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.

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 other leading universities. Students may begin their course of study at either institution, earning a diploma or master’s degree from both. Students must apply and be accepted at both institutions.

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

As of June 2022, SAIS Europe manages partner programs with the following schools:

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria

Students who begin their studies in Vienna can apply to spend a second year of study in Bologna at SAIS Europe. Upon successful completion of the relevant requirements, they earn the MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe. Those who begin at SAIS Europe can spend a second year of study at the Diplomatic Academy. Upon successful completion of their year at SAIS Europe and the relevant requirements, they can earn the one-year Diploma. At the end of the second year at the DA in Vienna, they can earn a Master of Advanced International Studies (MAIS) from the Diplomatic Academy.

Hopkins Nanjing Center (HNC) and SAIS Europe

This two-year program allows students to complete a Certificate in Chinese and American Studies at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center (HNC) (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/advanced-international-studies/programs/chinese-american-studies-hopkins-nanjing-certificate/#text), as well as a Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) at SAIS Europe. Students spend one year (fall/spring) at each campus, and may begin their studies at either location. Students apply separately to both programs.

Institut d’Études Politiques de Lille (Sciences Po, Lille, France)

Students pursuing a 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 the second year at SAIS Europe and all of the degree requirements of Sciences Po and SAIS Europe, students can 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 can earn the Diploma in International Studies and then go on to pursue a Master’s at Sciences Po Lille.

McGill’s Max Bell School of Public Policy

Students can begin their studies at either SAIS Europe or at McGill’s Max Bell School of Public Policy and after completing all the degree requirements, they receive both the MAIA degree from Johns Hopkins SAIS and Master of Public Policy from McGill.

SOAS University of London

Students begin their studies at either SAIS Europe or at SOAS University of London in one of the pre-approved Master of Science programs and after completing the relevant degree requirements you will receive both the MAIA degree from Johns Hopkins SAIS and a Master of Science from SOAS University of London.

(Telephone from SOAS must be in one of the pre-approved Master of Science (MSc)* programs)

Tel Aviv University (TAU)

Approved degree programs at TAU are Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Cyber Politics and Government, Developing Countries, and Security and Diplomacy.

University of Leiden, The Netherlands

Students pursuing the one-year Master of Arts in International Relations at the University of Leiden can apply to SAIS Europe for a second year of study. Upon successful completion of your second year at SAIS Europe, they can earn both the MA from Leiden and the MAIA from SAIS Europe. Those who begin at SAIS Europe may earn the Diploma in International Studies and then go on to pursue a Master of Arts 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:

Department of Political Science, Bologna and Forlì. Students who begin the program at the University of Bologna and complete a second year at SAIS Europe can earn both a Laurea Magistrale from the University of Bologna and an MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Those who complete the first year of study at SAIS Europe can earn a graduate Diploma in International Studies from SAIS Europe and then pursue either the Laurea Magistrale at the University of Bologna.


Students who begin their studies at the University of Bologna, Rimini and complete the second year at SAIS Europe earn both a Laurea Magistrale in Economics and Market Policy and a MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Vice versa, those who complete the first year of study at SAIS Europe can earn the 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. Those who begin the program at the University of Bologna, Department of Economics, and complete the second year at SAIS Europe earn both a Laurea Magistrale in Economics and a MAIA from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Students who begin with a first year of study at SAIS Europe and second year at the University of Bologna you 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

In order to graduate, students must fulfill all degree requirements and earn a cumulative GPA of 2.67 or above.

Students who spend both years at SAIS Europe may either complete 14 courses (56 credits) and write a thesis of approximately 15,000-20,000 words (8 credits), or complete 16 courses (64 credits), one of which must entail a substantial research project. Approval for the thesis track is conditional on the thesis proposal by the first reader. Students who only spend one year at SAIS Europe as part of a cooperative program complete six courses (24 credits) and a thesis (8 credits) or eight courses (32 credits). MAIA students select courses from the broad array offered each year at SAIS Europe. The program allows students the flexibility to pursue their specific academic interests under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

International Economics

All MAIA candidates must successfully complete the following courses:

- International Economics I or Essentials of Economics I and
- International Economics II or Essentials of Economics II

The Economics I track covers topics in Microeconomics and International Trade Theory and the Economics II track covers topics in Macroeconomics and International Finance. The Essentials courses are more conceptual in nature and require only basic math skills.

Thesis Option

Students who wish to write a thesis must apply in fall of their second year. The application must be approved by a committee, and the thesis proposal must be accepted by the proposed thesis supervisor.