



**Faculty of
Social Sciences**
Charles University

**Master
in International Relations
Charles University
Student Prospectus 2026/2027**

**Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of International Relations**



Department of International Relations

Master in International Relations, MAIN, is a programme conducted at the Department of International Relations (KMV), a part of the Institute of Political Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University.

The Department of International Relations was established in 1994 to develop a specialisation in International Relations across teaching and research. It provides instruction in programmes at all levels of study, including Bachelor, Master, and PhD levels. Nowadays, its flagship programme is the Master in International Relations, in Czech and English variants. The programme aims to provide a comprehensive education in IR studies and to offer options for a more in-depth study of different areas according to student preferences, including global governance and international institutions, European integration, and security studies.

Moreover, the Department participates in instruction in Bachelor programmes: Czech programmes in Political Science and International Relations (PMV), Political Science and

Public Policy (PVP) and an English programme of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE). Together with the Institute of Sociological Studies, it participates in the Erasmus Mundus programme European Environmental Economics and Policy (M3EP), which is offered by a consortium of the University of Copenhagen, Heidelberg University, the University of Milan, the University of Warsaw and Charles University. In cooperation with the Department of Security Studies, it also offers a doctoral programme in International Relations.

The Department's research specialises in key areas of the international order and global governance, the European Union, and European politics. Its members conduct research on diverse issues of high disciplinary and political relevance, which is regularly published in leading international journals. Much of this research has been supported through prestigious funding lines, including the highly internationally competitive Horizon Europe projects.

In global politics, this has included multiple research projects investigating the geopolitisation of international cooperation, the inner workings of international institutions, such as the WTO or the global security and climate regimes, or media coverage of international politics across the world.

Another area of the Department's research is European Integration, with long-standing focus on EU decision-making and more recently the developments in European defence in light of the war in Ukraine, and examining how the European Union can foster multilateralism and democratic resilience. The latest research project explores the EU's strategic autonomy, especially in the energy and environmental sectors.

Research on European politics focuses primar-

ily on Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and regionalism, examining political developments, the role of identities, and the evolving geopolitical landscape in the region. Overall, the Department's research is characterised by its interdisciplinary approach, drawing on varied theoretical and methodological backgrounds, including cutting-edge methods such as Large Language Models and generative AI, or quantum probability theory. It aims to address complex international relations issues to provide insights that inform academic scholarship, teaching and policy debates.

The head of the Department is Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas, his Deputy is Assoc. Prof. Michal Parizek. The Deputy for study affairs is Dr. Viera Martinková.

Programme Overview

Master in International Relations, MAIN, is a two-year English-language Master's degree programme that provides students with **the knowledge and analytical skills to understand the international context of politics, economy, and security**. Tensions persist among major powers, such as the United States, China, the European Union and its members, and Russia. With the Russian war on Ukraine, turbulence in transatlantic relations and international trade, Europe and the world face a major shift in the international order. At the same time, the world is profoundly interconnected. Major political decisions that influence our everyday lives are made not only by individual states but also increasingly by international institutions, regional institutions, and non-state actors. Our programme helps students **understand how international and European politics work and what challenges states, business, NGOs,**

and individuals face in the globalised world.

Within an interdisciplinary framework, students learn about the key points of contestation in world politics, major transnational issues such as climate change, and the functioning of key global institutions, including the European Union. They study how international conflicts can be productively transformed into cooperation. In addition to providing students with a robust background in international and European politics, the programme emphasises the development of students' analytical capabilities and critical thinking. Thanks to the broad scope of competences students acquire and deepen during their studies, our **graduates become highly valued experts** in national administrations and diplomacy, in European and international institutions, as well as in businesses, NGOs, media, and academia.

Programme Curriculum¹

The study curriculum comprises common compulsory modules in the first year of study and individual specialisation and master's thesis research in the second year. During the programme, students earn a total of 120 ECTS credits. These are acquired from four types of courses:

- Eight compulsory modules (Module #1–#8; 64 ECTS credits), covering all the core areas of International Relations, with an interdisciplinary reach to International Law and International Economics. In Modules #1, #2, #5 and #6, students also choose a specialisation seminar in addition to taking the core compulsory lecture course.
- Individual work within MA Thesis Seminars (Module #9; 18 ECTS credits)
- Elective courses from the field of International Relations, including up to 18 credits from security studies (26–38 ECTS credits).
- Elective courses outside of IR (up to 12 ECTS credits).

Throughout the curriculum, we emphasise two cornerstones of our graduates' success.

First, our students build a solid substantive knowledge of the problems of contemporary international politics. The curriculum covers the following areas:

- **International Relations** as a discipline investigating states' behaviour in world politics, with a focus on great powers and the nature of the international system.
- **International Economics and Security** as the two key issue areas of international life.
- **European Union** as the most profound project of inter-state integration in world history.
- International Institutions and International Law as the key instruments of the management of global affairs.

Second, students acquire specific, tangible skills relevant to their future professional careers:

- **Empirical and analytical skills.** Our students undergo robust introductory training in both qualitative and quantitative analytical skills.
- **Critical thinking.** The ability to think outside the box is essential in an environment where constant adaptation is needed.
- **Languages and transferable skills.** Our graduates' success depends not only on their hard analytical skills and knowledge of international politics but also on their writing, presentation, and communication skills.

¹ List of classes last updated in June 2026.



Semester 1

(2026/2027, 1st Year, Autumn/Winter)

In the first semester, students attend modules on the nature of the international system in general – theories of international relations, international economic relations, and conflict studies.

Module#1

Theories of International Relations

The course introduces students to the major concepts and theories in the study of IR. It does so by investigating the key issues of world politics from different theoretical angles: from questions of war and peace, cooperation, and power to specific agendas, including economics, environment, social justice, or the impact of the Russia-Ukraine

war. The course helps students understand the roots of international thought as well as the most influential current approaches to studying international politics. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students chose one of the seminars listed below. These enable them to delve in-depth into a specific approach to international politics.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Theories of International Relations (lecture course)	Assoc. Prof. Aliaksei Kazharski, Dr. Jakub Tesar	6
Liberalism in International Relations	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4
Feminism in International Relations	Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova	4
Constructivism in International Relations	Dr. Jakub Tesar	4

Module #2

Approaches to Conflicts and Violence

The course introduces the main concepts, themes and processes related to violence, armed conflicts and peace. Specific attention is paid to issues like the micro-dynamics of violence, the role of gender in conflicts, the impact of natural resources, and the reflection of the environment in contemplations about conflicts and war. We discuss the typology of political and armed conflicts and reflect on

the origins of conflict and conflict prevention. Further topics addressed include the role of non-violence in a political conflict, methods of conflict management and resolution, intractable conflicts, and post-conflict reconstruction. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students choose one from a range of seminars that cover specific key topics of international security in the 21st century.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Approaches to Conflicts and Violence (lecture course)	Dr. Tomas Karasek	6
Global Terrorism	Dr. Radana Makariusova	4
Environmental Security	Mgr. Eliska Pohnerova	4
Global Security in the Digital Age: Propaganda, Disinformation, and Social Media Warfare	Dr. Kristian Foldes	4
Social Justice as a Future of Security Studies	Mgr. Anna Kotvalova	4

Module #3

Global Political Economy

In this course, students examine the relationship between international economics and international politics in a globalised world. How do economic relations among states and businesses impact international politics? And how do the political concerns of states impact the flows of goods, services, and finance across the globe? We discuss topics such as

international trade, finance, the impact of the information revolution on the world economy, development, and the economic effects of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war. Special attention is paid to the growing conflicts between traditional and new powers in the international economic order.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Global Political Economy	Assoc. Prof. Michal Parizek	6

Module #4

Quantitative Methods

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to political research methods and specifically to their quantitative branch. Students learn to collect quantitative political data and use them to address practical or theoretical problems in international politics.

Students learn to interpret data and critically evaluate arguments based on quantitative evidence. They learn to work with confidence with the statistical software package R and MS Excel.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Researching International Politics: Quantitative Methods	Assoc. Prof. Michal Parizek	6



Semester 2

(2026/2027, 1st Year, Spring/Summer)

In the second semester, we build on the foundation developed in the first semester with a block of courses on regional and global institutions and international problem-solving. Specifically, students attend courses that cover the evolution of the European integration process and contemporary European politics, as well as international institutions and international law.

Module #5

European Union

The course provides an analytical framework for the study of the process of the unification of Europe from its beginning in the 1940s up to the present. It introduces the main theoretical approaches to the analysis, the institutional setting and legislative process, and the main

areas of cooperation in the EU from a historical and theoretical perspective. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students choose one seminar that enables them to deepen their knowledge of the European integration process.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
European Union (lecture course)	Dr. Viera Martinkova	6
EU Institutions and Decision-making	Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova	4
Interinstitutional Relations: European vs. Domestic Institutions	Dr. Viera Martinkova	4
EU and Global Governance	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4

Module #6

International Institutions

The course provides a complex introduction to the study of international institutions – international organisations (IOs) and international regimes. It offers an overview of the theoretical reflections of international institutions and explores the internal political system of an IO. It also deals with international institutions functioning in the most significant areas of

international relations – security, economic affairs and development, and environment and human rights. In addition to taking the common lecture course, students choose from an offer of seminars that enable them to discuss specific aspects of institutionalised international cooperation in detail.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
International Institutions (lecture course)	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	6
Global Governance and Global Cooperation	Dr. Radana Makariusova	4
NGOs in International Relations	Dr. Viera Martinkova	4
Global Economic Governance	Assoc. Prof. Michal Parizek	4

Module #7

International Law

The course provides an introduction to the international law system, both generally and to its specific concepts. The first part discusses general issues, such as sources and subjects of international law, state responsibility, and

the relationship between international and municipal law. The second part of the course is dedicated to human rights protection. Students study international law cases and discuss relevant topics.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
International Law	Dr. Milan Lipovsky	6

Module #8

Qualitative Methods

The course introduces the fundamentals of research strategies and methodologies traditionally applied in IR, particularly the qualitative branch. The emphasis is on students' ability to formulate a research design that provides the basis for their diploma research. The course has two components. In the first

part of the semester, students attend introductory lectures focusing on research design and qualitative methodology foundations. In the second part, they attend two longer seminars focusing on specific qualitative research techniques.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Researching International Politics: Qualitative Methods	Assoc. Prof. Vit Stritecky	6

Students who feel the need to devote more time to some of the classes from Modules 1–8 can also decide to postpone some of these modules to their second year. This option is commonly chosen by students with a bachelor's background outside of political science.

On the other hand, some students decide to take additional electives in addition to the compulsory modules already in the first two semesters. Electives available in the academic year 2026/2027 are listed in section Semesters 3 & 4.



Semester 3 & 4 (2027/2028, 2nd Year)

During the second year, **students choose from a broad range of elective courses** that deepen their understanding of the individual areas of international and European politics. These courses are offered by the Department of International Relations and by other Departments and Institutes of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The programme offers various thematic specialisations, but thanks to cutting-edge research by our faculty, we offer particularly broad and unique expertise in European studies, International Organisations, and the current global order.

Throughout the second year, **students work on their Master thesis** under the individual supervision of one of our faculty. Students are also welcome to spend one or both semesters

at one of our **numerous partner universities across Europe and around the world**. Some students pursue the **Double Degree** track offered in cooperation with the University of Konstanz (see below for more details).

At the end of the second year, students defend their Master thesis and take the final, so-called 'state' exam. It comprises compulsory oral exams in International Relations and one elective (European Union, International Institutions, International Law or International Economic Relations).

Module #9

MA Thesis Preparation

Individual work on the MA Thesis is supported by compulsory courses MA Thesis Seminar I and II, based on individual discussions with the thesis advisor.

Course name	Advisor	ECTS
MA Thesis Seminar I	Individual discussions with the thesis advisor	6
MA Thesis Seminar II		12

Electives for the Academic Year 2027/2028

The list is always finalised before the start of each academic year, including classes of visiting professors, so the final list will include a few additional classes.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Applied Qualitative Research Methods: Practical Approaches to Textual Analysis	Dr. Kristian Foldes	6
Navigating Climate Change in Everyday Life	Mgr. Eliska Pohnerova	6
Czech Post-1989 Diplomacy and Foreign Policy	Dr. Tomas Petricek	4
Nations and Nationalism in the Asia Pacific	Mgr. Julian Anthony Theseira, Anita Tusor	
Baltic Regional Cooperation and Russia	Dr. Iivi Zajedova	6
International Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Critical Approaches	Assoc. Prof. Aliaksei Kazharski	6
Regionalism and Global Order	Assoc. Prof. Aliaksei Kazharski	6
Geopolitics of Great Powers: Russia	Dr. Magdalena Bastar Leichtova	6
European Integration: Theories and Cases	Dr. Martin Jerabek	6
European Public Sphere: Interest Representation and Public Debate	Dr. Viera Martinkova	6
Data Analysis and Mapping	Dr. Lukas Hajek	5
Navigating the Information Age: Political Text Analysis and Applied Machine Learning	Dr. Jakub Stauber, Assoc. Prof. Michal Parizek	6
EU-China Relations in the De-risking Era	Gabriele Manca	
U.S. Foreign Policy and Europe: An Archaeology of the Present	Mgr. Petr Tuma	
Global Environmental Politics	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas, Dr. Jakub Tesar	6

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Crisis Games	Dr. Tomas Kucera, Assoc. Prof. Michal Parizek	6
Contemporary International Relations in East Asia	Assoc. Prof. Michal Kolmas	6
Resilience and Internal Security of the EU	Dr. Radko Hokovsky	6
Diplomacy of the European Union	Dr. Erik Pajtinka	6
German European Policy	Dr. Martin Jerabek	6
European Policies of Visegrad Countries	Dr. Viera Martinkova	6
International Security: up to three elective courses from the offer the Department of Security Studies	Members of the Department of Security Studies	up to 18
Professional Internship A	Guaranteed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	6
Professional Internship B	Guaranteed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4
Academic Writing for Bachelors	Andrew Godall	3
Academic Communication I and II	Laura Juliet Straková, M.A.	3
Selection of languages on offer (German, Italian, Russian, Spanish)	Lecturers from the Faculty Language Center	3

Students interested in security studies can choose up to **18 credits from the Department of Security Studies courses** as electives¹. Students are also entitled and encouraged to obtain up to **12 additional credits from courses offered by other Departments at the Faculty and University**. Very often, students choose to take one of the popular intermediate-level **language courses** offered by the Faculty Language Centre (permanently on offer are German, Russian, Spanish, French, Italian, and Czech as a Foreign Language; see <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/study/language-centre>).

Furthermore, our Department offers guest courses taught by professors from leading European and global universities and research centres every year. In the last several years, these included such globally renowned scholars as **Prof. Kenneth Abbott** (Arizona

State University), **Prof. Tapio Raunio** (University of Tampere), **Prof. Gerald Schneider** (University of Konstanz), **Prof. Stephanie Hofmann** (European University Institute), **Prof. Hylke Dijkstra** (Maastricht University), or **Prof. Robert Jervis**, one of the most influential scholars in International Relations of several last decades (Columbia University, New York). In the last two years, we welcomed Dr. Maria Raquel Freire (University of Coimbra), Dr. Stela Rubinova and Dr. James Munro from the World Trade Organisation, Dr. Jakub Szabo (Comenius University) and Dr. Petr Oskolkov (Bar-Ilan University). We continue to strive to invite top young as well as established academics to give courses at our Department. In addition to full classes, we invite guest lecturers and researchers to specific events. For example, in 2024, **Prof. Teun A. van Dijk**, the director of

¹ <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/masters-degrees/master-international-security-studies-miss/detailed-information>

the Centre of Discourse Studies, Barcelona, and a world-renowned social scientist, gave a lecture on discourse analysis. In 2026, **Chiara**

Rinaldi, policy analyst at Politico and recent **alumna of the MAIN programme**, gave a lecture on analysing the EU legislative process.



Join us in Exploring the World of International Relations – also outside of the Classroom!

Not all training needs to take place in the classrooms. One prominent example is **student internships**. Our students intern with various organisations, from think tanks and research centres to public offices and embassies to private companies, multinationals, media, and non-profits. While our Institute has a network of internship partners, students are encouraged

to seek internship opportunities that align with their interests, and they can receive credits for the training they obtain.

Other than that, it is sometimes good to get out of the classroom, even in 'formal' courses. The *Crisis Games* course is an excellent example of combining learning, networking and adventure!

Crisis Games

Crisis Games is an intensive course that helps students feel what it is like to be in the shoes of diplomats and politicians who decide the course of events in world politics. Students of this course are assigned the task of resolving

a major international crisis. This course takes place during a weekend event in the scenery of the beautiful Czech mountains.

Double Degree with the University of Konstanz

We are proud that the MAIN offers a Double Master's Degree option in cooperation with the University of Konstanz, one of the top German political science and public administration departments. In addition to obtaining the MA in International Relations from Charles University,

students in the Double Degree option also earn a degree from the prestigious Konstanz MA in Politics and Public Administration. Applicants for the double degree programme are selected, based on merit, after the first semester of their studies.

Year 1: Charles University

Semester 1	ECTS	Semester 2	ECTS
Theories of International Relations (& one of the selected seminars)	10	European Union (& one of the selected seminars)	10
Approaches to Conflicts and Violence (& one of the selected seminars)	10	International Institutions (& one of the selected seminars)	10
Global Political Economy	6	International Law	6
Researching International Politics: Quantitative Methods	6	Researching International Politics: Qualitative Methods	6

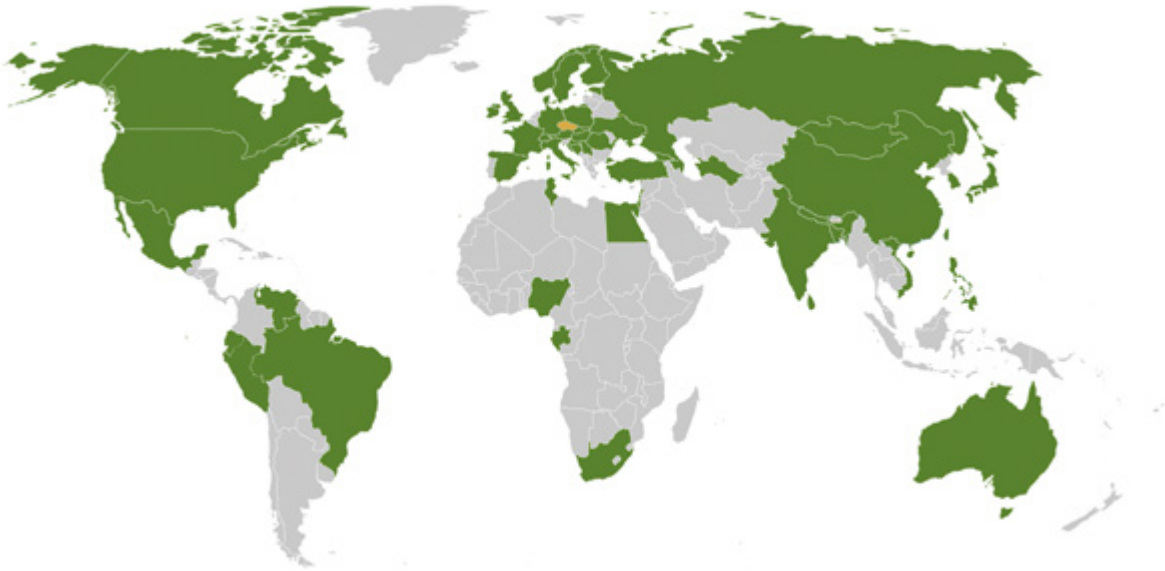
Year 2: University of Konstanz

Semester 3	ECTS	Semester 4	ECTS
Research Design I	9	Selected seminar in Political Science	7
International Politics Main Seminar	7	Master thesis	30
Selected seminar in the area of International Politics	7		
Choice of one specialisation seminar from areas of European Integration, Political Economy and Inequality, and Conflict Studies	7		

Our Community and Alumni

MAIN has an amazing international student community. A typical MAIN cohort has around 20 students from literally all over the world. Since the start of the programme in 2015, we have received students from over 50 countries, with approximately equal numbers from the European Union, North and South America,

Asian countries, and Eastern Europe (and, so far, with fewer students from other regions)¹. Each new cohort is unique, but what they share in common is a great team spirit, dedication to studies, and a constant strive for professional and individual growth.



¹ Map created by [visitedplaces.com](https://www.visitedplaces.com)

Here is What Some of the Main Graduates Value in Their Experience with the Programme and Studies in Prague the Most

Nayan Anand,
MAIN graduation 2021, India

Current job: Senior Market Research Executive at Kantar, Prague

Being a part of the MAIN program was one of the best decisions I made for both my personal and professional growth. Studying alongside students from across the globe and engaging in a dynamic academic environment really helped me get a new perspective about the world we live in. Since then, I have used these learnings to progress in my current field in Market Research at Kantar, Prague. I look back at my time at MAIN with great nostalgia, having thoroughly enjoyed my time there especially while participating in subjects such as the Crisis Games and Nuclear Non-Proliferation.

Will Fridlund,
MAIN graduation 2022, USA

Current job: Program Coordinator at Vermont Law and Graduate School's Institute for Energy and the Environment, New Hampshire

I believe I made an excellent decision studying in the MAIN program at Charles University. The program gave me lifelong friends and improved my research and writing skills. MAIN prepared me for a career in IR by affording me the opportunity to live in a global city, collaborate with classmates from all over the world, and learn from deeply knowledgeable and talented professors. What I enjoyed most about MAIN was the wide range of elective course offerings

I had to choose from. The elective courses allowed me to pursue interests both inside and outside of IR.

Amedeo Gasparini,
MAIN graduation 2021, Switzerland

Current job: Freelance Journalist and Researcher, Geneva

"International Relations" at Charles University runs over two intense but highly rewarding years. Students obtain an in-depth perspective on the key issues in International Relations, but the program is also very inclusive – its great advantage is precisely that it offers a comprehensive and wide-ranging insight into such diverse topics as International Relations theories, Conflict Studies, nongovernmental organisations, the structures and history of the European Union, environmental issues as well as Cold War politics. Professors are very kind and well-motivated, especially available to exchange ideas. Despite the coronavirus, my experience at Charles University (2019–2021) was very positive: I had the opportunity to broaden my interests and study and research current and past issues. The program is very comprehensive and dense, analytical and practical.

Alexander Auböck,
MAIN graduation 2021, Austria

Current job: Deputy Trade Commissioner at the Poland office of Advantage Austria and Commercial Attaché at the Austrian Embassy, Warsaw

The MAIN programme's multifaceted structure helped me establish a strong basis for my professional development and provided me with a myriad of new insights. I enjoyed that the programme equips you with a deep theoretical knowledge on international relations, which was especially interesting for me, coming from a non-political sciences undergraduate background. Another appealing asset of the MAIN programme is its special focus on the development of the European Union. The most rewarding experiences of the programme though are definitely the classroom discussions on societal and political issues with my peers from all over the world.

Matthew Delmastro,
MAIN graduation 2021, USA

Current job: Researcher, Bundeskanzler-Helmut-Schmidt-Stiftung, Hamburg, previously a doctoral candidate at Freie Universität Berlin

I participated in the MAIN programme in the second year of my Master's after completing my first year in Germany, thus receiving two degrees upon graduation. Such a unique and valuable opportunity – which speaks to the programme's international profile and extensive networks – allowed me to explore different academic fields and make new contact in both countries. At MAIN, I particularly appreciated the small cohort size (allowing for quality teaching and easy access to professors), the diversity of courses

on offer (theoretically, methodologically, and thematically), and the friendly and supportive atmosphere both on the part of faculty and administration. And all this against the backdrop of the magnificent city of Prague.

Natália de Figueiredo Coelho Maciel,
MAIN graduation 2018, Brazil

Current job: consultant, the International Organization for Migration, Rome

Taking part in the MAIN programme was extremely important to my career. During these two years, I had the opportunity to learn a lot both from my professors and from my colleagues. Exchanging experiences with students from different backgrounds and nationalities enhanced my knowledge and capabilities. The MAIN also stimulated meetings with students from previous years which was also an interesting experience. It was during the programme that I increased my interests in migration-related topics and that led me to my current work on migration for the IOM. I have the best memories from my time at Charles. I made several dear friends and improved my professional network.

Stefan Köbke,
MAIN graduation 2022, Luxembourg

Current job: Policy Advisor Government & Industry Affairs, Cargolux Airlines International, Luxembourg

Despite studying during a pandemic, the MAIN program at Charles University offered me the best two years of my entire academic education. I was given the liberty to explore, research, and discuss fascinating topics ranging from nuclear warfare and great power disputes, over international trade and European integration,

to development and civil war. I particularly enjoyed the close relationship with the incredibly motivated faculty and the international student body, many interactive courses, and of course the beautiful city that is Prague. Studying at Charles University opened the door for me to a cool internship at my country's embassy in Berlin, led me to a job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and eventually got me my current position at Europe's largest all-cargo airline.

Gabrielle Franck,
MAIN graduation 2021, France

Current job: Chargee de mission, European Research Association for Sustainable and Multimodal Mobility, Brussels

I'm incredibly grateful to the MAIN programme. I found dedicated teachers happy and willing to accompany their students in the best way they can. Coming from a different study area, I most of all appreciated the feeling of being given a chance, the good-will installed within the classes and the spaces we had to exchange and learn from different perspectives. I would definitely recommend the double degree option in Konstanz University, it's a great opportunity.

Keith Prushankin,
MAIN graduation Cohort 20157, USA
Current job: Strategic Communications Advisor, US Army

What I got out of the MAIN Program? I appreciated the chance to develop my academic interests in the Central European regional context and to work with recognised experts in my field. The faculty are supportive of students' individual development and there is plenty of room for you to pursue your interests and learn new skills that will be invaluable in the future.

The location of the university in historic and beautiful Prague gave me an unforgettable experience, lifelong friends, and skills in the Czech language. My favorite MAIN experience: Crisis Games, a weekend-long geopolitical summit simulation in the mountains, gives a sense of the hectic challenges of diplomacy. This course is a must for MAIN students.

Tom Morin-Robinson,
MAIN graduation 2018, Canada
Current job: Officer, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO HQ, Brussels

The MAIN Programme at Charles University opened many doors for me. Most memorable were the knowledgeable and attentive professors, always prepared to provide advice and to help improve the quality of my work. I also benefited from a strong theoretical grounding in International Relations, global insights from a diverse student body and the opportunity to earn a second degree in Germany, all of which contributed to the perspectives and skills I bring to my work today in the field of international security.

Matej Žganec,
MAIN graduation 2021, Croatia
Current job: Legal and Policy Offices – R&I and Urban Mobility, DG MOVE, European Commission, Brussels

The MAIN Programme does not just provide its students with an overview of the current geopolitical snapshot. It instils in them the most relevant theoretical underpinnings and state of the art research methodology in order to understand the ever-changing global arena, at all times. Combining excellent teachers with innovative teaching methods, the MAIN

students are able to grasp a challenging and diverse curriculum with ease. This knowledge was invaluable for me to quickly grasp the interplay between industry, governments, citizens, international organisations in policy areas ranging from energy and transportation, to foreign policy and migration. Most importantly, it allowed me to seamlessly transition between the roles of lobbyist, analyst and civil servant in the EU bubble.

Iskra Alikalfic,

MAIN graduation 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Current job: International Move Coordinator at SIRVA

The programme provides a versatile array of courses I really valued, for example on international organisations, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights, international law, as well as on various parts of the world, such as East Asia and the European Union. My time in the programme was enriched with a range of viewpoints from students from all over the world, which I appreciate because it created space for different discussions and analyses. The programme includes extremely interesting professors that identified and explained various conflict resolution mechanisms in the international sphere and always created comfortable environments for international political discourse. Overall, I really value the education I obtained from the MAIN programme at Charles University and I would highly recommend it to anyone wanting to pursue a career in International Relations.

Gabrielle Franck,

MAIN graduation 2021, France

Current job: Chargee de mission, European Research Association for Sustainable and Multimodal Mobility, Brussels

I'm incredibly grateful to the MAIN programme. I found dedicated teachers happy and willing to accompany their students in the best way they can. Coming from a different study area, I most of all appreciated the feeling of being given a chance, the good-will installed within the classes and the spaces we had to exchange and learn from different perspectives. I would definitely recommend the double degree option in Konstanz University, it's a great opportunity.

Thomas Vann,

MAIN graduation 2023, USA

Current job: Doctoral Candidate & Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, University of Buffalo

Throughout my time at Charles University I found the classes to be incredibly engaging, the faculty to be of the highest quality, & my colleagues to be from an incredibly diverse array of backgrounds & disciplines. I could not more highly recommend the Charles University MAIN programme to any prospective students looking to expand their horizons & learn more about the international system. After my time at Charles University I accepted a fully funded position at the University at Buffalo working towards my PhD in International Relations. My research is centered on improving international responses to genocidal events to better serve the victims of these atrocities.



Tuition fees and finances

The full tuition fee for the programme is **7000 EUR per academic year**.

The programme operates a **merit-based fee reduction scheme**, whereby excellent and highly motivated students are eligible for **substantial fee reductions**. Details are available at the Faculty website in the Tuition fees section at <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/scholarships-funding-and-fees>.

The Faculty of Social Sciences also administers a separate general merit-based scholarship

and the FSV UK Scholars Program, and provides information on other scholarships, the details of which are available in the Scholarships section of the Faculty website at <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/scholarships-funding-and-fees>.

Please note that the fees cover only the cost of instruction and examinations and that students are responsible for paying their own living expenses (food, lodging, etc.).

Get in touch!

We know that deciding where to pursue one's Master's programme is often not easy. We are happy to help you with your decision on whether MAIN – our Charles University Master in International Relations – is the best choice for you.

For any questions or concerns related to academic matters, please do get in touch with the admissions coordinator of the programme, and also one of the lecturers, Dr. Viera Martinkova. Her e-mail address is: viera.martinkova@fsv.cuni.cz.

For all organisational and administrative matters, please contact our International Office. The full contact is available at their website (<https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/contact-us/international-degree-programmes>), but the best way is to simply send your inquiry to the primary contact address for applicants. The e-mail address is admissions@fsv.cuni.cz. We will be happy to help you with your questions or concerns, and we will be excited to welcome our new cohort of MAIN students in Prague in fall 2026!

