

Elon College Fellows, Honors Fellows, and Lumen Scholars Research and the International and Global Studies Major

The Process of Matching Students with Mentors:

The International and Global Studies (IGS) advisory committee recognizes that a crucial component of a successful Elon College Fellows, Elon Honors Fellows Thesis, or Lumen Scholar research project comes at the beginning of the process, in the identification of a faculty mentor. In this process, it is important that both students and faculty enter the mentoring relationship with a full understanding of their mutual rights and responsibilities. Students should be fully aware of which faculty members are available to serve as mentors, and what kinds of theses those faculty members feel competent to direct. Faculty members, in turn, should know something about the students interested in working with them on the thesis and why they are drawn to their topics.

Students are encouraged to meet with the Director of the IGS major to discuss the matching of students with mentors. This meeting should take place as soon as the student declares International and Global Studies as a major. This is especially important because the major is interdisciplinary in scope, requires a semester study abroad, and foreign language competency.

NOTE:

All IGS majors and minors are encouraged to conduct independent research with IGS-affiliated faculty and may request that these credit hours count as electives in the global or regional concentration, provided the independent research has an appropriate regional and/or global focus. (Contact the IGS Director for more details).

Only IGS majors who are Elon College Fellows (ECF), Honors Students, and Lumen Prize Winners can petition to have 4 credits of independent research count as the senior seminar requirement for IGS majors (IGS 4970), provided that the thesis has an international and/or global focus. If such request is approved, the 4 credits of undergraduate research will substitute for the Senior Seminar, which means these hours cannot be counted towards fulfilling any other area of a student's major(s) or minor(s), whether capstone or elective.

1. The Fellows Research and the International and Global Studies Senior Seminar:

We agree that four semester hours of Fellows Thesis research or Lumen research will count as the senior seminar requirement for IGS majors (IGS 4970), *provided that the thesis has an international and/or global focus*. It is recommended that the topic be related to the student's regional concentration. To ensure that the topic is acceptable it should be approved at the outset by the Director of International and Global Studies. Typically, this approval will be sought in the **Fall of the Junior year**.

NOTE:

Substitutions for an IGS senior seminar (IGS 4970) will only be granted to Elon College Fellow if they completed four semester hours of undergraduate research registered as IGS*4999 with an IGS-affiliated faculty. Students enrolled in Elon's Honor's Program or Lumen Scholars may petition to have 4 credits of undergraduate research with an IGS-affiliated faculty registered as HNR*4998: Honors Thesis hours or LUM*4998: Thesis Research count as the senior seminar requirement for IGS majors.

If a student has a double major, the research can only substitute for the International and Global Studies senior seminar if it does NOT count as the senior seminar of the student's

other major. *In addition*, the 4 credits of undergraduate research should also not be counting in any other area of a student's major or minor, whether capstone or elective. Thus, no double counting.

2. What Constitutes Acceptable Thesis Work in International and Global Studies?

We recognize that there should be flexibility in the length of the research paper, as length does not automatically equate with quality, but there is a consensus that an acceptable Fellows Thesis or Lumen Scholar article/paper should have a minimum length of approximately 30 pages and **needs to include at least four foreign language sources that have been translated by the student and included in the bibliography.** The research must be original work that adheres to disciplinary expectations regarding sources and citation, and in which the writing is of high quality. A presentation of the research should be made before an appropriate audience, such as SURF.

3. The International and Global Studies Senior Evaluation:

Upon *completion* of the research project, **the faculty mentor's approval, via an email to the IGS Director, that the thesis meets the above requirements of items 1 and 2** will be accepted by the IGS Director as meeting the requirements for the International and Global Studies senior evaluation. Elon College Fellows, Honors Fellows, or Lumen Scholars who are IGS majors and do not meet the above conditions or do not complete the Fellows Program must take the IGS senior seminar to graduate.

Procedures:

In order to apply for the exemption, the student and mentor should submit an IGS Senior Seminar Substitution Request to the IGS Director for approval. To be considered, the student and mentor must provide the information listed below, save it as a Word document according to: student last name_mentor last name_IGS Senior Seminar Substitution Request_date of submission, and email it to IGS Director Dr. Andrea Sinn (asinn@elon.edu). The mentor and student will receive the form back with the Director's approval (if granted). When the thesis or paper has been successfully completed, the mentor should send an email to the IGS Director indicating the successful completion of the paper/thesis meeting all requirements. Once this has been completed, the IGS Director will send approval to the Registrar.

NOTE:

Until the research is completed and the substitution has been filed, the independent research hours (IGS*4999) may or may not show up on the progress report as if they were counted as an elective; students must be aware that these hours will be removed from the elective category once the substitution has been filed with the Registrar's Office (no double counting), in other words, it is the student's responsibility to take the semester hours required for the various categories excluding the 4sh of independent research in order to fulfill all degree requirements. – As they approach graduation, students will receive automated emails from the registrar stating that the IGS Senior Seminar is missing; these will continue until the project is complete and the IGS Director has notified the registrar's office, usually done toward the end of the Spring semester of the senior year. Do not worry if you receive these emails as this is a normal procedure since the Registrar is not aware that you are pursuing a substitution.

Student's Name _____

Year of Expected Graduation: _____

Faculty Mentor's Name and Dept: _____

Course Prefix/Number and Semester being used for undergraduate research hours (IGS 4999, HNR 4998, or LMN 4998)

Number of Total Research Hours student will have completed by time of graduation: _____

Proposed Thesis Research--(e.g. Abstract or Research Project Proposal)

Make sure to note clearly how the proposed project fulfills the above requirements.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Faculty Mentor's Initial Approval _____

Date _____

International and Global Studies Director's Initial Approval _____

Date _____