

“I had remained like this, stopped at the first steps of many routes, with my spirit full of worlds”
– “Uno, nessuno e centomila” by Luigi Pirandello

Country of origin: Italy.

Previous degree: BA in International Affairs with a Minor in Communications.

Internship: Italian Embassy in Tirana, Albania.

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

- The answer to this question brings me back to 2018 when I started my first year of ‘laurea triennale’ (BA) in an American university in Rome. The reason why I chose to study under an American educational system over an Italian one was to challenge my comfort zone. I would attend my lectures in small classes, with a maximum of 15-20 students coming from all over the world with whom I would actively debate and share opinions on global issues. For all our professors we were not only numbers, but they knew us and encouraged us to carry an optimum participation. Clearly, this stimulating environment offered a more interactive learning experience that would require my engagement in front of the class. “World Politics and International Relations” at the University of Pavia was the perfect solution for my MA journey. In WPIR you will establish a close interaction with your colleagues and your lecturers, all having very international backgrounds which is one of the chief assets of this degree. During lectures, I feel I can always share my knowledge and seek assistance from my instructors who, on the other side, are able to provide a personalized feedback to each of us.

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

- As I mentioned before, stepping out of my comfort zone has always been one of my most feared hurdles and the WPIR discussion-based lessons have encouraged me to overcome my shyness, by practicing public speaking. Furthermore, the combination of both theoretical and practical learning helped me boost my critical and analytical thinking towards international phenomena.

c) Why were you interested in International Relations in the first place?

- After obtaining my high school diploma, I had several interests that I wanted to put forward. In fact, having attended an Italian ‘Liceo Linguistico’, I was very passionate about foreign languages. At the same time, a paramount interest was growing in the fields of Psychology and Criminology. Hence, I thought that entering the journey of International Relations would have merged and consolidated all these domains. To better illustrate, psychology can offer an understanding of the dynamics of international negotiations and the behavior of political leaders. Whereas, criminology is very much linked to international security issues, such as terrorism and transnational crime. Both areas provide a more evaluative perspective on domestic and foreign policy contributing to greater accountability in international politics. So, here I am!

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

- Something I will never forget is having major calibre guest lecturers during our seminars or normal classes. During some 'Human Rights and International Justice' seminars, we had the honor to discuss on international criminal justice with Judge Fausto Pocar, former President for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia from 2005 to 2009, and a member of the Appellate Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda since 2000. In addition, 'History of Diplomacy' class has welcomed many diplomatic speakers, such as Ambassador Stefano Baldi, Permanent Representative of Italy at OSCE, in Vienna, to debate on topics like public diplomacy. I am really grateful for being part of the 'World Politics and International Relations' community. I strongly believe that having such precious opportunities is rare and thanks to the University of Pavia us students have had the chance to listen to distinguished personalities with an extensive experience who can provide a unique perspective on topical global issues. Attending these seminars offered us an occasion for networking with professionals, paving the way for possible career opportunities and professional personal development.

e) What are the things in Pavia that every student should experience or see?

- Pavia is the city within student reach, par excellence! Since it is a quite small city, students have everything they need around them on foot or even by bike. Thankfully, the amazing frescoes and architecture characterizing this historical city, makes you appreciate every walk to university or groceries. I love strolling around the streets of Pavia accompanied by the peaceful atmosphere while enjoying an amazing ice cream at 'Gelateria Da Cesare'. The Cathedral (Duomo) of Pavia and the Basilica of San Michele are worth a visit, yet the Castello Visconteo is my favorite, especially in spring. Clearly, student life in Pavia is lively! There are many associations involving cultural initiatives with the many shows and events organized by the museums, the main theatre of Pavia, 'Teatro Fraschini', and the 'Politeama' cinema. Furthermore, walking along the river 'Ticino' or stopping for a picnic at sunset is very common among students in Pavia. Finally, if you decide to attend university colleges, be ready to experience its traditions, getting involved in college teams and, sometimes, competing against other colleges in the city.

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

- Firstly, I consider following the news a key aspect in the study of international relations. Reading what is taking place around the world is necessary to reach a wider point of view on issues that are not only related to political issues, but also to social and economic ones.

- Then taking advantage of the numerous abroad experiences, like exchange programs (Erasmus) or internships offered by the University (Embassies, NGOs, IGOs, etc.) provides a possibility to build everlasting relationships and acquire a proper concrete international experience.

- Finally, during the WPIR path students are expected to write various essays/papers at the end of the semester, critically analyzing topics of international politics. Therefore, it is best to highlight the importance of developing strong writing skills.

