



Ximena Tovar is a Senior IAF and Political Science Major with a minor in Business. She did her first Co-op at the United Nations in NYC. A year later, she spent 4 months working for Aliarse, a NGO in Costa Rica. Currently, Ximena is in the Dominican Republic on her last Co-op working on Microfinance for Esperanza International. Ximena also went on the first Dialogue of Civilizations to Geneva and has spent a semester abroad at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics in China.

“How to Survive International Affairs”

The International Affairs major has grown exponentially since it was first introduced to Northeastern in 1995. Now, the major counts with over 700 students, all of them with the shared ambition and desire to change the world one step at a time. You will become part of the International Affairs family upon entering Northeastern and will be granted the tools to succeed academically for the next five years. As a Senior International Affairs major, I can tell you that your time at Northeastern will fly by. The last thing you want upon graduation is wishing you could have done something more. This guide will provide you with everything you need to know about the International Affairs major, and will prepare you for a bright future!

101. FRESHMAN YEAR: You are a Husky Now!

People to Know: Start off the academic year by knowing three important names: Sullivan, Jones, and Leclerc. Keep repeating them to yourself until you no longer need to. Professor Denis Sullivan is the Program Director, Kimberly Jones is the Faculty Advisor, and Gail Leclerc is the Academic Advisor. These three people play the most important roles in your major. Make an appointment with them early in the semester to discuss your interests, goals, and future plans. Don't forget to be nice to them! They have the tools to guide you in the right direction.

Classes: By now you know you didn't have to worry about signing up for classes. They are predetermined for you. In fact, you took care of this during orientation. Your only job is to attend class, and make sure you do it. It is the most basic thing you need to do to succeed in college, and unless you are bedridden, you should not be missing class at all. These classes may not be as

interesting as you wish, but it is important for you to start grasping basic concepts, as they will only continue to expand in the next few years.

Keep in mind: The International Affairs Department is located on 270 Holmes Hall (Second Floor). Cynthia Rapp is Program Coordinator and you can call her at 617-373-5472.

Important! If you have not chosen a region of interest, start thinking about it. This would be the ideal situation for you to visit Kimberly Jones and ask her for help. She would be glad to! Don't forget to consider that you will have to take at least two classes in a specific region, so make sure to pick one that interests you.

202. SOPHOMORE YEAR: To Co-Op or Not To Co-Op, That is the Question

People to Know: This is the perfect time for you to find a mentor. You have taken several classes by now, you have heard stories of professors that are willing to help you, but have you made the effort to find one that suits you? Ask questions, find what their interests are, and get on their good side. If you are genuinely interested in getting involved in a subject a professor is really passionate about, it is very likely they will take you under their wing.

Classes: Signing up for classes is up to you now. You now have the power to sign up for whatever you want, and basically create your own program. Since it is important you keep track of classes and credits, become familiar with the "My Degree Audit" option on the Self-Service tab on Myneu.com. Only sign up for classes you find interesting, think will help you, or satisfy some sort of requirement. After all, you get to choose some classes as electives, and this may be a good way to find a subject to focus on.

Co-op: Sign up for the Co-op class for the fall semester. This way, whether you want to go on Co-op the following spring or during fall of you Middler year, is irrelevant. You may think there is no need to take this class, but take it seriously because you get a letter grade. This class should serve as an introduction to your Co-op Advisor, Joani LaMachia, and also as a way to get feedback on your resume, cover letter, and interviewing techniques. Make a good impression with Joani, and she will keep you in mind whenever good jobs come up.

Keep in Mind: The Co-op at the United Nations is only offered in the fall, so you might want to wait another year to jump on the co-op train.

Important! If you haven't chosen a region yet, hurry! You need to take a language up to the Intermediate II level, so you might want to start soon.

303. MIDDLEL YEAR: Not too many people know what "Middler" means

People to know: Let's face it, you cannot be an International Affairs major and not travel. It is a program requirement! You will need to get in touch with Dr. Hyndman, Director of the Office of International Study Programs, and also Ketty Rosenfeld, Director of International Co-op.

Classes: Although no longer called “Middler Year Writing,” a lot of us still refer to this class by that name. I highly recommend taking “Advanced Writing for the Disciplines” now in order to perfect your writing skills for the next 2 years of college.

Co-op: If you didn’t go on Co-op in the spring, you should be on Co-op now. But maybe Co-op just isn’t for you and you want to shorten your stay at Northeastern. However, experience always comes in handy and it helps you determine whether or not you are in the right field. Try searching for summer internships that match your interests. Most International Affairs majors claim Idealist.org to be a favorite.

Keep in Mind: Unfortunately, you can’t always be thinking “International.” Your first Co-op will probably be in the United States, unless you have lived in a foreign country before. Chances are you haven’t, but knock on Ketty Rosenfeld’s door or give her a call at 617-373-3466 and tell her you are interested in going on an International Co-op in the future. She will then assign you to Cynthia Sweet, Melissa Davies, or Lily Chryssis.

Important! Consider your options to study abroad and the semesters you will be able to do so. If you don’t want to be away for an entire semester, look into the “Dialogue of Civilizations.” This program started with Egypt being the only destination, and now has over 40 programs that are open to all majors. You will be able to find something that suits you, from language immersion in China, to photography in Italy, to social conflict in Northern Ireland. Whatever your interest, you are bound to find something you will like.

404. JUNIOR YEAR: Discover the World

People to know: Although it is important to choose where and when to go, I recommend packing, waving goodbye and just going. Go anywhere you can, as many times as possible, with or with no money, and learn outside of the classroom. The people you meet while abroad will bring a new perspective into your world.

Classes and Co-op: You don’t experience culture unless you are willing to leave your bubble. You certainly can’t practice all the years of mandatory language you’ve been taking if you stay within the confined walls of the United States. Go ahead and explore the world. The world is your classroom and your employer!

Keep in Mind: Traveling is great, but have you given some serious thought to a dual major or a minor in another department? You are graduating with an International Affairs degree and with a Masters in travel. Your future employer will love that, but maybe adding another major or a minor in a field that is a little bit more practical can be of huge help after graduation. If anything, it will teach you new skills.

Important! Make sure whatever destination you choose is not on the U.S State Department Travel Warning website (<http://travel.state.gov>). There have been cases where students are ready

to leave on their “dream” Co-ops and then they are not allowed. Northeastern takes this very seriously, so watch out!

505. SENIOR YEAR: One Foot out the Door!

People to Know: First things first, you should have kept in touch with your professors, especially those that have served as mentors to you. Ask them if they need help during the semester and suggest working for them or assisting them in anything they may need. Remember soon you’ll need to start looking for jobs. Having them around could make this process a lot easier and less scary. Those professors could become your support system in the months to come.

Classes: This is your last year, so make it count. There is no reason for you to slack off and drop your grades. Yes, you only have two semesters to go and your GPA may not be able to improve drastically, but doing bad could certainly hurt you.

Keep in Mind: You should start looking for jobs! Contact Career Services by phone at 617-373-2430, or drop by Sterns 202. Believe it or not, this year will fly by.

Important! Make sure you have accomplished everything you set forth when you first arrived at Northeastern.

Best of Luck!!!