



Study Track “Legal Studies”

Academic Programme

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

MATA students wishing to focus on legal studies will benefit from a set of high-quality complementary courses in EU and International Law offered at the two institutions, as well as the MATA-specific course on transatlantic affairs. This will provide an all-round transatlantic legal education that will serve graduates in a variety of professional settings, from legal practice to public policy and academia.

Depending on where they begin their studies, the programme varies in the degree of coursework on EU and International Law.

Students starting at the College of Europe

Semester 1

At the College of Europe, students starting the MATA programme in the first year in Bruges will follow **5 courses** during the first semester.

Students will start with the non-assessed legal methodology course, which will prepare them to work independently with primary sources of EU law such as Court judgments and EU legislation. Furthermore, students follow the course on the internal market and EU citizenship as well as the course on judicial remedies (or, alternatively in French, if they possess sufficient language skills, *L'ordre juridique de l'UE*) in order to establish a good understanding of the most important basic elements of the EU legal order and its main legal concepts and doctrines. They also follow the first 20h of the course “Law of Competition in the EU”.

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:

- [Legal Methodology I \(Case Law\)](#) (S. GARBEN, 0 ECTS, 10h)
- [Internal Market and EU Citizenship Law](#) (L. GORMLEY & E. SPAVENTA, 7 ECTS, 35h)
- [Judicial Remedies in EU Law](#) (T. TRIDIMAS, 7 ECTS, 40h) or (in case of sufficient knowledge of French) [L'ordre juridique de l'Union européenne](#) (R. MEHDI, 7 ECTS, 40h)
- [Law of Competition in the EU](#) (P. MARSDEN/B. MEYRING, 4 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.

NB: MATA students will not be able to participate in the moot court competitions (ELMC and Cassin) for workload and organisational reasons.



Semester 2

Students starting the MATA programme in the first year in Bruges, will follow **5 courses** during the second semester.

Students follow three seminars of their choice as well as one compulsory course: “External Relations of the EU“, which is of particular relevance for MATA students. 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:

- o [External Relations of the EU](#) (I. GOVAERE, 6 ECTS, 30h)
- o [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI & B. BERTI, 3 ECTS, 15h)

Seminars:

Students choose to follow any 3 [seminars](#) offered by the LAW Department (4 ECTS, 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 Legal Studies Department.

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

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

Option 1:

Semester 3

At The Fletcher School, students who wish to focus on legal studies can specialize in public international law, international organizations, human rights, international business and economic law, or law and development. The division of International Law and Organizations itself offers approximately 20 courses, and students may also find highly relevant courses in the other two divisions. MATA students in the study track “Legal Studies” will select **4 courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each).

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.



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



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SCHOOL

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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, students who wish to focus on legal studies can specialize in public international law, international organizations, human rights, international business and economic law, or law and development. The division of International Law and Organizations itself offers approximately 20 courses, and students may also find highly relevant courses in the other two divisions. MATA students in the study track "Legal Studies" will select **4 courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each).

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

Semester 1

At The Fletcher School, MATA students in the study track "Legal 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: 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:

ILO L200: International Legal Order

ILO L220: International Organizations

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 "Legal Studies" 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. 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 **4 other courses** (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), taking into account the 'breadth requirement' and the following recommendations.

Strongly recommended courses for this study track:

ILO L201: Public International Law

ILO L209: International Treaty Behaviour

ILO L232: International Investment Law

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 "Legal Studies" will follow **5 courses**



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during the fourth semester.

Compulsory course:

- [External Relations of the EU](#) (I. GOVAERE, 6 ECTS, 30h)
- [Legal Methodology II \(Legal Writing Skills\)](#) (S. GARBEN, 0 ECTS, 10h)

Seminars:

Students choose to follow any 3 [seminars](#) (4 ECTS, 25h each)

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

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

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.

Last updated: August 2020