



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 to 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 4 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.

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 (Case Analysis Skills) (10h)

[“Internal Market and EU Citizenship Law” \(35h\)](#)

[“Judicial Remedies in EU Law” \(40h\)](#)

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

Students will also prepare a thesis proposal in the field of transatlantic affairs and their year abroad (incl. internship). The thesis will be co-supervised by professors from both institutions.



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin



THE FLETCHER
SCHOOL

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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 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)

[“External Relations of the EU” \(30h\)](#)

Seminars:

Students choose to follow any 3 [seminars](#) 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 Legal Studies Department.

Students will also participate in the study trip to Luxembourg and Brussels, the centers of decision-making in the European Union.

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, 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** (between 26.5h and 32.5h each).



Strongly recommended courses for this study track:

- ILO L200: The International Legal Order
- ILO L201: Public International Law
- ILO I209: International Treaty Behaviour
- ILO L220: International Organizations
- ILO L232: International Investment Law
- ILO L237: Mergers and Acquisitions
- ILO L240: Legal and Institutional Aspects of International Trade

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

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 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:

- ILO L200: The International Legal Order
- ILO L201: Public International Law
- ILO I209: International Treaty Behaviour
- ILO L220: International Organizations
- ILO L232: International Investment Law
- ILO L237: Mergers and Acquisitions
- 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 professors from both institutions.



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 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 above.

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 “Legal Studies” will follow **4 courses** during the fourth semester.

Compulsory course:

“[External Relations of the EU](#)”(30 h, 6 ECTS)
Legal Methodology (Legal Writing Skills) (8 hours, 2 ECTS)

Seminars:

Students choose to follow any **2 seminars** (25h, 5 ECTS 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 the study trip to Luxembourg and Brussels, the centers of decision-making in the European Union.

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