**Question 9: Online Initiatives**

*Task: Describe the unit’s efforts to develop and establish online courses and services.*

IAFS currently offers two online classes each summer and an experiential/online hybrid course each semester. IAFS provides an online version of its introductory course, IAFS 1000: Global Issues & International Affairs, during the five-week B Term and a 3000-level course on Islam, Geopolitics & Society in summer A Term (IAFS 3010). Each course is offered by the same faculty each summer to ensure students receive instruction from those most familiar with online course design. Since 2017, enrollment in IAFS 1000 online has grown substantially to reach or near the 48-student limit each summer. The program is considering developing another 3000-level special topics course online beginning in Summer 2021 to give students another option to fulfill major requirements. IAFS 4930, the program internship class, combines students’ internship experience with related assignments submitted online to ensure accountability and maximize flexibility. It especially benefits students with tight schedules and those living away from campus, such as students participating in the CU in DC Program.

The IAFS website serves as the launching point for information about the program. It is intended to be student-centered, in order to help majors and prospective majors learn more about the program’s goals, requirements, and sponsored events. It is continually edited for clarity and ease of navigation by the Program Manager and has been revised to align with CU’s Strategic Planning and Arts & Sciences communication priorities. It offers profiles of notable current students, highlights faculty achievements, and showcases the career growth of alumni. The program also uses email and social media to communicate with these audiences. Students convey that the “Advisor Digest,” emailed bi-weekly from the program’s two academic advisors, gives the most consolidated (and read) information about courses, co-curriculars, campus speakers, and employment opportunities. The program’s Facebook page advertises news, events, and professional development programs two-to-four times per month, a quantity intended to maintain a genuine social media presence without alienating followers due to excessive content. Facebook posts provide links to the original announcements, with all program-sponsored events added to the campus-wide calendar. Advisors and staff also embrace videoconferencing to communicate with students, particularly those working remotely on internships or studying abroad.