**International Studies – Experiential Learning Requirement**

Rationale:

In order to prepare students to enter the complex and dynamic international arena, they are required to fulfill an experiential learning requirement where they can apply the theoretical and practical concepts they have acquired during their course of study, including the use of a foreign language.

Preparation and Planning:

* As soon as students declare the international studies major they should meet with their advisor and/or the convener of the major to discuss the different options available to them that will fulfill the requirement.
* A catalogue of previous experiences used to fulfill the requirement will be available.
* When planning their experiential experience, students should also make use of the resources available at the Roukema Center for study abroad and the Cahill Center for internships and service learning.
* It is essential that the activity be approved as fulfilling the requirement prior to the actual experience.
* Students are recommended to complete this requirement before their senior year.

Fulfillment:

This requirement requires significant international or inter-cultural educational experience.

Ideally the requirement can be fulfilled by:

* A semester-long study abroad program
* A semester-long or summer co-operative or independent internship with an organization that will expose students to the international arena or intercultural domestic issues.

Alternatively, students working with their advisors can use the following experiences to fulfill the requirement:

* A four-week summer study abroad program
* Independent study with a Ramapo faculty member that focuses on service learning in an international or intercultural setting, including alternative spring break experiences.

Following the experience, students are required to complete and submit an experiential learning requirement form (available from the convener). A copy of this form should be presented as part of the student’s graduation application.

Note: Students who have had a significant international experience prior to their arrival at Ramapo (e.g. residency abroad, year-long high school exchange, or international students) can make a request in writing to the convener that this experience count as fulfillment of the requirement.

Internship Criteria:

* Internships should be minimum of 10 hours per week during the semester (15 weeks) or 15 hours per week during the summer (10 weeks).
* The internship experience needs to provide the student with direct experience with international or intercultural issues.
  + The student should be able to comment on another culture or other cultures after their internship.
  + The internship should provide exposure to the dimensions of working in an international or intercultural environment.
  + The student should be able to relate concepts and/or skills developed through coursework in the major to the internship and vice-versa.
  + Through the internship, the student should acquire skills and expertise that can be applied in the future.
* It is strongly urged that students not take internships in the private sector that are unpaid.
* Internships in government, international organizations, non-profits, or non-governmental organizations can be unpaid [although discuss with the supervisor whether there may be other form of compensation or assistance, such as reimbursement for commuting costs].
* Students may get college credit from their internship by working with the Cahill Center and a faculty supervisor to establish the internship as a Co-Op.

For more information about Study Abroad Opportunities contact:

The Roukema Center for International Education

[www.ramapo.edu/international](http://www.ramapo.edu/international)

(201) 684-7533

For more information about finding an internship and/or setting up a Co-Op contact:

The Cahill Development Center

<http://www.ramapo.edu/cahill/>

(201) 684-7444