

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.” – Martin Luther King Jr.
Country of Origin: Italy

Years of studying in Pavia: 2014-2016

Name of the previous degree: Laurea Triennale in Lettere Moderne (UNIMI)

Current occupation: Programme Development Specialist at Plan International UK (INGO)

a) Why exactly did you choose to study “World Politics and International Relations” at the University of Pavia?

After a bachelor’s degree in a different subject matter (i.e. Literature), I joined an NGO summer volunteering programme to work with former street children in the slums of Nairobi. That experience has been pivotal for my life and future career, as I understood that I wanted a job in the international development aid sector. After some searches on available Master’s degrees, I found WPIR as the most suitable faculty to reach my career objectives, mainly because of its multidisciplinary approach, multicultural environment, eminent professors, and the scholarship opportunities offered by UNIPV.

b) What skills did you gain from the program that you utilize in your current profession?

On the one hand, the knowledge of international politics dynamics I gained through many of the classes offered at WPIR has been a great basis for developing hard skills necessary for working in developing and managing humanitarian and development programmes in the NGO sector. On the other hand, the most useful skills I developed in my years at WPIR are the soft ones, like public speaking, team work, and the capacity to work under tight deadlines, which have proven to be fundamental to hit the ground running when I started my career.

c) Did your initial career plans change during your studies?

Not really, as I had a clear idea when I started. However, the idea of what my future career would look like when I was studying at WPIR was different from the reality of my job today. In my experience, the internship experiences that I did through UNIPV scholarships have been pivotal in understanding the nature and processes of the sector I am working in, and so I strongly encourage all current and future students to benefit from the existing opportunities of study exchanges and internships supported by the UNIPV.

e) What do you remember the best from your studies? Particular subject or a conference?

I have so many good memories of my time in Pavia that it is hard to pick. One of the experiences I enjoyed the most was working in group to present case studies in different subject matters. For instance, the role play to present cases of the International Tribunals

during International Law classes have been really fun and instructive at the same time. Also, I enjoyed each of the several conferences and lessons given by external professors, scholars, and professionals offered periodically by the faculty.

f) What kind of career opportunities are available to graduates of this program?

Looking at my cohort, I must say that my colleagues are now working in many different roles and sectors, ranging from international organisations (NGOs, UN Agencies, international institutions like the EU or the World Bank) to private sector consulting or even journalism.

g) Name three things that you find the most important to get the most out of studying on this faculty.

Soft Skills – like public speaking and team work.

The multicultural environment and the possibility to meet and exchange views and experiences with fellow students with different cultural and academic background.

Scholarship and international programs, that gave me the possibility to study and work abroad and to start off my career in the NGO sector.