



Master International Relations

Faculty of History and Social Sciences

Newsletter winter semester 2023/2024



Dear MIB students,
dear alumnae and alumni of our master's program,
welcome to the academic year 2023/2024!

On the following pages, MIB students report on their studies at KU and specifically on their experiences during their semester abroad. Furthermore, you will find information on networking opportunities, on events of the KU career service as well as on our lecture series "International Relations". For the winter semester, we were able to invite Prof Rahel M. Schomaker to give a lecture on the role of international administrations in global relations, and MIB alumnus Christian Rabini to deliver a lecture on contemporary theoretical developments in our field and their practical applications.

The program was successfully re-accredited last semester. We are currently preparing minor changes, such as the introduction of a new elective module on the topic of "International Political Economy" as well as adjustments to the "Admission Procedure", which are scheduled to take effect starting in the academic year 2024/25.

Finally, here are some essential guidelines for all new MIB students: You should initiate the transfer of credits as soon as possible, ideally after prior consultation with the MIB program coordinator, Mr. Fouquet. In addition, we encourage you to start planning an optional and highly beneficial semester or year abroad in the academic year 2024/25 without delay.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time. Since I am on "research leave" during the winter semester, Dr Ludwig and Mr. Fouquet in particular are available to answer your questions.

A good start into the semester and many greetings on behalf of the whole MIB team

Klaus Brummer

Chairman of the Board of Examiners and Spokesperson of MIB

International Experience – The MIB Semester Abroad

The semester abroad and internships in an international context are central aspects of a successful study of international relations. At the MIB, you have a variety of opportunities to find exactly the right match for your interests and focus - in Europe within the framework of the numerous Erasmus partnerships of the KU, the “European Studies specialization” of the MIB in cooperation with the Université de Fribourg / University of Fribourg in Switzerland, but also worldwide. Regarding the latter aspect, we are pleased to present in this issue of the MIB Newsletter two field reports by Dominique Schütt and Loreta Reisacher.

Dominique Schütt: Living and studying in Japan

After I couldn't start my semester abroad during my bachelor's degree due to Corona, I really wanted to make up for it in my master's degree. Before I could start my trip, I first had to take care of the formalities. Regardless of the choice of country, I would advise you to start your preparations early. Especially the language test is a must! This depends on the choice of country, but for most countries an English certificate is required. This is also the case for my first choice, Sophia University in Tokyo. (Photo: private.)

But back to the beginning, why Japan? After having focused primarily on Latin America during my bachelor's degree, I wanted to expand my knowledge of Asia during my master's degree. Since I have always been interested in Japan, my first choice was Sophia University in Tokyo. Sophia University has a very extensive course offering for international students, as well as many different Japanese language courses for every level. After I received the confirmation from Sophia University, I had to take care of my apartment, my visa as well as my course selection. Since Tokyo is a very large city, I would advise choosing an apartment that is as centrally located as possible. Although these apartments are significantly more expensive, you save both the two hours per day on the train and the cost of their tickets.



The time this saves can be very advantageous in the daily routine of studying in Japan. Although studying is not necessarily more difficult than in Germany, it is much less free and takes place exclusively during the semester. So the workload during the semester is much higher than in Germany, especially if you decide to take a language course, which is something you should consider carefully. It really is a lot of work. Especially if you're only staying in the country for a semester, it can make more sense to spend the time exploring Tokyo and making new contacts instead of cramming kanji, but certainly both have their pros and cons. However, since I wanted to stay in Japan a little longer, I decided to do my internship abroad in Japan as well. Although it can be very helpful to be fluent in Japanese, it is possible to find an internship even if you don't speak the language. For example, I did my internship at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which was entirely in German.

I could go on writing forever at this point. But in conclusion, I would like to advise everyone who is interested in a semester abroad in Japan to definitely give it a try! Tokyo alone is so diverse that one semester is hardly enough to explore all the interesting places. Be it the

nightlife in Shinjuku or Shibuya, the many different shrines, temples and museums or the many small cafes and restaurants. And if you have the chance to leave Tokyo, Japan offers many more interesting places to explore....

Loreta Reisacher: My semester abroad in Uganda

I started my studies of International Relations in 2021/22 to analyze and question international events. As a student of International Relations, it is very exciting for me to gain experience in a country with a special political history as a developing country. Therefore, I decided to spend a semester abroad at Makerere University in Uganda.



Makerere University (photo: university logo), the oldest and most prestigious university in East Africa, offers an outstanding level of education. Of the four courses I attend, the “Advanced Diplomatic Theory and Practice” and “Development Studies and Strategies” courses prove to be particularly exciting. The Advanced Diplomacy course is dedicated to diplomacy and the work of diplomats from a Ugandan perspective. In this course, international and Ugandan politics are continually critiqued and discussed. When criticism of Western approaches is voiced, the opinions of internationals are always openly included in the discussion. The course is also interesting because a fellow student himself is in the diplomatic service. The “Development Studies and Strategies” course is more theoretical in nature, but in class discussions the professor and my fellow students often share their personal experiences in Uganda and reflect on theories based on their individual backgrounds. Through this, I learn a lot about the country and life, such as problems in road construction and different family models. (Photo: Private)

Another goal of my semester abroad was to get to know another culture better. In Uganda, I am impressed by the extraordinary warmth and serenity of the people. You are quickly accepted everywhere and learn a lot about the culture of the people. At the university there are many offers and events. I have already been able to attend comedy evenings, festivals and many lectures, which were all very interesting and a lot of fun. In addition, Uganda convinces with a beautiful and unique landscape and the only partially tourist developed country makes traveling here adventurous, but still very interesting. Nevertheless, sometimes the lack of organization, especially of the university and the population, makes you despair. But you get



used amazingly fast to running through numerous offices, rarely getting clear information and usually being the first everywhere if you are 15-30 minutes late.

Furthermore, it is very revealing for me how political issues are talked about in Uganda. The president of Uganda has ruled the country in a dictatorial manner for 40 years. Critical attitudes towards the government are widespread at the university and are usually openly communicated. Nevertheless, it is known that critical statements by lecturers can be grounds for dismissal.

Overall, my semester abroad at Makerere University in Uganda expands my understanding of international relations and provides me with deep insights into the political landscape and culture of the country. Although it is sometimes very challenging to live and study here, I am grateful for this valuable experience and the opportunity to broaden my academic and personal horizons in Uganda.

The MIBPlus student network

The MIB student network, **MIBPlus**, was launched in the summer semester of 2016. It is open to all active students, but also to the numerous alumni of the study program.

At present, MIBPlus already has well over 100 members. But a network works all the better the more belong to it and get

involved. You still know alumni and want to invite them to join the MIBPlus network? Simply download the membership application on the MIB homepage and forward it...



Network with many other students and alumni also through the MIBPlus group on LinkedIn!

Event tips all around the MIB

Lecture Series of the Chair of International Relations

In the winter semester 2023/2024, the Chair of International Relations continues its semester-long lecture series. Three guest lectures by colleagues from Germany and abroad will again address current topics and challenges in global relations – from climate change and the role of international administrations to contemporary theoretical developments in the field and their practical applications. Cordial invitation!

Dr Amy Below (California State University, East Bay, United States)

The UNFCCC and Global Climate Governance

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – 18.00 – Zoom

Prof Dr Rahel M. Schomaker (Carinthian University of Applied Sciences, Austria & University of Administrative Sciences Speyer)

International Administrations as Players in Global Relations

Monday, November 27, 2023 – 18.00 – Zoom

Christian Rabini, MA (International Police Cooperation, Police Headquarters Munich) – Alumnus MIB

Complexity Thinking in Theory – and Practice

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 – 18.00 – UA 030

For lectures conducted online via Zoom, please register by sending an email to andreas.ludwig@ku.de.

Event tips from the KU Career Service and the Service Center for International Internships in the winter semester



Career Talk: Working at International Organizations

November 21, 2023 – 18.15 – Zoom

Speaker:

Thomas Bucker, Head German Recruitment Office for International Organizations (BFIO)
Students and alumni of the KU – e.g. Maximilian Scheid (Alumnus MIB)

International organizations are on your professional radar? Would you like to do an internship in this field or are you already planning your career entry? Thomas Bucker from the Bureau of Executives on International Organizations (BFIO Bonn), is exactly the right person to talk to. In this event, he will present your prospects and, above all, provide you with relevant practical tips. This will enable you to plan your work and career in international organizations with a long-term perspective and to prepare yourself ideally for application and selection procedures. Another topic will be the possible forms of practical assignments in the UN, UNESCO or EU. The lecture will be followed by a panel of experts led by Thomas Bucker, in which KU alumni will talk about their personal experiences and give interested fellow students practical tips on internships and starting a career at IOs.

Group Coaching for Interviews (English and German)

Organizer: International Office – Service Center International Internships and Career Service
January 19, 2023 – 9.30-13.00 – Ingolstadt Campus

Furthermore, various workshops and information events on the topics of “Financing a Stay Abroad” and “Applying Abroad” will again be held, also in other foreign languages. More information can be found on the website of the International Office.

Last but not least... – New development plan for the KU

Advancing KU's strategic development in the coming years in a consistent, sustainable and transparent manner - that is the goal of KU's new development plan, which looks at a period up to the year 2030. “Our new development plan defines the common framework for action, formulates the essential goals and priorities, and serves as an instrument of orientation for the Presidential Board, the university's committees, and ultimately all members of KU. In addition, we also want to use it to inform the public about the KU's aspired goals,” says President Prof Dr Gabriele Gien.

The development plan focuses on areas such as research, teaching and knowledge transfer, governance and infrastructure, as well as cross-cutting issues such as internationalization, sustainability, equality and diversity, family-friendliness and inclusion.

The detailed development plan is available online at www.ku.de/entwicklungsplan.

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**All information on the study program also available at:
www.ku.de/mib**

**Questions, requests, suggestions? You can reach us at
mib@ku.de...**

News from KU always at: www.ku.de

