



Study Track “Political and Governance Studies”

Academic Programme

Why follow the Study Track “Political and Governance Studies” (Bruges)

Students can diversify their studies of transatlantic affairs with a course programme offering in-depth study of the EU’s institutions, governance structure, and policy areas, both internal and external. This provides advantages to students desiring to work in EU and transatlantic affairs in the future by providing a comprehensive knowledge of the EU’s policy priorities and complex institutional operations.

Students starting at the College of Europe

Students of the MATA programme who choose to join the “Political and Governance Studies” study track during their studies at the College of Europe will be specializing on the institutions and policies of the European Union for one year. Students learn the political, economic, and legal foundations of European integration, with the chance to specialise in specific institutions and policy areas. This includes policies and institutions related to transatlantic affairs, which will then be complemented by coursework on political and governance studies and international affairs at The Fletcher School.

Semester 1

At the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track “Political and Governance Studies” will follow **3 courses** during the first semester.

They will take two compulsory courses, “Politics and Policies of the European Union” and “The Political Economy of European Integration”. These courses are designed to familiarise students with the political and economic rationale for European integration and introduce them to the EU’s main institutions and policy areas.

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:

- [Politics and Policies of the European Union](#) (O. COSTA, 7 ECTS, 40h)
- [The Political Economy of European Integration](#) (M. CHANG, 7 ECTS, 40h)
- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs](#) (Prof. J. SHATTUCK, 5 ECTS, 26h)

Students may follow any of the non-assessed [workshops on professional development](#) (8h) and they may apply to participate in any of the extracurricular activities offered by the European Political and Governance Studies Department, such as the [European Centre for Government Transformation](#) and the [Transparency International](#) group.

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

In their second semester at the College of Europe, MATA students in the study track “Political and Governance Studies” follow **6 courses**. They will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and negotiation skills as part of the compulsory course, “Negotiation and Decision-making in the EU: A Simulation Game”. Additionally, they will choose three optional courses offered by the European Political and Governance Studies Department. 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. Finally, they will choose one research seminar in the framework of which they will be working on their thesis.

Compulsory courses:

- o [Negotiation and Decision-making in the EU: A Simulation Game](#) (P. SETTEMBRI/C. HERMANIN/J. WORTH, 7 ECTS, 50h)
- o [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI, 3 ECTS, 15h)
- o Students choose [1 research seminar](#) for the writing of the thesis (0 ECTS, 30h)

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow any 3 [optional courses](#) offered by the European Political and Governance Studies Department (5 ECTS and 30h each).

Students will continue to work on their thesis in transatlantic affairs and prepare their internship. Students may follow any of the non-assessed [workshops on professional development](#) (8h).

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in the study trip to Luxembourg and Strasbourg to visit European and international institutions.

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 “Political and Governance Studies” 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.

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.



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



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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 "Political and Governance Studies" 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** (26 ECTS) 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 "Political and Governance 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 are required to take EIB E251: "The Economics of the European Union". If the course is not taught at Fletcher in a given year, a similar course at Harvard should be followed when possible.

Students may choose the remaining courses from those offered at The Fletcher School. They may



also cross-register and substitute one course with a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University. Additionally, they may take an extra half course.

Compulsory courses:

- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic Affairs](#) (Prof. J. SHATTUCK, 5 ECTS, 26h)
- EIB E251: The Economics of the European Union

Elective courses:

If one or both of the required courses are not offered in the first semester, students can choose to follow elective courses (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each), taking into account the 'breadth requirement' and the recommendations below.

- DHP D264: Geopolitics of Energy in Eurasia
- DHP P200: International Relations: Theory and Practice
- DHP P217: Global Political Economy
- ILO L200: The 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 "Political and Governance Studies" will follow **5 courses** during the second semester. They will also continue to follow the joint course entitled "US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project". In the second semester, this course is focused on developing a joint project.

Students are required to take the course DHP D283M: "U.S.-European Relations since the Fall of the Berlin Wall". If it is not offered, a comparable course should be followed at Harvard.

Additionally, students choose the rest of their courses from those offered at The Fletcher School or cross-register and substitute one of these courses with a relevant course from Tufts University or Harvard University. Additionally, they may take an extra half course.

Compulsory courses:

- [US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project](#) (E. ALESSANDRI, 3 ECTS, 15h)
- DHP D283M: U.S.-European Relations since the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Elective courses:

Students choose to follow other courses (6 ECTS and between 26.5h and 32.5h each) that will total 5 courses (including the compulsory courses), taking into account the 'breadth requirement' and the recommendations below.

Recommended courses for this study track:

- DHP P219: Political Economy of Development
- DHP P287M: Political Economy and Business of the European Union
- ILO L209: International Treaty Behavior



- ILO L240: Legal and Institutional Aspects of International Trade
- EIB E215: The Economics of Public Policy

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 “Political and Governance Studies” will follow **4 courses** during the fourth semester.

Compulsory course:

- [Negotiation and Decision-making in the EU: A Simulation Game](#) (P. SETTEMBRI/C. HERMANIN/J. WORTH, 7 ECTS, 50h)

Elective courses:

- Students choose [1 research seminar](#) for the writing of the thesis (1 ECTS, 30h)
- Students choose to follow any 2 other [optional courses](#) (5 ECTS, 30h each)

Students may follow any of the non-assessed [workshops on professional development](#) (8h) offered by the European Political and Governance Studies Department.

Students in the MATA programme will also participate in the study trip to Luxembourg and Strasbourg to visit European and international institutions.

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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