

Elliott School Research and Internship Course Options

Research Option	Eligibility	What You Do/Produce	When	Course Subject, Number, and Total Credits	Minimum Cumulative GPA	Application/Registration Timeline	Application/Registration Procedure	Need Faculty Advisor?	Qualifies for ESIA Special Honors?
Independent Study	Juniors, Seniors	You write an independent research paper, the length of which depends on how many credits you intend to earn. You work with a faculty advisor, but you do not attend a class. You earn a letter grade.	Either semester	IAFF 3198 (1-3 credits)	3.0	Start of registration through end of second week of semester when pursuing the Independent Study.	Complete the online request form, hosted here when open: https://elliott.gwu.edu/student-research-opportunities	Yes	No
Research Seminars	Juniors, Seniors	Intensive readings, discussion, research, and writing. Includes a significant engagement in writing as a form of critical inquiry and scholarly expression to satisfy the WID requirement. You earn a letter grade.	Either semester	IAFF 4191W (3 credits)	3.4	Start of registration through end of second week of semester when taking the course.	Register via GWEB. Restricted to 60 credits plus, and 3.4 or higher GPA at time of registration.	No	Yes, if taken Sr year; grade of A- or higher, and cum GPA of 3.7 upon graduation; 60 cr. in residence at GW
Team Based Applied Learning Seminars	Juniors, Seniors	Students work together in teams to engage in applied research, project design, or semester-long simulations.	Either semester	IAFF 4192 (3 credits)	3.4	Start of registration through end of second week of semester when taking the course.	Register via GWEB. Restricted to 60 credits plus, and 3.4 or higher GPA at time of registration.	No	No
Senior Thesis	Seniors	You write an independent research paper (at least 30 pages of text). You work with a faculty advisor, but you do not attend a class. You earn a letter grade.	Either semester	IAFF 4199 (3 credits)	3.4	Start of registration through end of second week of semester when taking the course.	Complete the online request form, hosted here when open: https://elliott.gwu.edu/student-research-opportunities	Yes	Yes; taken Senior year; grade of A- or higher, and cumulative GPA of 3.7 upon graduation; 60 credits in residence at GW.
Internship for Credit	Soph, Juniors, and Seniors	You obtain an internship in the area of int'l affairs and you write a research paper (length based on number of credits) on a topic related to the internship. You work with a faculty advisor, but you do not attend a class. This is Pass/No Pass - no letter grade assigned.	Fall, spring, or summer	IAFF 3195 (1-3 credits)	Good academic standing	Start of registration through end of second week of semester when taking the course and completing the internship.	Complete the online request form, hosted here when open: https://elliott.gwu.edu/student-research-opportunities	Yes	No
Internship Professional Development Seminar	Must have completed at least 24 credit hours at GW or at a previous college/university	Reflective journal assignments, video where you discuss what you learned at your internship in response to a future interview scenario, paper integrating what you learned at your internship with research on a specific content area related to your areas of interest in international affairs OR a paper reflecting on an informational interview with an experienced professional in your field of interest	Fall or spring	IAFF 3196	Good academic standing	Start of registration through end of first week of semester when taking the course and completing the internship.	1. Email Professor Sheehan at laurasheehan@email.gwu.edu 2. Complete the online request form, hosted here when open: https://elliott.gwu.edu/student-research-opportunities	No	No
Dean's Scholars	Juniors	Students who are selected for this special program participate during two semesters and ultimately produce a paper of at least 30 pages.	Spring semester of junior year and fall semester of senior year	Before you start DS, take a qualitative or quantitative research methods course. Junior Spring: IAFF 3197 Senior Fall: IAFF 4193W	3.5	For cohort starting 2027: Application due Fall 2026 https://elliott.gwu.edu/deans-scholars-program	Submit the Dean's Scholar's online application. More Information is available on website. Questions can be emailed to: esiascholars@gwu.edu More info: https://elliott.gwu.edu/deans-scholars-program	Yes, confirm in spring semester of Junior Year	Yes; grade of A- or higher, and cum GPA of 3.7 upon graduation; 60 cr. in residence at GW.

Students pursuing any of these options may apply for funding to support their research via the Elliott School Undergraduate Research Award and other possible funding sources. For more information on the above opportunities, visit <https://elliott.gwu.edu/student-research-opportunities>.