



Study Track

“International Relations and Diplomacy”

Why follow the Study Track “International Relations and Diplomacy” (Bruges)

Given the strong emphasis of the educational offer on international relations and diplomacy at both the College of Europe and The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, MATA students may choose to focus on these aspects as part of their study programme on transatlantic affairs. Depending on where they begin their studies, the programme varies to some extent regarding the degree of coursework on EU and international affairs.

Students starting at the College of Europe

Students of the MATA programme who join the “International Relations and Diplomacy” study track during their first year of studies at the College of Europe in Bruges will join the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies. They will be specialising on the external relations and diplomacy of the European Union for one year. The EU has in many fields – such as trade, development cooperation or climate change, and increasingly also in security-related areas – become an important global actor. Countries, international organisations, large enterprises and many non-governmental organisations have to deal with the EU in a variety of ways. These studies will be complemented by coursework on international affairs at The Fletcher School.

Semester 1

At the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track “International Relations and Diplomacy” will follow **6 courses** during the first semester.

They will start with an intensive, 15-hour refresher course on “EU Institutions and Decision-Making”. Subsequently, they will follow the compulsory course “EU Foreign and Security Policy”, which is quintessential to make them familiar with the European Union as a global actor, and “International and EU Negotiation Analysis”, which will train them in negotiation skills. Students will choose two additional compulsory courses from the list below. Students also follow the joint course on “US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs”, which is an integral component of all study tracks within the MATA programme and brings together all MATA students from both institutions. During the first semester, this course is primarily lecture-based.

Compulsory courses:

- [EU Institutions and Decision-Making](#) (C. LORD, 1 ECTS, 15h)
- [EU Foreign and Security Policy](#) (A. JUNCOS, 3.5 ECTS, 20h)
- [International and EU Negotiation Analysis](#) (F. MARCHI, 3.5 ECTS, 20h)
- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs](#) (J. SHATTUCK, 5 ECTS, 27h)

Elective courses:

In addition, students **choose 2** of the following courses:

- [European Diplomacy in the 21st Century](#) (H. MAURER, 3.5 ECTS, 20h)
- [External Dimensions of EU Internal Policies](#) (S. SCHUNZ and S. WOLFF, 3.5 ECTS, 20h)
- [Legal Aspects of the EU’s External Relations](#) (J. WOUTERS, 3.5 ECTS, 20h)
- [The EU in a Global Political Economy Context](#) (S. GSTÖHL, 3.5 ECTS, 20h)



Students may follow any of the voluntary, non-assessed [compact seminars](#) (8h each) offered by the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies.

During this semester, students will also start preparing their thesis proposal on transatlantic affairs as well as their internship. The thesis will be co-supervised by one professor from each institution. In this context, students are encouraged to attend the special seminar "[Research Methodology in EU External Relations](#)" (S. GSTÖHL & S. SCHUNZ, 0 ECTS, 12h), dealing with research design, methodology and techniques as well as with theoretical approaches to EU external action.

The first part 'Research Design for the Master's Thesis' takes place before students choose their thesis topic; the other parts take place at a later stage, typically at the start of the second semester.

- Research Design for the Master's Thesis (S. GSTÖHL, 3h.)
- Theoretical Approaches to EU External Action (GSTÖHL S., 7h.)
- Research Techniques: Document Analysis and Interviews (S. SCHUNZ, 2h.)

Semester 2

In their second semester at the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track "International Relations and Diplomacy" will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and negotiation skills during an intensive one-week simulation exercise on EU crisis management involving active role play. Additionally, they will choose four optional courses offered by the Department from the list below. They will also continue to follow the joint course "US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project", which is an integral component of all study tracks within the MATA programme and brings together all MATA students from both institutions. In the second semester, this course is focused on developing a joint project.

Compulsory courses:

- [Simulation Game: EU International Crisis Response](#) (A. RIBO LABASTIDA & Q. WEILER, 3 ECTS, 30h)
- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI & B. BERTI, 5 ECTS, 20h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow any 4 [optional courses](#) offered by the Department (4.5 ECTS and 25h each). They are strongly encouraged to take these courses from at least two different thematic clusters.

Students will continue to work on their thesis in transatlantic affairs and prepare their internship. They may follow any of the voluntary, non-assessed [compact seminars](#) (8h) offered by the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies.

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in a one-day MATA study trip to Brussels and the IRD study trip to Geneva, the European hub of multilateral diplomacy.

For semester 3 and 4, students can choose between two options:

Option 1:

Semester 3

At The Fletcher School, MATA students in the study track "International Relations and Diplomacy" will select **4 courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each) from any of the three divisions:



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



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International Law and Organizations (ILO); Diplomacy, History and Politics (DHP); and Economics and International Business (EIB). They may also cross-register and substitute one of these four courses by a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University. Additionally, they may take an extra half course.

Semester 4

Students will carry out a **high-level internship** (25 ECTS) related to transatlantic affairs of ideally four months, but at least three months. Students who start the MATA programme at the College of Europe are expected to do their internship in the United States.

In the spring, students will hand in their **Master's thesis** (25 ECTS) on a topic of transatlantic affairs.

Option 2:

Semester 3

Students will carry out a **high-level internship** (25 ECTS) related to transatlantic affairs of ideally four months, but at least three months. Students who start the MATA programme at the College of Europe are expected to do their internship in the United States.

Semester 4

At The Fletcher School, MATA students in the study track “International Relations and Diplomacy” will select **4 courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each) from any of the three divisions: International Law and Organizations (ILO); Diplomacy, History and Politics (DHP); and Economics and International Business (EIB). They may also cross-register and substitute one of these four courses by a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University. Additionally, they may take an extra half course.

In the spring, students will hand in their **Master's thesis** (25 ECTS) on a topic of transatlantic affairs.

Students starting at The Fletcher School

Students of the MATA programme who join the “International Relations and Diplomacy” study track during their first year of studies at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy will focus to a larger extent on international relations and slightly less on European affairs than those students who begin their studies at the College of Europe.

During their year at The Fletcher School students have to choose at least one course from each of the three divisions (‘breadth requirement’): International Law and Organizations (ILO); Diplomacy, History and Politics (DHP); and Economics and International Business (EIB). Some courses are particularly recommended (see below), subject to availability during a semester, since they help prepare students for their study track at the College of Europe.



Semester 1

At The Fletcher School, MATA students in the study track “International Relations and Diplomacy” will follow **4 courses** during the first semester. One of these four courses is the compulsory joint course on “US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs”, which is an integral component of all study tracks within the MATA programme and brings together all MATA students from both institutions. During the first semester, this course is primarily lecture-based. Additionally, they choose three courses offered at The Fletcher School. They may also cross-register and substitute one of them by a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University. Additionally, they may take an extra half course.

Compulsory course:

- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs](#) (J. SHATTUCK, 5 ECTS, 27h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow **3 other courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), taking into account the ‘breadth requirement’ and the recommendations below.

Strongly recommended courses for this study track:

- DHP D220: Processes of International Negotiation

Other recommended courses for this study track:

- DHP D263: The Arabs and their Neighbours
- ILO L200: International Legal Order
- ILO L240: Legal and Institutional Aspects of International Trade

During this semester, students will also start preparing their thesis proposal on transatlantic affairs and their internship. The thesis will be co-supervised by one professor from each institution.

Semester 2

At The Fletcher School, MATA students in the study track “International Relations and Diplomacy” will follow **5 courses** during the second semester. They will continue to follow the joint course “US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project”, which is an integral component of all study tracks within the MATA programme and brings together all MATA students from both institutions. In the second semester, this course is focused on developing a joint project. Additionally, they choose four courses offered at The Fletcher School. They may also cross-register and substitute one of them by a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University.

Compulsory course:

- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI & B. BERTI, 5 ECTS, 20h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow **4 other courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), taking into account the ‘breadth requirement’ and the recommendations below.

Recommended courses for this study track:

- DHP P219: Political Economy of Development
- ILO L209: International Treaty Behaviour
- ILO L224: Peace Operations



Students will continue to work on their thesis in transatlantic affairs and prepare their internship.

Semester 3

Students will carry out a **high-level internship** (25 ECTS) related to transatlantic affairs of ideally four months, but at least three months. Students who start the MATA programme at The Fletcher School are expected to do their internship in Europe.

Semester 4

At the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track “International Relations and Diplomacy” will follow **4 courses** offered by the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department during the fourth semester.

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow any 4 [optional courses](#) (4.5 ECTS and 25h each).

Students may follow any of the voluntary, non-assessed [compact seminars](#) (8h each) as well as the special seminar “[Research Methodology in EU External Relations](#)” offered by the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies and also participate on a voluntary basis in the one-week “[EU International Crisis Response](#)” simulation game (A. RIBO LABASTIDA & Q. WEILER, 0 ECTS, one week).

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in a one-day MATA study trip to Brussels and the IRD study trip to Geneva, the European hub of multilateral diplomacy.

In the spring, students will have to hand in their **Master’s thesis** (25 ECTS) on a topic of transatlantic affairs.

Note on the language of instruction in the MATA programme:

The Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs is a study programme taught in English. MATA students who wish to follow a course taught in French while at the College of Europe may request to do so. To have their request validated, they need to explain the motivation for their choice and demonstrate at least a level of B2 in French according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Note on the course offer:

The courses offered at both the College of Europe and The Fletcher School can be subject to last-minute changes.

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