

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**Senate Committee on University Priorities**  
**Memorandum**

**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Jon Driver  
Chair, SCUP  
Vice President, Academic

**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences:  
Full Program Proposal for a Master of  
Arts in International Studies  
(SCUP 08-27)

**DATE:** September 11, 2008

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At its September 10, 2008 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the full program proposal for a Master of Arts in International Studies from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the Full Program Proposal for a Master of Arts in International Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

encl.

c: J. Harriss and W. Parkhouse

SFUSIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

## SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

515 West Hastings Street, Room 2403

Vancouver BC Canada V6B 5K3

T 778.782.7148 | F 778.782.7837 | [www.sfu.ca/internationalstudies](http://www.sfu.ca/internationalstudies)

To: SCUP members


From: John Harriss

Date: August 20, 2008

Subject: MA in International Studies program

The proposed MA in International Studies is a foundation teaching program for the new School for International Studies. As a new program in a new School it does not involve the reduction or the replacement of any existing program(s). The human resources required to mount the program are those specified in the proposal. The program has been designed to be taught by the initial faculty of the School for International Studies. It has been taught, under Special Arrangements, in 2007-08, with a cohort of 23 students; and when finally established it is expected to be run with an intake of 30 students each year. The library resourcing for the program has already been made and there are no other resource requirements.

Dictated by John Harriss  
and signed in his absence,



## MEMO

Dean of  
Graduate Studies

STREET ADDRESS  
Maggie Benston Student  
Services Centre 1100  
Burnaby BC V5A 1A6  
Canada

MAILING ADDRESS  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby BC V5A 1A6  
Canada

TO Senate Committee on University Priorities TEL

FROM George Agnes, Senate Graduate Studies Committee

RE New graduate program proposal (GS2008.29)

Master of Arts in International Studies

DATE July 22, 2008

TIME 2:58 PM

At its 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 meeting Senate Graduate Studies Committee unanimously approved the enclosed new program proposal - Master of Arts in International Studies in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, subject to minor changes. These changes have now been made.

I am forwarding this program proposal to SCUP, with the recommendation that the program be approved to begin in September 2008. The full proposal includes the new course proposal forms.

*MA*  
28 July 28/2008

MEMO

Dean of  
Graduate Studies

STREET ADDRESS  
Maggie Benston Student  
Services Centre 1100  
Burnaby BC V5A 1A6  
Canada

MAILING ADDRESS  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby BC V5A 1A6  
Canada

TO	Senate Graduate Studies Committee	TEL
FROM	George Agnes, ACNGP	
RE	Master of Arts Program in International Studies	
DATE	May 26, 2008	
		TIME 11:19 AM

At the ACNGP meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the committee unanimously recommended that the new program proposal for a Master of Arts in International Studies be forwarded to SGSC, with the recommendation that it be approved.

The committee noted that this program was reviewed favorably by the external reviewers, and there is potential for this program to be highly successful.

John Harris was offered the opportunity to decline an invitation to attend the next SGSC meeting. He however responded saying he would like to be invited.

*JA*

4.

## PROPOSAL FOR MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

- |             |      |   |
|-------------|------|---|
| 21 February | 2007 | “Notice of Intent” and supplementary information approved “in principle” by Senate Committee on University Priorities |
| 29 March    | 2007 | Received program proposal from School for International Studies   |
| 05 November | 2007 | Reviewed by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs  |
|             |      | Sent proposal to external reviewers by Dean of Graduate Studies   |
|             | 2008 | Received three external reviewers’ reports by Dean of Graduate Studies  |
|             | 2008 | Sent external reviewers’ reports to School for International Studies  |
| 7 April     | 2008 | Received departmental response to external reviewers’ reports from School for International Studies                   |
| 13 May      | 2008 | Approved by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs  |
| 26 May      | 2008 | Submitted to Senate Graduate Studies Committee  |

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
School for International Studies  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mary Ann Gilles, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Graduate Studies Committee

**From:** John Harriss, Director  
School for International  
Studies

**Subject:** New program proposal

**Date:** March 16, 2007

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At its meeting of October 5, 2006, the School for International Studies approved the attached new program proposal.

Would you please place this proposal on the agenda of the next meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee.

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*John Harriss, Director*  
School for International Studies

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\*\* This information has been culled. For review of full information, please contact Bobbie Grant, Senate Assistant, at 778.782.3168 or email [bgrant@sfu.ca](mailto:bgrant@sfu.ca)

Simon Fraser University  
School for International Studies

**Proposal for the Establishment of the Master of Arts Degree in International Studies**

*Executive Summary*

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is proposing an M.A. program in International Studies with specializations in International Development and Complex Emergencies. The programme will provide those students specializing in the stream on International Development with the tools to understand and analyse policy implementation and outcomes in various institutional, political and geographical contexts pertaining particularly to developing countries. For those specializing in the stream on Complex Emergencies the aim is to equip students to understand and analyse the causes and processes of state failure, and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different policy approaches to the problems to which they give rise, domestically and internationally. These include questions surrounding humanitarian intervention and the principle of the Right To Protect. Both streams are concerned with problems of human security

The program will appeal to students interested in working professionally in international development, or on problems of conflict, conflict resolution and state building, with bilateral/multilateral agencies or NGOs, with research organizations or private consultancy companies. It will equip them with the analytical skills and the contextual knowledge expected in such agencies. Study at the graduate level that is required for such a formation calls for students with a strong foundation at the undergraduate level.

The approach of the program is multidisciplinary, with a focus on institutional analysis. This implies a significant engagement with the politics of development (now recognized in development agencies as being of central importance), elements of economic analysis, and a clear understanding of social development. The expanding role of international and regional organizations in dealing with the prevention, mediation, and consequences of conflicts among and within sovereign states warrants a multidisciplinary institutional focus as part of a program devoted to the difficulties of state fragility, state failure, and the international response to complex emergencies.



## Curriculum

### 1. *Program Outcomes:*

Canada has a long history of involvement in global affairs through various international treaties, its internationally recognized development policies and its general openness to the world. Canadian society has been and continues to be built on immigration and its highly multi-cultural nature ensures that privileged links with many nations in the world are maintained and developed. As a prosperous country with this unique experience Canada should play a growing international role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Simon Fraser University School for International Studies wants to address the significant demand both within Canada, and internationally, from students for advanced education and training in international development, and in analyzing the causes and conditions of state failure and of 'complex emergencies', and of the possible courses of public action to deal with them.

The MA in International Studies intends to provide participants with the necessary knowledge to perform successfully in an increasingly globalised and diversified world. The aim of the programme is to provide those students specialising in the stream on International Development with the necessary tools to understand and analyse policy implementation and outcomes in various institutional, political and geographical contexts pertaining particularly to developing countries. For those specializing in the stream on Complex Emergencies the aim is to equip students to understand and analyse the causes and processes of state failure, and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different policy approaches to the problems to which they give rise, domestically and internationally, These include questions surrounding humanitarian intervention and the principle of the Right To Protect. The program will draw on detailed comparative analyses of different cases of state failure and of complex emergencies in a range of contexts. Students interested in working professionally in international development, or on problems of conflict, conflict resolution and state building, with bilateral/multilateral agencies or NGOs, with research organizations or private consultancy companies, will find the program appealing as it will equip them with the analytical skills and the contextual knowledge expected in such agencies. The approach of the program is multidisciplinary, with a focus on institutional analysis, implying also a significant engagement with the politics of development (now recognized in development agencies as being of central importance). Study at the graduate level that is required for such a formation calls for students with a strong foundation at the undergraduate level.

### 2. *Courses and Curriculum Requirements:*

The program will require the completion of six seminar courses each accounting for a minimum of four credit hours, and a project course accounting for 6 credit hours. Courses will be dependent upon which Stream a student is completing:

Stream A: International Development  
Stream B: Complex Emergencies

The courses that will constitute the program are:

(1) IS 800-4 *Problems in International Development Policy and Practice*, in which students will work in small teams with different faculty members on specific current problems (for example, as debt relief or the problem of HIV/Aids), examining policy approaches and practical issues of implementation;

(2) IS 801-4 *Institutions, Policies and Development*, examining institutional theories in relation to economic and social development and development management, and development policies;

Stream A: International Development:

(3A) IS 802-4 *Directed Readings A*, on the historical political economy of development or POL 844-5 *International Political Economy*.

(4A) IS 803-4 *Economics of International Organizations and Development*, focussing on the role and functioning of the international financial institutions, in particular;

(5A) IS 809-4 *Selected Topics: Economic and Social Development of Selected Regions*, examining the social and cultural context and the patterns of development in one or other of the major regions of the developing world historically (the regions covered may include South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa);

(6A) POL 830-5 *Comparative Government and Politics*, with a strong focus on approaches and methods of analysis, reflecting the recognition in leading development agencies of the centrality of politics in economic and social development (no matter how intractable these problems may be).

Stream B: Complex Emergencies

(3B) IS 806-4 *State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives*, examining the causes and consequences of state failure through comparative political analysis;

(4B) IS 807-4 *Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian Intervention*, examining policy and practice in regard to state failure, conflict, conflict resolution and problems such as the internal displacement of people associated with them, by means of comparative analysis of a range of different experiences;

(5B) IS 808-4 *Directed Readings B*, focusing on international organization and on the principles and practice of international law bearing specifically on conflict and on humanitarian concerns or POL 842-5 *International Law and Organizations*.

(6B) Either:

POL 830-5 *Comparative Government and Politics* (see 6A above), or

IS 804-4 *Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy and International Security*, in which problems of state failure will be examined historically and in the context of wider issues of international security.

(7) *MA Project* required for either stream, involving either two extended essays (each of not more than 8000 words) based on core readings, or (with the approval of the program director) a project.

Students may substitute courses selected from other graduate programs for up to two of the courses, determined by the students' stream. Stream A: International Development substitutions can be used for: IS 809-4 or POL 830-5. Stream B: Complex Emergencies substitutions can be used for: IS 808-4 or POL 842-5, and POL 830-5 or IS 804-4. Substitution courses selected will have to be approved by the program director who will look for coherence and consistency with the overall objectives of the selected stream of the degree program. Examples of suitable courses are those dealing with policy analysis taught within the Master of Public Policy Program, or some of those concerned with Latin American development taught within the Latin American Studies program.

All except for POL 830-5 are new courses, to be implemented in order to deliver the degree program. For Stream A courses IS 801-4 and POL 830-5 are focussed on theory and methodology and are expected to equip students with analytical tools; courses IS 800-4, IS 802-4, IS 803-4 and IS 809-5 address questions dealing with the policy and practice of development at different levels and in different contexts (international and national levels, and in relation to national and multilateral agencies); course IS 800-4 will have an integrative function. For Stream B Course IS 800-4 expects students to engage with core questions of policy and of its implementation in the wider context of international development in which state failure and emergencies are most appropriately regarded; Courses 801-4 and POL 830-5 or IS 804-4 are focussed on theory, history and methodology and are expected to equip students with analytical tools; courses IS 806-4 and IS 807-4 deal substantively with the core problems treated in the program as a whole, and they do this comparatively; and course IS 808-4 examines the context of international public action. Course IS 800-4 will have the same integrative function as with Stream A.

### 3. *Course Descriptions:*

The following course descriptions are found in Appendix Two –

- IS800-4: Problems in International Development Policy and Practice
- IS801-4: Institutions, Policies and Development
- IS802-4: Directed Readings A
- IS803-4: Economics of International Organizations and Development
- IS804-4: Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy and International Security
- IS806-4: State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives
- IS807-4: Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian Intervention
- IS808-4: Directed Readings B
- IS809-4: Selected Topics-Economic and Social Development of Selected Regions
- IS888-6: M.A. Project
- IS889-3: M.A. Project Completion

POL830-5: Comparative Government and Politics is an existing course

#### *4. Program/Course Structure and Class Sizes:*

The Program Structure is that described at section 2. The course IS800-4; Problems in International Development Policy and Practice will be taught with students organised in small groups or teams of about 5 persons, each working with a member of the teaching faculty; the courses IS 801 through to IS 808 will each be taught through seminars with 20-25 students; IS 809-4 will be taught through seminars or tutorial groups of about 8 students (depending on students' choices about the particular region they wish to study); each student will be allocated to a faculty supervisor for individual work on the MA Project (IS 888-6 or IS 889-3).

#### *5. Research:*

While this is not a research degree it is intended that the courses it includes will also be appropriate components of the research training to be offered for those wishing to undertake doctoral research in the School for International Studies.

### *Learning Methodologies*

#### *1. Learning Environment and Methodologies.*

This is an academic program in which the accent will be on students' individual study of the relevant literature, and their analysis in some cases of data from primary sources – all with the guidance of their teachers - and their writing of essays, reviews and project papers. This individual study will be supported and facilitated through seminar discussion of individual student presentations, and through detailed feedback from teachers on written assignments. There is to be a departure from this robust though conventional methodology in the course IS 800-4 when students will work together in small teams (whilst also writing individual reports). The purpose of this element in the program is to give students experience of working with others, in small teams, in a way that is expected in many contexts of professional work in international development. Students will be supervised individually by faculty members in their preparation of the MA Project.

#### *2. Experiential Learning:*

While co-operative learning or the completion of a practicum are not required elements in this program, it will be open to suitably qualified students, such as those from the McRae Institute at Capilano College, who have undertaken such learning experiences, and these students will be encouraged to base their MA Projects on analysis and reflection drawing on their experience. This will also be the case for students who are already working, or who have work experience in international development.

### *Faculty*

The program will be taught by the following eleven members of the faculty of the School for International Studies:

Dr Lenard Cohen BA, MA (Illinois), PhD (Columbia) [Director, Stream B]  
Political scientist specializing in state building and state failure with experience in foreign policy analysis, and a specialist knowledge of the Balkans.

Dr Stephen Easton BA (Oberlin), MA & PhD (Chicago)  
Economist and Economic Historian

Dr Andre Geromolytos BA (Concordia), MA, PhD (McGill)  
Historian with particular interests in diplomacy, the organization and uses of intelligence, and international security, in Greece and West Asia

Dr John Harriss MA (Cantab), PhD (East Anglia) [Director, Stream A]  
Social anthropologist with interests in institutional theories and the politics of development, with particular reference to South Asia

Dr Michael Howard BA, MA, PhD (Waust)  
Social/cultural anthropologist who will provide specialist teaching on development in Southeast Asia.

Dr Nicole Jackson BA (Toronto), MSc, PhD (LSE)  
Political scientist with interests in international relations, with particular reference to Russia and Central Asia

Dr Tamir Moustafa BA (UC San Diego), MA, PhD (U of Washington)  
Holder of the Jarislawsky Chair in Religion and Cultural Change. Specialist in the politics and society of the Middle East

Dr Alvaro Pereira BA (Coimbra), Msc (Exeter), PhD (SFU)  
Economist and economic historian with particular interests in growth and economic development

Dr Paul Warwick BA (McMaster), MA and PhD (Chicago)  
Specialist in comparative politics.

The eleventh faculty member will be a new appointment, to the Simons Chair in International Law and Human Security, to be recruited in 2007-08. The person appointed will be an international lawyer or a political scientist working on human rights law and/or on international organization..

A further two junior faculty members will be recruited in 2008-09.  
The persons appointed will include an economist or political economist with interests in international development, and a political scientist or social/cultural anthropologist with the same interests..

### ***Admissions***

To be considered for admission, applicants must have a bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 from a recognized university, normally in an arts or social

sciences discipline. Those admitted with other credentials, or those with arts degrees who, in the judgment of the program director are without adequate foundation in the social sciences, may be required to make up any deficiency without receiving graduate credit for those courses.

Students are normally admitted in September.

### **Application Requirements**

The following application information is required.

- A Simon Fraser University graduate application form completed by hand or on line
- The applicant's official undergraduate transcript(s) showing all grades (mailed directly from the granting institution)
- Three confidential letters of reference (mailed directly from referees), at least two of which are from university faculty members. This requirement may be waived for mid-career applicants with professional experience
- A one page letter of intent that explains why the applicant wishes to pursue the MA in International Studies, and which stream they wish to pursue
- A student whose first language is not English and whose undergraduate degrees were from institutions where English is not the language of instruction is required to submit English language test scores:  
IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with a minimum score of 7 on the Academic Modules; or  
TOEFL IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language internet based test) with an overall score of 88 or better with a minimum score of 20 in each of the four components (listening, speaking, writing, reading); or  
TOEFL PBT (Test of English as a Foreign language paper based test) with a minimum score of 570 including a minimum essay score of 5; or  
TOEFL CBT (Test of English as a Foreign language computer based test) with a minimum score of 230 including a minimum essay score of 5.

### **Residency Requirements**

Students must successfully complete a minimum of 20 credit hours of graduate course work and submit at least two extended essays, or a project.

One half of the minimum course work of the MA in International Studies must be taken at Simon Fraser University. A graduate student may apply to take one or more courses at another university for credit towards the MA in International Studies under the following conditions:

- Such applications shall be made at least one month before the course/courses start and shall be approved by the student's supervisory committee and graduate program committee and be sent to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval.
- While taking a course/courses at another university under these provisions, the student shall maintain normal registration at Simon Fraser University, not registration on leave.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
School for International Studies  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mary Ann Gilles, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Graduate Studies Committee

**From:** John Harriss, Director  
School for International  
Studies

**Subject:** New course proposal

**Date:** March 16, 2007

---

At its meeting of October 5, 2006, the School for International Studies, approved the attached new course proposals:

New course proposal:

IS 800-4 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice  
IS 801-4 Institutions, Policies and Development  
IS 802-4 Directed Readings A  
IS 803-4 Economics of International Organizations and Development  
IS 804-4 Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy and International Security  
IS 806-4 State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives  
IS 807-4 Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian intervention  
IS 808-4 Directed Readings B  
IS 809-4 Selected Topics – Economic and Social Development of Selected Regions  
IS 888-6 M.A. Project  
IS 889-3 M.A. Project Completion

Would you please place this proposal on the agenda of the next meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee.

---

*John Harriss, Director*  
School for International Studies

Library report for International Studies courses

From: "Megan L. Crouch" <mcrouch@sfu.ca> **ADD to ADDRESSES**  
To: Jan Berube <jberubea@sfu.ca>, Ellen Yap <syap@sfu.ca>  
Cc: Gwen Bird <gbird@sfu.ca>  
Date: Fri, 02 Mar 2007 14:59:43 -0800  
Subject: Library Report for an International Studies MA at Harbour Centre

---

Dear Ellen and Jan,

I have completed the Library report for the International Studies MA at Harbour Centre.

The report includes the following courses:

IS 800-4 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice

IS 801-4 Institutions, Policies and Development

IS 802-4 Directed Readings A

IS 803-4 Economics of International Organizations and Development

IS 804-4 Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy & International Security

IS 806-4 State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives

IS 807-4 Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian Intervention

IS 808-4 Directed Readings B

IS 809-4 Selected Topics – Economic and Social Development of Selected Regions

IS 888-6 M.A. Project

IS 889-3 M.A. Project Continued *[note: revised title is "Project Completion"]*

The report is located here:

[http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/courseassessments/intl\\_studiesMA\\_revised.htm](http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/courseassessments/intl_studiesMA_revised.htm)

and is also linked to from the main course assessment page:

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/courseassessments/Index.htm>

**There are costs associated with this program:**

**One-time costs: \$6,961**

**Ongoing: \$3,750**

Please confirm that the program is willing to cover these costs. The library will initiate the budget transfer paperwork once the program is approved. The ongoing funds will be a base budget transfer.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Megan

Megan L. Crouch

Collections Librarian

Health Sciences Librarian

Liaison Librarian for Statistics and Actuarial Science

Simon Fraser University / W.A.C. Bennett Library

8888 University Drive, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

mcrouch@sfu.ca / Tel: 604.291.4962 / Fax: 604.268.6926



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
School for International Studies  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Megan Crouch  
Collections Librarian

**From:** John Harriss, Director  
School for International  
Studies

**Subject:** Library costs

**Date:** March 2, 2007

---

We have received a library report for the below mentioned courses, with a one time cost of \$6961 and an ongoing cost of \$3750, which the School for International Studies agrees to pay.

New course proposal:

IS 800-4 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice  
IS 801-4 Institutions, Policies and Development  
IS 802-4 Directed Readings A  
IS 803-4 Economics of Organizations and International Development  
IS 804-4 Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy and International Security  
IS 806-4 State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives  
IS 807-4 Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian Intervention  
IS 808-4 Directed Readings B  
IS 809-4 Selected Topics – Economic and Social Development of Selected Regions  
IS 888-6 M.A. Project  
IS 889-3 M.A. Project Completion

---

*John Harriss, Director*  
School for International Studies

## Master of Arts in International Studies Curriculum

### Calendar Entry

#### School for International Studies

2400 Simon Fraser University Vancouver, 604.268.7148 Tel, 604.268.7837 Fax,  
[www.sfu.ca/internationalstudies](http://www.sfu.ca/internationalstudies)

#### *Director*

J. Harriss BA, MA (Cantab), PhD (East Anglia)

#### *Graduate Program Chair*

J. Harriss BA, MA (Cantab), PhD (East Anglia)

#### *Faculty and Areas of Research*

See "School for International Studies" on page 164 for a complete list of faculty.

L. Cohen - Political scientist specializing in state building and state failure, experience in foreign policy analysis, specialist knowledge of the Balkans

S. Easton - Economist and Economic Historian

A. Gerolymatos - Historian with particular interests in diplomacy, the organization and uses of intelligence, and international security, in Greece and West Asia

D. Gross - Economist specialising in international finance and labour issues

J. Harriss - Specialist in institutional theories and the politics of development, with particular reference to South Asia

M. Howard - Social/cultural anthropologist, specialist on development in Southeast Asia

P. Warwick - Specialist in comparative politics

#### **Master's Program**

This full-time twelve month program, leading to a Master of Arts in International Studies consists of seven courses, to be completed over three consecutive semesters. Courses will be dependent upon which Stream a student is completing:

- Stream A: International Development
- Stream B: Complex Emergencies

#### **Admission Requirements**

To be considered for admission, applicants must have a bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 from a recognized university, normally in an arts or social sciences discipline. Those admitted with other credentials or those with arts degrees who, in the judgment of the Program Director are without adequate foundation in the social sciences, may be required to make up any deficiency without receiving graduate credit for those courses. Students are normally admitted in September.

#### **Application Requirements**

The following application documentation is required:

- A Simon Fraser University graduate application form.
- Official transcript(s) from all institutions attended, showing all grades (mailed directly from the granting institution).
- Three official confidential letters of reference (mailed directly from referees), at least two of which are from university faculty members. This requirement may be waived for mid-career applicants with significant professional experience, in which case employment referees may be used. Please consult us if this will be your course of action.
- A one page letter of intent that explains why you wish to pursue the MA in International Studies, and which stream you wish to pursue.
- A student whose first language is not English and whose undergraduate degrees were from institutions where English is not the language of instruction are required to submit English language test scores:  
 IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with a minimum score of 7 on the Academic Modules; or  
 TOEFL IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language internet based test) with an overall score of 88 or better with a minimum score of 20 in each of the four components (listening, speaking, writing, reading); or  
 TOEFL PBT (Test of English as a Foreign language paper based test) with a minimum score of 570 including a minimum essay score of 5; or  
 TOEFL CBT (Test of English as a Foreign language computer based test) with a minimum score of 230 including a minimum essay score of 5.

### **Program Requirements**

MA candidates complete a minimum of 30 units, including at least 24 units of course work (6 graduate seminars) and a project (6 units). Courses will be dependent upon which Stream a student is completing.

#### **Stream A: International Development**

IS 800-4 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice  
 IS 801-4 Institutions, Policies and Development  
 IS 802-4 Directed Readings A or POL 844-5 International Political Economy  
 IS 803-4 Economics of International Organizations and Development  
 IS 809-4 Selected Topics: Economic and Social Development of Selected Regions\*  
 POL 830-5 Comparative Government and Politics\*  
 IS 888-6 MA Project

#### **Stream B: Complex Emergencies**

IS 800-4 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice  
 IS 801-4 Institutions, Policies and Development  
 IS 806-4 State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives  
 IS 807-4 Complex Emergencies and Humanitarian Intervention  
 IS 808-4 Directed Readings B\* or POL 842-5 International Law and Organizations\*  
 POL 830-5 Comparative Government and Politics\* or IS 804-4 Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy and International Security\*  
 IS 888-6 MA Project

## IS 888-6 MA Project

\*Students may substitute courses selected from other graduate programs for up to two of the courses, determined by the student's stream. Substitution courses selected will have to be approved by the program director who will look for coherence and consistency with the overall objectives of the selected stream of the degree program.

### MA Project

A major project is required for either stream, involving either two extended essays (each of not more than 8000 words) based on core readings, or (with the approval of the program director) a project.

It is expected that the project will have some international dimension. The project may take different forms. It might, for example, involve the preparation of a CD with sound and video, or the preparation of a web-site. In the event that a student chooses to adopt this route s/he will also be expected to write a short text (1500-2000 words, or 6 or 7 pages of normal type) explaining briefly what the question or topic is that s/he is addressing and the methods that have been employed. If the project is aimed rather at the production of a text alone then we expect a paper of between 12 000 and (certainly not more than) 15 000 words (= 40 to 50 pages of normal typing). The text should explain what the question or theme is that is being addressed, why it is significant and interesting, and then proceed to explore it or answer it through some structured, logical procedure ('methodology').

**To:** John Harriss, Director  
School for International Studies

**From:** George Agnes  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

**Regarding:** Program Proposal for Masters in Arts, International Studies

Dear Dr. Harriss,

Two reviews of the program proposal for MA International Studies have been received. I have edited these reviews to preserve the anonymity of the reviewers. I ask that your unit read the reviewer's comments and provide a rebuttal that should be addressed to the Chairperson, Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs. Your letter should outline any modifications made to the proposal in response to the reviews.

Sincerely

George Agnes  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies  
8888 University Drive  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S6  
Canada

## Reviewer A

I have spent some time perusing the documents relating to the proposed MA program in International Studies with specializations in International Development and Complex Emergencies. In general, I think this is a very well conceived and carefully structured program that should find a large cohort of interested students, who should in turn find a significant cohort of interested employers. The strengths and weaknesses of the proposal, as I see them, are described below.

### Academic quality

The courses that will constitute this degree program are rigorous, well designed, and effectively organized. They will challenge all students, and will give the best students ample opportunity to show their quality. They are, however, rather less broad than the preamble suggests, and I felt that the chance to create a really special program, at the outset, has been missed.

Specifically, while the preamble notes that the program will be multi-disciplinary (page 5), it struck me that all of the courses listed (with the possible exception of the course in Complex Emergencies) could easily be accommodated within a traditional Political Science department of the kind that exists in any large university. This is, in short, a fairly conventional degree program, albeit with slightly more current course titles.

Two elements, if adopted, would set this program apart:

1) That students be asked to acquire a basic knowledge of another language, and preferably a language other than French. I realize that this is a rather tall order, but much can be accomplished in six to eight weeks of intensive study. Furthermore, producing graduates who are not unilingual anglophones would give this program a distinct advantage over other, similar programs (such as the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs, which offers specializations that share some commonalities with your proposed program). Not to put too fine a point on it, but there is no shortage of highly trained people who can examine these problems from an office in Ottawa; there is a pressing need, however, for people who have even rudimentary language skills that are appropriate to the countries in which they will be working.

2) That the course content be expanded to include some consideration of social, cultural, and religious issues. A course in comparative religions and/or comparative cultures would be ideal, as would a course on the social and demographic challenges facing the developing world. Ideally, these would be given within the context of other disciplines such as Sociology, Anthropology, Religious Studies, Cultural Studies, or Geography (the course entitled "Theories and Practices of Development" would seem to be a natural fit). The substitution of courses is discussed (page 7), but this possibility might be pursued more vigorously to give students a broader experience. The goal, it seems to me, should be to provide more course content outside of the realms of Political Science and Economics, which provide a rather narrow focus for the program as it is presently constituted.

Concerns in this regard come from experiences as a member of various federal government committees involved in funding research and post-secondary education in the areas of security studies, international development, and inter-state relations. It was clear to us that Canadian universities were producing a good many excellent graduates with experience in traditional International Relations Master's and Doctoral programs, and a growing number of graduates with interests and training in development studies. The vast majority of these people, however, had pursued their work from a western-centric, policy formulation and implementation angle (what might be called a top-down approach). Few

people had the skills, either linguistic or research, to study these problems from the other angle, from the perspective of the recipients of policy; there was, in general, a dearth of people who could examine these policies from the perspective of the people they are intended to help. Broadening your program to provide this training and expertise would make its graduates much more desirable.

In passing, I was curious about the statement that "this is not a research degree" (page 8). Perhaps the notion of a "research degree" has some specific connotation at SFU, but I was unsure how this program could offer anything *but* a research degree.

### **Resources**

I was impressed by the obvious energy, ability, and productivity of the faculty members who will be involved in this program. Their CVs give me every confidence that they are fully able to deliver such a program in such a way that the students get as much out of it as possible.

In terms of space and library resources, I foresee no problems. This is not an especially space-intensive proposal, and it could easily be accommodated by any institution that has a reasonable level of space available. The cost of acquiring new library resources is often problematic for new programs, but it is much less so in this case. I note from the library report

([http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/courseassessments/intl\\_studiesMA.htm](http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/courseassessments/intl_studiesMA.htm)) that no new periodicals will be required, and the list of monographs to be acquired, now and in subsequent years, strikes me as entirely reasonable. It must be recognized also that research resources in this field are increasingly available on the internet, at little or no cost. At the same time, it should be noted that the library report deals primarily with resources that should be acquired strictly for course purposes; there is no indication of further resources that will be required as students move into research projects that will undoubtedly be varied in focus.

### **Demand**

As I stated above, I am certain that the demand for graduates of such a program as this is strong. Departments of the federal government, to cite just one example, are constantly looking for committed and qualified people who can work in this area, and the potential for advancement is significant. It strikes me as entirely likely that, as multinational corporations become more interested in investing in the developing world, they will seek the advice of "area experts," who might well be graduates of your program.

### **Prospects for employment**

Again, there is no reason to imagine that the demand for people with skills in these areas will do anything but grow. Governments will continue to require experts on state development, but NGOs are increasingly turning to the universities for experts, as are media outlets and private consulting agencies. There is, furthermore, enormous potential to bring in guest speakers from these organizations for workshops and roundtables. These would prove of great benefit to students as part of their education, but would also assist in building linkages between the program and the places where students can reasonably expect to gain employment. As a result, I would suggest that the program not stint on that portion of the budget devoted to bringing in visitors.

In conclusion, I was impressed by this program and consider it an excellent basis for the future. Some minor adjustments in terms of the breadth of course offerings would enhance it substantially, but from an administrative perspective it may prove easier to move in

**Reviewer B**

I have read through all the documentation sent.

The first thing I would say is that I am in no doubt there will be many applicants and that you will find enough of quality to make the program viable. Second, and equally important, there will be employment as well as opportunity to pursue a PhD for the graduates.

The proposal is a little dismissive of other universities' offerings in this area. Nonetheless it does not change my judgment that the SFU program is well conceived and that there is a market for it.

I think the design of the program with its two streams is first class. Based on the faculty CVs provided, I have no worries there either. It is really very difficult for me, however, to comment on the adequacy of space and library on the basis of my knowledge and the information provided.

I would suggest the phrase "politics of development" might give rise to some confusion as it is susceptible to a number of different meanings. I take it the intent is to focus on governance, not the politics which exist amongst donors.

I also would have made more explicit mention of the concept of human security and the doctrine of Responsibility to Protect - together with the practice of both.

This is a good proposal, and I hope it is approved and thereafter flourishes.



## Review C

Simon Fraser University's proposed MA program addresses two key areas of intellectual and policy concerns, international development and "complex emergencies." The latter is a rather awkward term, as evidenced by the quotation marks around it in the proposal, which may lead to uncertainty on the part of students about what this stream is all about or how this fits into usual career patterns in the field (more on this point below).

The curriculum is separated into two streams, one for each of the thematic emphases, international development and complex emergencies. Students begin with two seminars for students in both streams: IS 800-4 *Problems in International Development Policy and Practice* and IS 801-4 *Institutions, Policies and Development*. The first, by title and description, seems more suitable to the international development students than to the ones specializing in complex emergencies. IS 801-4 seems to span the concerns of both streams better, but the description seems, once again, more suited to the international development students. Again, part of the problem may be the vagueness of what the complex emergencies stream actually entails—or, at least, my understanding of it.

My own view is that it is very important to require a couple of classes that will bring the students in the two streams together, which should give them a firm foundation for more specialized seminars in their specific areas. These courses will be important in branding the approach of the program generally, creating opportunities for professional networks to develop across the streams, providing forums for the two cohorts to learn from each other, fostering solidarity among the graduate students, and allowing students uncertain about their direction to choose their stream once they have been in the classes. The course titles and descriptions, not to speak of their substance, must speak to the interests of students in both streams.

Students then turn to the seminars in their specific streams. Those in international development look strong. I like the mix of theory/methodology with policy emphasis. The proposal notes that IS 800-4 will have an integrative function, although as it stands it seems to be totally policy-oriented. In particular, I wonder what sorts of methodological and theoretical approaches will be employed? What is it that masters students should come away with if they will most likely be practitioners and not researchers?

In the complex emergencies area, the first listed course is IS 806-4 *State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives*, is "state failure" the best term, or is a better way of understanding the role of states is through a comparative analysis of the dynamics of states and their interactions with their societies, rather than through the lens of "failure." Particularly, the relationship of states to unexpected natural and human-produced disasters may be quite complex, not captured adequately in a success-failure dichotomy. The word failure itself might also cause access problems for students seeking to do field work in particular countries. I had similar questions regarding POL 830-5 or IS 804-4 as I did about IS 800-4, above.

The idea of organizing the students into small groups or teams of about 5 persons, each working with a member of the teaching faculty, is excellent. These groups can function as study groups beyond the specific courses and serve, as well, as excellent foundations for

creating future professional networks. I found the projected numbers of students in the graduate seminars, 20-25, to be high and would prefer, if resources allowed, closer to 15 per seminar. The number projected for IS 809-4, which promises to be a very valuable hands-on course, is excellent.

It will be important not to gear the courses towards those students who will go onto the Ph.D., which is always a temptation. It might also pose problems if the M.A. is catering to two very different constituencies, those interested in a Ph.D. and research and those interested in a terminal M.A. and practical/policy careers. To my mind, the courses should be geared to the terminal M.A. students. If students decide along the way that they want to pursue a Ph.D., they can attain the necessary research training at the next level.

In conclusion, I find this program to be very well conceived, with consistently high academic quality. The resources devoted to the program are a bit hard to judge from the proposal, but the key resource of faculty seems to be adequate for the program. The faculty is of high caliber and should do an excellent job in training the students. Given Canadian involvement in international development and disaster relief, I would expect there to be a fairly high demand for the program, especially if it is branded and marketed properly. I would expect, too, that graduates would be able to be placed, not only in Ottawa, but with the increasing number of NGOs dealing with development and disaster relief.

From: George Agnes <gagnes@sfu.ca>  
Subject: identify of the 3 reviewers of the New Graduate Program Proposal in International Studies  
Date: June 16, 2008 12:42:13 PM PDT (CA)  
To: Vivian Blaker <blaker@sfu.ca>

Vivian,

Please circulate this message to the members of the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs;

The reviewers were;

- Mr Gordon Smith (formerly Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), University of Victoria, this reviewer was suggested by John Harriss
- Joel S. Migdal, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, U. Washington
- Jonathan F. W. Vance, History, U. Western Ontario

## MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson  
Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programmes  
Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies

From: Dr John Harriss  
Director, School for International Studies

Date: 1 April 2008

### Subject: **REFEREES' COMMENTS ON THE PROGRAMME PROPOSAL FOR THE MA IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

I am writing in response to the request (by email on 26 March) from the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for the School's response to the two referees' reports on the programme proposal for the MA in International Studies.

The Associate Dean actually asked for a 'rebuttal' of the referees' comments, and had I received this request today I would have suspected an April Fool joke, because in fact the referees' reports are very largely extremely positive and include little that calls for 'rebuttal'. I note that referee A says 'I think this is a very well conceived and carefully structured programme that should find a large cohort of interested students, who should in turn find a significant cohort of interested employers', and that s/he concludes 'I was impressed with this programme and consider it an excellent basis for the future'. The report of referee B is in every way more sparing but concludes 'This is a good proposal, and I hope it is approved and thereafter flourishes'.

Still, referee A does argue that, in spite of 'more current course titles' the programme is fairly conventional and might well be found ('with the possible exception of the course in Complex Emergencies') in a 'traditional Political Science department'. This referee's report proceeds to make two major suggestions, both of them helpful: (i) that the programme should include basic language training in a language other than French; and (ii) that the course content should be expanded to include more consideration of social, cultural and religious issues. It is argued, on the basis of the reviewer's 'experiences as a member of various federal government committees (etc)' that these measures will enhance the distinctiveness and the employability of the graduates of our programme. The points are well taken, even though we do not agree that all of the courses included in the proposed programme are at all likely to be found in traditional Political Science departments.

Our experience of teaching the MA in International Studies under Special Arrangements in the current academic year has shown us that we have not drawn as much as we might have done on the expertise that we have amongst our faculty members for teaching on social, cultural and religious issues - although rather more than half of our first cohort of 23 students have taken regional courses that do include substantial teaching on these

matters. But, recognizing the second point that reviewer A has made, we are already in the process of revising the content for the required course IS801 on Policies, Institutions and Development, within the boundaries of the approved syllabus, so as to enhance its anthropological content. And when our faculty strength is increased, as we expect it to be with new appointments for the Fall of 2008 and 2009, we will consider the possibilities of revising our programme content so as further to increase teaching from an anthropological perspective.

The reviewer's point about language training is also well taken, though we are less confident than s/he is about how much can be accomplished in six to eight weeks even of intensive study – certainly of most non-European languages. On balance we think that our programme, intended to be and so far successfully run as a one year cohort programme, is already intensive, and that we should respectfully decline to take up this particular suggestion at this time.

Reviewer B, has made presentational suggestions to which I have sought to respond in a slightly revised version of the Programme Proposal which is attached to this Memorandum. This revision also takes account of new members of faculty in the School, who have joined us since the original proposal was prepared. The changes are marked in 'track change' for your convenience.

John Harriss  
Director, School for International Studies

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr George Agnes  
Acting Dean of Graduate Students

From: John Harriss  
Director, School for International Studies

Date: 7 April 2008

Subject: **THIRD REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED MA PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Thank you for forwarding this third review to me. Once again it is gratifying to find that the reviewer's conclusions are extremely positive. S/he argues that 'the program [is] very well conceived, with consistently high academic quality', commenting favourably also on the calibre of our faculty and on the case that we have made concerning the demand for a programme of the kind we are offering amongst students.

This reviewer's suggestions regarding the programme are also well taken. It is a moot point, however, as to whether the term 'complex emergencies' is quite so awkward as the reviewer suggests. If we can judge from the 120 applications that we have received this year for admission into our similarly designed Special Arrangements MA, the idea of complex emergencies is one that communicates itself clearly to prospective students. The term is also used as the title of a recently published book, by David Keen, of the London School of Economics, who is an internationally reputed scholar working on these problems (see David Keen 2008. *Complex Emergencies*. Cambridge: Polity Press).

The reviewer proceeds to make a number of observations to the effect that the curriculum appears to be weighted towards students of International Development rather than of Complex Emergencies. While understandable, these remarks seem not to recognise the very close connections between the concerns of both fields (see, for example, the attention that is given to conflict and the emergencies associated with contemporary conflicts in the book *The Bottom Billion*, by Paul Collier, which is currently regarded as the most influential statement there is of the needs of international development). The connections are recognised in the wider concept of 'human security' as this has been developed especially here in Canada.

The reviewer, helpfully, speaks of the need for students in the two streams to come together in some classes. As a matter of fact this is happening in the MA programme that we are conducting under Special Arrangements, in both IS800 and IS801, while it also the case that some students from both streams study together in the specialist regional courses offered under IS809.

The reviewer compliments us on the idea of organising students into small teams of about 5 persons, as we have done in the Special Arrangements version of IS800, but

also comments on the desirability of restricting numbers in seminars to about 15 at most. As a matter of fact this is the way in which we are teaching at present. In the Special Arrangements version of IS801 in the present academic year students have been taught in two separate seminar classes, one with twelve and the other with eleven students. We anticipate taking in 28-30 students into the programme in the Fall of 2008, equally divided between the two streams, so that once again numbers in any one seminar will not go beyond the 15 that the reviewer argues is desirable.

The reviewer's remarks about the title of the course IS806 – *State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives* – in which s/he questions the use of the term 'state failure', are very sound. The fact remains, however, that the notion of 'state failure' is one that has wide currency in the discourse of international development (see again Collier's *Bottom Billion*), and it is for this reason that we have made it into the title of this course. It certainly has to be treated critically, in the way that the reviewer advises.

Finally, in response to the remarks about not 'gear(ing) the courses towards those students who will go onto the PhD', it may be noted that our first cohort of students in the Special Arrangements MA – all 23 of whom we expect to graduate, on time, at the end of the coming Summer Semester – include predominantly those interested in practical/policy careers. It seems to us, on the basis of this initial experience (and of the applications for Fall 2008), that the principle of a one year, cohort based, terminal MA programme with these objectives, is one that is strongly welcomed by significant numbers of capable students.

John Harriss