



Study Track “International Relations and Diplomacy” Academic Programme

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, 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 in the degree of coursework on EU and international affairs:

Students starting at the College of Europe

Students of the MATA programme who choose to join the “International Relations and Diplomacy” study track during their studies at the College of Europe will be specializing 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. All countries, international organisations as well as large enterprises and many non-governmental organisations have to deal with the European Union in a variety of ways. These studies will then 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 out with an intensive, 15-hour refresher course on “EU Institutions and Decision-Making”. Subsequently, they will follow the compulsory course “The EU as a Foreign Policy Actor”, which is quintessential to make them familiar with the European Union as a global actor, and will choose three additional compulsory courses. Students also follow the 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. During the first semester, this course is primarily lecture-based.

Compulsory courses:

[“EU Institutions and Decision Making”](#) (15h)

“US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs” (20h)

[“The EU as a Foreign Policy Actor”](#) (20h)

Elective courses:

In addition, students **choose 3** of the following courses:

- [“Diplomacy in the 21st Century”](#) (20h)



- [“International Negotiation Analysis”](#)
- [“External Aspects of EU Internal Policies”](#)
- [“The EU in a Global Political Economy Context”](#)
- [“Legal Aspects of the EU's External Relations” \(20h\)](#)

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

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 follow the course on “Transatlantic Relations” and choose three additional optional courses offered by the IRD Department. They will also continue to follow the joint course on “US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs”. In the second semester, this course is focused on developing a joint project.

Compulsory courses:

- “US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs: project part” (15h)
- [“EU Response to Security Threats”](#) (one week)
- [“Transatlantic Relations”](#) (25h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow any 3 [optional courses](#) offered by the IRD Department (25h each).

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 IRD Department.

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in the study trip to Geneva, the European hub of multilateral diplomacy.

Semester 3

Students will complete a **high-level internship** related to transatlantic affairs of ideally four months, but at minimum 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](#) (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.

In early April, students will hand in their **Master's thesis** on a topic of transatlantic affairs.

Students starting at The Fletcher School

Students of the MATA programme who choose to spend 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 the two semesters 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, 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: 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 from those offered at The Fletcher School. They may also cross-register and substitute one of these three courses by a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University.

Compulsory course:

"US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs"
(20h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow 3 other [courses](#) (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 D200: "Diplomacy: History, Theory, and Practice"
- DHP D220: "Processes of International Negotiation"
- DHP P200: "International Relations: Theory and Practice"
- DHP P217: "Global Political Economy"

Other recommended courses for this study track:

- DHP P205: "National Security Decision-Making: Theory & Practice"
- DHP P219: "Political Economy of Development"
- DHP P245: "Crisis Management and Complex Emergencies"



DHP P253: "Sustainable Development Diplomacy"

DHP D263: "The Arabs and their Neighbors"

DHP D264: "Geopolitics of Energy in Eurasia"

ILO L200: "The International Legal Order"

ILO L209: "International Treaty Behavior: A Perspective on Globalization"

ILO L224: "Peace Operations"

ILO L240: "Legal and Institutional Aspects of International Trade"

EIB E251: "The Economics of the European Union"

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

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 compulsory joint course on "US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs". In the second semester, this course is focused on developing a joint project. Additionally, they choose four courses from those 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.

Compulsory course:

"US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs: project part" (15h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow 4 other [courses](#) (of 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 D200: "Diplomacy: History, Theory, and Practice"

DHP D220: "Processes of International Negotiation"

DHP P200: "International Relations: Theory and Practice"

DHP P217: "Global Political Economy"

Other recommended courses for this study track:

DHP P205: "National Security Decision-Making: Theory & Practice"

DHP P219: "Political Economy of Development"

DHP P245: "Crisis Management and Complex Emergencies"

DHP P253: "Sustainable Development Diplomacy"

DHP D263: "The Arabs and their Neighbors"

DHP D264: "Geopolitics of Energy in Eurasia"

ILO L200: "The International Legal Order"

ILO L209: "International Treaty Behavior: A Perspective on Globalization"

ILO L224: "Peace Operations"



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THE FLETCHER
SCHOOL

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ILO L240: "Legal and Institutional Aspects of International Trade"

EIB E251: "The Economics of the European Union"

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

Semester 3

Students will complete a **high-level internship** related to transatlantic affairs of ideally four months, but at minimum three months. Students who start the MATA programme at the 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** during the fourth semester.

Compulsory course:

["Transatlantic Relations"](#) (25h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow any 3 other [optional courses](#) (25h each).

Students may follow any of the voluntary, non-assessed [compact seminars](#) (8h each) offered in the IRD Department. and, if they wish, also participate in the one-week "Simulation Game: EU Response to Security Threats".

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in the study trip to Geneva, the European hub of multilateral diplomacy.

In early April, students will have to hand in their **Master's thesis** on a topic of transatlantic affairs.