





Faculty Member Contact Information

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Contact Info	
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Department	International Studies Program

1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant

	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
X	This project deals with community outreach.	
X	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes, my project is truly interdisciplinary, please also mark me as interested in taking students from these areas: social sciences, humanities

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 8-10

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- Yes, 3 credit hours of INTS 401 Independent Project in International Studies or INTS 400 Internship in International Studies

Location of research/creative activities:

- Mostly virtually

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

In Fall 2016, a new International Studies undergraduate degree program was launched at SIUE, preparing students for careers in various sectors of a globalized world. During the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years, URCA student assistants, under guidance from the program director, pursued a project of mapping international studies resources and a follow-up content analysis of websites of International Studies academic programs. In 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, additional URCA assistants studied student and faculty perceptions of International Studies programs in the United States through administering and analyzing interviews and a survey. In 2022 and 2024, URCA assistants review broad themes pertaining to current educational and research trends in the International Studies and International Affairs interdisciplinary areas.

In Spring 2025, an URCA assistant is sought to focus specifically on the current trends in regards to job opportunities and career pathways available for graduates with International Studies and International Affairs degrees, exploring areas of growth as well as declining trends. International Studies and International Affairs graduates have employment opportunities in international organizations, government agencies, as well as nonprofits and businesses with an international focus, and they also contribute to building bridges between countries and populations through diplomacy and advocacy pursuits, and as such analyzing employment trends across such professional areas can illuminate how International Studies and International Affairs graduates contribute to addressing dire societal problems of our time and to efforts of leaving the world a better place for future generations. Studying trends in regards to professional options following graduation is of paramount importance for understanding knowledge and skill building sets needed for students and graduates as well as possibilities for collaborations between universities and various forms of employing organizations in order to streamline student learning practices towards forming successful early career professionals.

The URCA assistant will collect and evaluate data from scholarly materials as well as organizational reports pertaining to job and career trends and will also use workforce tools. The student will help prepare both an internal report on such aspects and a peer reviewed scholarly article for the International Affairs journal.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

Student responsibilities include:

- contributing to the selection and summarizing of materials
- analysis of the data collected

- writing up of the research results
- work towards presentations and publication

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

The research experience outcomes will include:

- acquiring expertise in collecting, analyzing, and reporting research data specifically pertaining to career trends and to international studies
- increasing writing, presentation, and editing skills

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- The schedule will be flexible and determined by Dr. Nastasia in collaboration with and with input from the student.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- All activities will take place virtually. The meetings of the student with Dr. Nastasia will take place through Zoom. Data collection and analysis as well as preparation of presentations and publication will be pursued remotely.

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- No prerequisites, however an understanding of the basics of theory, research, and international studies is a plus

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- The student should be prepared to engage in examinations of career trends in international studies with rigor and critical thinking.