

Tips for applying to the MA in International Studies

Applying for graduate studies is a major undertaking. Below are some tips for applicants seeking to pursue the MA in International Studies (MA INTS).

1) **Get the info:** Read the pages on the MA INTS website (<http://www.unbc.ca/international-studies-graduate-program>) and look over the UNBC Graduate Calendar (<http://www.unbc.ca/calendar/graduate>) to ensure you have an understanding of the programs and graduate studies at UNBC.

2) **Start your application early:** You will need to write a statement of academic interest, order transcripts, prepare a writing sample, request letters of references, contact a potential supervisor, and/or apply for external scholarships. You should start *at minimum* 6 weeks before the application deadline in order to ensure you put together a high quality application. Remember the application process is highly competitive and that a sloppy application will reflect poorly on you.

3) **Finding a potential supervisor:** A supervisor is a faculty member who mentors a graduate student in their research. You are strongly encouraged to identify a prospective supervisor prior to applying for admission. Check the MA INTS faculty pages and identify a potential supervisor that *most closely* fits your general area of research interests. Contact one faculty member at a time by email. It is suggested you:

- Communicate to the faculty member your interest in applying to the MA INTS;
- Describe your research interests (see point 5 below) and academic background;
- Ask if they are currently taking on graduate students (and if so, request if they would be willing to be your prospective supervisor);
- If you cannot identify a prospective supervisor contact the INTS MA Graduate Advisor.

4) **Learn about the application process:** Make sure you become familiar with UNBC's electronic application process (<http://www.unbc.ca/apply/graduate>) before you apply.

5) **Academic interests:** The Statement of Academic Interest is the most important part of your application. Approach it like a mini-essay (2-3 pages) and be sure to include:

- Your area of academic interest and/or topic you wish to research (mention any academic, volunteer or professional work you have done related to the area/topic);
- How your past education and other experiences have prepared you to be successful during your MA studies;
- How the MA INTS fits with your academic/research interests (i.e., if your research interests related to one of the three program streams of our program and/or the research areas of our faculty);
- If you have identified a potential supervisor (identify them by name, see point 3 above);
- Your longer-term career goals.

6) **Scholarships:** Applicants are encouraged to apply for scholarships. You should spend time identifying which internal (UNBC) and external scholarships you may be eligible for and apply for as many as you are eligible for. If you have specific questions about UNBC scholarships contact the *Graduate Awards and Project Officer* in the Office of Graduate Programs (see <http://www.unbc.ca/graduate-programs>)

7) **Get the checklist:** Make sure you provide all the materials requested by the Office of Graduate Studies checklist for the MA INTS (<http://www.unbc.ca/graduate-application-checklists>)

Good luck!

If you have any questions, please contact us at internationalstudies@unbc.ca