korb 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 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

A gift to endow PICS fully at this level would afford the donor with a prominent naming opportunity, as well as personalized stewardship and close engagement in the life of the program.

The core activities of PICS may also be funded with separate, individual gifts, as listed below.

Named Program Directorship

\$2.5 million endowed

Outstanding program 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. An endowed directorship will help recruit and retain a globally leading scholar and administrator as director of 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.

A gift to endow the directorship would afford the donor with a prominent naming opportunity.

Undergraduate Study Abroad Fellowships

**\$1.5 million endowed
\$75,000 annually/\$5,000 per student**

The cost of study abroad is prohibitively expensive for many Michigan students. PICS receives strong applications for study abroad, but current resources are not enough to fund



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all the students who merit support and demonstrate financial need. PICS would like to grant support to 15 students annually in their study abroad programs.

International Internships

**\$1 million endowed
\$45,000 annually/\$3,000 per student**

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 in this manner, 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.

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, politics, 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.

Program Strategic Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

PICS seeks funding for curriculum development, research, public affairs programming, and conferences throughout the year. Expendable funds are 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.

Recently, we have used strategic funds to pay for:

- over 40 campus events in international affairs
- student 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
- student 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



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HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

We welcome your interest in supporting PICS. Please contact our development office if you have questions or would like to discuss different options for making a gift.

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To make a gift online, visit <https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/alum/lisa-ii/cics>