**Mission**

Intercultural engagement—including community development, humanitarian outreach, and integrative research skills—is essential for a globalized world and increasingly important to our student population. Union’s M.A. in Intercultural Studies (M.A.I.S.)—integrative, academically rigorous, missional—is a 39-credit-hour graduate program that provides its students with an interdisciplinary approach to current theory and research relevant to intercultural engagement.

**Admission Information**

**Admissions requirements**

All students, whether degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking, who wish to take M.A.I.S. courses must submit the following information:

- Completed application to the M.A.I.S. and $25 application fee. (Apply online at uu.edu/applications/graduate/)
- Official transcript(s) showing all course work, completion of baccalaureate degree(s), and all graduate credit previously attempted. Even if withdrawal occurred prior to earning credits and even if those credits do not apply to the current degree being sought, official transcripts must be sent from each institution.
- Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score.
- Three references from people who know your academic, communication, and leadership abilities; one must be from a former professor. A copy of the reference form is attached to the application.
- Completed Certificate of Immunization. The certificate is attached to the application.
- A 9–11 page writing sample submitted to the Director of the M.A.I.S.
- A 2–3 page Statement of Purpose, outlining the anticipated research and vocational goals you anticipate achieving through the M.A.I.S.

**Additional admissions requirements for international students:**

- Visit the International Student page: www.uu.edu/international/forms/graduate-application.pdf
- Contact the Union University International Student Advisor and PDSO, Pam Whitnell: pwhitnell@uu.edu
- Completed International Graduate Student Application: uu.edu/international/forms/MAIS-intl.pdf
- Proof of Finances: uu.edu/international/forms/finances-grad-intl.pdf
- “Certificate of Physical Examination.”

- Official TOEFL score of 83 or higher.
- Official evaluation of transcript(s). Union University accepts only National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) certified transcript evaluation companies including but not limited to World Education Services.

**Admission and Conditional Admission**

Admission to the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies program is based on the overall record and aptitude of the applicant. The M.A.I.S. Director and the M.A.I.S. Admissions Committee will determine whether to accept or conditionally accept an applicant based on the overall record and aptitude of the candidate.

After successfully completing one semester in the M.A.I.S. program, including a minimum of 6 hours of UU courses with at least a 3.0 average, students who are conditionally admitted will earn full admission to the program.

**Program Features**

The curriculum for the program consists of a 27-hour core of classes and a 12-hour emphasis approved by the program director. As a low-residency program, the delivery system for the core classes is intensive and full-time status for a regular semester is 6 graduate credit hours. At other times throughout the course, students complete readings, online course activities and other assignments as required by the professor. Dates for the intensive course meetings are announced as part of the preregistration process each term. Transfer credit: maximum 6 hours with grades of B or higher and approval of Director.

**Academic Calendar and Schedules**

Calendars and Schedules of Course offerings for the M.A.I.S. program are available from the Program Coordinator.

**Graduation Requirements**

Completion of the 39 credit hours of required coursework, including an approved 12 credit-hour emphasis with a total minimum grade point average of 3.0 or higher. For more information regarding the 12 credit-hour program emphasis, see the concluding section of this program’s catalog entry.
Financial Information

Application Fee: $25
General Student Fee: 20/hour
Tuition/semester hour: $475

If a student withdraws from a class that meets on the intensive weekend schedule, any refund will be prorated according to the course time elapsed at the time of the withdrawal.

All financial information is subject to change without notice.

Financial Assistance

Financial aid information for graduate students is available on our website at www.uu.edu/financialaid/graduate/. Generally, graduate students may be eligible for Federal Direct student loans or private alternative student loans, depending on the program of study and the eligibility of the borrower. Union University is also approved by the Department for Veterans Affairs to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents of veterans who qualify for Veterans Benefits. Any person who qualifies for VA Benefits should check with the Office of Student Financial Planning as soon as possible after acceptance into a graduate program.

Course Offerings in Intercultural Studies (ICS)

510. Intercultural Communication (3)
An examination of intercultural communication with a focus on self-awareness and developing effective communication.

515. International Professional Realities and Opportunities (3)
An introduction to the professional intercultural environment designed to help the student develop an awareness and understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to develop a professional framework for employment in other cultures.

520. Organizational Systems of Society (3)
A study of organizational systems encountered across cultures. Emphasis is on developing skills necessary for the recognition and assessment of systems and strategies for successful interaction with these systems.

525. Field Research Methods (3)
A course designed to provide students with conceptual tools and research skills in the area of comparative cultural studies. The hands-on approach helps students prepare to design and conduct their own ethnographic research in culturally diverse settings. All students are required to complete the appropriate security training course prior to beginning field research.

530. Field Data Analysis and Strategic Planning (3)
A course that builds on in-class and applied field research knowledge by guiding students through the process of field data analysis. Attention is given to both qualitative and quantitative analytical methods. Students participate in process-focused learning and writing workshops which culminate in the preparation of case-study reports based on their field research/data.

535. Artistic and Intellectual Expressions of Culture (3)
An emphasis on how to develop learning skills to understand the lexicon, grammar, and semantics of other intellectual and artistic systems encountered across cultures.

540. Language and Culture (3)
A study of language development and its relationship to culture. Examines principles of language acquisition and language teaching methodologies.

545. Capstone Seminar (3)
Students complete an integrative interdisciplinary research project that demonstrates their understanding of the principles, themes and concepts that are foundational to the core curriculum of the MAIS and the student’s professional emphasis. A formal written presentation and a formal oral presentation of the research are required.

555. Field Experience (3)
Field experience in which students will conduct ethnographic research. All projects must have instructor’s approval.

579. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

579PF. External Domestic Study Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

580. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

580PF. Study Abroad Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

585. Special Studies in Intercultural Studies (1-4)
Studies which do not appear in the department course offerings. Course content will be determined by need.

655. Independent Study (1-4)
Individual research and study under the guidance of a graduate faculty member.
M.A.I.S. Emphases

The M.A.I.S.’s 12-hour program emphasis is designed to enhance a student’s learning experience and/or provide specialization for a given student’s vocational goals. The Director of the M.A.I.S. works with students to craft emphases that are cohesive, academically rigorous, and interculturally relevant. Primary consideration is given to emphases completed within the MAIS, while secondary consideration is given to emphases completed within Union’s graduate coursework.

Emphases within the M.A.I.S.

Students seeking intercultural theory, research, and internships/externships work with the M.A.I.S. Program Director to craft an emphasis within the program.

Emphases within Union’s graduate programming

Students seeking emphases of a disciplinary nature may propose coursework from other Union graduate programs. Partnering with Union’s AACSB-accredited Masters in Business Administration (MBA), the Masters in Christian Studies (MCS), the CSWE-accredited Masters in Social Work (MSW), and the Department of Languages, the MA in Intercultural Studies offers an emphasis in Business, Christian Studies, Social Work, French, and Spanish. The MA in Intercultural Studies also offers graduate training in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). These programs provide an integrative framework for current theory, practice, and research for those seeking private and public sector opportunities both stateside and abroad. Students are encouraged to pursue structured field experiences relevant to their vocational interests when available.

Emphases include but are not limited to the following:

Business Emphasis, Intercultural Studies

Business Emphasis Course Options: For the M.A.I.S. program’s three-course research sequence, students pursuing this program of study may craft their research around business and commerce-related phenomena. Students will work with the M.A.I.S. Program Director to craft an emphasis best suited for their individual vocational goals. Course options for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) emphasis include the following (see MBA section of the catalogue for course descriptions): MBA 620 Ethical Management, MBA 621 Business & the Legal Environment, MBA 622 Social Issues in Management, MBA 628 Strategic Marketing, MBA 630 Management Information Systems, MBA 643 Negotiations & Conflict Resolution, MBA 648 Organizational Behavior.

Christian Studies Emphasis, Intercultural Studies

Christian Studies Emphasis Course Options: For the M.A.I.S. program’s three-course research sequence, students pursuing this program of study may craft their research around theological, faith-based, and/or worship-based phenomena. Students will work with the M.A.I.S. Program Director to craft an emphasis best suited for their individual vocational goals. MAIS students interested in pursuing appointment with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention should consult the Director of the MCS to devise an M.A.I.S. program emphasis that meets IMB’s requirements. Course options for the Masters of Christian Studies (MCS) emphasis include the following (see MCS section of the catalogue for course descriptions):

MCS 500 Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise
MCS 505 Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God’s Rule
MCS 520 Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching
MCS 530 Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity
MCS 531 Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity
MCS 537 Introduction to Christian Ethics
MCS 538 Christian Leadership
MCS 545 Theology I: God, Revelation, and Humanity
MCS 546 Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things

Human Services Emphasis, Intercultural Studies

Human Services Emphasis Course Options: For the M.A.I.S. program’s three-course research sequence, students pursuing this program of study may craft their research around a range of human services-related phenomena. Students will work with the M.A.I.S. Program Director to craft an emphasis best suited for their individual vocational goals. Course options for the Masters in Social Work (MSW) emphasis include the following (see MSW section of the catalogue for course descriptions): SW 500 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I: Theoretical Foundations, SW 501 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II: Assessment through the Lifespan, SW 510 Social Welfare and Social Justice, SW 522 Aging Issues and Services, SW 526 Children and Families at Risk, SW 535 Policy Analysis and Advocacy, SW 550 Grant Writing and Grant Management, SW 551 Spirituality and Religion in Social Work Practice, SW 555 Gender and Sexuality, SW 557 Faith-Based Social Services.

French or Spanish Emphasis, Intercultural Studies

French or Spanish Emphasis Course Options: For the M.A.I.S. program’s three-course research sequence, students pursuing this program of study may craft their research around a variety of ethnolinguistic points of inquiry. Students will work with the M.A.I.S. Program Director to craft an emphasis best suited for their individual vocational goals. Course options for the French or Spanish emphasis include the following (see M.A.Ed. section of the catalogue for course descriptions): EDU 523 Instructional Methodology for Modern Languages in Secondary School, LANG 579 External Domestic Study Programs, LANG 580 Study Abroad Programs, LANG 585 Special Studies in Language, LANG 598 Seminar, LANG 640 Special Studies in Language, LANG 655 Independent Study, LANG 680 Research in Language Education A, LANG 685 Research in Language Education B.
English as a Second Language Emphasis, Intercultural Studies

TESL Emphasis Course Options: For the M.A.I.S. program’s three-course research sequence, students pursuing this program of study may craft their research around sociolinguistic phenomena and/or action research in language teaching-learning settings. Students are encouraged to pursue structured field experiences relevant to language teaching on and off campus and when available. Students will work with the M.A.I.S. Program Director to craft an emphasis best suited for their individual vocational goals. Course options include the following (see M.A.Ed. section of the catalogue for course descriptions):

TESL 510 Language and Acquisition
TESL 515 Language & Literacy
TESL 520 Critical Contexts of Language Assessment
TESL 530 Theory & Practice: Language Curriculum Development
EDU 523 Instructional Methodology for Modern Languages in Secondary School