International Economics | M.A. Academic Requirements

International Economics Learning Goals and Objectives [1]

Entering Class 2014-2015

Every M.A. student at SAIS is required to complete a concentration in International Economics. Student must successfully complete a minimum of four (4) for-credit economics courses at SAIS. Separately, students must complete one Quantitative Reasoning requirement. These four course include:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- International Trade Theory
- International Monetary Theory

Students may also choose to pursue a specialization in the following areas:

- Quantitative Methods and Economic Theory
- International Finance
- Microeconomics of Development
- Economic Policy
Economics Concentration Requirements

Students must successfully complete a minimum of four (4) for-credit economics courses at SAIS.

Fundamental Course Requirements:

Must demonstrate proficiency in intermediate-level courses in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics by either passing these courses as part of the minimum economics course requirement, or passing the respective waiver exam.*

Core Economics Course Requirements:

Must demonstrate proficiency in intermediate-level courses in International Trade Theory and International Monetary Theory by either passing these courses as part of the minimum economics course requirement, or passing the respective waiver exam.*

*If achieved by passing a waiver exam(s), the student must substitute an economics elective course(s) in place of the waived course(s) in order to fulfill the economics requirement above.

Economics Specializations Course Requirements (Optional)

Economics Specializations:

For students with sufficient interest and room in their two-year program of study, we allow specialization in any of the following areas of International Economics:

- Quantitative Methods and Economic Theory
- International Finance
- Microeconomics of Development
- Economic Policy

Each of these generally require a set of four additional electives in the specialization area, with some specializations having other additional requirements. Students who achieve a specialization will have this appropriately denoted on their transcript. Completing an economics specialization is NOT required for fulfilling the SAIS M.A., however, students with superior economics preparation or aptitude are encouraged to attempt one.

M.A. Oral Exam to Compete for Honors

The M.A. oral exam tests students’ knowledge of international economics and their chosen functional or regional concentration. Exams are held in August, December and May and are scheduled by the SAIS Registrar’s Office. Only the top 30 percent of the student body are eligible to compete for honors. The 30 percent cutoff is determined by students’ grade point average after their third semester (after the second semester for students who have advanced standing of one semester). Students with conferral dates of August or December will be selected to compete for honors based on the previous May’s GPA cutoff.
Two examiners administer the oral exam: a full- or part-time professor from the student’s functional or regional program, and an international economist from the SAIS faculty or from the local academic, government or policy community. If a student is pursuing a third concentration, three examiners will administer the oral exam.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR (AY)

Entering Class 2013-2014 [2]
Entering Class 2012-2013 [3]
Entering Class 2010-2011 [5]
Entering Class 2009-2010 (same as 2010-2011)

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