



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# International Relations

## International Relations Program

### SENIOR HONORS THESIS APPLICATION FORM

Academic Year 2019-2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thematic Concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

IR Core Faculty Thesis Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed applications should be submitted to the International Relations Program Office in Packard Hall, Room 001, or sent electronically to [internationalrelations@tufts.edu](mailto:internationalrelations@tufts.edu), with the subject heading "IR Senior Honor Thesis Application", by the application deadline.

**Applications are due: Monday, April 29, 2019 by 4:30PM.**

Applications must include the following:

1. **Thesis Prospectus.** Submit a thesis prospectus (no more than 5 pages). Please consult the research prospectus guidelines on the next page for more information.
2. **IR Core Faculty Thesis Advisor.** Secure sponsorship by an IR Core Faculty member with expertise in the student's thematic concentration. The faculty sponsor will serve as the primary thesis advisor.
3. **Unofficial Transcript.** Note: A&S rules require that you have achieved the dean's list twice to be approved for honors thesis work.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESEARCH PROSPECTUS GUIDELINES

Although a prospectus encompasses only a few pages (including a bibliography) it requires a great deal of thought, reading and planning. It means that you must begin researching a topic before you commit to writing a paper on the subject. Often, initial research reveals that the topic has already been adequately addressed or that source materials are unobtainable.

1. **Frame a research question.**

Good research begins with questions that beg for answers.

2. **Provide a summary of previous research in the field.**

Show how others have answered (or not answered) the question you have posed. You may group different authors under two or three categories of approaches to the problem. Provide a brief summary of each position. Explain what is right or wrong about the various positions. Then, suggest how your efforts will contribute to the debate and advance the state of knowledge on the subject.

3. **Frame your working hypothesis.**

Offer your best hypothesis about how you expect to answer the question. A hypothesis is not a contract. You may find your initial instincts about a problem to be misguided (much good research does!). By beginning with a hypothesis, you give yourself a guide for proceeding with research.

4. **Discuss the types of evidence you plan to examine.**

Discuss what types of evidence, should they exist, you would need to fully test your hypothesis. Make sure to identify evidence that would disprove your thesis as well as that which would confirm it. Academic integrity requires that you look for both. Consider which primary and secondary source materials you would need in order to comprehensively examine available evidence. If possible, state where collections or data sources are physically located, being sure to indicate whether they are accessible.

5. **Include a working bibliography.**

Provide a focused list of source materials you have consulted or plan to consult. Do not hesitate to identify gaps in your sources, as the IR Core Faculty is well-trained to help you fill them.