



Study Track “Economic Studies” Academic Programme

Why follow the Study Track “Economic Studies” (Bruges)

Economics is an important component of transatlantic affairs, be it in matters of international trade, international monetary relations, the effects of monetary and fiscal policies, or competition (antitrust) and regulatory issues. The “Economic Studies” study track in Bruges will provide students with a deep understanding of European Union policies and a critical economic analysis of their content. These will be completed with courses on international economic relations at The Fletcher School.

Students starting at the College of Europe

Students of the MATA programme who join the Economic Studies track during their time at the College of Europe will specialise in the Economics of the European Union in its various dimensions for one year. A general course on the Economics of European Integration will be complemented by courses on European Macroeconomic Policies, Competition Policy and EU Regulation for Business. After having followed these courses, which provide the required background, students can choose from a list of courses devoted to specific policies. These studies will be complemented by coursework at The Fletcher School.

Semester 1

At the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track “Economic Studies” will follow **4 compulsory courses** during the first semester. In addition, they will take part in a joint course on “US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: 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. The course is spread over two semesters. During the first semester, this course is primarily lecture-based.

- [Economics of Competition Policy](#) (A. CLAICI & D. KOVO, 5 ECTS, 30h)
- [EU Macroeconomics](#) (B. HAYO, 5 ECTS, 30h)
- [Economics of European Integration: From Theory to Practice](#) (B. DUMONT & J. PIETRAS, 5 ECTS, 30h)
- [EU Regulation for Business](#) (J. PELKMANS, 3 ECTS, 20h)
- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs](#) (J. SHATTUCK, 5 ECTS, 27h)

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.

Semester 2

In their second semester at the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track “Economic Studies” will follow **4 elective courses** chosen from a list of 6 courses. They will also continue to follow the joint course entitled “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 course:

- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI & B. BERTI, 3 ECTS, 15h)

Elective courses:

Students select **4 optional courses** from the list below.

- [The Economics of EU Environmental and Climate Change Policy](#) (J. EYCKMANS, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [Policy Lab](#) (P. MOSCOVICI & K. BERDEN) 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [European Financial Markets Regulation](#) (J.-P. CASEY & NADRY D., 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [Economics of EU Network Industries](#) (J. PELKMANS, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [FinTech and the Transformation of Digital Services](#) (M. AYALA & M. SULIMIERSKA, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [European Banking](#) (A. MARQUES & P. DE GROEN, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)

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 in the European Economic Studies Department.

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in a one-day MATA study trip to Brussels and in the study trip of the ECO department to Luxembourg and Frankfurt.

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 “Economic Studies” will select **4 courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), primarily from the Economics and International Business (EIB) division. 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** (26 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** (26 ECTS) on a topic of transatlantic affairs.



Option 2:

Semester 3

Students will carry out a **high-level internship** (26 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 “Economic Studies” will select **4 courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), primarily from the Economics and International Business (EIB) division. 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** (26 ECTS) on a topic of transatlantic affairs.

Students starting at The Fletcher School

Students of the MATA programme who spend their first year of studies at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy will focus to a larger extent on international economic relations and slightly less on European economics than those who begin their studies at the College of Europe.

Over the two semesters at The Fletcher School, students have to select 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). Courses may be required or particularly recommended, subject to availability during a semester, since they help prepare students for their study track at the College of Europe.

Required courses:

- EIB E212M: Macroeconomics

Strongly recommended courses for the “Economic Studies” track:

- EIB E245: Econometric Impact Evaluation for Public Policy and Social Programs
- EIB E210M: Quantitative Methods

Other recommended courses for the “Economic Studies” track:

- EIB E214: International Economic Policy Analysis
- EIB E220: International Trade and Investment
- EIB E230: International Finance (recommended for those interested in EU Banking Regulation)
- EIB E246 Environmental Economics (recommended for those interested in the Climate Change and Environmental Economics course offered at the College of Europe)



Semester 1

At The Fletcher School, MATA students in the study track “Economic Studies” 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:

- EIB E212M: Macroeconomics (M. KLEIN, 6 ECTS, 26-32h)
- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs](#) (J. SHATTUCK, 5 ECTS, 27h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow **2 other courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), taking into account the ‘breadth requirement’ and the recommendations below.

During this semester, students will also start preparing their thesis proposal on transatlantic affairs and their internship. The thesis will be co-supervised by professors from both institutions.

Semester 2

During the second semester, MATA students in the study track “Economic Studies” will follow **5 courses**. 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 these four courses 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: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI & B. BERTI, 3 ECTS, 15h)

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.

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** (26 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 “Economic Studies” will follow **4 courses** chosen from the list below.

- [The Economics of EU Environmental and Climate Change Policy](#) (J. EYCKMANS, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [Policy Lab](#) (P. MOSCOVICI & K. BERDEN, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [European Financial Market Regulation](#) (J.-P. CASEY & D. NADRY, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [Economics of EU Network Industries](#) (J. PELKMANS, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [FinTech and the Transformation of Digital Services](#) (A. AYALA & M. SULIMIERSKA, 4.5 ECTS, 30h)
- [European Banking](#) (A. MARQUES & P. DE GROEN, 4. ECTS, 30h)

Students may follow any of the voluntary, non-assessed [compact seminars](#) (8h each) offered in the European Economic Studies Department.

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in a one-day MATA study trip to Brussels and in the study trip of the ECO department to Luxembourg and Frankfurt.

In the spring, students will have to hand in their **Master's thesis** (26 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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