



Elliott School students can arrange to receive credit for individualized academic projects through an Independent Study. The student is expected to engage in study that is supervised by a faculty advisor. Independent Study coursework must not duplicate courses that are traditionally offered at the University. The final work product must have been developed with the Independent Study faculty advisor.

The faculty advisor may be any full-time GW professor; however, he/she must have knowledge of the issue or topic the student will explore in the independent study. The responsibilities for the faculty advisor include:

- Sign the student's Independent Study application
- Meet with the student regularly during the semester
- Assign appropriate readings, review/revise the final product periodically Submit a grade at the end of the semester*

** The Graduate Student Services office will email the faculty advisor at the end of the semester to request a grade.*

Academic Requirements:

Research Paper - Students must complete a research paper relevant to contemporary international affairs. The paper is to be developed over the course of the semester in conjunction with the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor has final approval on all aspects of the paper except the length, which is set by the Elliott School.*

Readings - Decisions regarding what books and articles must be read are to be negotiated by the student and the faculty advisor. Faculty advisors may assign readings or they may approve readings that students suggest if they feel the content is appropriate and relevant. In addition, faculty advisors have the authority to set deadlines and assign any related work.

Faculty/Student Meetings - The faculty advisor and student will meet regularly throughout the semester.

* The number of credits determines the length of the research paper:

- 1 credit = 10 page minimum
- 2 credits = 20 page minimum
- 3 credits = 30 page minimum



Name

GWID

GW Email

Degree Program

Semester of Independent Study (select one)

Fall

Spring

Summer

Year

Number of Credits (select one)

One

Two

Three

Faculty Advisor (please print)

Faculty Advisor Email Address

Brief Description of Project/Assignment

Student Agreement

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Agreement

Faculty Signature

Date

GSS Academic Advisor Approval:

Approved on Plan of Study

RTF submitted to Registrar

Authorized Signature

Date