



Master International Relations

Faculty of History and Social Sciences

Newsletter winter semester 2024/2025



Dear MIB students,
dear alumni of our Master's program,
welcome to the academic year of 2024/2025!

On the following pages, MIB students report on their studies at the KU and, specifically, on their experiences during the required internship. You will also find information on networking opportunities, events such as the KU's career advice service and the "International Relations" lecture series, which we will be resuming in the winter semester. Professors Karen Smith (London School of Economics and Political Science) and Amnon Aran (City, University of London), for example, have been invited to give a joint lecture on feminist foreign policy.

Following the recent re-accreditation of the degree program and the resulting reform of the examination regulations, the new students will now be the first to begin their studies under these new regulations. One of the changes is a further expansion of the required elective area. In addition, the procedure of selection and "aptitude assessment" has been adapted.

Finally, some well-proven advice for all new MIB students: Possible recognitions of academic achievements and credits should be taken care of promptly, ideally after prior consultation with the MIB course coordinator, Mr. Fouquet. You should also start your planning for a potential exchange semester or year during the academic year of 2025/2026 soon – both are voluntary, yet extremely beneficial in the MIB.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Fouquet, Dr. Ludwig (Deputy Chair of the Board of Examiners) or myself at any time.

Have a good start into the semester and best wishes on behalf of the entire MIB team!

Klaus Brummer

Chairperson of the Board of Examiners and Head of the MIB Degree Program

International Experience – the required internship in the MIB

Both the semester abroad and internships in an international context are central aspects of successful studies of international relations. In the MIB you are given a wide range of opportunities to match your interests and focus best – in Germany, Europe, but also worldwide. In this edition of the MIB Newsletter, we are pleased to present you two experience reports by Tobias Neubauer and Nikolaus Rischbieter.

Tobias Neubauer: Internship at KAS in Colombia

As the MIB course administration recommended an internship abroad and I had always wanted to put my Spanish skills to the test in Latin America, I applied for such an internship at several political foundations in the region at an early stage. I was accepted by the Rule of Law program for Latin America by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (*Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, KAS*). The KAS Rule of Law program runs offices all over the world and supports the development of constitutional structures in the countries of this region.

The office for Latin America is located in Bogotá, Colombia – a city of eight million people that could not be a bigger contrast to Eichstätt. At 2582 m, it is one of the highest cities in the world, which makes the air noticeably thinner. I spent my internship there from January to March 2024. The team consisted of 13

employees; two from Germany and the rest from the region. Therefore, Spanish was the general lingua franca. Not an easy situation, but the really courteous and friendly team simplified things.



Photo: private.

During my time there, I worked on various projects. I helped organize a series of seminars on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Latin America, assisted in categorizing and summarizing of rule of law indices and wrote reports on current developments in countries such as Bolivia and Peru. I had the opportunity to attend events of the political arm of the KAS, participate in a symposium organized by the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation and accompany the head of the program in meetings with partners, e.g. at the German Embassy.

All in all, it was a wonderful and educational time. I had the opportunity to meet many interesting people and improve my Spanish considerably. My fears of being too involved in political work were already dispelled within the first few weeks. Only Konrad Adenauer's portrait was omnipresent – but you get used to that after a while.

Nikolaus Rischbieter: Internship at the OECD in Paris

During my Master's degree, I focused more on international organizations, and, as I had already gained some practical experience in the development policy area, the OECD's Directorate for Development Cooperation (DCD) was very interesting for me. During my internship, I worked specifically on the topic of effectiveness of development cooperation (DC). At the DCD, however, there are always opportunities to look into other fields of development cooperation as well.

My specific work was very versatile: it included classic internship activities, such as taking minutes, but I was quickly involved in all aspects of the subject. In concrete terms, this usually meant developing the first draft of a paper or a contribution of a larger document, which then, however, would still be passed through several hands until the final version. Which in turn means that interns definitely have the opportunity to influence certain policy papers or talking points. However, it is important to realize that the OECD only focuses on the multilateral area of development cooperation. So if you want to work on a specific topic in a specific country, you should rather choose a bilateral project. But if you are interested in multilateral development cooperation issues in general and want to experience the meetings of the DAC ambassadors (who are, in simple terms, the DCD's clients), then this is definitely the right place for you.

The cool thing about the OECD is that once you have "made it" as an intern, it is easier to get at least a consultant contract later on and, thus, stay and work at the OECD a little longer. In summary: If you want to work with people from all OECD countries on multilateral development cooperation issues, if you are not already bothered enough by writing term papers and want to continue drafting policy papers on sometimes very specific topics (who knows, for example, about the DAC's position on locally led approaches to aid for trade?!), and if you can familiarize yourself in depth with such specific topics, then this internship is highly recommended.



Photo: private.

Finally, I would like to point out that although the internship was paid, the 1000 euro salary did not cover the cost of living in Paris. However, there are opportunities for scholarships, and you can also get grant by the Carlo Schmid program. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me via LinkedIn.

Student Spotlight – Silas Richter on his scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation (*Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*)

The *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* is the oldest and largest scholarship system in Germany, currently supporting around 15,000 students. Under the slogan “Achievement, Initiative, Responsibility”, it aims to support young people with great artistic or academic talent and, regardless of political orientation, to reflect social diversity.

I was nominated by the examinations office and, after a successful application, was able to take part in a two-day selection seminar. After demonstrating my abilities in several moderated discussion rounds with other applicants and personal professional discussions with jury members, I was, against my expectations, finally informed about my acceptance by the foundation in October 2021. Alternative ways into the selection process are also possible via very good academic performances, a suggestion by the school management when obtaining the Abitur or even self-application including a selection test for first-year students. Please note, however, that by the time of application for the test you must already be in the first or second semester of your undergraduate degree course.



Photo: private.

A successful admission to the *Studienstiftung* opens up a wide range of exchange opportunities and further funding options for students that go far beyond the individual financial support. The opportunities range from summer academies, academic colleges, professional academies and language courses all over the world to self-organized excursions to broaden your horizons. Particularly, the financial support and the possibility to connect with other German scholarship holders worldwide offer further possibilities when studying abroad. Especially during my six-month study visit to Waseda University in Tokyo, I was extremely grateful for the contact to another scholarship holder, which resulted in a wonderful friendship. This meant not only that I was not completely on my own abroad, but we also had many memorable experiences together, as we also organized a meeting of all scholarship holders in Tokyo. But I was also able to make contacts within Germany, for example by taking part in the social science research group on the topic of “Representation and resentment: on the unease of representative democracy” in close connection with my professional interests. By chance, I also found out some time ago that an acquaintance from my studies is also member of the *Studienstiftung*, which made it easier to take part in events of the previously unknown local group in Eichstätt.

The frequently raised objection that the *Studienstiftung* is a rather elitist bunch of conceited students may be difficult for outsiders to refute, insofar as it is after all scholarship organization. However, I personally have only positive things to say about the *Studienstiftung* as a forum for encounters, where you meet other lively, down-to-earth students at eye level as well as on a professional level.

The student network MIBPlus

The MIB student network, MIBPlus, was launched already in the summer semester of 2016. It is open to all active students as well as the numerous alumni of the program.

MIBPlus currently has well over 100 members. However, a network works better

the more people who are part of it and get involved. Do you know other alumni and would like to invite them to join the MIBPlus network? Simply download the declaration of membership from the MIB homepage and forward it...



Connect to many other students and alumni via the MIBPlus group on LinkedIn as well!

Event recommendations MIBPlus

MIBStarter (German and English)

When you start studying at the MIB, there are a number of issues that quickly arise, from organizing your studies and your stay abroad to writing your first assignments at the MIB. MIBStarter supports first-semester students and provides answers to the most pressing questions and problems. Students from higher semesters will also be there to share their experiences.

Moderation: Dr Andreas N. Ludwig and Stephan Fouquet

November 13, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Zoom

Key qualifications: Writing term papers in the MIB (German and English)

Term papers are still a challenge for many MA students, from finding the first topic to correct citation. For many international students in particular, the German standards are often not entirely clear. With a new special event called “Academic Writing in the MIB”, included in the GGF module “Key Qualifications” (*Schlüsselqualifikationen*) we support you in this!

Moderation: Dr Andreas N. Ludwig

December 11, 2024 – 3 p.m. – INT 209

Lecture series of the Chair of International Relations (English)

In the winter semester 2024/2025, the Chair of International Relations will resume its semester-long lecture series after a one-semester break. Four guest lectures by colleagues from Germany and abroad will address current topics and challenges in global relations – from new perspectives on feminist foreign policy to the question of how to prepare for future developments in international relations in academia and practice.

Nov 19, 2024 6 p.m. Zoom	Prof Dr Amnon Aran (City, University of London, UK), Prof Dr Karen Smith (London School of Economics, UK)	Analysing Feminist Foreign Policy: Towards the Next Agenda
Dec 4, 2024 8.30 a.m. INT 101	Prof Volodymyr Dubovyk (DAAD Visiting Scholar/ Associate Professor and Director, Center for International Studies, Odesa Mechnikov University)	The Way Forward for Ukraine's and Euroatlantic Security
Jan 21, 2025 6 p.m. Zoom	Dr Consuelo Thiers (University of Edinburgh, UK)	The Psychology of Security
Jan 28, 2025 6 p.m. Zoom	Dr Miranda Böttcher (SWP, Berlin/ Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, Netherlands)	Foresight at the Science-Policy Interface

For presentations held online via the video conferencing tool Zoom, please register by sending an email to andreas.ludwig@ku.de.

Career Talk: International Development Cooperation (German)

International development cooperation is an important field of foreign affairs and is very popular with students and alumni. It offers numerous opportunities for internships, career prospects and personal social commitment.

In this event, Nora Christine Gnannt, a graduate of the Franco-German Political Science degree program, will provide insights into her professional career and her experiences in international development cooperation. Tobias Neubauer, a student on the Master's program in International Relations, will share his internship experiences and report on how he is preparing to enter this exciting field of work.

The virtual podium will then be opened so that participants have the opportunity to ask their questions and exchange ideas with the speakers.

Speakers: Students and alumni of the KU – e.g. Tobias Neubauer (MIB)

Moderation: Marianne Montrose-Schönmüller and Dr Andreas N. Ludwig

December 3, 2024 – 6 p.m. – Zoom

This event is organized in cooperation between the International Internships Service Office and the Chair of International Relations.



Furthermore, various workshops and information events on the topics of “Financing a stay abroad” and “Applying abroad” will also be held in other foreign languages. Find out more on the website of the International Office.

Last but not least... – new examination regulations for the MIB

Updates, more choices, more English-language courses: this sums up the reform of the MIB examination regulations that came into force in the summer semester of 2024. They will apply to all new students from the winter semester 2024/2025.

In addition to some necessary adjustments, for example due to changes at the GGF and course reforms at our Swiss partners at the Université de Fribourg / University of Fribourg, the required elective area in particular has been expanded and an additional English-language offer has been added, which now makes the MIB even easier to study in English:

The new modules at a glance:

- The new required elective module “International Political Economy” (*Internationale Politische Ökonomie*, 10 ECTS points) provides a differentiated overview of central issues, analytical approaches and fields of application of international political economy (IPE) in relation to the disciplines of international relations, political science and economics. (in English, in the winter or summer semester; for the first time in the summer semester 2025)
- The required elective module “Basics of Flight, Migration and Society” (*Grundlagenmodul Flucht, Migration, Gesellschaft*, 10 ECTS points) provides basic and deepened knowledge on the topics flight, migration and society. (in the winter semester)
- The required elective module “Critique of Political Economy” (*Kritik der Politischen Ökonomie*, 10 ECTS points) offers a comparative analysis of sociological discourses on social structures and social processes and practices the discussion of relevant topics and the professional representation of one's own critical perspectives from a sociological perspective. (in the winter semester)



Contact and Imprint

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**All information on the degree program can also be found at:
www.ku.de/mib**

**Questions, requests, suggestions? You can reach us via
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News from the KU always under: www.ku.de

