

What our students say...



The course:

Valentina Peron: Italy

MEIS Student representative

Background: Laurea Triennale in Political Science

What do you think of the course?

“I think the course is very well structured and the fact that is conducted entirely in English is a good point because it gives students a lot of opportunities. As for the individual courses, the first year courses are more general and a bit repetitive for someone coming from a Political Science background, but in the second year the courses become more specific and interesting. The fact that the classes are not very numerous is good because you get the chance to have an interaction with the professor which is more active than usual.”

What do you think about the interdisciplinary structure of the MEIS?

“I think the interdisciplinary nature of the course is something positive because it gives us the possibility to develop a basic knowledge in different areas. At the same time, it can also be a negative aspect for future job prospects because we are not actually specialized in the sense that someone coming from a legal or economic background would be.”

What are your plans after you graduate?

“After the MEIS I would like to find a job in an NGO or something that is related to my field of interest which is mainly Human Rights. Now, however, I’m more and more interested in the private sector and the oppor-

tunities it can offer to people with an interdisciplinary background. I think our preparation is a positive aspect for any company so I think that this sector could provide job opportunities for the future.”



Marco A. Pinal: Mexico

Background: Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science

What do you think about the opportunities provided by the School and the quality of teaching?

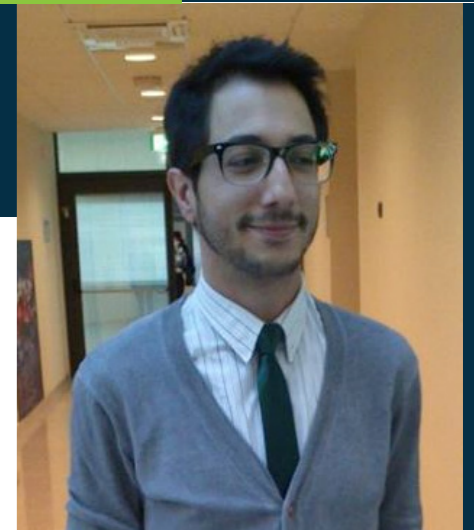
“The opportunities that the SIS provides depend on the mindset of the person doing it. I think the school offers a very interesting array of courses that allows students to focus on the discipline they choose. At the same time, it offers a general picture of the economic, social and political forces that are constantly molding the contemporary world. In addition, the SIS continuously conducts conferences about relevant and current affairs, as well as, important international organisations. The academic staff is very well prepared and multidisciplinary in nature and, as a result, classes are taught by professionals from different faculties. Finally, the SIS offers the possibility of participating in multiple Erasmus programmes, bilateral agreements, transfers and summer schools. Overall, the SIS has provided these and many other things. It is up to the student to take advantage of all that this school has to offer.”

Did you encounter any difficulties at the outset?

“The only difficulty I encountered was the language barrier. At the beginning it was somewhat difficult to navigate the city due to my lack of Italian knowledge. After a while, and thanks to a very understanding, friendly and English-speaking staff and student body, it ceased to be a barrier and became an interesting and enjoyable experience.”

Would you suggest other students enrol on this programme? Why?

“I would recommend this programme to any prospective student that is seeking an engaging multidisciplinary Master’s. Most programmes tend to focus on a particular area, instead, this one provides a general overview of international affairs. I think that this is both its biggest strength and weakness. This programme is well-rounded and engaging; a great experience for those seeking a broad understanding of international relations, diverse opportunities to expand their studies and a great city to live in.”



MEIS methodology:

Particular emphasis is given to teach the tools and skills necessary for the analysis of: the interaction of individual and collective actors, both within European and international institutions; the functioning of European and international economic, legal, political and social systems; the European and international systems of governance. Alongside the taught courses the School runs a rich series of guest lectures and seminars held by visiting professors of international standing. Throughout the two years, professors and tutors provide further support and guidance if and when needed and all students receive individual supervision for their final dissertations.

Life in Trento:



Aurélien Mellin: France

Background: Bachelor of Law,
Economics and Management:
Specialisation in Political Science

What is it like living in Trento? In your opinion, what are the strengths and the weaknesses of this town?

"I like living in Trento, even if it is not considered a "proper" Italian town, to me it shares many characteristics that I appreciate about Italy. I would say that the strengths are the good weather (usually) which helps you to be more active during the day; the academic and cultural environment of the city is also very stimulating. As for the weaknesses, perhaps our lives could be even more active if the town was bigger, but in some ways this can be seen as a strength as well."

Why did you decide to come and study here?

"I first came here because of a bilateral agreement with my former university, but then I decided to stay to specialise in International and European studies."

Do you think the city offers enough services (public transport, gyms, community centres, pubs...)?

"The services provided are adapted to the needs of students, given their increasing number. Bus routes run throughout the town; student life is most active in the centre thanks to proximity of all the university departments and of pubs as well; the university also offers many activities (sports, cultural activities, academic conferences, etc.). All of this improves relations between students and makes the centre of Trento very lively."

Is it easy to reach other Italian cities from Trento (train, airports...)?

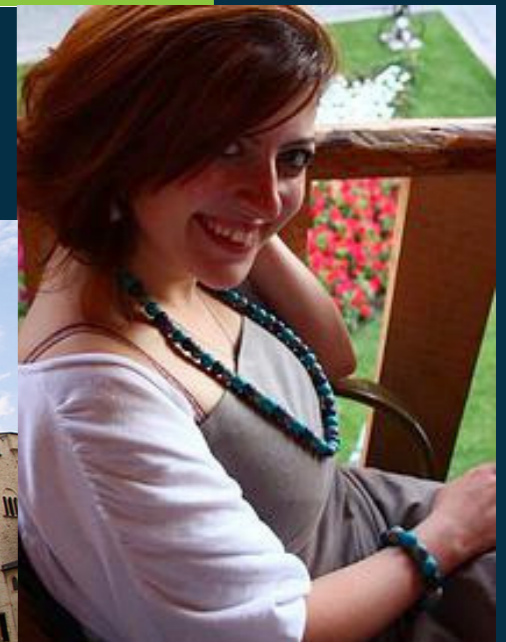
"Yes, it is quite easy to reach Verona for example, where we can either take another train to reach another Italian city quite easily, or take a plane to reach another European city. And even though Ryanair no longer provides services from Verona, it is still possible to find low-cost companies in Verona, Venice or Milan."

Is life in Trento expensive?

"Life in Trento is not cheap but not excessively expensive either. Compared to big cities in Europe, living in Trento is relatively cheap; but knowing that Trento is not a big city (at all), the cost of living should not be as high as it is."

Lusine Mamyán: Armenia

Background: Master's in Economics



Where do you live in Trento? How do you feel there?

"I live in San Bartolameo, one of the student accommodation venues of the University of Trento. The campus is equipped with all necessary facilities making the stay of both foreign and Italian students well organized and pleasant."

Was it easy to find an accommodation? How did you find it?

"I found the accommodation through the UNITN website. The University administration significantly supported me in all the arrangements for the accommodation."

What does your accommodation consist of (considering rooms, furniture and facilities)?

"The accommodation consists of an individual room with a bathroom and a small balcony, common kitchen and a living room with wi-fi connection. The room has got all the necessary furniture and

fast Internet. In addition, there are two gyms, a soccer field, a basketball and volleyball court, bar/cafeteria, movie-halls, study-rooms, green areas with tables and etc. A new multi-purpose building for culture and sport is being built at the foot of the campus. It takes max 5 minutes to reach the closest bus-stop and the closest train-station."

What are the positive aspects of the campus?

"San Bartolomeo is a perfect place for students to study but also to be involved in social activities, i.e. concerts, theatre performances, intercultural events (dinners, dances etc.)."

Are foreigners well integrated with other students in the campus?

"In the campus we are ALL students. The multicultural environment brings new colours and more spices to the study years, making them unforgettable."

What our alumni say...

Rafael Moser: Brazil

Graduation: March 2014

Area of expertise: Financial inclusion, microfinance, and micro-level climate change actions.

Current position: Researcher at the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) in São Paulo.



What are you doing right now (pertaining to your job)?

“I’m currently working as researcher in the area of financial inclusion in a Brazilian think tank. I’m involved in the coordination and implementation of various research projects and participate in the strategic planning board of my host Study Centre.”

In your opinion, how did the MEIS prepare you for your current working environment?

“By combining an array of teaching resources, MEIS provided me with critical and analytical thinking which allows me to deliver high quality research products. For instance, its interactive teaching method that combines theory and practice, classroom discussions on critical and important issues, its multicultural and multiethnic environment, and the

focus on high quality English are all essential MEIS elements that allow me to effectively perform my current professional activities.”

Was the multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach a benefit or a liability?

“The interdisciplinary approach offered by MEIS means that you are able to look at a problem/issue from different angles, allowing you to analyse and understand each bit of it. This feature is precisely what gives me a comparative advantage compared to other co-workers coming from mono-disciplinary backgrounds.”

What advice could you provide for prospective students?

“Studying at the MEIS means that you will learn how to

voice and share your ideas in a multicultural and multiethnic environment; means that you will be able to fully understand the world around you, both in its political, economic, cultural, and sociological dimensions; you will spend lot of time studying; and, ultimately, you will be prepared to work either in the academia or in NGO/international/governmental organisations. Therefore, my advice for prospective students are: 1) be prepared to devote most of your time to study; 2) be able to respect diversity, cultures, ideas different from yours; 3) be ready to improve your English and a second language; and most importantly, 4) be ready for an aMEISing experience.”



Patrizia Rizzini: Italy

Graduation: November, 2013

Area of expertise: Industrial sector (Private firm) and Journalism.

Current position: Export Area Manager and Free-lance Journalist

What are you doing right now (pertaining to your job)?

“At the moment, I am involved in two main activities. First, I work as Export Area Manager for a leading company in its sector, present in more than 90 countries. I got this job 3 months after my graduation, and my job involves both Public Relations and Export Manager’s tasks. Secondly, I am a free-lance journalist at Il Caffè Geopolitico, an online journal focused on geopolitical issues. I have my own thematic branch (cyber security, my dissertation’s topic) in the section on Security Studies and I am co-founder of the new section on Digital Diplomacy.”

In your opinion, how did the MEIS prepare you for your current working environment?

“I am sure the MEIS program enabled me to approach life in a unique and open-minded way. 1) Throughout my 2 years in Trento, I developed strong analytical and communication skills, which are essential for my international working environment. 2) Thanks to the broad bilateral agreements, I have strengthened my cultural sensitivity and stress-management skills. In 2012, I spent one semester at

Zhejiang University, one of Chinese Ivy-League universities, an extremely enriching experience.

3) Not to mention my English level: I feel utterly confident in speaking English now, and sometimes I find it easier to communicate with foreign customers rather than with Italian ones.”

Was the multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach a benefit or a liability?

“The multidisciplinary approach, which is the foundation of MEIS program, has been definitely a benefit for my job. Being able to analyze a country from a legal, economic, political and even sociological perspective is considered an asset in the company where I work. Of course, it could also become a liability when the applicant is not purpose-oriented in the job-hunting phase.”

What advice could you provide for prospective students?

“I would strongly recommend the MEIS program to any student willing to challenge themselves and open their minds. But be aware, the MEIS is not the ordinary Italian specialistica. The MEIS goes beyond regular didactical methods. It gives you all the instrument to find the information yourself: after this phase you are more than capable of conducting research and analyses with a critical and interdisciplinary perspective.”