

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

*Applied European Policy and
Governance Studies*

Academic Year 2024/2025



ANNUAL REPORT



CIFE Centre international de formation européenne

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1 OVERVIEW

The 2024/2025 Applied European Policy and Governance Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) was composed of a group of 14 students from 9 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Nice, Canterbury and Berlin over three terms extending from 3 October 2024 to 2 July 2025. Afterwards, students were given the option of continuing their training with an internship of 3 to 6 months. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
03/10/2024 – 08/01/2025	NICE Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
13/01/2025 – 04/04/2025	CANTERBURY University of Kent
09/03/2025 – 14/03/2025	STUDY TRIP Brussels – Luxembourg – Strasbourg
08/04/2025 – 02/07/2025	BERLIN Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
02/07/2025	End of the Academic Year & Graduation Ceremony
Until 31/12/2025	Optional Internship

In the Applied European Policy and Governance Studies programme, CIFE seeks to address the next generation of European decision-makers and offers unique educational experiences at the crossroads of theory and practice. The programme was taught in English and French with a trilingual option (courses in German).

The programme aimed at preparing students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum was designed in order to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural challenges of today's world, especially in the EU.

Following the leitmotif "Learning and living Europe", the students rotated each term, moving their place of study from Nice to Canterbury and then to Berlin. During their stay in Nice, the students were given an overview of the construction and the decision-making dynamics of the European Union, as well as introductory courses to Economics and International Relations. In Canterbury, students chose their area of interest amongst the offerings of the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent. During the third trimester, students further developed what had been started in Nice and delved deeper into today's EU challenges, including EU enlargement and neighbourhood, external trade relations and partnerships, democratic backsliding in EU member states and the involvement of citizens in EU politics. In addition, courses on Germany's European Policy and German federalism (taught in German) rounded off the academic year. The students of the trilingual option did additional research on a topic related to EU policy and activities at the regional (state) level.

2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The curriculum was composed of five compulsory modules during the Nice and Berlin trimesters and two modules during the Canterbury trimester:

- A** European Integration and Governance
- B** EU Policies and Flagship Initiatives
- C** EU Neighbourhood and External Relations
- D** The European Economy and Globalisation
- E** Professional Skills Workshops
- F** Two modules of choice at the University of Kent

University teachers from various European universities, as well as experts from international and European organisations and researchers from our partner institutes contributed to our programme.

Various teaching methods and course formats were applied within each module, including lectures, seminars, group work, student presentations and interactive workshops.

A European Integration and Governance (56 ½ hours)

This module aimed at familiarising students with the complexity of the European integration process and the main features of EU policy making. The dynamics of European integration were studied from a historic perspective and current and future challenges were discussed. This included federalist approaches that do not see the EU as a process of integration, but rather analyse it in a comparative federal institutional approach, and which study European integration from a perspective of multi-level governance. The module addressed EU law and legal procedures, as well as dynamics and concepts such as differentiated integration, participation, political change and Euroscepticism.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (39 hours)

Paul CULLEY *EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer, Former Director at the Council of the EU*

- EU Institutions and Decision-Making

Frédéric LÉPINE *Deputy Director General of CIFE*

- Processus d'intégration régionale

Matthias WAECHTER *Director General of CIFE*

- Historical Aspects of European Integration

STUDY TRIP: BRUSSELS (2 ½ hours)

Doris DIALER *Attachée Health and Consumer Affairs, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU*

- Lobbying and Advocacy in Europe

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (15 hours)

Sören KEIL *Senior Teaching and Research Fellow, University of Passau*

- Federalism in the 21st Century
- Die föderale Ordnung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und europäische Politikgestaltung (Trilingual option)

B EU Policies and Flagship Initiatives (40 ½ hours)

Students gained insights into key policies such as enlargement, cohesion and competition policy, including various aspects such as the dynamics of decision-making and national interests of the member states, implementation, budget, etc. In addition, they were equipped with methods that enabled them to acquaint themselves independently with unfamiliar policies, based on knowledge of the competences of the EU and its institutional structures. In this module, experts and decision-makers were invited to discuss current issues in relevant policy fields. This included flagship initiatives of the EU and topics of political relevance, such as climate policy, EU enlargement and migration.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (28 ½ hours)

Francesca ASTENGO *Lecturer and Researcher, IES*

■ EU Migration Policy

Laurent BAECHLER *Director of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies*

■ La politique climatique de l'UE

Gilles LEPESANT *Senior Researcher at CNRS, Géographie-Cités*

■ Politique énergétique de l'UE

Frank RUSSOW *Lecturer, Business Transformation Coach at R+V Versicherung*

■ Geography of the European Union

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (12 hours)

Manuel KNAPP *Adviser on Civic Education, European Academy Berlin*

■ Die deutsche Europapolitik: Einführung (Trilingual Option)

Willem NOË *European Commission Economics Expert on EU Integration and Enlargement*

■ EU Enlargement Policy

André SCHMIDT *Chair of Macroeconomics and International Economics at the University of Witten-Herdecke*

■ EU Cohesion Policy

A series of visits to political institutions in Berlin also took place in the framework of this module (See Section 5: Other Visits).





With the students of the MAEIS Mediterranean Studies

C EU Neighbourhood and External Relations (42 hours)

The module focused on the EU's policy towards its direct and wider neighbourhood in the East and the South, as well as its relations with relevant regions and important international players including the United States, China, Russia and further emerging countries. We explored the major schools of thought regarding international order and conflict that draft a comprehensive and holistic explanation of international politics, in order to understand public discourses and discuss solutions to today's challenges for international cooperation and security. International guest lecturers coming from universities, think tanks, diplomacy and politics were invited to discuss prevalent and emerging issues of EU external action and international politics, including conflict resolution, globalisation and the future of transatlantic relations.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (24 hours)

Susann HEINECKE-KUHN *Director of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies*

- Theory and Practice of International Relations in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Kai OPPERMANN *Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Technology, Chemnitz*

- The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (18 hours)

Anna DIMITROVA *Lecturer and Researcher at the ESSCA School of Management, Paris*

- European Security and NATO in the Age of Trump 2.0

Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

- Europe, Russia and the Eastern Neighbourhood

George TZOGOPOULOS *BESA Research Associate, Lecturer at the Democritus University of Thrace, Director of EU-China Programmes and Senior Research Fellow at CIFE*

- The EU and China
- International Security and Conflict Resolution

D The European Economy and Globalisation (49 hours)

The module dealt, among others, with the following subjects: EU economic integration, the EU in the world economy, the strengths and limitations of globalisation, the key players in globalisation, the European economy and globalisation, economic interdependence, EU regional trade agreements and the rise of emerging countries.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (30 hours)

Jean-Claude VÉREZ *Director of the MAEIS Mediterranean Studies and Associate Professor of Economics at Université d'Artois, France*

- Économie mondiale et européenne

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (19 hours)

André SCHMIDT

- The EU's Competition Policy: Provisions and Practice
- Economic Interdependence and External Trade Relations of the EU and Selected Regions

E Professional Skills Workshops (59 hours)

In an ever more globalised world and increasingly multicultural working environments, young professionals need to be equipped not only with knowledge, but with professional skills regarding capturing and presenting information, consensus building, conflict management, negotiations and much more. In this module, professors sought to develop an understanding of cooperation in political processes and various approaches in support of dialogue, negotiation and conflict management.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (36 hours)

Frank BURGDÖRFER *CEO, polyspektiv*

Ruth PORSTMANN *Project Manager, polyspektiv*

- EU Council Simulation: A New Refugee Policy for the European Union

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts/Officers

Nina FRAUENFELD *Executive Director, SuccessAcross*

- Intercultural Communication

Mark YOUNG *Negotiation Trainer, President of Rational Games, Inc.*

- Negotiation Skills

TRIMESTER 2: CANTERBURY (2 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts/Officers

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (21 hours)

Frank BURGDÖRFER

- Project Cycle Management

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts/Officers



F Two modules of choice at the University of Kent (44 hours)

During the second trimester, the students were enrolled for the spring term at the School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Kent, one of CIFE's most renowned partners. The students were integrated into the University of Kent as regular students and registered in two modules in order to expand upon topics chosen according to their individual interests.

At the end of the term, the grades received by the students in these modules were integrated into CIFE's grading system. The modules taken by the students were the following:

- LAWS8430 International Human Rights Law
- POLI8109 Middle Eastern Politics and Society
- POLI8480 Negotiation and Mediation
- POLI8681 The Politics of Global Environmental Change
- POLI9170 Terrorism and Crimes of the State
- SOCI8230 Political Economy of Development
- SOCI8330 Contemporary Social Theory



With the students of the MAEIS Mediterranean Studies

3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Simulation Game: EU Council Summit

- A New Refugee Policy for the European Union
with **Frank BURGDÖRFER** and **Ruth PORSTMANN** from Polyspektiv
Article 1 Process of Applications
Article 2 Accommodation and Care
- Kick-off Session on 8 November 2024
- Pre-Negotiations on 21 November 2024
- Council Simulation on 2 to 3 December 2024

Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

- Inaugural Lecture: Europe in a Dangerous World
by **Herman VAN ROMPUY** *President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium*
on 13 November 2024
- Lecture and Debate: US Presidential Elections 2024
with **Matthias WAECHTER** and **George TZOGOPOULOS**
on 2 November 2024
- Le XXIIe Forum de l'Énergie : Transition énergétique et rénovation urbaine
on 28 to 29 November 2024
- Expert Briefing and Discussion: A New Era of Shaping Migration in Germany and Europe?
With **Caroline SCHMIDT** *Policy Advisor for Migration at the Analysis and Consulting Division, Konrad Adenauer Foundation*
on 22 May 2025





Research Methodology

- Master Thesis Colloquium (8 sessions) with **Susann HEINECKE-KUHN**
- Individual Research Consultations with various thesis supervisors (CIFE academic staff and external lecturers)

Career Coaching

Paul CULLEY

- Careers in European and International Organisations

Nina FRAUENFELD

- Career Coaching: Preparing Applications for International and European Careers
- Individual Career Coaching

Rita HINEK *Outreach and External Relations, European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO)*

- EU Careers Information Session

Various Alumni of the Programme

- Several *Meet our Alumni* sessions throughout the academic year

Language Courses

- French (Nice) with **Viridiana INO** *Teacher of French as a Foreign Language*
- German (Nice) with **Priscilla CASSELL** *Language Trainer in German and English*
- German (Berlin) with **Hanna ZIEREN** *Coordinator of the Full-Time Master Programmes in Berlin*

4 STUDY TRIP

The annual study trip with the students of the *Master in Advanced European and International Studies – European Integration and Global Studies* to the European and international organisations took place in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg from 9 to 14 March 2025. The following discussions and debates were held:

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Working in Social Media
Andreana STANKOVA *Head of Sector, DG Communication, CIFE Alumna 2011–12 MAEIS Trilingual Studies*
- The Work of the Legal Service
Gilles GANTELET *Resources and Performance Management, Legal Service, CIFE Alumnus, Aosta Programme*

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- General Presentation on the Role of the European Council and the Council of the EU
Emanuela AGOZZINO *Political Administrator, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU*
- Visit of the Europa Building

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

- The Role and Political Priorities of the European External Action Service, the EU's Diplomatic Service
Thorsten BARGFREDE *Head of Sector, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Division*
- Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference
Uldis ELKSNIIS *Policy Officer, Information Integrity and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Division*
- Meeting with CIFE Alumni and Exchange on Career Opportunities at the EEAS
Luca KADAR *Head of Division for Global Communications and Public Diplomacy and*
Grace Olivia MCCARTHY *Correspondence Coordinator, Policy Coordination Division*

UN/UNDP OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

- The Work of the UN/UNDP Office in Brussels
Lucas FERNANDEZ-CORREDOR and **Giulia SALVETTI** *Officials, UN/UNDP Office Brussels*



With the students of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies

LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

- Presentation on the Roles and Activities of the EIB
Michael LOIZOU *Policy and Liaison Officer, Shareholding Relationships Division*

EUROPEAN STABILITY MECHANISM

- The Roles and Activities of the ESM

STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Presentation on the Values, Roles and Functioning of the Legislative Process of the European Parliament and Visit to the Hemicycle
- Meeting with CIFE Alumnus **Julius ZUNKER**

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Presentation on the Role and Work of the Court

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Conference on the Role of the Council of Europe in the European Political Landscape
- Visit to the Hemicycle of the Parliamentary Assembly

5 OTHER VISITS

NICE

- Guided Tour of Nice (Promenade des Anglais, Vieux Nice and Colline du Château)
on 2 October 2024 with **Nathalie BRICOUT** *Professional Tour Guide, Nice*

STUDY EXCURSION TO LONDON ON 20–21 FEBRUARY 2025

The UK and the EU: A New Way Forward?

- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom
Briefing with **Dr Chris BANNISTER** *Head of Europe Research Group/Principal Research Analyst, FCDO, UK Government*
- Hanns Seidel Foundation: The Current British-European Relations
Roundtable with **Dr Michael Martin RICHTER** *UK Country Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation*
- Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom
Briefing with **Elias CENTELLAS** *Justice, Employment and Social Affairs Counsellor, EEAS London*, and **Felix FABINI** *Political Officer*
With students from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS University of London)
- Guided Walk through the Government District / Westminster Palace and Abbey
- Informal Networking Evening with CIFE Staff and Alumni



BERLIN

- German Bundestag: Guided Tour of the Reichstag Building / Visit of the Dome on 15 April 2025
- Visit and Briefing at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Berlin: "Priorities of the Polish EU Council Presidency" on 30 April 2025
- Guided Tour: "In the Footsteps of Divided Berlin" on 6 May 2025

VISITS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COURSE "GERMANY'S EUROPEAN POLICY" (in German)

- Europe Department of the Representation of the Federal State of Saarland on 13 May 2025
Eike HORTSCH *Head of Division Europe, Finances and Sciences*
Juliane Katharina TREIS *State Chancellery of Saarland and*
Christian ROTH *Head of the Saarland Representation in Brussels*
- German Association of the Automotive Industry on 13 May 2025
Mitja SCHULZ *Head of Brussels Office*
- Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany on 13 May 2025
Johannes LEUSCHKE *Officer, EU Coordination Group*



6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Fedra BELAID (Tunisia)

Assessing the Effectiveness of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Civil Wars: The Case of Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNPROFOR) and Namibia (UNTAG)

Thesis Supervisor: Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

James BOOTH (United Kingdom)

A Constructivist Institutional Analysis of Family Migration Policy in the UK and Germany

Thesis Supervisor: Francesca ASTENGO

Diana BURCEA (Romania)

Constructing European Identity: The Role of Language and Media in a Transnational Framework

Thesis Supervisor: Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

Samuel BURTON (United Kingdom / France)

Stateless but Autonomous? Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Models of Kurdish Autonomy in the Middle East

Thesis Supervisor: Sören KEIL

Manon CLERC (France)

L'aide publique au développement : un levier des objectifs diplomatiques des pays – Études comparatives entre la France et l'Allemagne

Thesis Supervisor: Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

Robert DAWSON (United Kingdom / Ireland)

The Role of International Institutions in Shaping Ethnic Power-Sharing Agreements

Thesis Supervisor: Sören KEIL

Damien DUCLOS (France)

Dans quelle mesure la guerre en Ukraine et les élections de Donald Trump ont changé le paradigme de la défense européenne vers l'autonomie stratégique depuis les années 90 ?

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Leontin ERBEN (Germany)

Franco-German Economic Cooperation: Enhancing Human Capital, Cross-Border Mobility and Institutional Synergies for a Stronger European Internal Market

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Wouter HIETINK (Netherlands)

The Glyphosate Reapproval: An Analysis of the Transparency and Legitimacy of EU Policy-Making

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE

Mario JIMÉNEZ GARCÍA (Spain)

The Status of Gibraltar in the European Union: Challenges and Opportunities in the Post-Brexit Era

Thesis Supervisor: Sören KEIL

Lucía MARTÍN CANALES (Spain)

The Limits of the Responsibility to Protect: United Nations Inaction and the Failure of International Response in the Syrian Conflict

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Mathis MOUNDZIKA (France)

Externalisation des frontières européennes : une gouvernance migratoire en tension avec les normes du droit international et de l'UE

Thesis Supervisor: Francesca ASTENGO

Fuzè SENTENACH BERÁSTEGUI (Spain)

Navigating Hybrid Threats: Is NATO-EU Cooperation a Catalyst or Constraint in Combatting COVID-19 Disinformation?

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Janin SHADID (Jordan)

Distributed Along Geopolitical Lines: A Comparative Study of Media Coverage in the Gazan and Ukrainian Conflicts

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE





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