

*"I have said this many times, that there seems to be enough room in the world for mediocre men, but not for mediocre women, and we really have to work very, very hard."* – Madeleine Albright

Country of Origin: Greece

Years of studying in Pavia: 2020-2022

Name of the previous degree: Bachelor of Arts in History, minor in International Relations

Current occupation: Political Analyst/ Contributor for the Economist Intelligence Unit by The Economist

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

The World Politics and International Relations program combines many fields and offers the most holistic approach to international relations. As a result, it contributes to the most comprehensive approach to international politics, from theoretical approaches to applying legal knowledge and learning multiple research methods, including ideas and strategies, to deal with current issues in international relations provided by in-depth context through history and comparative analysis. I chose this program because of its multidisciplinary nature and because, compared to other programs, it did not limit its courses to focusing on specific geopolitical zones.

I chose to study in Pavia because of its reputation, location and environment. In addition, I was interested in a two-year program, which is offered in Italy. Still, I wanted a university in a safe environment with many opportunities to travel and enjoy great food!

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

When dealing with an issue in international relations, considering many aspects that contribute to creating a problem helps one conduct more focused research. The course has reprogrammed the way I think and the way I conduct research. From learning how to academically advance my writing to how to answer a question best, I can become better at analysing current issues. Every course has given me a new skill; international law courses taught me how to best analyse a few lines of law and use them; explanatory models taught me how to conduct proper strategies and organise moves in political events.

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

I wouldn't say that my plans changed because I always aspired to be a political analyst; however, I discovered more opportunities and fields I could work in, giving me many more prospects. I became very interested in International Law and had the chance to intern at a law firm studying European Law. The most significant change would be the topics I got interested in. When I started my studies, I did not expect to write my thesis on cyber security, but I was inspired to do so because of the course Issues in International Relations.

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

I was interested in International Relations because world politics and international relations impact domestic politics significantly. Someone who chooses the field of political science must care about their country's political situation. There are still many things to establish internationally to help human rights, political stability and economic flourishing. Relations between countries always reflect the efforts taken to progress as a society. I wanted to follow

this path in my studies because even though it is difficult to create a big impact internationally it is always worth the try. International relations is the only field that truly highlights cooperation and I am confident that the new generations will create so much more progress to protect values that are been disregarded on a daily basis by countries.

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

Honestly, I can't choose one memory or one subject. However, I particularly enjoyed the seminars and debates during class and any exercise that allowed us to use what we had learned. I believe the class discussions were what every student was looking forward to. Our professors had picked topics they knew would lead us to discuss our notes even after our class endlessly. I am also very thankful for having the opportunity to be a part of the OSCE laboratory and for all the diplomats and experts that visited the university to give us a better understanding of their work.

During our first semester in Comparative Politics, I greatly appreciated the seminars. It was the first course that allowed us to discuss in class, share our ideas and explore many topics. Moreover, we had to have our first semester online because of Covid, so the seminars gave us the best way to connect and make the course very interesting even though we had to follow it from our computers.

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

A graduate of this program will have many career opportunities. For example, one may start working for international organisations, public offices, the diplomatic body, and the press. Moreover, as companies grow, they become more interested in foreign investments and entering new markets. As a result, the demand for political advisors is rising, and one can have the opportunity to work in many different companies. There is also an academic path to follow in any of the fields being studied in the program. For example, I became a political analyst writing for Greek politics and cyber security internationally.

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

The three things that are the most important to get the most out of studying on this faculty are an open mind, dedication, and great communication skills.

We must be open-minded because we come across many contradicting ideas, and it is our job to evaluate them. One has to be prepared to change their mind, listen to other opinions, and explore many different topics. Both political studies and history are subjects that are being told from many different points of view, and one has to be ready to accept a different understanding of events and ideas.

Dedication is essential because this program requires a lot of work. With weekly assignments, papers and exams, this program will require a commitment to studying.

Finally, great communication skills are fundamental for doing well in this program and for someone to get the most out of it. We must make many presentations, participate in debates, work with other students, write papers and participate in oral exams. Great communication can come from confidence, and confidence can be found in knowledge. Therefore, we must not be afraid to use our voice, share our ideas and participate in many discussions.

*P.S.: I would like to add that the program is taught by the best group of professors I could ever hope for. Our professors truly made this experience one of the best adventures of my life. I will be forever thankful to all of them.*