

UC Berkeley Global Studies Master's Program



2024-2025 Student Handbook

101 Stephens Hall
University of California

Berkeley, California 94720

Website: <https://globalstudies.berkeley.edu/degree-programs/global-studies/>

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I. Global Studies MA Program Organization

Administration

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II. Overview of Program

The MA degree in Global Studies (GS MA) is a one-year Master's program. It is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with the fundamentals of contemporary international issues, as well as detailed knowledge about particular world regions. The MA degree in Global Studies provides students with flexibility in crafting an individual program and is appropriate for students who plan to pursue careers in a wide variety of fields in both the private and public sectors. Students can tailor the content of their programs within a defined framework to help them pursue specific career goals. Courses are selected in consultation with the GSAO.

III. General Information

Advising

Graduate students will be assisted by the GSAO in all administrative matters. The GSAO, in conjunction with the Chair of the program and Head Graduate Advisor (HGA), will assist students in course selection. Since we are an interdisciplinary program, students are strongly encouraged to consider courses from across the campus to find subjects and faculty members that align with their interests.

bCourses

[bCourses](#) is Berkeley's Learning Management System powered by Canvas. It is an online system specifically designed for the delivery and communications of course content, online engagement between students and instructors, and the management of student work. There is an "Inbox" function, where you can send messages to your instructors and classmates. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the bCourses platform before classes formally begin. Enrollments in bCourses are updated daily between 6am-8am using information from the student information system, so if you registered for a class after this time, you will get access into the course site the next time that enrollment is updated.

CalCentral

[CalCentral](#) is the student-facing portal of the University's student information system. Once enrolled, students can access CalCentral via their CalNet ID. It is in CalCentral that students perform most administrative tasks, including registering for courses, paying their balance, submitting certain applications to the Graduate Division, tracking their grades, viewing important notifications or tasks, and more. The GSAO is available in case you need help navigating the features of CalCentral.

Registration and Enrollment

Students must pay fees and enroll in courses before the deadlines published by the Office of the Registrar or they will be charged a substantial late fee. They also risk being dropped from classes if they do not pay a percentage of their fee balance before the published deadline. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of, and meet, these deadlines. A few important reminders:

- Students enroll in courses for the fall semester during the summer, and for the spring semester during the preceding fall.
- Each student's course schedule must be approved by the GSAO.
- Enrollment rules, deadlines, and information are available [here](#).
- The class schedule is available [here](#).
- All students, including fellowship holders and Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs), are required to carry at least 12 units of coursework per

semester. The only exceptions are full time UC-Berkeley employees and students with disabilities who may enroll on a reduced credit load basis.

Grading

Grades are awarded for courses at the discretion of the course instructor. Graduate students are required by University regulations to maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 (a B grade). Students who fail to meet this minimum standard, or who do not make normal progress in other respects toward the degree, may be subject to probation and eventual dismissal by the Dean of the Graduate Division.

To be eligible to graduate or to hold an academic appointment, a student must:

- Carry no more than two grades of Incomplete (“I”) on their record
- Receive a final passing grade of 80% (B-).
- Opt for a letter grade in two-thirds of total units taken in a given semester (including 100-level and 200-level courses, and excluding courses numbered below 100 or 299 and above).

As a general rule, it is advisable to take most courses on a letter-graded basis, unless specific circumstances at the time make this very difficult. For more information on grade requirements please refer to this [page](#).

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 24 units, at least twelve of which must be graduate-level courses (numbered 200-299) within and beyond Global Studies.

Students are required to complete:

- TWO Global Studies seminars (Global 210), one in the fall, the other in the spring.
- TWO social science courses within and beyond Global Studies
- TWO area studies courses in their world region within or outside of Global Studies (i.e., Africa, Asia, Global North, Latin America, or Middle East)

We strongly encourage students to take no more than 2 undergraduate social science and area studies classes. No more than one-third of all units taken in a given semester may be taken on an S/U or P/NP grading basis.

Capstone Requirement

For the Capstone requirement, students will synthesize material from their coursework to develop an independent research project in their declared region of interest. This project consists of two parts: a Capstone paper and a Conference

presentation. Students will write a 20-25 page Capstone paper during the Spring term (due one week before the conference) and present their paper on a panel at the Capstone Conference in early May.

At the end of the Spring semester, in early May, the GS program will host a day-long conference open to the Global Studies community. Students will be grouped together on a panel by region. Two Global Studies faculty will serve as Discussants for each panel. Each student will have 10-12 minutes to present their capstone project. After the students on the panel present, the Discussants will facilitate a conversation in which the students reflect on what they have learned about the region. The students will be responsible for reading the papers of the other students on their panel beforehand and should be prepared to share their reflections during the discussion that follows.

The Capstone project is designed to give students an opportunity to further develop their regional expertise as well as hone their research, writing, and public speaking skills. While the Capstone is an individual project, each student will work closely with the GS MA seminar instructors and their classmates with similar regional interests.

Completion of the Capstone paper and Conference presentation are required before the GS MA degree can be conferred.

GS MA Course Offerings

The following GS courses may be taken for graduate credit toward GS MA degree requirements:

- Global 210 MA Seminar for Global Studies (Peter Bartu in Fall 2024 and Darren Zook in Spring 2024)
- Global 210E Europe/Russia in Global Context (Richard Ashcroft in Spring 2024)
- Global 210L Latin America in Global Context (Tiffany Page in Fall 2024)
- Global 210M Middle East in Global Context (Peter Bartu in Spring 2024)
- Global 250Q-001 Gender, Labor and Love in Globalizing Asia (Crystal Chang Cohen in Fall 2024)
- Global 250Q-003 Peace and Security in South Asia (Darren Zook in Fall 2024)
- Global 254M-001 The Gulf States: Vive La Revolution or Vive La Counter-Revolution? (Peter Bartu in Fall 2024)
- Global 273-001 International Human Rights (Darren Zook in Fall 2024)

Unless otherwise specified, each of the Global Studies courses listed above will reserve three seats for GS MA students. If you intend to take these courses, we strongly recommend that you speak to the instructors as soon as possible. In addition to the courses above, the GSAO will provide a list of courses offered by other departments on campus that are suitable for GS MA students.

Financial Assistance

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) / Reader Positions

GS MA students are encouraged to apply for Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) or Reader positions. GSIs lead discussion sections of lecture courses, while Readers grade student exams and essays but do not engage in teaching. These positions pay most in-state tuition and fees and also provide a monthly stipend. Out-of-state (including international) students are responsible for nonresident supplemental tuition which for the 2022-2023 academic year amounted to \$7551 per semester.

- For the current tuition and fee schedule, please visit this [page](#).
- For general information on GSI requirements, as well as valuable teaching resources and workshops, please visit the [GSI Teaching & Resource Center](#).
- For details on current GSI and Reader positions for Global Studies classes, please visit this [page](#).
- First-time GSIs must meet the following requirements:
 - Attend the [Fall 2023 Teaching Conference](#)
 - Complete [GSI Ethics Online Course](#)
 - Complete [Sexual Harassment / Sexual Violence Prevention Training](#)
 - Enroll in a required 300-level pedagogy course. In the Fall, the GS program offers Global 375 Professional Training: Teaching in Global Studies with Crystal Chang Cohen. In the Spring, incoming GSIs may take 300-level pedagogy courses in other departments to satisfy this requirement.

FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies)

The Global Studies program has no foreign language requirements and thus any language classes that a GS MA student takes will be done so in addition to their required coursework. Some GS MA students nonetheless decide to enroll in language classes and for those the FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) Awards may be an option.

FLAS fellowships are available to students studying many modern languages. To be eligible to apply for a FLAS, students must be: (a) U.S. citizens or nationals, or have permanent resident status; and (b) in advanced training in a foreign language or area studies, or are involved in research and training in the international aspects of professional and other fields of study. These fellowships pay up to \$18,000 in tuition and fees, plus a stipend of \$20,000. The designated application deadline for this scholarship is in late January. Global Studies students should apply for the FLAS when filling out their application for the program. Please consult the [FLAS page](#) for details.

Deadlines and Procedures

Students are expected to inform themselves of deadlines set by the Office of the Registrar and Graduate Division pertaining to such matters as paying fees, filing

forms, and obtaining adviser signatures relative to registration, readmission, degree matters, financial aid applications, and so forth. Sources of information are the departmental bulletin boards, Cal Student Central, the Berkeley Academic Guide, notifications on your CalCentral page, and other publications.

IV. Student Services

Career Center

[UC Berkeley Career Center](#) offers services for graduate students including confidential appointments with career counselors, C.V. and résumé assistance, and career development workshops on topics such as interview skills, career exploration, negotiation strategies, and job searching within and beyond academia. The Center also offers a Master's/ Ph.D. Career Fair, employer information sessions, and networking events.

Disabled Students Program (DSP)

[The Disabled Students Program \(DSP\)](#) provides a wide range of academic accommodation services for eligible students. Students are responsible for pursuing DSP's disability verification requirements and applying for accommodations. After completing the online application and interactive process with the Graduate Student Disability Specialist, it is recommended that students meet with each faculty member in courses where accommodations are required, to ensure the accommodations are understood and provided. If help is needed to complete the online application, request assistance by contacting dsp@berkeley.edu.

Graduate Student Organizations

There are over 150 registered graduate student organizations (RGSOs) across 15 unique interest areas, including academics, cultural identity groups, professional organizations, and many more. Visit the [Callink Organization Directory](#) for a list of active RGSOs.

Office for Graduate Diversity (OGD)

[The Office for Graduate Diversity](#) serves as a resource for the admissions process, academic support, financial advice, and professional development. It also provides a forum for ideas and programs designed to enhance the educational experience of underrepresented students, including those who are undocumented, first-generation college students, and those who are educationally and financially challenged. OGD holds workshops, trainings and community building events throughout the year, as well as individual advising on admissions, application assistance, strategic planning for academic success, and post-graduation planning. Should graduate students require tutoring or have special need circumstances, financial assistance is available.

Ombudsperson for Students

[The Ombudsperson for Students](#) provides a confidential service for students involved in a University-related problem (either academic or administrative), acting as a neutral complaint resolver and not as an advocate for any of the parties involved in a dispute. The Ombudsman can provide information on policies and procedures affecting students, facilitate students' contact with services able to assist in resolving the problem, and assist students in complaints concerning improper application of University policies or procedures. All matters referred to this office are held in strict confidence. The only exceptions, at the sole discretion of the Ombudsman, are cases where there appears to be imminent threat of serious harm.

Housing

There are a number of on and off campus accommodations. University-owned- and-operated housing options are outlined below:

- [Ida Louise Jackson Graduate House](#) is located one block from the campus. The complex offers space for 120 graduate students in two-, three-, four-, five-, and six-bedroom shared apartments. Utilities are included. A twelve-month lease is required. Students with specific fellowships receive priority.
- [The Manville Apartments](#) is a secured complex of studio apartments reserved for law and graduate students. Located three blocks from the southwestern corner of campus.
- [Panoramic Berkeley apartments](#) is located on the South side of campus on Telegraph Avenue, is a new building. It is located five blocks from campus and features single-occupancy bedrooms in shared apartments with three, four and five bedrooms. The building has individually controlled heat and ventilation.
- [The Enclave Apartments](#) provides an independent living option. It is located on the corner of Telegraph and Haste Avenues.
- [University Village](#) offers unfurnished apartments for married/partnered students, with or without children, and single parents. Located near good school district, has its own community center, cafe, laundry facilities, a child care center, and is served by AC Transit and the local bus system.

Alternative and off-campus housing options are outlined below:

- [The Berkeley Student Cooperative](#), known as co-ops, include buildings that offer various accommodations, including rooms, houses, and shared apartments for single students in single or double occupancy rooms.
- [Cal Rentals website](#) is a rental listing service that's free for currently registered and newly admitted students.
- [International House](#) is located at the eastern edge of the campus, provides room and board accommodations, and features an array of intercultural activities and programs for students and scholars from the U.S. and dozens of other countries.

Student Health Requirements and Services

All incoming students must satisfy TB and Immunization clearance requirements as mandated by the UC Office of the President prior to the start of their first semester. Please review the [Mandatory TB & Immunizations Program webpage](#) for the steps you need to complete and deadline information.

As a condition of enrollment at the University of California, all students are required to have major medical insurance that meets UC-wide standardized criteria. Students are automatically enrolled in [Berkeley Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#), administered by University Health Services (UHS). SHIP coverage is worldwide and includes medical, mental health, dental and vision benefits. The Fall semester coverage period is August 1 – December 31, and the Spring semester covers January 1 – July 31. Dependent plans and a free Insurance Helpline are also offered.

In addition, the University offers a range of health, wellness and mental health services to graduate students, including:

- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) provides a variety of services for students to help with personal, academic, career, and crisis concerns, focused on short-term therapy. There is no cost to get started. CAPS creates individualized treatment plans, and assists in coordinating referrals with local providers for students who need ongoing therapy. Professional counselors are also available remotely through video appointments.
- The [Graduate Wellness Center](#), located in 444 Eshleman Hall, is a satellite office for Counseling and Psychological Services and the Disabled Students Program. The Wellness Center provides graduate-focused wellness and mental health services in a location where graduate students do not have to worry about running into faculty or students they teach.
- The [PATH to Care Center](#) leads the efforts to transform campus into a community that is free of sexual violence, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking through prevention, advocacy, training, and healing. The center offers confidential support services 24/7 (510-643-2005). Confidential advocates bring a non-judgmental, caring approach to exploring all options, rights, and resources. Please also see this [page](#) for resources in relation to Sexual Violence and Harassment.
- [University Health Services \(UHS\)](#) at the Tang Center is a comprehensive health center, complete with medical, mental health, wellness, and insurance programs all within blocks of campus. Services provided include primary, urgent, and specialty medical care; pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology services; physical therapy; counseling and psychological services, including a career counseling library; health promotion services; and [eTang online student portal](#). Visit the [UHS website](#) for the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccine requirements. Registered students can use all services at UHS whether or not they have Berkeley's Student Health Insurance Plan.

Student Technology Services (STS)

[STS](#) provides free, drop-in and remote tech support to all students at UC Berkeley, paid for by your Student Tech Fee each semester. You may utilize these services for your personal needs and in conjunction with any courses you may be teaching. STS can assist with:

- Resolving Wi-Fi problems and getting online. [Eduroam](#) is the primary Wi-Fi service for access to the campus network
- Installing and using free campus software (e.g. Adobe, Microsoft, Zoom, etc.).
- Troubleshooting device issues like blue screens, slow performance, or data recovery
- Setting up CalNet 2-Step, removing malware, and ensuring security
- Locating campus resources for printing, laptop lending, creative labs, and more
- Phone (510-642-HELP) and email services (sts-help@berkeley.edu) are available from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; in-person locations have extended hours beyond these. Visit their [website](#) for details.