

2025 – 2026



Josef Korbel School  
of International Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

## Master of Arts in International Studies

The Master of Arts in International Studies combines a broad understanding of the field of international studies with an issue-oriented specialization, skills courses, and opportunities for internships or advanced research. It is the traditional professional international studies curriculum long favored by students pursuing career options in the government, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as those considering a PhD. It is also our most flexible degree, with ample opportunity to tailor a program to fit your specific needs and interests.

### Curriculum Overview:

Candidates must complete sixty (60) credit hours.

### Degree Requirements:

**1. Korbel Core – (4 credits):**

- INTS 4091 - Great Issues in International Relations (*offered each Fall quarter; take as early in the program as possible*)

**2. Degree Core - three courses (12 credits):**

- Any regionally-focused course, to be approved by the International Studies Degree Director.
- Choose **two** of the following:
  - INTS 4301 – Intro to Political Theory
  - INTS 4324 - International Political Economy
  - INTS 4370 – The Global Economy
  - INTS 4372 – Great Books in Political Economy
  - INTS 4501 - Comparative Politics in the 21st Century
  - INTS 4715 – Debates about Democracy
  - INTS 4822 – Contemporary Political Theory
  - INTS 4900 - International Politics
  - INTS 4936 – International Law and Human Rights
  - INTS 4958 – Nationalism and Internationalism in Global Governance

**3. Specialization - three courses (12 credits):**

Specializations are sets of three full-credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbel specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three, but for completion of degree requirement purposes, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbel Certificate will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours associated with their degree requirements. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbel Student Affairs Digation site.

4. **Skills** - three courses (12 credits):

A total of 12 credits (in the form of 4-credit or 2-credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbel School Skills List. This list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.

5. **Internship:** Required (registered as INTS 4981, for 0 or 4 credits)

- Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details.

6. **Thesis (4 or 8 credits) or Substantial Research Paper (4 credits):** Optional

- Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details.

7. **Supporting Courses:** Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of **60 credits** with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to international studies (public policy) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel (INTS or PPOL) and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from outside Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree outside Korbel cannot be more than 12.

**Degree Director:**

**Prof. Lynn Holland**

[Lynn.Holland@du.edu](mailto:Lynn.Holland@du.edu)

(303) 871-3769

<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/international-studies>