

IR

The Capstone

IR requires all concentrators to conduct a capstone project in their senior year. The capstone can take one of three forms: an internationally focused research paper for an IR-approved seminar, a directed research paper (Independent Study) on an international theme, or a two-semester honors thesis on a pressing global problem.

Capstone projects should be a deliberate choice. Capstones are not approved in hindsight and must be taken for a letter grade. Projects should be linked to an IR theme or the student's track or region. This can be achieved by taking a topic seminar that corresponds to your track and writing a paper on your region – or vice versa – taking a seminar on a country or region and writing a paper that covers an aspect related to your track. Be sure to check with the instructor to make sure this is possible.

- **Must be taken senior year.**
- **Must incorporate research in two languages.**
- **All capstones fulfill the Dean of the College's WRIT requirement.**
- **Must be taken for a letter grade.**

Process

- 1. SELECT CAPSTONE OPTION**
See website for process and deadlines.
- 2. DECIDE ON PROJECT**
- 3. CAPSTONE CATALOG**
Upon completion of the project, submit catalog entry online. Required to graduate.

Advising

IR Program advisors are available to guide you in making this a cumulative intellectual project. You may discuss your idea with Track or Concentration Advisors or the IR Director or Associate Director.

IR advisors do NOT oversee project **details** (that would be the seminar instructor, the independent study instructor, or the thesis committee.

Evaluation

Grading of the capstone is by your seminar instructor, independent study sponsor, or faculty thesis director – depending on the capstone option you choose.

IR program faculty will review final capstone projects for assessment purposes.

IR Capstone Catalog

All students are required to complete an entry in the online Capstone Catalog to graduate. This includes an abstract of the project and a reflective analysis of your intellectual growth as an IR student and your project's contribution to our understanding of IR themes and debates. The IR Capstone Catalog is advised and monitored by the IR Concentration Advisor.