# International Studies Majors Graduation Portfolio

Every student that majors in International Studies at Towson University is required to submit a portfolio of work to the Director of the International Studies program. This portfolio will consist of essays and research papers written during your years at Towson University, as well as a written exit survey at the end of your undergraduate career.

Your participation is important to the success of the assessment process and the major itself. Your portfolio will not affect your GPA. Its contents will be read only after you have graduated, and the evaluators of the portfolio will report only general data about all graduates. The purpose of the portfolio is not the evaluation of individual students, but the assessment of International Studies, the requirements of the major and the courses associated with it. **It is a milestone on your academic record that must be cleared prior to graduation. In other words, you will not be cleared for graduation until the portfolio is submitted.**

# Contents of the Portfolio

\***Two essays or research papers** written for any upper-level class taken as part of the major from at least two different disciplines. These disciplines include all those listed in the catalog for the major or on the INST-approved lists provided for each semester in the upper-level electives categories. The essays or research papers must be from courses with a 300-level designation or higher with the exception of courses from Women’s Studies that qualify at the 200-level. Other requirements include:

-­‐‑At least one of these papers must be from a social science related to the International Studies major.

-­‐‑The content of any of the papers should include a comparison or summary of the political, geographic, economic or cultural context of at least two foreign nation states.

-­‐‑The content of any of the papers should include some discussion or reference to contemporary globalization.

-­‐‑The content of any of the papers should include some discussion of how various disciplines or courses you have taken approach concepts related to international topics, cultures or populations.

-­‐‑Copies of papers with the professor’s comments and evaluations are preferred.

-­‐‑Include with each paper a description of the assignment, include the specific requirements for the paper from the professor if possible.

-­‐‑Select papers you regard as your best work

-­‐‑Make sure each paper contains the name of the course and the date (or semester) submitted and try to include work from a range of semesters.

**\*A sample of writing or exam in a foreign language** must also be included in the portfolio from the language you gained proficiency in to qualify for the major requirements of International Studies. If you choose to include an exam it must be from the 202 level or higher.

**\*A completed Exit Survey** (listed at the end of this document)

# Compile all of these into a portfolio arranged how you see fit. This will be one document, submitted digitally. Make one single portfolio/document that includes all of the papers/exams mentioned above and your Exit Survey. You will need to review the portfolio during the semester in which you will graduate to ensure that it is complete and contains your best work. Again, you cannot be completely cleared for graduation until the portfolio is complete.

**Please email the portfolio to Ms. Miranda Banks (**[**mbanks@towson.edu**](mailto:mbanks@towson.edu)**) in the CLA Dean’s Office. For Spring 2024 graduation, the due date for receipt of the portfolio is Tuesday, May 21st, by 5 pm.**

International Studies Exit Survey (Please include this form with your graduation portfolio as instructed. You should copy and paste the questions into a document and answer each question thoroughly. Please type.)

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please briefly summarize the course of study and thematic interest in your International Studies degree plan. On what topic or where did you focus your course of study in the world? How did your courses work together toward this focus of study?
2. What was expected of you as a student in the different courses that you took for your major?
3. What did you like/dislike about the International Studies major?
4. Was there any particular discipline or issue that you found especially interesting while completing your major? Why?
5. What would you change about the International Studies major? Is there additional material you would like to see added to the major? Please explain.
6. Does the International Studies major and courses that you took while enrolled have relevance to your life? Please explain.
7. Can you draw connections between any course you took and others that you have taken within the International Studies program? Please describe at least one connection.
8. Please identify and describe the upper-level departmental courses that make up the International Studies major that you have taken and that you enjoyed the most.
9. Why have you chosen to major in International Studies? In what way is it relevant to your life? Your potential career? Our world?
10. Have you combined International Studies with another degree program? What is the relationship, if any, between the two/three?
11. If you were to teach an International Studies course, what topics would you include? What texts, films, etc.? What area of the world would you like to focus upon? What major global issues would you focus upon?
12. Please demonstrate how you can speak intelligently about global issues and globalization by defining the concept of globalization and providing at least one example that illustrates this concept.
13. Describe at least one topic you can now demonstrate is directly connected to your study of the language you utilized for competency in the International Studies major.
14. Did you participate in a study abroad program? If so, how did it fit into your major?
15. How did you fulfill your research and practicum requirement for the International Studies major? Please demonstrate how this prepared you to work with particular data or means of communication?
16. Did the International Studies program challenge you intellectually?
17. Please describe either the historical or contemporary status of at least two nation states or global regions that you learned about through your course of study in the International Studies major.
18. Please describe how you learned how to write persuasively for multiple audiences through your coursework in the International Studies major?
19. Please explain what you learned about at least two population groups and/or cultures through your International Studies coursework.
20. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?