

International Criminal Justice Major Frequently Asked Questions

This list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions is intended to help students navigate their studies here at the College and afterwards. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the Coordinator, Prof. Peter Romaniuk, (3254N, x8189, promaniuk@jjay.cuny.edu) to discuss your special questions and problems. We recommend that ICJ majors make a appointment annually (at least) with the ICJ director for a course audit.

What is the ICJ major and how does it differ from the Criminal Justice major (CJR)?

The ICJ major is interdisciplinary in nature and covers a wide range of criminal justice related topics from a global perspective. It focuses primarily on international crimes such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, including torture and terrorism, and transnational crimes such as trafficking and money laundering. It provides a foundation for advanced education in international relations, international economics, international human rights, international politics, comparative criminology and criminal justice. On the other hand, the CRJ major focuses on criminal justice and criminology in the United States.

How can I find out about career opportunities available to ICJ majors?

The ICJ Coordinator has a special handout on this topic. You may also use the College's Office of Career Development Center, Room 3138 North Hall, Phone: (212) 237-8754. Remember that the best job for you is one that uses your knowledge, skills and language skills.

How do I know if I am to follow the new curriculum or old curriculum for the major?

The ICJ Major went through a redesign of the curriculum in 2007. Students who entered the college as of Fall 2007 are under the new curriculum. This is the curriculum currently in the Undergraduate Bulletin, available from the Registrar. Both the old and new curriculum are also available from the ICJ Director.

Is a foreign language required for the major?

Yes. The new curriculum requires a 200-level foreign language course which in turn requires a 100 level course as a prerequisite. Students should therefore complete the 100 level foreign language requirements for the general education credits in their freshman and sophomore years. Please consult the Foreign Language Department for language placement and further details.

How should an ICJ major sequence courses?

Usually students in their first and second year of college try to finish all the general education requirements. ICJ students must take these courses seriously, because they provide students with basic skills such as language, speech, and written English.

Within the major, students must plan to take ICJ401 a capstone seminar course (see Part VI- that provides a synthesis of all key issues that learned while majoring in International Criminal Justice) no earlier than their second to last or last semester at the College.

What G.P.A. should one maintain?

It is best to aim for a GPA over 3.0 if you plan to list it on your resume or get into a reputable graduate school. At John Jay College of Criminal Justice, baccalaureate students qualify for three levels of academic honors upon graduation:

- *summa cum laude* (with highest distinction), awarded to students whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.8
- *magna cum laude* (with great distinction), awarded to students whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.5
- *cum laude* (with distinction), awarded to students whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2

This distinction is noted on the student's transcript. Grades earned at John Jay College, including failures, enter into the computation.

Can one substitute courses within the ICJ curriculum?

Yes, within certain limitations. Course substitutions are allowed only for Part IV & V and they must be authorized by the ICJ coordinator and the relevant department chair. A maximum of three course substitutions is permitted. Only courses at the same level or higher (e.g. 200s, 300s) may be substituted for ICJ major courses. There must be a valid reason for wishing to substitute a course. Course substitution forms are available at One Stop and online at <http://johnjay/jjay.cuny.edu/os/>.

Can ICJ students do independent study courses?

Yes, permission to pursue independent study course(s) is granted by the faculty member and their department chair. If you have a topic that you would like to research in depth that coincides with a faculty member's research interest, you may approach him/her for an independent study course. Each department has assigned a code for independent study supervised by a faculty member. For example, SOC for a member of the Sociology Department, and the course will have its own name which will appear on your transcript. To register, obtain an independent study form from One Stop and bring it to the professor to complete.

What minors should ICJ majors pursue?

Minors are considered to be a second field of specialization. Though it is not required to declare a minor, this helps to extend the scope of the major. For example, a minor in Spanish language may help to prepare ICJ students for employment or study abroad.

There are about 30 minors at the college. Students should declare minors by the time they have earned 75 credits by submitting a Declaration of Minor Form to One Stop. The form is available online at One Stop, <http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/os/>.

Can ICJ majors take courses offered by Interdisciplinary Studies department?

Yes, if the course has an international dimension. Please note that the course can be substituted only for the courses in Part IV category A and B. Students planning to substitute this course must consult with the ICJ coordinator before registering.

Can ICJ majors apply for the McNair program?

Yes. Several of our majors have been McNair scholars. See information at: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/1451.php>

What Honor Societies can ICJ majors apply to join?

ICJ students can become members of **Alpha Phi Sigma (National Criminal Justice Honor Society)** and **Phi Eta Sigma (National Freshman Honor Society)** providing that they meet the membership requirements. Please see information at: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/1237.php>

Which clubs are most related to the ICJ major?

There are over 40 student organizations. Visit the Office of Student Activities or see the Undergraduate bulletin p. 197-198. We particularly recommend the ICJ Club and the National Model United Nations Club.

How do I find an internship that is relevant to my major?

The Internship Office, located at 3400 North Hall, has a number of placements that are relevant to ICJ majors. Professor Barberet (520.10T, x8676, rbarberet@jjay.cuny.edu) is in charge of the Internships for ICJ and has an additional listing of placements for ICJ majors.. There are many internship opportunities available for students in the tri-state area and abroad. Some, such as federal agencies, will only take US citizens. Others (embassies) prefer their own citizens. We

highly recommend you to pursue at least one internship. To obtain credit for an internship, you must meet the credit and GPA requirements of our College, complete 96 hours satisfactorily at an approved placement as well as additional classroom-based coursework. Before registering for the internship during the regular registration period, you must pre-register with the Career Development Center. For further information, call 212-237-8435 or email interncooped@jjay.cuny.edu.

If you are considering doing an internship abroad, please consult Prof.. Barberet for credits.

How do I get a letter of recommendation?

It is best to request letters of recommendation from full time faculty in the courses of the major who have given you high grades (B+ or above). These professors know you well and can write a convincing and detailed letter. Be sure to give your referees ample notice of the deadline for the letter and provide them with a copy of your transcript, resume, personal statement or essay, along with any special instructions for the letter, the deadline by which it is required and to whom it should be sent.

If you are unable to obtain a letter from faculty, the ICJ Coordinator can supply you with one. However, unless the ICJ Coordinator has been one of your instructors, the letter of recommendation is likely to be perfunctory.

Are there study abroad opportunities for ICJ students?

Yes, the college has developed and is developing study abroad programs. Examples of such are the three week summer programs in Morocco, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and the Salzburg Global Seminar program in Austria over Spring Break. To learn more about these programs, please contact Ken Lewandoski, 212.484.1339 or email klewandoski@jjay.cuny.edu

Are there conferences that ICJ students can attend?

We highly recommend that students attend professional conferences, such as the annual conference of the American Society of Criminology in November (www.asc41.com) or the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in March (www.acjs.org). These conferences offer reduced registration rates for students. Students who are members of the United Nations Students Association can attend the National Model United Nations Conference.

What skills do ICJ students need?

ICJ majors should ensure that they master minimum workplace skills while in college. These include research skills (including online database and internet search skills), computer skills

(Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and foreign language proficiency. Writing and communication skills are crucial for achieving excellence. This is especially important for ICJ majors because of the future job prospects in the ICJ field. Contact writing center if help is needed in developing these skills..

Can ICJ Majors pursue the BA/MA program?

No, they would have to change their major to Public Administration, Criminal Justice or Forensic Psychology. However, a BA/MA program in ICJ is planned once the M.A. Program in International Crime and Justice is running in Fall of 2010.

Should I pursue graduate study and where can I pursue an M.A. in ICJ?

A baccalaureate degree in International Criminal Justice prepares you for entry level positions. Many intergovernmental agencies will only consider applicants with a Masters degree, and at many other agencies, you can negotiate a higher starting salary with Masters degree.

John Jay College has developed a Masters Degree in International Crime and Justice, slated to start in Fall 2010. Many ICJ students pursue graduate study in a variety of fields: law, international relations, international human rights political science, public health, criminology, criminal justice and sociology.

In the tri-state area, here are the main programs in international affairs:

New York University, Global Affairs
Columbia University, International Affairs
Columbia University, Human Rights Studies
Columbia University, Political Science, International Affairs
CUNY City College, International Relations
CUNY Graduate Center, Political Science, International Relations
Fordham, International Political Economy and Development
Rutgers, Master of Science in Global Affairs (M.S.)
The New School, International Affairs

In the tri-state area, here are the main programs in criminology:

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, MA in Criminal Justice
Rutgers University, MA in Criminal Justice
St. John's University, MA in Criminology and Justice
New York University, J.D.-M.A. dual degree in law and society.

Here are current MA programs in international criminal justice:

United States:

St. Mary's University –Texas, International Relations MA (<http://www.stmarytx.edu>)

United Kingdom:

The University of Sheffield, International Criminology, MA.

(<http://shef.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/law/criminology.html>)

University of Leeds, MA in International and Comparative Criminal Justice

(www.law.leeds.ac.uk)

University of Portsmouth, International Criminal Justice MSc (www.port.ac.uk)

University of Greenwich, MA in International Criminology

<http://www.gre.ac.uk/courses/pg/cri/intcrim>

University of Wales, Bangor, Comparative Criminology & Criminal Justice MA,

www.bangor.ac.uk

Are scholarships available for ICJ Majors?

There are no special scholarships for ICJ majors, but many general scholarships are perfectly suitable. Contact: The Scholarship Office, 1285 North Hall, Phone: 212-237-8872, Michael Scaduto, Scholarship Coordinator. email:mscaduto@jjay.cuny.edu; <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/scholarships.php>

Is it helpful for ICJ majors seeking employment to be a citizen of more than one country?

Yes. Many intergovernmental organizations hire on the basis of equitable geographic representation. In such an organization, equally qualified citizens of a small nation (e.g. Grenada) would have more of a chance than ones from a large nation (e.g. the United States), because of the size of the pool of candidates.