



Master International Relations

Faculty of History and Social Sciences

Newsletter winter semester 2025/2026



Dear MIB students,

Dear alumni of our master's program,

Welcome to the 2025/2026 academic year!

This is especially true for the new MIB cohort, which will now begin their studies here in Eichstätt. With around 25 students, this is not only a very large cohort, but also a very international one, as more than half of the students are “internationals.”

On the following pages, you will find various information about the MIB. MIB students report on their studies and experiences in Freiburg/Fribourg (Switzerland) as part of the MIB “European Studies” program, as well as on their activities in the young professionals network of the German Council on Foreign Relations. You will also find information on various M/IB-related events, including an MIBPlus workshop and career talk on the topic of “Working in International Organizations” as well as the IB lecture series. In addition to Dr. Viviane Dittrich from the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, Prof. Dr. Natasha Wunsch, who covers European studies at our “European Studies Partner University” in Freiburg/Fribourg, has also been recruited for this event.

Finally, here are some tried-and-tested tips for all new MIB students: Credit transfers should be initiated promptly, ideally after prior consultation with the MIB program coordinator, Mr. Fouquet. In addition, you should start planning early for a semester or year abroad in the 2026/27 academic year, which is voluntary in the MIB program but also extremely beneficial.

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

On behalf of the entire MIB team, we wish you a great start to the semester!

Klaus Brummer

Chair of the Examination Board and MIB Program Director



Europe Calling! – European integration in the MIB

Since the 2017/2018 winter semester, it has been possible to supplement your studies at MIB with a specialization in “European Studies.” This is offered in cooperation with the Department of European Studies at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. More information about the program and the selection process can be found on the MIB website.

In this issue of the MIB newsletter, we are pleased to feature a recent report on their experiences by Adrian Martynov and Elena Zgurscaia (all photos: private).

Adrian Martynov and Elena Zgurscaia: European Studies at the Röstigraben

As part of our studies, we had the opportunity to spend a semester at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland as part of the “European Studies” specialization. For over 75 years, European integration has been an integral part of our everyday lives. We therefore felt that an in-depth examination of its history and impact would be particularly worthwhile, and the University of Fribourg offered the ideal opportunity to do so.

The city is known for its multilingualism and its unique location between German- and French-speaking Switzerland on the so-called “Röstigraben.” There is even a monument dedicated to this in the old town. In everyday life, however, French predominates. For us, it was the first real opportunity to use the French language we had learned at school in an authentic context, which was not always easy, especially at the beginning. Thanks to the multilingualism of the region, however, the people of Fribourg were always understanding and helpful when we couldn't think of the right words.

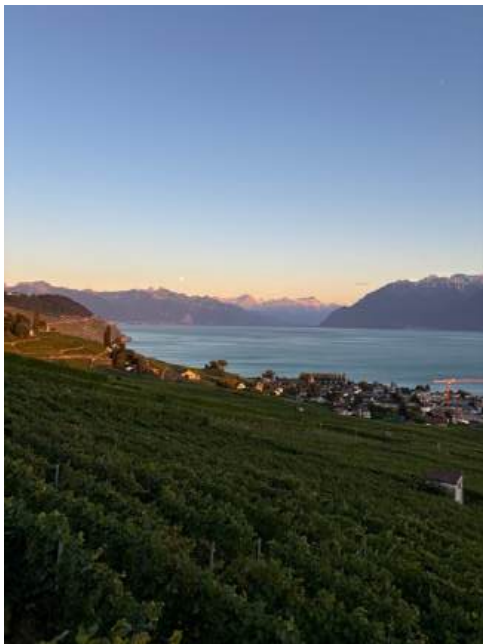
The University of Fribourg is the only university in the country to offer a bilingual degree program in European Studies. The courses offered vary depending on the semester. However, a fixed feature in the fall is the course “Introduction to European Integration,” which alternates weekly between German and French as the course language. In terms of content, it covers everything from the beginnings of the EU to Brexit and explicitly invites students to contribute their own positions to the discussion—regardless of the language they choose.

The course “Introduction to European Law” also left a lasting impression. The lecturer was able to win over even non-lawyers like us with his palpable enthusiasm for the subject. The central principles of European law were illustrated in a practical manner using fictitious cases. In both courses, European topics were repeatedly compared with Swiss circumstances, which made the differences and similarities between the two systems clearer to us.



In addition, our semester included other exciting events, such as lectures on monetary policy theory, Islam in Europe, and populism from a historical perspective. During our stay, we lived in the university's own dormitory. The rent was easily covered by the Europe-Swiss Mobility Scholarship.

Of course, the semester wasn't just about classes. Every two weeks, the Erasmus Student Network organized trips for exchange students, taking us to places like Neuchâtel, Lausanne (see photo), the Cailler chocolate factory, and the picturesque village of Gruyères. It is particularly worth mentioning that participation in these excursions usually cost less than 15 francs. Thanks to the reliable and punctual trains, it was also easy to explore Switzerland on your own. Bern is only half an hour away, and there are free guided tours of the Bundeshaus (the Swiss Parliament). Those with a little more time and wanderlust also have numerous options for day trips: in January, after most of the exams, there was an opportunity to travel to Lugano for a day and later to Appenzell. The train rides through the mountain landscapes already made these trips a whole experience.



There was also a wide range of activities offered in Fribourg itself. The historic old town is just a few minutes away from the university's main building, and when the weather played along, the terrace of the cafeteria offered an impressive view of the mountains. The student cultural center "Centre Fries" regularly hosted flea markets, concerts, and parties. Another special event in the fall was the large "Etusound" festival on the Pérolles campus: artists from different musical genres performed on four stages, and there was a wide range of culinary offerings as well as Cardinal beer, which is very popular in Fribourg.

Looking back, the semester in Fribourg was not only academically enriching for us, but also a formative personal experience. We were able to improve our French, gain new perspectives on the European Union, and get to know Switzerland at the same time. This semester abroad not only complemented our studies, but also enriched them in a lasting way.



Student Spotlight – Vanessa Keil: Junge DGAP

My name is Vanessa and I am studying for a master's degree in international relations. For about a year and a half, I have been volunteering with Junge DGAP, the young professionals network of the German Council on Foreign Relations. I am particularly active in the Munich regional forum, where I help shape the content and organization as a member of the steering committee. This includes planning and implementing events: we develop topic ideas, research current debates, look for suitable experts, coordinate dates and formats – and sometimes even moderate or co-host the events ourselves. What I find particularly exciting is the proximity to the Munich Security Conference, in which the DGAP

regularly participates and organizes accompanying formats in which we, as a regional forum, are also actively involved.



Photo: private

In addition to my work on the Steering Committee, I am heavily involved in the Security Policy Working Group—one of the main areas of focus within the Junge DGAP. Here, I recently had the opportunity to work alongside experts to co-develop and conduct a security policy wargaming simulation on the Arctic region—a project that combines theory and practice in a unique way. In addition, I will be participating in the Strategic Youth Congress 2025 in Berlin, where young voices from all over Germany will come together to discuss foreign and security policy issues and bring new ideas to the political arena.

Of course, informal exchanges and networking are not neglected either: regular get-togethers in Munich and regular exchanges with other regional forums throughout Germany offer a great opportunity to discuss current topics and learn from each other.

My involvement with Junge DGAP allows me to develop both professionally and personally, to network, and to actively participate in foreign policy debates. I particularly appreciate that Junge DGAP is truly young, diverse, and vibrant—and that I have the opportunity to contribute my ideas and apply the knowledge I have gained in the lecture hall from Munich to Berlin in the field of foreign policy.



The student network MIBPlus

The MIB student network, **MIBPlus**, was launched 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, the more people belong to and contribute to a network, the

better it works. Do you know any alumni and would like to invite them to join the MIBPlus network? Simply download the membership application form from the MIB website and forward it to them...



Connect with many other students and alumni via the MIBPlus group on LinkedIn!

Event tips MIBPlus

MIBStarter (German and English)

When you start studying at MIB, there are quickly a number of issues to deal with, from organizing your studies and your stay abroad to your first assignments at MIB. MIBStarter supports first-year students and provides answers to the most pressing questions and problems. Students from higher semesters are also involved, sharing their experiences.

Moderation: Dr. Andreas N. Ludwig and Stephan Fouquet

November 12, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. – Zoom

Guest-Lecture series by the Chair of International Relations (English)

In the winter semester 2025/2026, the Chair of International Relations will continue its cross-semester lecture series. Three guest lectures by colleagues from Germany and abroad will address current topics and challenges in global relations—from the challenges posed by democratic erosion and the role of sub-state regions in the EU to international criminal justice.

22. 10. 25
6:00 p.m.
Zoom

Prof. Dr. Natasha Wunsch
(Université de Fribourg/
Universität Freiburg,
Switzerland)

Democratic Commitment: Why
Citizens Tolerate Democratic
Backsliding

14. 01. 25
6:00 p.m.
Zoom

Prof. Dr. Annegret Eppler
(Hochschule Kehl)

Still torn between “Let us in” and
“Leave us alone”? – Bavaria and
Baden-Württemberg's engagement
in EU affairs

21. 01. 26
6:00 p.m.
INT 109

Dr. Viviane Dittrich
(Vizedirektorin der
International Nuremberg
Principles Academy,
Nürnberg)

The Politics of International Criminal
Justice and International Criminal
Tribunals

For lectures held online via the Zoom video conferencing tool, please register by emailing andreas.ludwig@ku.de.

Working for international organizations

MIBPlus-Workshop: “International Organisations in IR: Basics and Perspectives“

Preparatory introduction to the topic for MIB students, in English. Please refer to the semester schedules or the info email for the Zoom link.

Speaker: Dr. Andreas N. Ludwig

Dezember 2, 2025 – 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Zoom

Career Talk: Working for international organizations

Are international organizations on your career radar? Would you like to do an internship in this field or are you already planning your career start? Thomas Bücker from the Office for Executives at International Organizations (BFIO Bonn) is exactly the right person to contact. In this event, he will present your prospects and, above all, provide you with relevant practical tips. This will enable you to plan your career in international organizations for the long term and prepare yourself ideally for application and selection procedures. Another topic will be the possible forms of practical assignments at the UN, UNESCO, or OSCE.

The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion led by Thomas Bücker, in which KU students will report on their personal experiences and provide interested fellow students with practical tips on internships and starting a career at IOs.

Please note: The event will be held in German and is primarily aimed at students with German citizenship. International students are of course also welcome and can obtain general information about careers in international organizations.

Speakers:

Thomas Bücker, Office for Executives at International Organizations (BFIO)
KU Students and Alumni: Claire Haering (MIB alumna) und Silas Richter (MIB)

Dezember 2, 2025 – 6:00-7:00 p.m. – Zoom



In addition, various workshops and information events on the topics of “Financing your stay abroad” and “Applying for jobs abroad” will once again be held in other foreign languages. For more information, please visit the International Office website.

Last but not least... – Alumni are highly satisfied with KU

KU alumni look back on their studies very positively. This is the result of the Bavarian Graduate Study, which surveys students one year after graduation about their satisfaction and experiences with their alma mater.

The results for the graduating classes of 2022/2023 show that the recommendation rate and satisfaction levels are particularly impressive. Not only are the figures very good in this survey, they have also remained consistently high in comparison with the last eight surveys and are well above the Bavarian average.

More information at: <https://www.ku.de/die-ku/kontakt/presse/presseinformationen-detail/alumni-sind-sehr-zufrieden-mit-studium-an-der-ku>

The MIB also welcomes feedback from its alumni! Your feedback helps us to further develop the program and tailor it even better to your needs. Just send us an email...



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

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

News from KU is always available at: www.ku.de

