

## Guidelines for Joint Theses

### Program in International Relations

Some of you are double majors and are considering the possibility of writing a single thesis to satisfy the requirements of both IR and your second major.

Our policy on writing a joint thesis is that we will allow them when they are appropriate, but there is no “free lunch”. This means:

1. You may not simply submit a single thesis to two programs without the prior approval of both programs. This would be considered dual submission, and constitutes a violation of the University’s Code of Academic Integrity.
2. With prior approval of both programs, we will allow a student to submit a single thesis to the IR program and to another major, but the student must do *substantial* additional work than would normally be expected of a single-submission IR thesis.
3. We do not necessarily expect double the work, but *substantially* more work in terms of both quantity and quality of the research and written output to justify receiving credit for the combined CUs.
4. We require that you get prior permission from the senior thesis seminar leader (and either Dr. Plantan or Dr. Nishino), and the relevant advisor(s) in the other department.
5. The IR program has very specific ideas about what we would like to see in an IR thesis. Other departments/programs typically have their own ideas about what they would like to see in their theses. It is up to you to make sure that the final thesis fulfills the requirements/expectations of both departments/programs. As far as we are concerned, we will grade the thesis like any other IR thesis (with, again, an expectation for higher quality), and the thesis will be evaluated according to our standards. In short, we will not make any special consideration for the fact that it is a joint thesis. We presume that other programs will do the same.
6. In addition to these basic requirements on our part, it is your responsibility to find out what (if any) additional requirements the other program might impose on a joint thesis, and make certain that your thesis conforms to the requirements of both programs.
7. If you feel that (5) is too difficult to fulfill in a single paper, and decide to do two separate theses you need not pick two completely different topics. You are perfectly free to choose two related topics---one for each program---and “share” the research across the two projects, just as long as the content of the final theses are substantially different.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss a possible joint thesis, you should come and speak with one of the advisors/seminar leaders at the earliest possible opportunity.