

## **Global Studies Major Senior Capstone: Individual Research in Globalization**

### General program information

The Global Studies major is designed for motivated students who wish to complete their required studies by conducting their own independent research on the issue of globalization, done under the guidance of a faculty advisor. The capstone project is required of all majors, and while it can take various forms; the default is a substantive work of scholarship, usually of 8-12k words. The designation of honors in Global Studies is awarded based not only on length, but also on the quality of the argument and research. Students are asked to work closely with faculty mentors who will guide them through the various phases of their research. Students interested in pursuing alternative formats (e.g. video, multimedia) should consult with the Anthropology Director of Undergraduate Studies [anth-dus@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:anth-dus@dornsife.usc.edu), and seek faculty advisors who can guide them appropriately.

Students should prepare for the Global Studies capstone by completing coursework in research methods such as ANTH 410, ANTH 325 or equivalent, ideally prior to undertaking experiential learning or study abroad experiences. Students should plan to register for the Global Studies Advanced Seminar (ANTH 415) in the fall semester of their junior or senior year, and sign up for ANTH 485 Global Studies Capstone Seminar in the Spring semester of senior year.

### Research topic

The research topic of the senior capstone is of the student's choosing, but should clearly relate to one or more of the core thematic pillars of globalization such as transnational culture, technology and media, migration and refugees, global governance, international markets, development and humanitarianism, global health, etc. The senior capstone can be an expansion and re-working of an earlier research paper written for another course, but it must contain substantial original new work. Ideally, students will identify the research topic and begin research in their Junior year, and will submit a research proposal prior to enrolling in ANTH 485 Global Studies Capstone Seminar.

### Academic mentorship

Students are required to find a faculty mentor (or mentors), who can come from any department at USC. Students should supply the faculty mentor with a written research proposal, which should include sufficient detail so that a determination of the scope and appropriateness of the research topic can be made. Students should seek a mentor who works in their region or theoretical area of research. Ideally, this will be a faculty member they have done coursework with, but this is not a formal requirement.

### Honors Program in Global Studies

To be considered for Honors in Global Studies, students need a cumulative GPA of 3.5 GPA both in the university as a whole, and in the courses that qualify for the Global Studies major (a USC honors requirement); and complete an honors thesis that is certified by its two faculty readers in Global Studies or Anthropology as of honors level. The honors thesis should

exceed minimal expectations for the capstone outlined above, but the quality of the argument and supporting materials is more important than the length.

### Funding for undergraduate research

Funding for undergraduate research: Students are encouraged to apply for SOAR (for the academic year) and SURF (for summer funding, <https://dornsife.usc.edu/surf-shure/>) to help support the costs of their research for the capstone. Students wishing to conduct independent research can apply for the Provost's Undergrad Research Fellowships.

<https://academicprograms.usc.edu/services/undergraduate-research-and-experiential-learning/>

### IRB clearance

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) is an independent ethics committee responsible for reviewing the methods of proposed projects to ensure that research is conducted ethically. Research involving library and archival sources does not require IRB clearance, and participant observation is also usually exempt from IRB clearance.

As a student you are not generally required to seek IRB approval unless you have plans to publish your research, or you are conducting research that has the potential to place your subjects at risk. If you are unsure, contact the IRB Review office: <https://oprs.usc.edu/irb-review/>.

### Capstone/thesis submission deadline:

The full draft of the capstone project should be submitted by the end of March. It will be read by the capstone advisor as well as the instructor of ANTH 485 and evaluated by the end of April.