

**University of Arizona**  
**School of Information Resources and Library Science**

**Requirements for Students to take an  
Independent Study (IRLS 699)**

Independent Studies are considered a type of “Individual Study” at SIRLS. Other types of Individual Studies are internships and practica. All three require students to have completed at least 12 credits of SIRLS coursework and to be in good academic standing. All Individual Studies are graded on a “pass/not pass” basis. Most are for three credits, which represents at least 135 hours of work for the student. In special circumstances, students are approved for an Individual Study for less than three credits. Individual Studies are considered “Other Curricular Options” (as opposed to core courses and electives) in the new degree structure.

Independent Studies cannot in any way duplicate the existing SIRLS curriculum. Independent Studies must be academically rigorous and research-oriented rather than practice-oriented. An Independent Study should lead to a substantial research report, preferably based on original research and/or primary source materials.

A student interested in an Independent Study must identify a SIRLS faculty member with relevant subject expertise willing to work with the student and willing to evaluate the student’s final report. The semester before the Independent Study starts, the student must develop a detailed proposal for the research project and must discuss it fully with his/her faculty advisor.

In order to register for an Independent Study (IRLS 699), the student must submit to the SIRLS Main Office a completed application for an Individual Study (attached and also on the SIRLS website), accompanied by the proposal (mentioned above) describing his/her research project.

Contact Leslie Kent Kunkel at [lkunkel@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lkunkel@email.arizona.edu) with any questions.