



**Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies:  
Focus on International Development and Service  
Information Packet  
2011 Admissions**

The International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership  
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## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Program Highlights

- 20-month program as a full-time student
- First year of the program at Portland State University in Portland, OR, including the ICI Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication (SIIC)
- Second fall (2012) term abroad attending a partner university in:
  - Guadalajara, Mexico
  - Kingston, Jamaica or
  - Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
- Return to Portland to complete projects and graduate in Winter 2013
- Core classes in three disciplines:
  - Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP)
  - International Studies (INTL)
  - Public Administration / Nonprofit Management (PA).
- Two elective courses in ELP and two elective courses in PA. One elective, either in PA or ELP, should have a leadership focus.
- 10-15 hours of service work per week
- 54 credits total

### Program Overview

The IPSL master's degree focuses on international development and service. Reflecting today's need for graduates to understand a variety of perspectives, and leaders to navigate complex partnerships, the master's degree is interdisciplinary, drawing from the fields of global nonprofit management, global educational leadership, sustainability, and international studies. The degree trains leaders for professional careers with global nonprofits and educational and community development organizations with an international focus.

The program can be completed in 20 months and requires 54 graduate credit hours. Students spend their first year of study in Portland. During the fall, winter, and spring terms, students take courses at Portland State University in Public Administration (which houses nonprofit management), Educational Leadership and Policy, and International Studies.

Core courses such as Global Sustainable Development and Introduction to Nonprofit Management frame the program and ensure that students graduate with essential knowledge and skills. Students also choose a series of electives that fit their interests and career goals. The electives allow students to develop expertise and leadership skills that prepare them to work in such areas as sustainability education, nonprofit management, study abroad, program administration, fundraising, or volunteer management.

Service-learning is central to the master's degree. Throughout the year and into the summer, students engage in extensive service work at a local agency in Portland. The primary purpose of the service is to meet a need in the community. In the process, we draw on service as a source of learning about organizations, leadership, social problems, diverse populations, and the role of service and service-learning in civil society. With a seminar called Global Self, Citizenship, & Service that runs throughout the program, IPSL students reflect on service and their role as civically engaged leaders in a multicultural society. Throughout the year and into the summer, students also engage in service work at a local agency in Portland.



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

After completing the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication in Portland, students travel abroad to Guadalajara, Mexico, Kingston, Jamaica, or the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador for the second fall term. Students live with local families, take classes at our partner universities, and serve in local agencies. They also conduct an organizational case study to apply what they have learned to a real problem in the field. Upon their return to Portland for the winter quarter, students focus on their culminating project, a theory-to-practice analysis that brings together their coursework, research, and service with a practical problem-solving approach.

### Learning Objectives

#### Civic Agency

- Explain the meaning, nature, and rationale of service learning
- Draw links between academic study and community service
- Use writing to analyze and learn from service experiences and to develop a reflective practice of leadership
- Explore the concepts of citizenship, service, and civic engagement in an international context
- Develop and articulate self-identity related to citizenship and civic agency
- Examine race, class, gender, power, and justice as they relate to service learning
- Explain critiques of volunteerism and international service learning
- Explore varying perspectives on international travel (peers, teachers, organizations, host country residents, fellow travelers)
- Understand the developmental process of adjustment and learning in an international service experience

#### Intercultural Competence

- Review the intercultural perspective as it relates to a wide arena of applications
- Develop competency in working across cultures to teach, manage, and interact in our increasingly diverse and pluralistic world
- Explain the concept of "sociological imagination" and the difference between individual and group explanations
- Discuss the major contemporary and historical influences on the host country society and culture
- Demonstrate an understanding of the development of and relationships between key social systems in the host country, including family, education, health, economy, and government
- Understand the stratification of groups (by class, ethnicity, gender, etc.) with respect to major social systems (education, health, employment, etc) in the host country
- Identify key social problems the host country is facing and some of the policy and community-based approaches to solving them
- Understand the distinctiveness of cultural belief systems
- Discuss the nature of myths and legends, as well as the universality of mythic themes
- Assess models of cultural diversity programs and training and the impact on people and organizations

#### Evidence-based Problem-Solving



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

- Explain key principles of research, including the scientific method, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, ethical considerations, cultural bias, and analysis and organization of findings
- Identify, critically review and select from a range of tools for research on issues of development and social and political change
- Acquire skills for critically judging research
- Identify, gather, and organize data in many forms relevant to research in developing states
- Demonstrate observational skills applied in cross-cultural settings
- Use data to inform problem-solving in intercultural settings
- Write a case study with a well-researched problem statement, hypothesis, research question, and literature review

### Nonprofit Organizations

- Demonstrate ability to work effectively as a volunteer at a nonprofit agency
- Gain in-depth understanding of a nonprofit organization and demonstrate competency for analysis and recommendations through case study research
- Understand the role of volunteers and philanthropy in the nonprofit sector
- Understand the budgeting and financial processes that influence resource mobilization, allocation and use among and within nonprofit organizations
- Integrate theory and practice in applying concepts of organizational structure, behavior, management and leadership to the administration of nonprofit organizations
- Identify the legal, political, economic and social institutions and processes that influence the scope, organization and governance of nonprofit organizations.
- Recognize the impact of globalization and technological innovation on the structure and operation of nonprofit organizations
- Recognize the requirements and methodologies for human resource development within the nonprofit sector
- Assess processes of policy and program formulation and implementation within legislative bodies, regulatory agencies and nonprofit organizations
- Use quantitative and qualitative methods to create, manage, analyze and manipulate information useful in administrative and research tasks
- Develop a strategy and action plan for organizational improvement

### Intercultural Leadership Skills and Competencies

- Explain major theoretical perspectives on the concept of leadership and leadership development particularly within postsecondary educational settings
- Gain an understanding of how contemporary nonhierarchical models of leadership and leadership development can be utilized within a variety of organizational contexts
- Examine the relationship between leadership, leadership development, and organizational and social change
- Analyze key models of leadership and their alignment with students' own personalities, values, and goals
- Discuss ethics and responsibilities of leadership
- Demonstrate professional and social skills of effective small group communication and cooperation, written communication, cross-cultural communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, case analysis, and team building
- Use journals to develop a reflective practice of leadership



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

- Develop a greater sense of self-awareness through the linking of academic learning and the experience of living and working in a different culture
- Identify and participate in learning activities to improve their own skills
- Examine a variety of orientation, training, and educational approaches and the learning resources available for implementing them
- Show competent use of technology in class assignments and activities
- Discuss the ethical and professional responsibilities of models of intercultural education, training, and orientation

### Courses

- Students will take classes in three disciplines:
  - Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP)
  - International Studies (INTL)
  - Public Administration / Non-Profit Management (PA).
- Core courses are required for the program and typically taken as a cohort.
- Students choose two elective courses in ELP and two elective courses in PA. One elective, either in PA or ELP, should have a leadership focus. ELP 528, ELP 550, PA 514, & PA 528 all meet this requirement and are marked with \* below.
- 54 credits total

Core classes and possible electives are outlined below. Please note that course offerings are subject to change.

### **Educational Leadership and Policy (18 credits)**

#### Core Courses (10)

- ELP 507 Reflections Seminar: Global self, citizenship, & service (4)
- ELP 509 Practicum (New Interculturalists) (2)
- ELP 511 Principles of Educational Research (4)

#### Approved Electives (8)

- ELP 517 Ecological and Cultural Foundations of Learning (4)
- ELP 519 Sustainability Education (4)
- ELP 520 Adult Learning and Development (4)
- ELP 521 Adult Learning and Motivation (4)
- ELP 522 Teaching Diverse Adult Learners (4)
- ELP 523 Assessing Adult Learning (4)
- ELP 525 Student Services in Higher Education (4)
- ELP 526 Facilitating Student Success in Postsecondary Education (4)
- ELP 528 Leadership in Postsecondary Education\* (4)
- ELP 529 Principles of Training and Development (3)
- ELP 536 Postsecondary Curriculum (4)
- ELP 538 Contemporary Issues in Postsecondary Education (4)
- ELP 542 Introduction to Service-Learning in Postsecondary Education (4)
- ELP 543 Service-Learning in Postsecondary Educational Leadership & Policy (4)
- ELP 548 Global Political Ecology (4)



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

ELP 550 Leadership for Sustainability\* (4)  
ELP 551 Social Foundations of Education (4)  
ELP 554 Philosophy of Education (4)

### International Studies Courses (15 credits)

INTL 507 Global Sustainable Development (4)  
INTL 507 Introduction to Intercultural Communication (SIIC Workshop) (2)  
INTL 504 Case Study on International Development (3)  
INTL 507 Topics in Regional Issues (courses vary by country) (2)  
INTL 507 Topics in Regional Issues (courses vary by country) (2)  
INTL 507 Topics in Regional Issues (courses vary by country) (2)

### Public Administration (15 credits)

#### Core Courses (9)

PA 523 NGOs: Non-profits on the World Stage (3)  
PA 520 Introduction to Nonprofit Management (3)  
PA 524 Financial Management of Nonprofit Organizations (3)

#### Approved Electives (6)

PA 514 Global Leadership and Management\* (3)  
PA 521 History/Foundations of Nonprofit Organizations (3)  
PA 522 Governance of Nonprofit Organizations (3)  
PA 525 Grant Writing for Nonprofit Organizations (3)  
PA 526 Fundraising (3)  
PA 528 Organizational Leadership & Decision-Making\* (3)  
PA 536 Strategic Planning (3)  
PA 592 Volunteerism and Volunteer Management (3)  
PA 598 Values-based Management I (3)

### Culminating Project (6 credits)

IST 506 Comprehensive Project (6)



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Program Calendar

- Fall 2011: September 26-December 9. Please plan to arrive in Portland by September 19 and be available for orientation that week before classes start.
- Winter 2012: January 9-March 23
- Spring 2012: April 2-June 15
- Summer 2012: June 25-August 17
- Fall 2012: Mid-August-mid-December (depending on university calendars abroad)
- Winter 2013: January 7-March 22

Please note that the calendar and program of study are subject to change.

### Program of Study

Notes:

- Core courses are required for the program and typically taken as a cohort. With advisor approval, some classes may be taken out of sequence due to scheduling issues or financial aid.
- Students choose **two elective courses in ELP and two elective courses in PA**. One elective, either in PA or ELP, should have a leadership focus. ELP 528, ELP 550, PA 514, & PA 528 all meet this requirement.
- Additional electives may be taken but are not required and could come with additional tuition charges. Some students add electives for financial aid purposes; students needing to do so should consult with their advisor.
- Students seeking to simultaneously complete a graduate certificate or dual degree should consult with their advisor when scheduling courses to maximize efficiency and avoid scheduling glitches.
- Please note that the courses listed below are based on current availability and may change for each academic year.

ELP = Educational Leadership and Policy

INTL = International Studies

PA = Public Administration

IST = Interdisciplinary Studies

SIIC = Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication

#### Fall 2011 (11-12 credits)

Core courses:

ELP 507 Reflections Seminar: Global self, citizenship, & service (1)

INTL 507 Global Sustainable Development (4)

PA 520 Introduction to Nonprofit Management (3)

Leadership elective (choose one):

ELP 528 Leadership in Postsecondary Education (4)

ELP 550 Leadership for Sustainability (4)

PA 514 Global Leadership & Decision-Making (3)

PA 528 Organizational Leadership & Decision-Making (3)

Service work:

Approximately 10-15 hours per week



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Winter 2012 (10-12 credits)

Core courses:

ELP 507 Reflections Seminar: Global self, citizenship, & service (1)  
PA 510 Nonprofits on the World Stage (3)

Approved electives (choose two):

Elective (3-4)  
Elective (3-4)

Service work:

Approximately 10-15 hours per week

### Spring 2012 (11-12 credits)

Core courses:

ELP 507 Reflections Seminar: Global self, citizenship, & service (1)  
ELP 511 Principles of Educational Research (4)  
PA 524 Financial Management of Nonprofit Organizations (3)

Approved electives (choose one):

Elective (3-4)

Service work:

Approximately 10-15 hours per week

### Summer 2012 (5 credits)

Core courses:

ELP 509 Practicum (New Interculturalists course at SIIC) (2)  
INTL 507 Intercultural Workshop at SIIC (2)  
IST 506 Comprehensive Project (pre-departure component) (1)

Service work:

Approximately 10-15 hours per week

### Fall 2012 (11 credits)

Core courses:

ELP 507 Reflections Seminar: Global self, citizenship, and service (1)  
INTL 504 Case Studies on International Development (3)  
INTL 507 Topics in Regional Issues (Contemporary Conditions) (2)  
INTL 507 Topics in Regional Issues (Professional Studies) (2)  
INTL 507 Topics in Regional Issues (Specialization Studies) (2)  
IST 506 Comprehensive Project (in-country component) (1)

Service work:

Approximately 10-15 hours per week

### Winter 2013 (4 credits)

IST 506 Comprehensive Project (paper & portfolio completion) (4)



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Service

Service is at the core of IPSL programs. Service-learning involves the combination of community-based work for an agency in need, academic coursework related to the service, and reflection that makes sense of the experience. Students in the master's degree program will have an opportunity to serve throughout the program (approximately 10-15 hours per week), both while in Portland and while abroad in Mexico, Jamaica, or Ecuador.

Service-learning meets the mutual needs of community organizations and student academic goals. Students will serve in an agency where their skills and talents can be used, but where they can also grow and learn. Ideally, service placements align with students' interests and educational pursuits, but service is also driven by the needs of the community and the logistics of arranging the work. IPSL cannot guarantee particular service placements and students are encouraged to approach this aspect of the program with an openness to serve where they are most needed.

When students arrive in Portland, they will work with their adviser to outline goals for their service experience, discuss their interests, and explore the public and non-profit organizations in Portland. The adviser will be able to suggest placement sites, though students can also seek out organizations that are particularly well suited to their interests. Within the first two to three weeks of the program, students will arrange a service placement to which they can commit 10-15 hours per week throughout the year and into the summer. Most classes take place during the late afternoon or evening, freeing up days for service. Once accepted into the program and the university schedule has been finalized, students will know their schedules and be able to plan service accordingly.

Rather than try to arrange service across borders, IPSL relies on our university partners in Mexico and Jamaica to create service-learning opportunities when abroad. Faculty and staff abroad know their communities and where students are needed. They have developed partnerships with local NGOs (non-governmental organizations, the international equivalent of nonprofit organizations) to offer service-learning placements. Students work with the placement coordinator in Guadalajara, Kingston, or the Galapagos to discuss appropriate placement sites when they go abroad.

Sample service activities include:

- running an after-school program
- facilitating workshops for people with disabilities
- mentoring children or teens
- teaching life skills
- coordinating sustainability programs
- providing mediation and conflict resolution
- training clients
- assisting at a health clinic
- facilitating refugee resettlement efforts
- advocating for social justice issues
- teaching performing arts workshops
- conducting environmental education
- teaching classes for homeless youth
- serving meals
- providing health education
- tutoring basic skills
- supporting a college office of service-learning
- providing sports and recreation opportunities
- preparing teen parents to return to school
- supporting survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault
- assisting international disaster relief



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Study Abroad

Students in the IPSL master's program study abroad for one term. IPSL has established partnerships at the following institutions:

- Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG) in Guadalajara, Mexico
- University of Technology (UTech) in Kingston, Jamaica
- The Galapagos Academic Institute for Arts and Sciences (GAIAS) in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

These partner sites offer specially designed courses for IPSL students as well as direct enrollment in existing graduate level classes. After the first year of study at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, students travel to their host country in late summer and return in mid-December.

**U.S. applicants for the IPSL program must have a passport valid for at least six months AFTER the end of your term abroad.** If your passport expires before that time, you will need to apply for a renewal. Once accepted to the program, IPSL staff will provide U.S. applicants with information about obtaining a visa if one is needed. Non-U.S. applicants are responsible for making their own passport and visa arrangements but should consult with IPSL if they need assistance.

#### Language

Only English proficiency is necessary to study in Jamaica, though American students will have to adjust to British rules of spelling and grammar and the Jamaican Patois. In Ecuador, conversational Spanish is useful for homestays and service work, but courses are in English.

To study in Mexico, students need at least an intermediate proficiency in Spanish to serve the placement agency and to follow the academic courses. A minimum of 4 years Spanish language study at the university level or proof of language proficiency is required. Proficiency may be demonstrated through the transcript, a DELE (Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera) certificate, or through the foreign language department at Portland State University. For more information about the DELE proficiency exam, please visit <http://www.dele.org/> or visit Portland State University's Department of Foreign Language and Literature at <http://www.fl.pdx.edu/html/advising/index.php#gsflt>.

It should also be noted that UAG offers intensive Spanish language study options for students prior to the term, but such programs would come with additional tuition and travel expenses for students.

#### Coursework

The courses at GAIAS, UTech, and UAG are designed so that students will understand the social, cultural, political, and historical realities of the host nation. Students will do a case study research project at a local organization (likely the agency where students serve) with faculty assistance. Students will continue the process of reflection and analysis begun in Portland, this time in a different culture and nation. Students will also take coursework to develop their professional skills and a specialized knowledge base within this interdisciplinary program.



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Service

In Jamaica, Ecuador, and Mexico, areas of service include education, health care, environmental sustainability, and community development. Our students have served with international organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the International Red Cross, as well as with smaller, local organizations such as the YMCA, educational institutions, prisoner rehabilitation initiatives, and homes for young single mothers. Your service may be direct human care such as assisting orphans or the disabled. Service could also be related to environmental conservation or sustainability, or it might draw upon and develop organizational and leadership skills, such as designing educational programs, developing training materials, evaluating services, or running a program.

### Housing

While in Guadalajara, Kingston, or the Galapagos, you will live in a home stay with a local family, who introduces you to family life in the culture and provides some of your meals. (There is an option of an apartment with no meal service in Mexico only).

## Careers

Graduates of the IPSL master's program will be prepared to take positions as leaders in professional careers with global non-profits and educational and community development organizations with an international focus.

The program uses a practical, theory-to-practice approach. Though students will be trained in the key theories of international development, nonprofit management, adult education, and service-learning, they will also be asked to apply these ideas to real problems and dilemmas in the workplace. The required research course emphasizes the use of research as evidence to inform decision-making and will prepare students for their culminating project. The culminating project will involve focusing on a particular problem or issue students have observed in their service work and applying theory to work toward a solution or improvement.

Throughout the program students will also work on career development. Students will create career portfolios as part of their coursework. These will be designed to communicate to employers what students have accomplished during the program, including skills and areas of expertise. In addition, students will take some of their classes at Portland State University with other students who are professionals already working in the field, creating an atmosphere of collegiality and an opportunity to network and learn about future career possibilities.

Key skills and competencies that may be of interest to employers:

- Working across cultures to teach, manage, and interact in an increasingly diverse and pluralistic world
- Using data and research tools to inform problem-solving in intercultural settings
- Analyzing organizational challenges and developing a strategy and action plan for improvement
- Assessing cultural diversity programs and training and their impact



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

- Assessing policy and program formulation and implementation
- Understanding a variety of training and educational approaches
- Applying concepts of organizational structure, behavior, management and leadership to the administration of organizations
- Understanding the budgeting and financial processes within organizations
- Identifying social problems and policy or community-based approaches to solving them
- Use of analytical and reflective writing to inform professional practice
- Use of technology to present material to a key audience

Sample positions for which an IPSL master's graduate might qualify:

- vice-president of programs, civic affairs organization
- new partner development manager, educational nonprofit
- director of programs, international service-learning organization
- volunteer coordinator, domestic violence organization
- service-learning program director, community college
- operations and communications coordinator, global NGO for children
- grants manager, educational nonprofit
- foreign service officer, US government
- strategic assistant to executive director, educational nonprofit
- director, nonprofit supporting service-learning in education
- outreach specialist, homeless shelter for teens
- lead instructor, after-school program
- service-learning instructor, university
- project manager, international disability advocacy organization
- vice-president of community relations and diversity programs, nonprofit for children
- manager, state department of human services community engagement office
- internship coordinator, college office of career development
- academic director, study abroad program
- program and training officer, Peace Corps
- program officer, global anti-poverty NGO

### Finances

#### Program cost

Total master's program fee for Oregon residents enrolling in 2010 was \$58,000. 2011 fee TBA.

Total master's program fee for non-residents enrolling in 2010 was \$68,000. 2011 fee TBA.

Please note that this program fee is unique in that it is a comprehensive, guaranteed fee, regardless of any increases in PSU tuition, for students adhering to the cohort schedule as outlined in the IPSL program materials.

This comprehensive fee includes:

- all tuition
- airfare to and from host country for study abroad



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

- room and board abroad
- one-on-one, personalized academic coordination and advising
- all student fees
- insurance
- academic excursions
- service-placement coordination and oversight
- job search preparation
- full access to student services and activities at PSU and partner universities

Additional expenses (based on 2010 estimates)

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Room and board in Portland (per quarter)	\$3000
Books (per quarter)	\$200-400
Passport	\$100
Visa fees	\$100
Airfare	\$700
Home-stay gift	\$25
Cell phone purchase/rental abroad	\$30
Public Transportation/Taxis abroad	\$120
Internet usage abroad	\$20
Cell phone usage abroad	\$100
Personal travel expenses abroad	\$150
Personal expenses abroad	\$500

### Financial aid

If you are applying for financial aid, you will need to complete Portland State University's instructions for financial aid found at <http://www.pdx.edu/finaid/>.

If you are seeking financial aid for your master's degree, you should apply at the same time you apply for the academic program and indicate PSU as your institution.

### Scholarships

While IPSL does not offer any scholarships at this time, we have put together a list of related scholarship resources at <http://ipsl.org/programs/financialaid.aspx>.

Portland State University offers scholarships for which some IPSL students might qualify. Information is available at <http://www.pdx.edu/finaid/scholarship>. Students are also encouraged to research scholarships on their own.

### Graduate Assistantships

IPSL students may qualify for PSU graduate assistantships, which typically include tuition remission and often a stipend proportionate to hours worked. For more information, please see the Office of Graduate Studies information at [http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/ogs\\_gradassists.php](http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/ogs_gradassists.php).



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Program Design & Academic FAQs

##### What is the Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies?

This IPSL Masters program is an experiential eighteen month program designed to prepare you for a career in not-for-profit or educational service agencies internationally and/or locally. The program combines rigorous academic study with hands-on service in the US & a choice of study abroad options in Mexico, Jamaica or Ecuador. You will learn theory; apply your learning through grassroots experience and will gain skills and capacities that organizations tell us they need. When you are done, you will be ready to take on a leadership role in agencies serving the needs of diverse populations on both the local and international levels.

##### What is the program's design?

The program combines formal academic study with volunteer experiences in service agencies in Portland, Oregon and in a partner site abroad. Over the course of six consecutive terms, you will study intercultural communication, social issues, service delivery, and leadership. At the same time, you will actively engage in service. The curriculum is designed so that all participants increase their capacity to work inclusively with people from around their community and around the world. Through serving, leading, learning, and reflection, you will develop the skills and competencies needed for a leadership career in a service agency. When you are done you will be well prepared to manage services to diverse populations, in diverse situations agencies or programs, in the United States and internationally.

##### Who designed and administers the degree?

Founded in 1982, the International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership (IPSL) is a not-for-profit organization that administers educational undergraduate and graduate programs in 11 countries. It was the first organization in the U.S. to be devoted solely to the union of academic study and volunteer service. Today it is the preeminent organization of international service-learning. The international headquarters are located in Portland, OR, where IPSL moved in 2008. The master's program has been offered since 1997 but has gone through significant revision in the past few years as part of the organization's relocation to Oregon and partnership with PSU. The master's degree itself is granted by Portland State University.

##### What's the difference between an MA and MS?

The Master of Arts (MA) requires language proficiency, while the Master of Science (MS) does not. Students in the IPSL program can earn either an MA or MS, though if they choose an MA they will need to demonstrate language proficiency through the Department of Foreign Languages at PSU.

##### With what universities and organizations does IPSL cooperate to deliver the Master's in Interdisciplinary Studies?

To ensure that you will have many and varied opportunities for intercultural and international experiences, comparison and studies, the program was designed collaboratively with all four of the academic partner institutions as well as partner agencies in three countries:



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

1. Portland State University (PSU), *Portland, Oregon USA*
2. The Intercultural Communication Institute (ICI), *Portland, OR*
3. The University of Technology (U-Tech), *Kingston, Jamaica*
4. Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG), *Guadalajara, México*
5. The Galapagos Academic Institute for Arts and Sciences (GAIAS), *Galapagos Islands, Ecuador*
6. Non-profit service agencies in the US, Mexico and Jamaica

### Which institution issues the degree?

The degree is issued by Portland State University (PSU), in Portland, Oregon, one of the most civically-engaged universities in the United States.

### How many credits are required for graduation?

54 quarter credit hours.

### How long is this program?

The 2011 program runs from September 2011 through March 2013. This is a 6 quarter (20 month) cohort program. You start with a cohort class and end with this same group of students.

### What if I'm unable to complete my program?

Since this is a cohort program, you cannot drop out and start up again at a later term. If circumstances arise that prevent program completion, you would need to work with your advisor to find a way for you to re-join roughly where you left off, which may take a year for the program sequence to come around again.

### Can I gain more in-depth study in one area?

This program has been designed to dovetail with other graduate certificate and master's program at Portland State University. The program aligns with PSU certificates in non-profit management, volunteer management, service-learning and community engagement, and sustainable practices. An additional term or two may be required to complete the necessary course work. Dual degree options are also possible. Students can work with the program advisor to choose courses that most efficiently lead to another credential. Coursework not part of the IPSL program will incur additional expenses.

## **Studying Abroad FAQs**

### Do I need to speak another language?

To study in Mexico, you need to have the equivalent of 4-years of college level Spanish. Spanish preparatory courses are available in Portland and Guadalajara. The classes in all three countries are primarily taught in English.

### I want to study in country X instead! Do I have to study in Jamaica, Mexico, or Ecuador?

Yes, at this time, these are the only three sites in which we have established partnerships for graduate coursework and service-learning. In the future we hope to offer sites on every continent.



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### Will I be safe while studying in Jamaica or Mexico?

Partner sites are relatively safe. You will be given instruction during the orientation program as to how to stay safe in public, where to go and when, what to carry, and so on. IPSL adheres to State Department guidelines for travel and study abroad.

### Do I get to choose between going to Mexico, Jamaica, or Ecuador?

Yes, but each site is slightly different in terms of available courses, language requirements, and service opportunities, which may shape your options.

### How will my credits from my terms abroad transfer back?

IPSL has worked with our partners in Mexico, Jamaica, Ecuador, and Portland to ensure that all credits will transfer to PSU. You will be co-registered at PSU and UTech, UAG, or GAIAS during your term abroad.

## Application FAQs

### How and when do I apply?

The application is online at [www.ipsl.org](http://www.ipsl.org) and you can start now. IPSL Master's program applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, starting **November 15, 2010**. Priority deadline is **February 15, 2011**. Students applying by Feb. 15 will receive early notification of acceptance and will be able to register when the system opens to graduate students.

**The final deadline is June 1, 2011.** Applications received between February 16, 2011 thru June 1, 2011 will be reviewed and accepted as space is available.

### Do I need to take the GRE?

No

### Is an interview required?

Yes. We will conduct interviews in person for local residents and via phone or teleconference for applicants who are not able to attend in person.

### When will I know if I've been accepted?

Approximately 6-8 weeks after you apply.

### How competitive is the application and selection process?

Last year approximately 70% of all applicants were accepted.

### May I start early?

No—students start together as a cohort in the fall.

### May I start late?

Yes—IPSL has made arrangements for a winter term admission, but late entry students will join a cohort that has already begun taking classes together in the fall and will delay their graduation to December 2013 in order to take the fall term classes.

### How many students are typically enrolled each year? Where do these students come from?



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

The average cohort is 12-16 students. The students come from all over the world, but mostly from the US.

### What are the rules for establishing residency?

For information on establishing residency in Oregon, please go to:  
<http://www.pdx.edu/admissions/residency-requirements>.

### Finance FAQs

#### What is the cost of the program and what does it include?

Please note that this program fee is unique in that it is a comprehensive, guaranteed fee, regardless of any increases in PSU tuition, for students adhering to the cohort schedule as outlined in the IPSL program materials.

Total master's program fee for Oregon residents enrolling in 2010 was \$58,000. 2011 fee TBA.

Total master's program fee for non-residents enrolling in 2010 was \$68,000. 2011 fee TBA.

This comprehensive fee includes:

- all tuition
- airfare to and from host country for study abroad
- room and board abroad
- one-on-one, personalized academic coordination and advising
- all student fees
- insurance
- academic excursions
- service-placement coordination and oversight
- job search preparation
- full access to student services and activities at PSU and partner universities

#### What other costs should I plan for?

Based on 2010 estimates:

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Room and board in Portland (per quarter)	\$3000
Books (per quarter)	\$200-400
Passport	\$100
Visa fees	\$100
Airfare	\$700
Home-stay gift	\$25
Cell phone purchase/rental abroad	\$30
Public Transportation/Taxis abroad	\$120
Internet usage abroad	\$20
Cell phone usage abroad	\$100
Personal travel expenses abroad	\$150
Personal expenses abroad	\$500



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

### How does financial aid work?

If you are applying for financial aid, you will need to complete Portland State University's instructions for financial aid found at <http://www.pdx.edu/finaid/>.

If you are seeking financial aid for your master's degree, you should apply at the same time you apply for the academic program and indicate PSU as your institution.

### Can I get a scholarship?

While IPSL does not offer any scholarships at this time, we have put together a list of related scholarship resources at <http://ipsl.org/programs/financialaid.aspx>.

Portland State University offers scholarships for which some IPSL students might qualify. Information is available at <http://www.pdx.edu/finaid/scholarship>. Students are also encouraged to seek out scholarships on their own.

### Can I get a graduate assistantship?

IPSL students may qualify for PSU graduate assistantships, which typically include partial tuition remission and often a stipend. For more information, please see the Office of Graduate Studies information at [http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/ogs\\_gradassists.php](http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/ogs_gradassists.php).

### Does PSU or IPSL match the AmeriCorps Education Award?

No. Unfortunately, PSU is not able to match the AmeriCorps award.

## **Logistics FAQs**

### Where will I live?

While in Portland, you may choose to live in a dormitory, an apartment, or in shared housing. While abroad, you will live in a home stay with a local family, who introduces you to family life in the culture and provides some of your meals (and there is an option of an apartment with no meal service in Mexico only).

### Should I bring my car to Portland?

You can if you want to, but it is not necessary. Portland has one of the most highly developed public transport systems in the US.

### May I contact alumni who have completed this program?

Of course! Please request an introduction through [info@ipsl.org](mailto:info@ipsl.org).

### What should I do about health insurance?

IPSL makes arrangements for special health insurance for the 5 months you are out of the country. The rest of the time, you will be covered by PSU student health insurance.

## **Service & Career FAQs**

### Do I get to choose my service placement?

Yes and no! Service-learning meets the mutual needs of community organizations and student academic goals. Students will serve in an agency where their skills and talents



## Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies 2011 Admissions

can be used, but where they can also grow and learn. Ideally, service placements align with students' interests and educational pursuits, but service is also driven by the needs of the community and the logistics of arranging the work. IPSL cannot guarantee particular service placements and you are encouraged to approach this aspect of the program with an openness to serve where they are most needed. You will work with your site director to select a placement site upon arrival.

### What careers do those with a Master's in Interdisciplinary Studies pursue?

This is a newly redesigned program. However, graduates of the former program have gone on to be development program or directors for agencies, and directors of service-learning.