

# CHARLOTTE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
GLOBAL STUDIES

11 March 2024

To: Provost Jennifer Troyer  
From: Dale L. Smith, Professor and Chair, Department of Global Studies  
CC: John Smail, Interim Dean, CHESS  
Leslie Zenk, Associate Provost  
Subject: Proposed Name Change for the BA in International Studies



I write to initiate the process of changing the name of the BA in International Studies to the BA in Global Studies. The proposed name change will align the name of the degree with the name of the department to cut down on confusion and assist in recruiting more students and expanding the program. I outline below reasons for the proposed name change.

Global, International, and Area Studies was created as a department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2009 with a single undergraduate major, International Studies. In 2017, the Department's name was simplified to Global Studies. "Area" was dropped because we do not have faculty who focus on specific areas or regions. In addition, *international* was dropped in favor of *global*. A few decades ago, almost all these types of interdisciplinary programs used the "international" modifier. This was at a time when the relations we studied truly were *inter-nation* relations. Nations were, for the most part, the sole actors in global relations, and so it made sense to talk of *inter-national* studies. Today, however, there are a host of different actors, in addition to nations. Individuals, non-governmental groups, multinational corporations, and international organizations all compete for space on the global stage. For the 21<sup>st</sup> century, "global" is the most accurate modifier for interdisciplinary departments like ours along with the majors they offer.

The Department recently went through an external review. In their final report, the reviewers strongly supported the updated department name, and recommended that the name of the major now also be changed to Global Studies so there would be no confusion between the name of the department and the name of the major.

An example of where this confusion arises: our department is Global Studies and we use a GLST abbreviation for all administrative functions, and yet all our courses have an INTL prefix. We know this is confusing to students trying to find our program. By changing the name of the major to Global Studies, our curriculum and administration would be united under the GLST designation creating a clearer program identity.

Once we have confirmed your support, the Department will begin the Degree Name Revision form within Curriculog. Please let me know if you have any questions.

UNC Charlotte

9201 University City Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28223

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704.687.5181 telephone  
globalstudies.charlotte.edu