INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MASTER OF ARTS

This two-year degree program is based at SAIS Europe. The MAIA program provides students with the option to work with faculty advisors to develop and produce an original thesis. Alternatively, students can base their program entirely on coursework, provided they complete at least one course which entails a major research project. MAIA students can pursue both years of the program at SAIS Europe in Bologna, Italy, or they can begin their studies at one of the established cooperative degree partners in Europe (see below).

Students are taught under the American system of graduate education and can select courses based on their academic interests.

The close-knit international academic environment of SAIS Europe fosters a sense of community and collaboration and enables students to learn to communicate across borders and cultures.

Cooperative Degree Partners
SAIS Europe offers cooperative two-year degree programs with leading European universities. Students may begin their course of study at either institution, earning a diploma or master’s degree from both. Students must apply to, and be accepted at, both institutions.

Students entering SAIS Europe from cooperative degree programs receive advanced standing for the first year courses taken at the partner program (usually 56-60 ECTS). Cooperative degree candidates must then fulfill 32 US graduate credits through a combination of coursework and/or a thesis, in addition to the school’s requirements in economics and English language proficiency.

Institut d’études politiques de Lille (Sciences Po Lille, France)
Students who are pursuing their first year of study for the Master’s cycle at Lille can apply to SAIS Europe in Bologna for a second year of study. Upon successful completion of their second year at SAIS Europe and all of the requirements of Sciences Po, students earn both a Master’s degree from Sciences Po and Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who begin at SAIS Europe will earn the Bologna Diploma and then go on to pursue a Master’s at Sciences Po Lille.

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria
Students who begin the program in Vienna can apply to spend their second year of study in Bologna at SAIS Europe. Upon successful completion of all the requirements, students earn an MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who begin their first year of study at SAIS Europe can spend their second year at the Diplomatic Academy. Upon successful completion of their first year at SAIS Europe they can earn the one-year Diploma. After successful completion of the second year in Vienna, students earn a Master of Advanced International Studies (MAIS) from the Diplomatic Academy and a Diploma.

University of Leiden, the Netherlands
Students who are pursuing their first year of Master’s study at Leiden can apply to SAIS Europe in Bologna for a second year of study. Upon successful completion of their second year at SAIS Europe, students will earn both a Master of Arts in International Relations (Humanities) from the University of Leiden and a MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who begin at SAIS Europe may earn the Bologna Diploma and then go on to pursue a MA in International Relations at the University of Leiden.

University of Bologna, Italy
SAIS Europe offers four, two-year cooperative degree programs with the University of Bologna at campuses in Bologna, Forlì and Rimini.

• Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Bologna and Forlì
Students who begin the program at the University of Bologna and complete their second year at SAIS Europe earn both a Laurea Magistrale in Relazioni Internazionali (RILM) and an MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Those who begin at University of Bologna, Forlì and complete their second year at SAIS Europe earn both a Laurea Magistrale in Scienze Internazionali e Diplomatiche (SID) and an MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who complete their first year of study at SAIS Europe may earn a Diploma and then pursue either the RILM or SID at the University of Bologna.

• Resource Economics and Sustainable Development of the School of Economics, Management and Statistics, Rimini
Students who begin the program at the University of Bologna, Rimini and complete their second year at SAIS Europe earn both a Laurea Magistrale in Economics and Market Policy and a MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who complete their first year of study at SAIS Europe can earn the Bologna Diploma and then pursue the Laurea Magistrale in Economics and Market Policy at the University of Bologna, Rimini.

• School of Economics, Management and Statistics, Bologna
Students who begin the program at the University of Bologna, Department of Economics, and complete their second year at SAIS Europe earn both a Laurea Magistrale in Economics and a MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who complete their first year of study at SAIS Europe and second year at the University of Bologna will earn both the MAIA degree from Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe and the Laurea Magistrale in Economics from the University of Bologna.

Degree Requirements

Campus: Bologna, Italy
Credits: 64
Duration: Two academic years, Full-time
Course delivery: In-person

Students who spend both years at SAIS Europe have the option to complete 14 non-language courses and write a thesis of approximately 20,000 words, or complete 16 courses, one of which entails a substantial research project. Students who only spend one year at SAIS Europe as part of a cooperative program complete six courses and a thesis or eight courses. MAIA students select courses from the broad array of courses offered each year at SAIS Europe.

International Economics
All MAIA candidates must successfully complete at least two economics courses in the fall or spring terms. Students who select Microeconomics and Macroeconomics—the basic required courses—will also need to enroll in Fundamentals of Trade and Monetary Theory as a non-credit course to ensure a basic understanding of those topics.

Students who have previously taken courses equivalent to intermediate Micro- and Macroeconomics may petition to take a waiver exam to demonstrate their knowledge. However, students who pass the waiver
exam in Micro- and/or Macroeconomics must then substitute the waived course with the approved upper-level economics course.

MAIA students may take Microeconomics at SAIS Europe during Pre-term. In order to be eligible for Microeconomics in pre-term, students must pass both a Pre-Calculus and Calculus online course. All students are given access to these courses around mid-May when they receive their university email account and access to other systems.

Pre-term courses are not counted toward the MAIA economics requirement although they will fulfill pre-requisite requirements for other courses. MAIA students who pass Microeconomics in Pre-Term must therefore substitute it with another approved economics course.

**Thesis**

Upon admission to the MAIA program, candidates determine whether they wish to pursue the option to complete 14 non-language courses and write a thesis of approximately 20,000 words, or complete 16 courses, one of which entails a substantial research project. Students meet with a faculty advisor to discuss their options and potential thesis topics of interest.