

February 2012

Ph.D. in International Studies University of Washington Seattle

Introduction

University of Washington (UW) proposes to offer a Ph.D. in International Studies degree beginning Fall 2012. This 100-quarter credit program would be the first doctoral program administered by the Jackson School of International Studies, which currently manages eight federally funded National Resource Centers and offers nine M.A. International Studies (MAIS) programs. Unlike the MAIS programs, the Ph.D. program would be school-wide, rather than focused on a particular domain, such as Comparative Religion or Japan Studies.

The proposed program would serve students interested in understanding international affairs and using research skills to address global problems. It would enroll 4 FTE (four headcount) students in 2012, increasing to 20 FTE (20 headcount) students in 2016. By 2016, four students would graduate annually, prepared primarily for academic careers, but also able to work as researchers, policy makers, or other practitioners in the field.

Relationship to Institutional Role and Mission and the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington

With its emphasis on problem-focused research, the proposed program would support the university's research mission. Moreover, it would respond to a capacity issue raised in the *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*, which notes that universities “. . . struggle to sustain and expand their research capacity, and to provide opportunities for students to participate in research projects.”¹

Program Need

The Pacific Northwest currently lacks a doctoral international studies program, despite ongoing indications of student demand. Between 2006 and 2010, Jackson School faculty and staff responded to more than 400 queries from potential Ph.D. applicants. Program planners estimate at least 10 current MAIS students want to apply for the proposed program. Approval of the program would mean MAIS students no longer need to leave the state to pursue doctoral studies in the field.

¹ Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington, Page 28.

Program planners anticipate that most Ph.D. graduates would work as faculty; however, some graduates would work as practitioners in government agencies, non-profit organizations, international organizations (e.g. United Nations), and businesses (e.g. multinational corporations). The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook notes "faster than average" job growth for postsecondary teachers during 2008-18 nationally. However, the Employment Security Department's Occupational Employment Projections note slightly slower than average job growth during 2014-19 in Washington.

The Jackson School's graduate student placement track record indicates strong employer demand for practitioners. A 2009-10 UW Office of Educational Assessment surveyed MAIS graduates and received 494 valid, reliable responses. More than 80 percent of these respondents work in their field and perceive their job placement and graduate training to be well matched. About 44 percent of MAIS graduates work in government, 33 percent work in the private for-profit sector, 15 percent work as educators, and 8 percent work in non-profit or international organizations.

The proposed program would respond to community demand for people able to analyze international issues and advance Washington's place in the global economy.² For example, graduates would be able to analyze trade-related problems such as whether or not competitive subsidies in the global aircraft industry represented by Boeing and Airbus could be fairly adjudicated in the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement system. In addition, the proposed program would support state efforts such as the Global Asia Institute established by SSB 5177 and enhance the ability of National Resource Centers to catalyze educational partnerships.

Diversity

To enhance student diversity, the Jackson School would collaborate with the Ethnic Cultural Center, Multicultural Alumni Project, and Multicultural Organization of Students Actively Involved in Change. It would also collaborate with the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, Diversity Research Institute, Women's Center, and Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program. It would recruit internationally, and program planners estimate that about one-half of admitted students would be from outside the United States. When hiring faculty, the School would recruit from under-represented groups.

Program Description

The Jackson School's academic approach reflects the philosophy that a single disciplinary lens (such as political science, economics, or sociology) is insufficient to address issues that cross boundaries of national and regional areas (such as China or the Middle East). Although the

² According to the Washington State Department of Commerce, Washington is the fifth largest exporter in the country. Available at <http://www.choosewashington.com/data/trade/pages/default.aspx>.

School offers nine interdisciplinary MAIS programs,³ it has not offered any corresponding Ph.D.s. To develop an appropriate intellectual core for the proposed Ph.D. program, the Jackson School examined its resources and faculty expertise. This led it to identify four combinational fields, which represent an intellectual merger of the MAIS programs' interdisciplinary and area studies approaches:

- **Religion, Culture, and Civilization (RCC)** - Covering topics such as Jewish Studies, Islam, Christianity, cultural identities and ideas, social and historical changes, political and economic trajectories, and civilization changes and clashes.
- **States, Markets, and Societies (SMS)** - Covering topics such as development, trade, investment, finance, multinational corporations, economic policymaking, democratization, political parties, and electoral systems.
- **Peace, Violence, and Security (PVS)** - Covering topics such as proliferation/non-proliferation, nationalism, ethnic conflict, genocide, defense, intelligence, invasions, interventions, peacekeeping, arms control, and disarmament.
- **Law, Rights, and Governance (LRG)** - Covering topics such as human rights, international economics, human security, environment, crime, tribunals, courts, international and regional institutions, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and social movements.

The primary goal of the proposed program is to prepare scholars and practitioners to advance the state of knowledge within these combinational fields. These fields would facilitate a problem-focused analytical approach to critical global issues and challenges such as the following:

- Why do terrorists play the religious card in the Middle East and with what consequences for the security of Western Democracies (RCC and PVS in the Middle East)?
- What might the rise of the internet imply about democratization processes in China? (LRG and SMS in China)?

To gain admission, applicants would need a master's degree and third-year foreign language proficiency. They would submit a statement of interest designating two combinational fields (e.g. RVS and RCC) and an area-based field (e.g. Middle East). In keeping with the proposed program's problem-focused analytical approach, applicants would identify a critical issue to work on and (when possible) a set of professors to work with. Students could count up to 30 credits of prior graduate coursework towards their Ph.D.

Once admitted, candidates would take a survey course and a two-course research methods sequence. Through field seminars, students would specialize in two of the four combinational fields. In addition, they would gain geographical or comparative religion expertise by satisfying the core requirements of one of the MAIS programs. Instruction would be provided primarily by

³The MAIS programs include a general program in International Studies; area studies programs (China Studies; Japan Studies; Korea Studies; Middle East Studies; Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies; South Asian studies; and Southeast Asian studies); and Comparative Religion. All of these programs focus on social sciences coursework and require competence in a foreign language. Each has its own requirements and structure and is administered by a Chair.

tenured/tenure-track faculty. Although this would be the Jackson School's first Ph.D. program, faculty already have experience supervising Ph.D. candidates in other departments, such as history, political science, and sociology.

By the end of the first year, students would take a qualifying examination. By the end of the second year, students would complete required coursework, defend a dissertation prospectus, and take a general examination. By the end of the third year, they would defend their dissertation proposals and begin work on their dissertations. During the fourth and fifth years, they would work on their dissertations, submitting chapters to journals, and giving presentations at professional conferences as appropriate. By the end of the fifth year, they would complete and defend their dissertations.

Student learning would be assessed through homework, exams, class participation, projects, general exam performance, dissertation prospectus defense, dissertation, and dissertation defense. Program assessment would employ student course evaluations, consultation with MAIS program personnel, and input from graduate students. Additional indicators would include student entry and exit interviews, peer-reviewed publications by students, end-of-program surveys, and graduate placement statistics.

Program Costs

The proposed program would enroll 4 FTE students the first year, increasing to 20 FTE students the fifth year. It would require 4.1 FTE instructional faculty, including 4.0 FTE tenured/tenure-track faculty and 0.1 FTE senior lecturers. It would also require 1.2 FTE administrative faculty and staff (including a 0.5 FTE faculty director and 0.3 FTE other faculty). It would not require new hires, new infrastructure, or new state funds. Rather, it would be implemented and funded through internal reallocation of existing resources.

At full enrollment, the direct cost of instruction would be \$639,458, or \$31,973 per average annual FTE student. Although this lies within the inflation-adjusted graduate social sciences cost range reported in the HECB's *2005-06 Education Cost Study* (July 2007), it is about twice the Cost Study's figure for UW Seattle graduate social sciences. This is probably because the Cost Study figure includes master's programs, with higher student/faculty ratios and lower costs than Ph.D. programs.

External Review

Two external reviewers evaluated the proposal: Dr. Gi-Wook Shin, Professor of Sociology, Korea Alumni Chair of Korean Studies, and Director of the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University; and Dr. John Voll, Professor of Islamic History and Associate Director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

Both reviewers recommended approval of the proposed program, noting the quality of its design. Dr. Shin recommended approval “with great enthusiasm.” Dr. Voll said “The proposed curriculum presents a sound balance between the specific needs of the individual students in the program and the importance of building and maintaining a sense of a ‘school-wide intellectual identity’.” Each reviewer made specific resource and/or curricular suggestions, to which program planners responded with clarifications. For example Dr. Shin suggested including more practitioners among faculty, and Dr. Voll suggested relating at least part of the curriculum more directly to professional preparation. Program planners clarified that the Ph.D. program sought primarily to prepare graduates for academic careers. Nonetheless, they intend to develop ways of integrating practitioners and their courses more fully into the School’s core competencies.

Staff Analysis

The proposed program would complement existing master’s programs by providing intellectual common ground as well as a pathway for further graduate study. Moreover, it would advance UW’s research mission in a way that supports the *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*.

The proposed program would respond to student, employer, and community demand without duplicating other programs. Students would no longer have to leave Washington to pursue a Ph.D. in the field. Employers would benefit from graduates’ research skills. The community would benefit from graduates’ expertise related to international trade issues, as well as synergy between the proposed program and government-supported efforts such as the Global Asia Institute or the National Resource Centers.

Students would benefit from the proposed program’s combinational field approach to problem-focused research. Both reviewers noted the quality of the program’s design. Student and program assessment would both employ multiple measures.

Although the program is expensive, its cost per average annual FTE student falls within the Cost Study range. Moreover, the proposed program would enhance the Jackson School’s ability to attract external funding.

Staff Recommendation

After careful review of the proposal and supporting materials, staff recommends approval of the Ph.D. in International Studies at the University of Washington. The HECB Education Committee discussed the proposal during its February 14, 2012 meeting, and recommended approval by the full Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-02

WHEREAS, University of Washington proposes to offer a Ph.D. in International Studies; and

WHEREAS, The program would support the *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*, as well as the university's mission; and

WHEREAS, The program would complement existing Master of Arts in International Studies programs; and

WHEREAS, The program would respond to student, employer, and community demand without duplicating existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The program would help Washington enhance its position in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, The program has support from external reviewers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Ph.D. in International Studies degree at the University of Washington effective February 29, 2011.

Adopted:

February 29, 2011

Attest:

Ethelda Burke, Chair

Earl Hale, Vice Chair