

# SIGMA IOTA RHO

## Quick Reference Sheet

### History of Sigma Iota Rho

In 1983, the dean of the School of International Services at American University in Washington, D.C., during an initiation service for Pi Gamma Mu, the national political science honor society, observed that a high proportion of the new inductees were actually IR majors who had taken enough courses in political science to qualify for membership. A degree program in IR had been offered since 1958, but no society existed to recognize the achievement of honors. Informal consultation among honor students and faculty agreed that a new society for International Relations would be useful.

On the basis of the standard similar to those of Phi Beta Kappa, students with outstanding academic records were invited to become the first twenty members of *Sigma Iota Rho*. The first inaugural dinner for twelve students was held in Washington on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1984.

### Membership Process

- Members are accepted within the first month of each semester and must pay National dues within two weeks of acceptance (Fall 2009 Dues: \$40)
- Executive board is elected in the fall
- One induction ceremony is held at the end of the Spring semester (if students are abroad in the Spring, they will join the next induction ceremony the following year)

### Expectations of Members

- Attendance of all general meetings, with only one absence per semester (two per academic year), as determined by the chapter's executive committee;
- Attendance of all meetings of subcommittees of which one is a member, with only one absence per semester (two per academic year);
- Participation in the work of at least one subcommittee;
- Participating in IR activities, both within and apart from honors society events;
- Continued commitment to building a strong IR community at Tufts, and to advancing understanding and awareness of global issues.

### Benefits of Joining

- Graduation regalia: honor cord and pin
- Certificate attesting membership status
- Opportunity to attend conferences at the United Nations, World Bank and more
- Opportunity to receive research and travel grant funding
- Copy of the latest issue of the nationally distributed Journal of International Relations
- An opportunity to be published in the nationally distributed and completely student run *Journal of International Relations*
- Free Subscription to the *Internationalist* Magazine
- Access to professional networks
  - SIR Doostang Group; SIR Facebook Group; Internship Databank

Along with the tangible list of benefits surely come such things as life-long relationships, personal growth, development and realization of the leadership potential, opportunities to deepen one's understanding of international affairs, and have fun!

For additional information on Sigma Iota Rho, please see the SIR National website, [www.sigmaiotarho.org](http://www.sigmaiotarho.org).