

Princeton School of Public and International Affairs

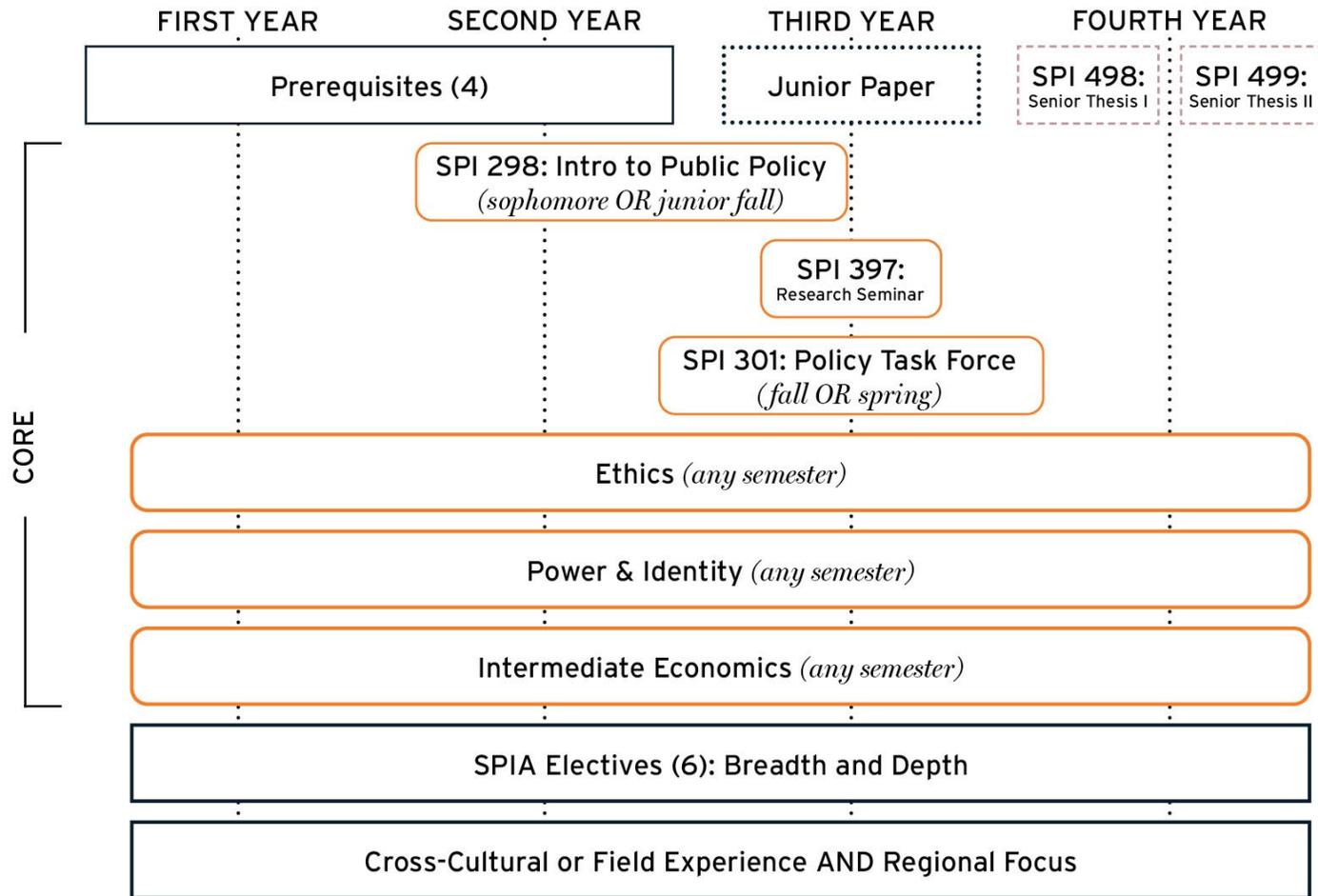
Undergraduate Policy Major

with Zacharia Ahmed

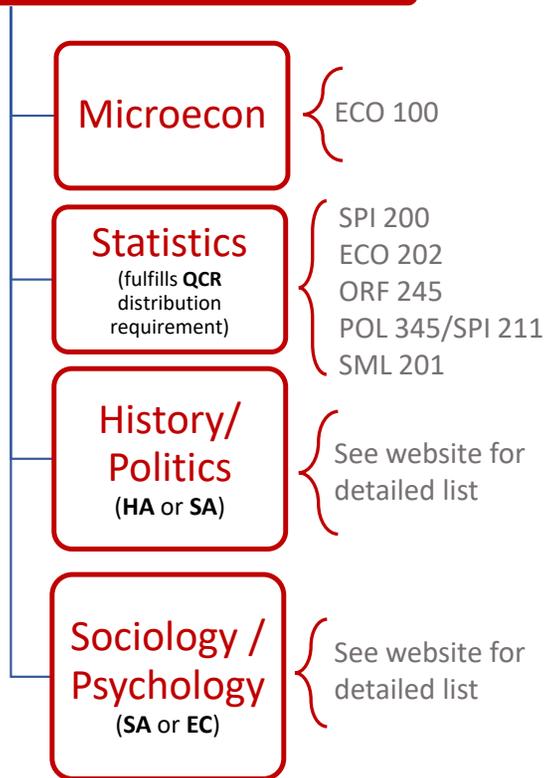


PRINCETON
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

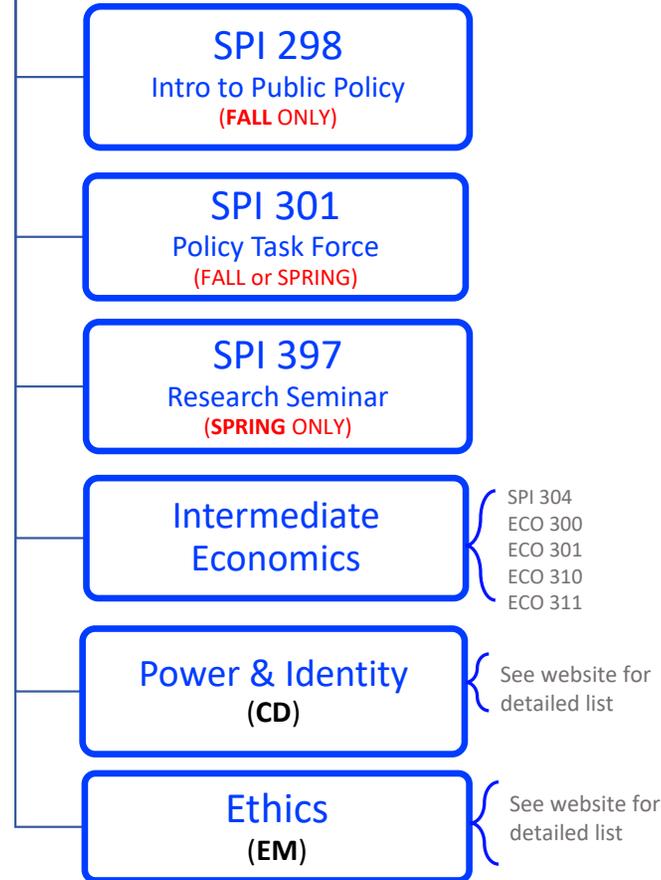
FOUR YEAR RHYTHM



Pre-requisites (4)



Core Courses (8)



School of Public and International Affairs

Undergraduate Major Course Requirements

Junior Independent Work
SPI 397

Senior Independent Work
SPI 498 & SPI 499

Electives (6)
Disciplinary Breadth
AND
Intellectual Depth

Regional Focus
(across all courses taken at Princeton)

Cultural/Field-Work

ELECTIVES

(6 courses)

Intellectual Depth (3) AND Disciplinary Breadth (3)

**Please note: all electives must be approved and listed on the master course list to count.
Additionally, all courses are recorded based on the home department title, no cross-listed departments will be taken into account**



ELECTIVES

(6 courses)

Intellectual Depth (3)

- **Thematic** Depth:

Three courses bound by a theme, drawn from SPIA-affiliated departments or SPIA-approved courses.

Thematic areas include:

1. Community and Individual Health, Education
2. Economic Development
3. Environment & Energy
4. Globalization & International Relations
5. Governance, Law & Citizenship
6. Inequality & Human Rights
7. National and International Security & Conflict

OR

- **Disciplinary** Depth:

Three courses in one SPIA-affiliated department – e.g., CEE, COS, ECO, EEB, GEO, HIS, MAE, POL, PSY, SOC, SPI



ELECTIVES

(6 courses)

Disciplinary Breadth (3)

- Three courses each from a unique SPIA-affiliated department listed here: CEE, COS, EEB, ENV, GEO, GHP, HIS, MAE, POL, PSY, SOC, SPI
- The SPIA-affiliated department used to fulfill the Breadth should not overlap with your Depth electives
- Among the six (6) electives, no more than three (3) courses may come from a single department.
- ECO excluded as it's already a required prerequisite and Core course.



Things to keep in mind.....

Regional Focus

Across all course work
at least **two courses** must have a substantive
focus on one particular continent.

Notes

No course may count as two (2) prerequisites, or core, or elective courses.

A single course may double or triple count as a prerequisite, core, and/or elective.

Across entire concentration, a maximum of five (5) courses may come from a single department,
not including SPI courses.



Master Course List



Tracking Progress

- Fillable PDF found on the SPIA website
- Use in collaboration with your adviser to ensure you are on track with all SPIA course work
- Strongly encourage all students to start using this now!

SPIA Undergraduate Program Degree Progress Worksheet – 2028+

Student Name:	
Graduating Class:	
Advisor Name:	



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Prerequisites		
Subject Area	Course Code	Semester Taken
Microeconomics		
Statistics		
SOC/PSY		
POL/HIS		

SPIA Core		
Requirement	Course Code	Semester Taken
Core:	SPI 298: Intro Public Policy	
Core:	SPI 301: Policy Task Force	
Core:	SPI 397: Research Seminar (JP)	
Core:	SPI 498: Senior Thesis (1)	
Core:	SPI 499: Senior Thesis (2)	
Power & Identity:		
Ethics:		
Intermediate Econ:		

Electives: Intellectual Depth (3)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary: OR <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic ¹ :		
Course Code	Course Title	Semester Taken

Electives: Disciplinary Breadth (3)		
Course Code	Course Title	Semester Taken

Additional Requirements		
Requirement	Title	Semester Taken
Field Experience		
Regional Focus (1) ²		
Regional Focus (2) ²		

¹This is an unofficial form/tracking of student progress¹

¹ Themes: (1)Comm. & Individual Health, Edu. & Well-being (2)Economic Dev. (3)Environment & Energy (4)Globalization & Intl. Relations (5)Gov. Law & Citizenship (6)Inequity & Human Rights (7)National and Intl. Security & Conflict

²Regional Focus: Select two courses completed across your course work with substantive focus on a particular region.

SPIA CULTURAL / FIELD-WORK REQUIREMENT

Examples from past years...

- Study Abroad
- Internships - Gov't
- Internship - Non-Profit
- Internship - PICS
- Internship - Int'l Agency
- Service in Underdeveloped Communities
- Princeton Bridge Year
- Global Seminars
- Thesis Research
- ROTC

Note: It is strongly recommended to check with our office to ensure that your experience will fulfill this requirement.



Considerations for Study Abroad

- **Options to study abroad in SPIA:**
 - **Junior Fall – location of your choice**
 - **Junior Spring – University of Cape Town (UCT)**
 - **Senior Fall – location of your choice, but you must have a confirmed thesis adviser by the end of junior spring**
- **If you plan to study abroad in the spring of your Junior year at the University of Cape Town, you must complete SPI 397 in the Fall of your Junior Year.**



Important Dates

- **Declaration Period:**
 - March 26 – April 14
- **Drop-in Advising Hours:**
 - March 30 – April 17 @ 4:30 – 5pm
 - Robertson Hall, Suite 114
- **Declaration Celebration**
 - April 22 @ 4:30pm
 - Robertson Hall, Shultz Café



PRINCETON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM OFFICE

Zacharia Ahmed

Undergraduate Academic Adviser

Jennifer Skillman

Academic Coordinator

Georgette Harrison

Administrative Coordinator

Liz Choe

Director, Undergraduate Program & Career Services

PRINCETON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Questions?

Email: spiaugrd@Princeton.edu

Website: spia.princeton.edu

Study Abroad Opportunities for SPIA Juniors



Why spend a semester abroad?



There are many benefits to integrating semester study abroad into your SPIA academic path at Princeton:

- Meet your “international affairs” vocation
 - Supplement your Princeton academic program
 - Challenge yourself by experiencing a different educational system
 - Hone your language skills
-
- Make yourself more competitive on the global job market
 - Discover new academic or extracurricular interests
 - Become more independent, flexible, and confident, and become better able to navigate ambiguity and difference
 - See the world
 - ... and more!

The SPIA Task Force model (Spring only)

- A unique semester format supported by SPIA
- Same goals as Task Forces at Princeton, but with the perk of an international setting
- Task Force seminar taught by a local faculty with expertise on a policy topic that is of particular interest for the country the program is running in
- The “best of both worlds,” as students also take courses at the local university – a great balance of being in a Princeton cohort and yet being independent
- For Spring 2027, the Task Force seminar abroad will be offered in the **Spring semester only**, and in **one location only: UCT South Africa—more on this later!**
- SPIA majors are **strongly encouraged to participate in the Task Force program** (min. 4 students per program to run it as a full seminar, but hopefully many more!) in Spring of junior year, although other options are available, e.g.,:
 - Summer study abroad (deadlines vary)
 - Fall semester study abroad on any regular programs of your choice

Other options – Summer and Fall

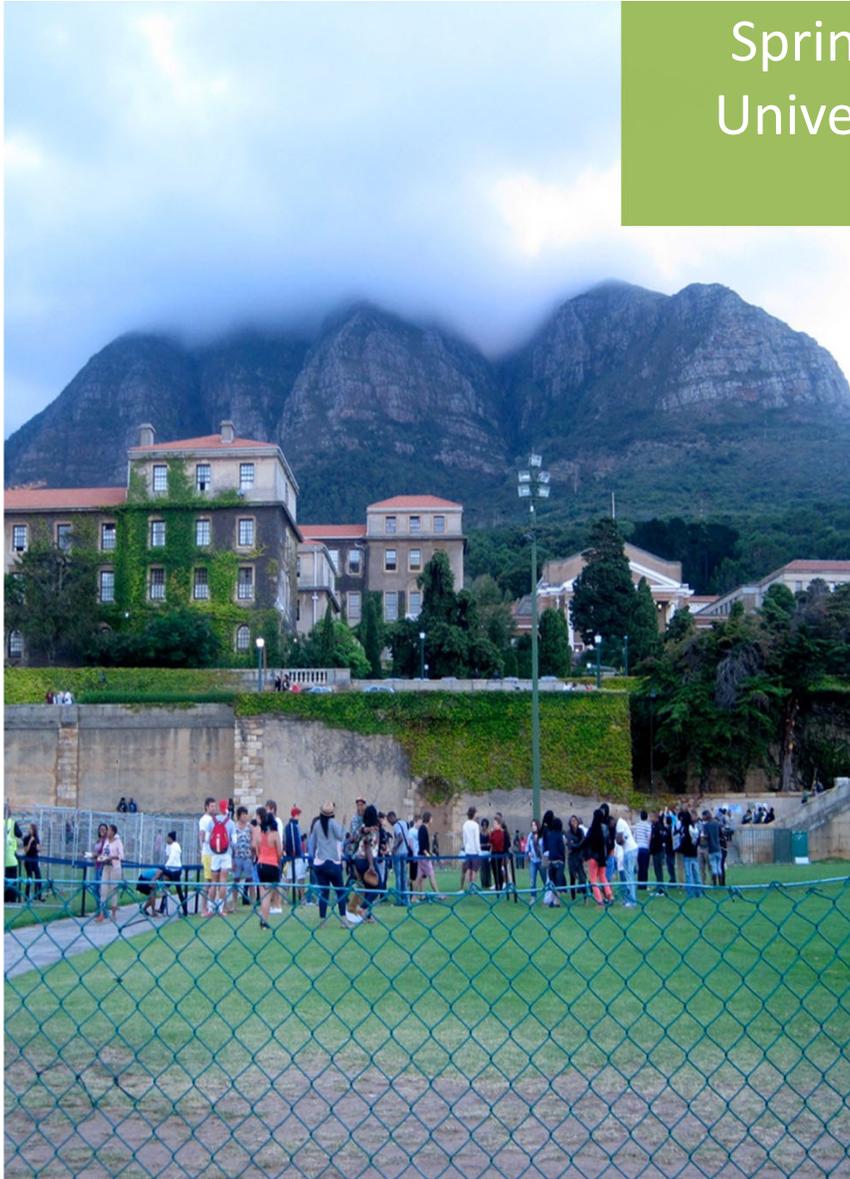
- **Summer 2026:**
 - Numerous faculty-led programs (PIIRS global seminars, language-intensive, departmental options): <https://oip.princeton.edu/our-programs/study-abroad/explore-programs/princeton-faculty-led-summer-study-abroad-programs> (a **few are still accepting students!**)
 - **Of special interest:** Policy Task Force in Geneva, Switzerland
 - Non-Princeton programs (transfer credit)—requires pre-approval, hurry up! (search in GPS and email ggisolo@princeton.edu with questions)
 - International internships-various programs/deadlines (no credit)
 - Summer funding available through SAFE/[Dean's Fund](#) to qualifying students
- **Fall 2026:**

THE PRINCETON FALL 2026 DEADLINE IS FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2026

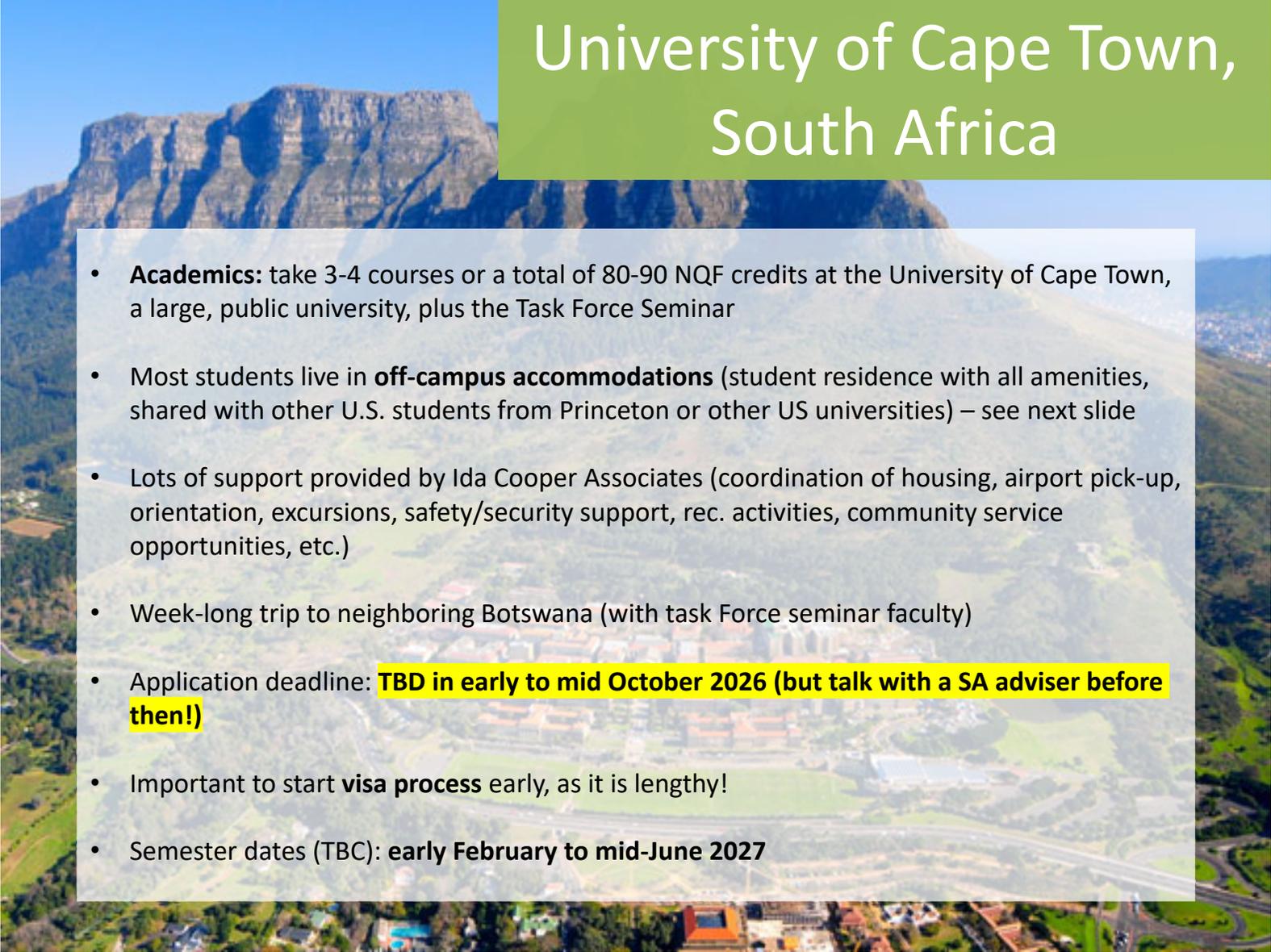
SPIA juniors and seniors may participate in any available study abroad program, subject to these conditions:

 - Pre-approval from SPIA
 - Meet a Study Abroad adviser to learn about language requirements (if any), app process/deadlines, etc.
 - Meet the host program's deadlines/requirements, and be accepted by them (**some programs are "rolling admissions," so important to know when they open in order to enhance your chances**)
 - Complete a study abroad app (including course approval form) in GPS
 - Always subject to GS&S's approval of international travel to specific countries

Spring 2027 Task Force @ The University of Cape Town, South Africa



- Cape Town offers immense natural beauty
- One of South Africa's most distinguished universities
- Princeton amongst the first universities to sign an agreement with UCT closely after the end of Apartheid
- Task force seminar instructor (Spring '26): Prof. Seekings, Dept. of Sociology, Director of the Center for Social Science Research and Interim Director of the Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa; specializes in poverty reduction, social protection, and welfare-state building.
- Task force focus is on social protection programs



University of Cape Town, South Africa

- **Academics:** take 3-4 courses or a total of 80-90 NQF credits at the University of Cape Town, a large, public university, plus the Task Force Seminar
- Most students live in **off-campus accommodations** (student residence with all amenities, shared with other U.S. students from Princeton or other US universities) – see next slide
- Lots of support provided by Ida Cooper Associates (coordination of housing, airport pick-up, orientation, excursions, safety/security support, rec. activities, community service opportunities, etc.)
- Week-long trip to neighboring Botswana (with task Force seminar faculty)
- Application deadline: **TBD in early to mid October 2026 (but talk with a SA adviser before then!)**
- Important to start **visa process** early, as it is lengthy!
- Semester dates (TBC): **early February to mid-June 2027**

Student Housing



Student Testimonials



- “Studying abroad in Cape Town was one of the best decisions I've made at Princeton. Being away from the orange bubble presented a liberating challenge to learn more, see more, and do more in order to make the most of my time there. If you're considering studying abroad here or in general, my first piece of advice is to go for it.”
- “My experiences outside the classroom benefited me both personally and academically. I learned to push myself out of my comfort zone when meeting new people and gain confidence, and academically, I saw firsthand the value of interview-based research.”
- “Cape Town is the most incredible place I've ever been in my life. It has astonishing natural beauty and also offers all the conveniences and fun of a big city. The people are amazingly friendly and laid back and you really are able to go to some genuinely jaw-dropping places and do incredible activities. Plus, the Ida Cooper program is a massive support who will help you through everything.”



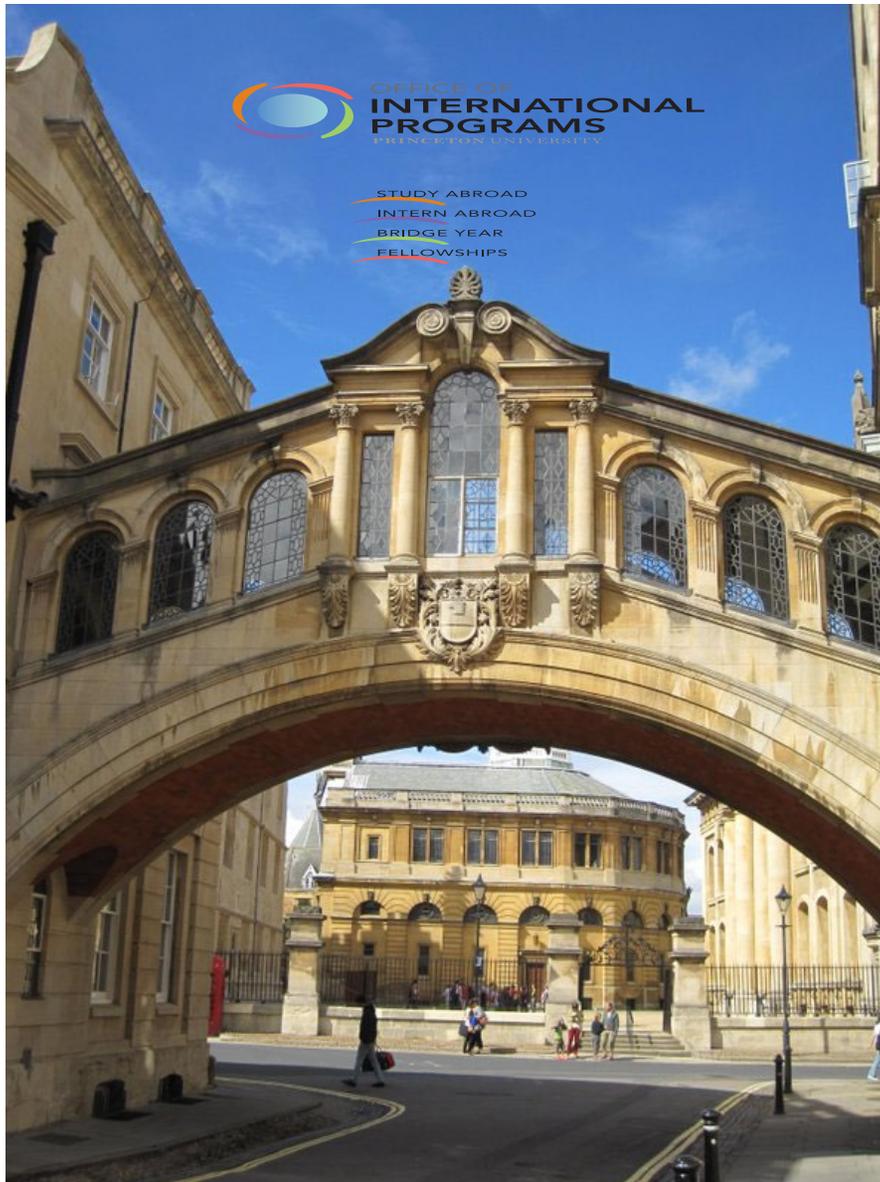
Semester study abroad

- **Eligibility**
 - Junior SPIA status
 - At least B average for previous academic year (but some programs may require higher)
 - Good disciplinary and academic standing
- **Academics Abroad**
 - Enroll in a full course load (varies by program)
 - Courses may fulfill departmental, certificate, distribution requirements or elective credits (all need to be pre-approved)
 - Transfer credit for courses taken abroad, provided you earn a D or better
 - Task Force will be given Princeton letter grade and Princeton credit
 - Task Force will be completed *in addition to* full- time coursework
- All **financial aid** travels with you
 - Adjusted up or down depending on actual cost of attendance
 - Family contribution (if any) remains the same



To recap...

- Meet with a SA adviser (program-based) if you have any questions or concerns
 - Schedule in Bookings
 - **Jordan Zilla: UCT**
- Complete an online application in GPS at gps.princeton.edu by these deadlines:
 - **UCT: early October (DATE TBD), 2026**
- Complete the application on the host website in addition to the GPS application:
 - Application requirements vary by program, but may include:
 - Official transcript(s)
 - Personal statement
 - CV/resume
 - Initial course selection
 - Academic reference(s)
 - Application form and any special supplementary documents
- Start working on your travel and visa documents:
 - Make sure you have a **valid passport** (expiring 6+ months after program's end) – it may take a few months to obtain or renew one
 - **Discuss estimated visa timelines** with your SA adviser



Apply & Go!

Meet with an adviser
(Schedule in Booking):

- Amanda El-Kadi: a.elkadi@
- Gisella Gisolo: ggisolo@
- **Jordan Zilla: jzilla@ (UCT)**
- Olga Liamkina: olga.liamkina@

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