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**MEMORANDUM** 

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**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** April 23, 2025  
**FROM** Mary O'Brien,  
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies  
Committee (SGSC)  
**RE:** Program Changes

**For information:**

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of **April 1, 2025**, SGSC approved the following curriculum item, effective **Spring 2026**:

**Beedie School of Business**

- 1) Program Change: Master of Science in Finance

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**School for International Studies

- 1) Program Change: International Studies MA

Segal Graduate School

Office of the Associate Dean  
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**To:** Senate Graduate Studies Committee  
**From:** Sudheer Gupta, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs  
**Re:** MSc Finance Program Change - Removal of BUS 579 as requirement  
**Date:** February 20, 2025

The following curriculum revisions have been approved by the Beedie School of Business and are forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for approval. These curriculum items should be effective for Spring 2026.

Please include them on the next SGSC agenda.

- **MSc Finance Program Changes:**  
**Removal of BUS 579 as requirement**

Thank you for your attention herein. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

  
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Sudheer Gupta  
Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, Beedie School of Business

**Calendar Entry Change for Master of Science in Finance**

Summary of change:

BUS 579 removed as a requirement

Rationale for change:

The intention of the component had been to provide specific industry focused workshops and events for students alongside class times; however due to staffing changes, Beedie no longer has the internal resources to deliver events exclusively for this group at a volume that justifies a S/U grading basis. Mandatory attendance has also proven difficult to enforce and previous offerings have generally been poorly attended. In order to ensure students can still meet their professional development goals while better allocating our limited resources, Beedie will be providing professional development opportunities scheduled at times that are convenient and available to all graduate students and will no longer require mandatory attendance only for MSc students. This will allow students to network with fellow graduate students from other programs while enabling them to prioritize attendance at events that they feel provide the most value to their own personal goals. For example, instead of providing a mandatory interview workshop for MSc only, a general workshop will be hosted that is open to both MSc and MBA students. Topics that are considered necessary for meeting the learning objectives of the MSc in Finance program have also been integrated into other existing coursework; for example fund management practices and regulations are covered in BUS 881; salary negotiations in BUS 733, etc.

Effective term and year:

Spring 2026

Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students?

No impact

**Calendar Change:** All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

## Program Requirements

This program consists of course requirements for a minimum of 48 units. Students complete the core courses and choose either the investment management stream, the risk management stream, or the research stream requirements. Other graduate courses may be substituted for the courses listed at the discretion of the academic director.

Students must complete all of

[BUS 579 - Professional Development \(0\)](#)

[BUS 700 - Orientation \(0\)](#) \*

[BUS 733 - Negotiations \(2\)](#)

[BUS 800 - Finance Foundations \(3\)](#) \*

[BUS 802 - Corporate Finance \(3\)](#)

[BUS 803 - Financial Data Analytics \(3\)](#)

[BUS 806 - Principles of Finance \(3\)](#)

[BUS 810 - Fixed Income Analysis \(3\)](#)

[BUS 814 - Derivative Securities I \(3\)](#)

[BUS 827 - Principles of Investments \(3\)](#)

[BUS 828 - Business Strategy, Ethics and The Regulatory Environment \(2\)](#)

[BUS 861 - Managerial Communication \(2\)](#)

[BUS 881 - Principles of Fund Management \(3\)](#)

[...]



## Memo

**Attention** Mary O'Brien, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies

**From** Kate. Slaney, Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, FASS

**Subject** Items for SGSC meeting

**Date** October 28, 2024

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Dear Mary,

The following were approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee on October 8, 2024, and are forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for approval. Please include them on the next SGSC agenda.

### **1 Department of French**

~~New Course FREN891 Proposal~~  
~~To be effective for Fall 2025~~

### **2 Department of International Studies**

Calendar Change  
~~Graduate Course IS800 Change~~  
~~Graduate Course IS830 Change~~  
~~New Course IS 804 Proposal~~  
~~To be effective for Fall 2025.~~

### **3 Department of Criminology**

~~Graduate Course CRIM870 Change~~  
~~To be effective for Fall 2025~~

### **4 Department of Psychology**

Calendar Change  
~~Graduate Course PSYC990, PSYC897, PSYC892, PSYC890, PSYC836, PSYC815, Change to be effective for as soon as possible.~~

**5-Department of Philosophy**

~~Calendar Change~~  
~~To be effective for Fall 2025~~

Please add these items for consideration at the next SGSC meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kathleen (Kate) Slaney  
Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Simon Fraser University

TO: Kate Slaney, FASS Associate Dean  
FROM: Christopher Gibson, Graduate Program Chair, School for International Studies  
CC: Elizabeth Cooper, Director, School for International Studies  
DATE: September 23, 2024  
RE: Changes to Masters in International Studies curriculum

Dear Dean Slaney,

As of September 9, 2024, the School for International Studies faculty have approved the following curricular changes to the Master in International Studies (MAIS) program to be effective in Fall 2025 Spring 2026 or as early as possible. The changes consist of the following:

- ~~IS806 (State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives) will change from being a required course to being an elective course.~~
- ~~Second, IS801 (Polities, Institutions and Development) will also change from being a required to an elective course.~~
- ~~Third, a new, required course named IS804 (Approaches to International Studies) will be added. It will cover key substantive and theoretical areas related to our three streams of coursework. The new course form that we previously submitted describes its content.~~
- Fourth, to maintain the total required credit count for the degree at its current level and accommodate the three changes above, we propose to change the program's calendar entry so that all students are required to take one more elective than is currently stated.
- ~~Fifth, we are updating the course calendar description for IS 800 (Problems of International Policy and Practice) to describe a change in its format.~~
- ~~Finally, IS830 (Analytic Approaches for International Studies) will be renamed IS830 (Methods for International Studies) to clarify its focus as a methods course, with minimal changes to the calendar description and content.~~

Accompanying this memo are the associate forms required for these proposals: a program change form, a course change form for IS 800, and a course change form for IS 830. Please note that we previously submitted a new course form for IS 804 in order to meet the earlier deadline for new course proposals. We hope that these proposals will be considered together at the Fall 2024 FASS Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Gibson  
Graduate Program Chair, School for International Studies

## Calendar Entry Change for International Studies MA

### Summary of change:

- First, IS806 (State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives) will change from being a required course to being an elective course.
- Second, IS801 (Politics, Institutions and Development) will also change from a required to an elective course.
- Third, a new, required course named IS804 (Approaches to International Studies) will be added. It will cover key substantive and theoretical areas related to our three streams of coursework. The new course content will be specified in the calendar entry for this course.
- Fourth, to maintain the total required course count at its current level and accommodate the three changes above, we propose to change the program's calendar entry so that students are required to take one more elective than is currently needed.
- Fifth, although IS800 (Problems of International Policy and Practice) will retain its writing-intensive focus on briefing papers, policy papers, literature reviews, and op-eds or blog posts, the course content will shift. Only the course calendar description needs updating to reflect this change.
- Finally, IS830 (Analytic Approaches for International Studies) will be renamed IS830 (Methods for International Studies) to clarify its focus as a methods course, with minimal changes to the calendar description and content.

### Rationale for change:

The above changes respond to the fact that our graduate program has far fewer students than the undergraduate program yet absorbs considerable CFL resources, while lacking a gateway class that introduces students to key substantive and theoretical themes in international studies. Currently, the MAIS program includes four required courses as well as: one elective for students in the thesis-based terminal option, or two electives for students finishing the degree via the extended essays (EEs) option. With several required courses, fielding so many required courses ultimately demands considerable CFL resources, especially for a small unit like ours. The proposed changes alleviate this issue while improving the coherence of the degree.

Overall, they do so by harnessing elective courses that are cross-listed with advanced undergraduate courses, ensuring higher enrollments in these classes, and allowing for a more efficient allocation of CFL teaching resources to them. More specifically, the first two changes above allow for CFL resources to be re-allocated toward our greater enrollment demand in the undergraduate program. The third change creates a new, required gateway class that introduces three main themes (International Security and Conflict, Comparative World Politics, Culture and Society, and International Development, Economic and Environmental Issues) addressed in much of the school's coursework. The fourth change harnesses the flexibility generated by first three changes above to allow future students to take an additional elective instead of a required course. The fifth change revises a key required course (IS 800) to better introduce students to the key themes in international studies and the work of four faculty members, whom the instructor selects to deliver a one-hour lecture and participate in an associated seminar discussion. The final change merely revises the title of IS 830 to better captures its focus on research methods. Overall, these changes alter less than 30% of the program.

Effective term and year: Spring 2026

Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? No.

**Calendar Change:** All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

### Program Requirements

This program consists of course work and two extended essays or a thesis for a minimum of 30 units.

Students must complete

IS 800 - Problems of International Policy and Practice (4)

**IS 804 – Approaches to International Studies (4)**

~~IS 801 – Polities, Institutions and Development (4)~~

~~IS 806 – State Failure and Reconstruction: Comparative Perspectives (4)~~

IS 830 - Methods for International Studies (4)

and ~~one~~ **two** four unit elective graduate courses in international studies

#### Extended Essays Option

Additionally, students must complete

one **additional** elective graduate course for a minimum of four units (subject to approval of the graduate chair or director)

and two extended essays

IS 880 - MA Extended Essays (6)

#### Thesis Option

Additionally, students must complete

IS 886 - Thesis Prospectus (4)

IS 898 - MA Thesis (18)

**All students have the option to complete a concentration in either Latin American Studies or Middle Eastern Studies.**

~~Students pursuing an optional regional concentration complete an additional four units of course work for a minimum of 46 units.~~ Approved courses for each regional concentration can be found in the relevant section below.

### Regional Concentrations

The available regional concentration areas are Latin American Studies (LAS) and Middle Eastern Studies (MES).

#### LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LAS)

Students must complete two of the following

- HIST 845 - Themes in Latin American History (5)
- IS 815 - Theories of Latin American Development (4)
- IS 835 - Social and Political Change in Latin America (4)

or an elective course with significant LAS content subject to the approval of the graduate chair or director.

#### MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES (MES)

Students must complete two of the following

- HIST 852 - Themes in Middle Eastern History (5)
- IS 814 - Special Topics on the Middle East (4)

or an elective course with significant MES content subject to the approval of the graduate chair or director.