

*The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know.*" – Albert Einstein

Country of origin: Norway.

Previous degree: Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Occupation: Actively searching for a job position / applying for a Ph.D.

My decision to enroll in the WPIR master's program at the University of Pavia stemmed from its distinctive multidisciplinary approach. This innovative framework facilitated my exploration of diverse facets within International Relations (IR), such as law and history, which I lacked from my previous studies in Political Science. Impressively, the program has a well-balanced structure and a notable strength in attracting a diverse cohort of international students from various corners of the globe, augmenting the IR class's richness.

Contrasting my experiences in Norway, I found the WPIR courses to be exceptionally interactive, a subtle distinction that I think significantly impacts our ability to communicate effectively and deliver compelling presentations. As a multidisciplinary program, WPIR offers a broad array of elective courses, which provided me the opportunity to delve deeper into subjects beyond the program's requirements. For instance, my passion for investigating the history and international political landscape of the South China Sea materialized through three mid-term papers, despite each course having distinct core contents. Essentially, the program allows students to specialize in their chosen IR field from the outset. Furthermore, the program recognizes the significance of language proficiency in the field and facilitates language course enrolment, counting these credits toward the degree. Indeed, during my two-year stay, I managed to achieve an intermediate level of proficiency in the Italian language.

Beyond academia, Pavia serves as an active and student-friendly city, brimming with historical charm and tranquil spaces for savouring a cup of coffee or a beer while engrossed in articles or socializing with friends. The city's vibrant student community renders it an ideal hub for establishing connections both within Italy and across the globe. Adding more appeal to the location, its favourable proximity to Milan, Como, Turin, and Genova makes traveling from Pavia convenient and affordable.

In summary, my time in Pavia has left an indelible impact. The multidisciplinary and interactive nature of the WPIR programme has bolstered my confidence in discussing a wide range of IR topics. Simultaneously, the experience has illuminated the truth behind Einstein's quote, reaffirming the boundless expanse of knowledge yet to be explored. My stay not only enhanced my existing knowledge but also ignited an insatiable curiosity to delve deeper into various subjects in the future, and I will highly recommend the programme to prospective students!