



Photo: Jim Lyle, TTI

L-R: Sonia Zamora-Chavez, Laura Stratta, Michael Greenwald, Dulce Morales

By Jessica Henning '08

Study Local, Work Global

The international studies degree is gaining in popularity as students consider global career opportunities.

The International Studies Program (INTS) is an interdisciplinary program in the College of Liberal Arts that grants a Bachelor of Arts, with a choice of five different concentration tracks, as well as a minor.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows the curriculum to capture the broad range of social, political, cultural and economic forces at play in an increasingly interdependent world. The courses offered are linked by language, topic and region.

Students entering the program are required to complete an introduction to international studies course, complete a total of 20 to 23 hours in a foreign language and complete a 14-week international experience.

"In effect the INTS major is made up of three minors," said Michael Greenwald, director of the program, "though many of our students actually earn other minors, especially in language; many also double major."

This international experience provides the students with firsthand knowledge of cultural and language immersion in ways that the classroom cannot. Students may study in an academic program or work for internship credit in a business, government agency or nonprofit organization.

Within two semesters of returning from their experience, students enroll in this capstone course, where they will write a research thesis.

Mostly importantly, "because of globalization, the INTS degree prepares students to function in the world," said Greenwald, "in ways that many other majors cannot match." ■

INTS Snapshot

International Studies Program (INTS)

<http://ints.tamu.edu>

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Undergraduate majors: 485

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Bachelor of Arts degree

Concentrations/Tracks:

- International Politics and Diplomacy
- International Commerce
- International Environmental Studies
- International Communication and Media
- International Arts and Culture

Career Options:

- Government agencies (local, state and federal)
- Bilingual technical writer
- Peace Corps
- Translator/interpreter
- Bilingual educator
- School teacher
- Linguist
- Import/export coordinator
- Communication specialist
- International accountant
- International business development
- International travel counselor
- Marketing analyst
- International nonprofit organizations
- International tour/travel consultant and tour guide
- Immigration paralegal
- Foreign currency trader