



# UNC CHARLOTTE

## Office of Academic Affairs

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October 25, 2016

Dr. Lisa Walker  
Faculty President  
UNC Charlotte

Dear Lisa.

In accordance with the procedure concerning the change of departmental names, I am forwarding a request from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to change the name of the Department of Global, International and Area Studies to the Department of Global Studies.

The justification for the name change is attached. I ask that it be considered for faculty approval at the next Faculty Executive Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Joan F. Lorden  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Attachments

cc: Nancy Gutierrez, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences





# UNC CHARLOTTE

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

## Office of the Dean

9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001  
t/704-687-0081 f/704-687-0089 <http://clas.uncc.edu>

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dr. Dale Smith,  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Global, International, and Area Studies

**FROM:** Dr. Shawn D. Long,  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**RE:** Name change from “Department of Global, International and Area Studies” to “Department of Global Studies”

**DATE:** October 21, 2016

I am pleased to inform you that the CLAS’ Faculty Council endorsed the Department of Global, International and Area Studies’ proposal to change the name of the unit from “Department of Global, International and Area Studies” to “Department of Global Studies” at our monthly meeting on Friday, October 21, 2016. The council unanimously (17 members) voted in favor of this change. We will move your proposal forward to the Office of the Provost.

Per University Policy 602.9, Naming Opportunities, proposals to change the name of a department or school are considered at the campus level through the Provost and Chancellor in consultation with the University Faculty Council. The Chancellor has the final authority to establish or change the name of a department. All name changes of a department or school are subject to the requirements outlined in University Policy 602.9, Naming Opportunities.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this process.



10 October 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Dean Nancy Gutierrez, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
From: Dale L. Smith, Professor and Chair, GIAS  
Subject: Department Name Change from *Global, International and Area Studies* to  
*Global Studies*

The purpose of this memo is to request that the name of the Department of Global, International, and Area Studies be changed to Global Studies. The department faculty have voted unanimously in favor of the name change.

*Background:* The GIAS department was created in 2009 with the following major/minor programs:

- International Studies (B.A. and minor)
- Latin American Studies (M.A., B.A., and minor)
- Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights (minor)
- Judaic Studies (minor)
- Islamic Studies (minor)

Given the range of different programs placed within this new department, the very, inclusive catch-all of GIAS was chosen. However, the Latin American Studies degree programs were moved back to History in 2010, and the Judaic and Islamic Studies minors have ceased to exist due to low enrollments. Only the International Studies major and minor and the HGHR minor still exist within the department.

In spring 2016, a new curriculum was introduced for the International Studies major/minor with the following areas of concentration:

- Development and Sustainability
- Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, and
- Peace, Conflict, and Identity.

This moved the department away from an "area studies" focus (based on geographic regions) and toward an explicitly comparative orientation. The curriculum change brought the major/minor more in line with a global, rather than regional, focus.

*Rational for the name change:* The name change will better align the name of the department with the teaching and research of the department faculty. We teach *global* development, *global* human rights, and *global* peace and conflict. While we may have interests in particular regions, our faculty are not regional specialists. Global Studies will provide us with a single identity, rather than the catch-all of Global, International, and Area Studies. Also, our students' will be less confused. Their major is currently in International Studies, but their major department is GIAS. We are currently requesting to change the name of the department, but the necessary

second step will be to request a change in the major to match the new department name – a global studies major/minor within a Global Studies Department.

*Why Global and not International Studies?* A few decades ago, almost all of these types of interdisciplinary programs used the “international” modifier. This was at a time when the relations we studied truly were inter-nation relations because nations were, for the most part, the sole actors in global relations. Today, there are a host of different actors, in addition to nations. Individuals, non-governmental groups, multinational corporations, and international organizations now all compete for space on the global stage. For the 21<sup>st</sup> century, “global” is the appropriate modifier for interdisciplinary departments like ours.

A search within [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) reveals that there are 282 Bachelor’s degree programs at U.S. colleges and universities titled either international or global studies. The vast majority are programs rather than free-standing departments.

An examination of the other universities within the UNC system reveals that 9 of 14 campuses have either global or international studies programs or departments (see Table 1). Of the nine, three use the modifier global, five use international and UNC Greensboro used both international and global. UNC Charlotte is unique in the system, being the only campus with an academic department devoted solely to global studies.

Table 1: Programs/Departments within the UNC system offering Bachelor’s in International or Global Studies

University	Name of Program or Department
Appalachian State	Department of Cultural, Gender and Global Studies
Eastern Carolina	Program in International Studies
NC Central	Program of Global Studies
NC State	Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (Major: International Studies)
UNC Asheville	Program in International Studies
UNC Chapel Hill	Curriculum in Global Studies
UNC Greensboro	Program in International and Global Studies
UNC Wilmington	Program in International Studies
Western Carolina	Program in International Studies
Elizabeth State	none
Fayetteville State	none
NC A&T	none
UNC Pembroke	none
Winston-Salem State	none

Examining Charlotte’s 17 peer institutions (<http://ir.uncc.edu/peer-institutions>), the pattern is similar (see Table 2). Twelve universities have international or global departments or programs. Three of the twelve use the global modifier, seven use international and two (Portland State and Western Michigan) use both. Portland State is the only university among Charlotte’s chosen peers to have a stand-alone department of international/global studies.

Table 2: Programs/Departments among UNC Charlotte's Peer Institutions offering Bachelor's in International or Global Studies

University	Name of Program or Department
Florida Atlantic	Concentration in International Studies (only within Honors College)
Florida International	Department of Politics and International Relations
Kent State	none
Old Dominion	Program in International Studies
Portland State	Department of International and Global Studies
Colorado at Denver	Program in International Studies
Louisville	none
Massachusetts at Lowell	none
Nevada at Las Vegas	none
New Mexico	Program in International Studies
Rhode Island	none
Texas at Arlington	Major (within Modern Languages) in Critical Languages and International Studies
Texas at San Antonio	Major (within Political Science) in Global Affairs
Toledo	Program in Global Studies
Wisconsin at Milwaukee	Program in Global Studies
Virginia Commonwealth	Major in International Studies (within School of World Studies)
Western Michigan	Program in Global and International Studies