Master of Arts HSG
in International Affairs and Governance (MIA)
“From insight to impact”

Do understanding, insight, and impact come easy?

Is it enough to
a page to capture
>>> International Affairs?
How about

CURIOUSITY

COMPETENCE

COMMITMENT
Why St. Gallen?

The University of St. Gallen was founded as a Business Academy in 1898. Over time, the Academy gradually expanded into fields such as Economics, Law, and Political Science. Today, the University of St. Gallen is home to one of Europe's leading Business Schools and offers a comprehensive, outward looking education.
Four pillars

Our programme complements St.Gallen’s well-established Business perspective with a finely tuned blend of components from Economics, Law, and Political Science. Four disciplinary pillars thus come together.

In fact, our overarching mission is to bring forth flexible generalists – graduates with the ability to tackle problems comprehensively and communicate across disciplines. These two capacities seem all the more relevant and precious today, in a time that is witnessing unparalleled degrees of specialisation.
The best of two worlds

St. Gallen’s International Affairs curriculum combines the research-based academic rigour of a Master of Arts with the interactive nature and practice-oriented approach present in leading International Affairs programmes. The simultaneous pursuit of rigour and relevance also reflects the confidence that the programme’s founders have in your abilities and potential.

Rigour
On the side of teaching, we take pride in a culture that builds on cutting edge research and thus provides students with the appropriate conceptual and methodological tools – with the toolkit they need to make sense of a complex world.

Relevance
Linking theory to practice is a priority. As a MIA student, you participate in projects with practitioners from the public and private sector, and also with experts from international organisations such as the European Central Bank or the World Trade Organization.
Do we have a match?

International Affairs at St.Gallen may be right for you, if:

... you are curious and open-minded, and have a strong interest in contemporary political and economic issues;

... you intend to benefit from your programme’s offerings to develop the professional profile of your choice;

... you are committed to taking up responsibility and a leadership role in business or society.
“Conducting feasibility studies of public transit systems in three major cities in Asia for the UN helped me to grasp the complexity of urban transport in terms of its role in not only minimising environmental degradation but also providing access to jobs and easing inequality.”

Anja Moser; MIA student and intern at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok
Your MIA curriculum

The MIA programme is based on a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates the diverse perspectives constitutive of Political Science, Economics, Business Administration, and Law. The curriculum thus merges St.Gallen’s expertise in economics and business with the analytical study of practical issues pertaining to politics and society as a whole.

The programme revolves around the following essential components:

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Mandatory Courses

Three core courses stand emblematically for the interdisciplinary MIA approach to the study of international affairs and governance.

Research Methods

A variety of methods courses highlights the requisite analytical and methodological foundations.

Practical Projects

A series of practical projects demonstrate the importance attached to combining theory and practice.

Electives

A large number of electives allow you to pick and choose so as to build a profile that reflects your own intellectual and professional interests.

Master's Thesis

Writing a Master's thesis enables you to concentrate on a research question of your own choice.

Contextual Studies

The MIA programme includes an attractive array of contextual studies including courses in leadership skills, critical thinking and cultural awareness. You may also earn credits through internships in companies and public institutions.
Clusters

Electives, practical projects and internships allow you to develop your own professional and academic profile. Fields of specialisation include:

- Foreign Policy and Security Studies
- International Political Economy
- Democratisation and Development
- Public Management / Public Affairs
- Energy and Resources
- Regional Integration
- Public International Law / International Organisation
Make the most of an international experience
Should you wish to expand your horizon, you can select from more than 200 partner universities across Europe, the United States, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Australia.
Dual Degree programmes

Through a number of highly attractive programmes, we cooperate with renowned schools of International Affairs in the United States, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

As a dual degree student, you spend one year at the University of St. Gallen and a second year at one of our partner institutions. Upon completion of four semesters, you are awarded both the M.A. HSG in International Affairs and Governance and the master’s degree of the respective partner university.

Participation in a Dual Degree programme not only provides you with a rich intercultural experience but also with access to another first-rate, global alumni network.

Admission is competitive. Different sets of criteria apply for each programme. For details, do visit our website.
Institut d’Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)
Paris, France

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University
Medford, USA

Yonsei Graduate School of International Studies
Seoul, Korea

Università de los Andes
Bogotá, Colombia
Career prospects

Insight and competence translate into career paths in various ways. Our graduates leave St. Gallen with the requisite knowledge, but also with the appropriate conceptual and methodological tools to take on complexity. More particularly, they can:

- assess quantitative and qualitative data;
- research and write policy memos, proposals, and other key documents;
- track and explain legislative and public policy issues;
- conduct country and market analyses;
- communicate effectively across cultures and languages.

Statistics show that the MIA programme has invariably lived up to its main promise of bringing forth broadly trained, flexible generalists who find employment across the board – and across the globe. On the private sector side, they go on to work in banking and financial institutions, for insurance companies, consultancies and other multinational corporations. On the public sector side, they are employed by federal, state and local government, development agencies, and international organisations.
Our employers

Private Sector 53%
- Banking / Insurance
- Consulting
- Other

Public Sector 47%
- International Organisations / NGO's
- Diplomacy
- Public Administration
- Academia

Examples illustrate the broad range of career prospects:

Manuel Rybach  
Global Head of Public Affairs and Policy, Credit Suisse, Zurich

Dagmar Schmidt Tartagli  
Swiss Ambassador to Senegal, Dakar

Markus Seiler  
Director Federal Intelligence Service, Bern

Gieri Hinnen  
Senior Director, Head of Labour Relations & HR Steering, SWISS International Air Lines, Zurich

Roberto Lang  
Detention Delegate, ICRC, Kandahar, Afghanistan

Barbara Scola  
Economist, The World Bank, Paris

William Turner  
Governance Advisor, British Embassy, Tanzania

Thomas Liebig  
Leading Economist, International Migration Division, OECD, Paris

Johanna Köb  
Responsible Investment Analyst, Zurich Insurance Group

Tilmann Morata Liebert  
Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission, Brussels

Nikola Gütermann  
Consultant, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Stuttgart
"Pursuing this dual degree was an amazing experience. I met students from all over the world and had the opportunity to learn from and be mentored by truly committed and inspiring faculty and practitioners at two professional schools. In addition to an outstanding education, I have benefitted from two impressive alumni networks which has helped my career in humanitarian assistance."

Daniel Trusilo, MIA & MALD 2013, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Washington, D.C.
"We were particularly impressed by the students and alumni with whom we met. To a person, they were bright, loyal, optimistic and successful. Whatever the University does to produce such promising leaders of the world – and enchanting representatives of St.Gallen – should be sustained."

Lisa Anderson, Dean Emerita, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (Peer Review 2017)
Community & network

As a MIA graduate, you will be part of a strong, diverse and dynamic community that facilitates networking opportunities and friendships.
Beyond cultivating a sense of community through personal exchange, one important purpose of hosting events and conventions is to connect alumni back to the campus, be it in the context of seminars and practical projects or for lectures and panel discussions. The ultimate purpose of our alumni efforts is to create added value for students and graduates alike.
Living in Switzerland

A time-honoured republic with a unique system of direct democracy, Switzerland continues to enjoy an outstanding degree of political stability. The country is home to a large number of international organisations and agencies such as the United Nations (UN), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), or the World Trade Organization (WTO). Political stability and an open, globalized economy allow for one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Making ends meet

As the Swiss federal government and the cantons subsidise university education, tuition and fees are comparatively low, i.e., CHF 6,700 per year. The cost of living, obviously, varies according to lifestyle. Due to a relaxed housing market in St.Gallen, students can easily find accommodation at affordable rates. On average, students’ overall expenses amount to CHF 29,000 per year, including tuition fees. Stipends and financing schemes such as The Starr International Foundation Scholarship are available.
Beyond a fine university, there are plenty of good reasons to pick St.Gallen. Conveniently situated between Lake Constance and the mountains, the location provides nearby opportunities for various recreational and sports activities from hiking and rock-climbing to skiing, windsurfing, and sailing.

Cultural activities, too, are almost limitless in their variety. In this regard, St.Gallen’s outstanding offering has been shaped both by tradition and modernity. The Abbey District has long been a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and exhibitions at its magnificent Library keep attracting curious minds in the thousands. The same goes for the city’s historic textile trail and modern museums, some of which are absolute gems.

Concert and theatre venues, cinemas, a great number of street cafes, bars and clubs are scattered about the charming old medieval town. Fans of good food and drink will always find a tempting selection here, from the humble sausage vendor to steakhouses and trendy venues.
Switzerland

- Official languages: German • French • Italian • Romansh
- Highest point: Dufourspitze 4,634 m
- Lowest point: Lake Maggiore 193 m
- Summer: 24° Max | 13° Min
- Winter: 4° Max | -3° Min
- 158 sunny days/year
- Foreign population (2015) in thousands:
  - Total: 2048.7
  - Europe: 1733.2 (84 %)
  - Africa: 93.8 (5 %)
  - Asia: 136.8 (7 %)
  - Oceania: 4.2 (< 1 %)
- 8.4 m
- Bern
- 41,285 km²
- 1 CHF = 1 $  
  1 CHF = 0.91 €
- The Global Competitiveness Report 2016–2017
- Job security worldwide
- 3.0%
- #7
- Safest countries in the world
- #1
- #1
- 5,900 km of ski runs
St. Gallen

Age groups

1. 0-19 years old: 17.5%
2. 20-39 years old: 35.6%
3. 40-64 years old: 30.1%
4. 65-79 years old: 11.4%
5. 80+ years old: 5.4%

St. Gallen trivia

612: the Irish monk Gallus established a hermitage by the river Steinach

1438: first mention of the Bratwurst in the “Statuten der Metzgerzunft St. Gallen”

1779: foundation of Schützendgarten, the oldest brewery in Switzerland

1879: FC St. Gallen is the oldest football club in mainland Europe

1910: the world’s most important embroidery producer and exporter

From HSG to...

Old Town: 500 m
Textile Museum: 1 km
Abbey District: 900 m
Wildlife Park Peter & Paul: 3 km
Three Ponds: 3 km
Lake Constance: 11 km
Säntis mountain: 32 km
MIA admission criteria

• Undergraduate university degree in Economics/Management, Social Sciences or Legal Studies, with at least 180 ECTS credits
• Proficiency in English (Level C1 CEF)

Applicants are admitted based on the assessment of the following criteria:

• Grade average of undergraduate degree
• GMAT or GRE
• Professional experience, extracurricular commitment and intercultural mobility
• Writing sample (bachelor’s thesis)
• Letter of motivation
• Curriculum Vitae

For more details visit our admissions website
⇒ www.mia.unisg.ch

Different criteria may apply for participation in one of our Dual Degree programmes.
So, do we have match?
We cultivate

CURIOSITY
COMPETENCE
COMMITMENT
Contact

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