

FAQ Area Choice BA International Studies

During the International Studies programme students will specialize in an area and learn a language that is related to this area. You will follow four courses specific to your area and write your thesis on your area. The total course load of the area courses and thesis seminar is 35 EC.

Which areas can I choose?

You can find a list of the areas in the [Prospectus](#).

Which courses will I follow in my area of expertise?

You follow four courses specific to your area: History and Culture and Language in the first year and Politics and Economy in the second year. Next to this you also need to take the thesis seminar (and write your thesis) in your area of specialization.

How do I enroll?

You can enroll through uSis for the courses on your specific area. Please make sure to do so at least two weeks before the semester starts. You do not need to inform anyone of your area decision.

What if the area I want to choose is full already?

We guarantee a place in the area you prefer. When a course is full, please contact the administration's office (osz-admin-thehague@hum.leidenuniv.nl) as soon as possible.

How can I find out which area is most suitable for me?

Have a good look around at the Area Fair: listen to presentations and talk to tutors and students of the different areas. They will provide a lot of information about the area, so you can make an informed decision. Furthermore, it is also a good idea to read through the course descriptions (in the prospectus) of the areas you are interested in. You can also discuss the topic with your mentor.

I want to go abroad in my discretionary space. Do I need to go to a country within my chosen area?

No, when you go abroad (to study or for an internship) you are not obliged to go to a country in your area of specialization.

Can I switch areas?

You are allowed to switch your area until February 1st. You can do this by registering for the correct area courses in uSis. Do not forget to also deregister for the old area courses!

When you want to switch after the semester has started, we cannot guarantee a place in your preferred area anymore. Please contact your Coordinator of Studies if you have doubts about your area choice once the second semester has started.

FAQ Language Choice BA International Studies

Each student will take four courses in the chosen language with a total course load of 30 EC. The language you choose is related to the chosen area. The first language course in the second semester of the first year has 6 hours of class a week. Passing this course is compulsory for receiving a positive Binding Study Advice.

Which languages can I choose?

Each area has a selection of languages that you can choose from (see Prospectus, under 'Show more'). The language and area you choose need to correspond.

Can I choose a language that is not in my area?

No, this is not possible. The only possible exception, made by the board of examiners, is for students who can prove that they already master all the other languages belonging to the chosen area.

I already have prior knowledge of the language I want to learn. Can I still enroll for this language?

Some languages we offer to start on pre-intermediate or intermediate level. If you have prior knowledge of the language we strongly advise you to choose another language in your area. You are not allowed to choose a language if the language is your mother tongue.

At which level will I be able to speak the chosen language after finishing the courses?

The levels that are reached within the courses are listed in the Prospectus.

How do I enroll?

You can enroll through uSis. Please make sure to do so at least two weeks before the semester starts. Preferably as soon as possible after enrollment opens, so you can ensure a spot in your preferred group.

How do I apply for a language at (pre-)intermediate level?

When the language of your choice offers this option, please register for it in uSis as soon as possible but at least before January 3rd. Students who enroll in a pre-intermediate class will be asked to take a placement test which you will receive on January 4th. You can take the test from home.

What if the language course I want to choose is full already?

We guarantee a place in the language you prefer. When a course is full, please contact the administration's office (osz-admin-thehague@hum.leidenuniv.nl) as soon as possible.

Can I switch my language course?

You are allowed to switch your language until February 1st. You can do this by registering for the correct course in uSis. Do not forget to also deregister for the old courses!

When you want to switch after the semester has started, we cannot guarantee a place in your preferred language anymore. Please contact your Coordinator of Studies if you have doubts about your language choice once the second semester has started.

Can I follow a second language?

If you have passed all 60 ECTS at the end of your first academic year, and you want to follow an additional second language in your second year of study, send an email to bais.stuco@hum.leidenuniv.nl. You will be put on a waiting list. Placement is not guaranteed and depends on availability and your language test result. It is not possible to follow a second language in the second semester of the first year.