

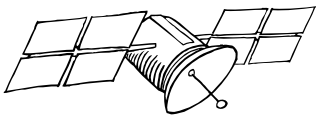


FACULTY  
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Charles University

# MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHARLES UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROSPECTUS 2021

INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES,  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS





## 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 among major powers, such as the United States, China, the European Union and its members, or Russia, are on the rise. At the same time, the world is growing ever more inter-connected. Major political decisions, influencing our everyday lives, are made not only by individual states but increasingly also internationally and by regional as well as global institutions.

Our programme helps students **understand how international and European politics work and what challenges states, business, NGOs as well as 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, but also about the functioning of the European Union and of the key global institutions. 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, European and international institutions, but also businesses, NGOs, media, and in academia.

# THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN 2021

We understand that especially international students are concerned about their study under the circumstances imposed on us by the Covid-19 pandemic. Charles University has taken a vigorous approach in meeting the challenge, and MAIN transferred all its courses to the online environment within a week in March 2020. Pandemic-related health and safety measures needed to be also adopted in the academic year 2020/2021, where in the Winter Semester all classes ran online. Students did not miss their lectures; they continued with their seminar discussions and, of course, they took their exams and got their credits. In the Summer Semester 2021, the programme adopts a dual approach where all classes are available online, but in addition, on-site teaching is provided, with voluntary in-person attendance, if and when the pandemic situation and government restrictions allow.

No matter how the situation around the Covid-19 pandemic develops, we are ready!

# PROGRAMME CURRICULUM

The study curriculum is composed of **common compulsory modules** in the first year of study and of **individual specialisation** and master thesis research in the second year. In the course of the programme, students obtain 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 chose 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 on International Relations (26-38 ECTS credits).
- Elective courses outside of IR (up to 12 ECTS credits).

Throughout the curriculum, we emphasize **two cornerstones of our graduates' success**. First, our students build a solid substantive knowledge of the problems of contemporary international politics. The curriculum covers especially 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 the 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 of the box is essential in the environment in which constant adaptation is the need.
- **Languages and transferable skills.** Our graduates' success depends not only on their hard analytical skills and their knowledge of international politics, but also on their writing, presentation, and communication skills.

# SEMESTER 1

## (AUTUMN/WINTER 2021)

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



### MODULE#1: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The course introduces students into the major concepts and theories in the study of IR. It does so by investigating from different theoretical angles the key issues of world politics: from questions of war and peace, cooperation, and power, to specific agendas including economics, environment, social justice, or the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 four 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)	Dr Ondrej Ditrych	6
Liberalism in International Relations	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4
Feminism in International Relations	Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova	4
Marxism in International Relations	Dr Vit Stritecky	4
Continental Philosophy and IR	Dr Ondrej Ditrych	4



## MODULE#2: CONFLICT STUDIES

The course introduces 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Conflict Studies (lecture course)	Dr Tomas Karasek	6
Global Terrorism	Dr Radana Makariusova	4
Critical Perspectives on Violence	Dr Ondrej Ditrych	4
Approaches to Modern Conflict	Zachary Kramer	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 on international politics? And how do political concerns of states impact the flows of goods, services, and finance across the globe? We discuss such topics as international trade, finance, the impact of the informa-

tion revolution on world economy, development, or the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. 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	Dr 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 how to collect quantitative political data and use them to address practical or theoretical problems of international

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

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Researching International Politics: Quantitative Methods	Dr Michal Parizek	6

Some students decide to take also one or more electives already in the first semester. However, especially students with a background outside of political science are encouraged to leave one of these four compulsory modules for their second year. Electives planned for the academic year 2021/2022 are listed in section Semesters 3 & 4.

# SEMESTER 2

## (SPRING/SUMMER 2022)

In the second semester, we build on the basis developed in the first semester with a block of courses dealing with 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 unification of Europe since its beginning in 1940s up to 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 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)	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas, Assoc. Prof. Bela Plechanovova, Dr Irah Kucerova	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 in detail specific aspects of institutionalised international cooperation.



Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
International Institutions (lecture course)	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	6
Problems of Global Cooperation: Causes and Solutions	Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4
Global Governance and Global Cooperation	Dr Radana Makariusova	4
NGOs in International Relations	Dr Viera Martinkova	4
Global Economic Governance	Dr 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 cases of international law and engage in discussions about 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 put on the students' ability to formulate a research design providing 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	Dr Tomas Karasek, Dr Jakub Tesar, Dr 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 bachelor background outside of political science.

On the other hand, some students already in the second semester decide to take some electives, in addition to the compulsory modules. Electives available in the academic year 2021/2022 are listed in section Semesters 3 & 4.

# SEMESTER 3 & 4

## (AUTUMN/WINTER 2022, SPRING/SUMMER 2023)

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 carried out by our faculty, we offer particularly broad and unique expertise in fields of European studies, International Organizations and the current global order.

Throughout the second year, **students work on their Master theses**, 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 over 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 is composed of 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 MA Thesis is supported by compulsory courses MA Thesis Seminar I and II, based on individual discussions with the thesis supervisor.

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

## ELECTIVES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

The list is always finalised before the start of the academic year, so the final offer is almost certain to be somewhat broader.

Course name	Lecturer	ECTS
Academic English I	Pamela Cotte	3
Academic English II	Pamela Cotte	3
Baltic Regional Cooperation and Russia	Dr Ivi Zajedova	6
Contemporary International Relations in East Asia	Dr Michal Kolmas	6
Crisis Games	Dr Tomas Kucera, Dr Michal Smetana, Dr Michal Parizek	6
Data management and data analysis in R for Social Scientists	Dr Kamil Klosek	6
Diplomacy of the European Union	Dr Erik Pajtinka	6
European Policies of Visegrad Countries	Dr Viera Martinkova	6
European Public Space: Interest Representation and Public Debate	Dr Viera Martinkova	6
Geopolitics of Great Powers: Russia	Dr Magdalena Bastar Leichtova	6
German European Policy	Dr Martin Jerabek	6
Hybrid Warfare	Dr Jakub Eberle	6
Internal Security of the EU	Dr Radko Hokovsky	6
International Negotiations	Dr Michal Parizek	6
International Security: up to two elective courses from the offer the Department of Security Studies	Members of the Department of Security Studies	up to 12
Politics of Nuclear (Non-)Proliferation	Dr Michal Smetana	6
Professional Internship A	Guaranteed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	6
Professional Internship B	Guaranteed by Assoc. Prof. Jan Karlas	4

Students can also choose up to **12 credits from courses offered by the Department of Security Studies** as electives.<sup>1</sup> Students are also entitled and encouraged to obtain up to **12 additional credits from courses offered by other Departments at the Faculty and University**, depending on their specific interests. Very often, students choose to take one of the very popular intermediate level **language courses** offered by the Faculty Language Center (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, every year, our Department offers **guest courses taught by professors coming from leading European and global universities** and research centres. 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), or **Prof. Robert Jervis**, one of the most influential scholars in International Relations of several last decades (Columbia University, New York). We continue to strive for inviting top young as well as established academics to give courses at our Department.

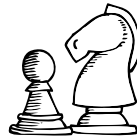
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1 <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/masters-degrees/master-international-security-studies-miss/detailed-information>

# JOIN US IN EXPLORING THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – ALSO OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM!

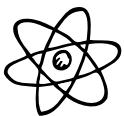
Not all training needs to take place in the classrooms. One obvious example is **student internships**. Our students intern with various organisations, from think-tanks and research centres to public offices and embassies to private companies, multinationals, media, and non-profits. While our Institute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

encouraged to seek internship opportunities they deem fit for their interests, and they can receive credits for the training they thus obtain. Other than that, it is sometimes good to get out of classrooms even within the 'formal' courses. Here are two such cases: Politics of Nuclear (Non-)Proliferation, and Crisis Games.



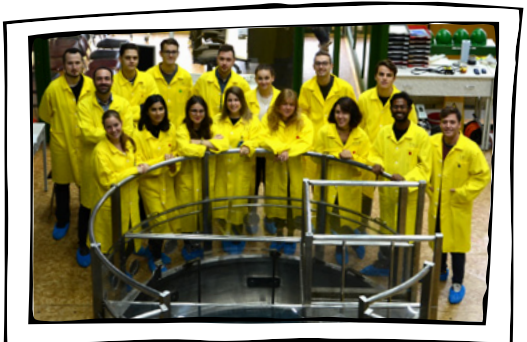
## CRISIS GAMES

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



## POLITICS OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

Nuclear technology is of enormous importance in both military and civilian matters. Here students of our programme visit a training nuclear reactor in a facility of the Czech Technical University.



# 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, the students of the Double Degree option obtain 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
Conflict Studies (& 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

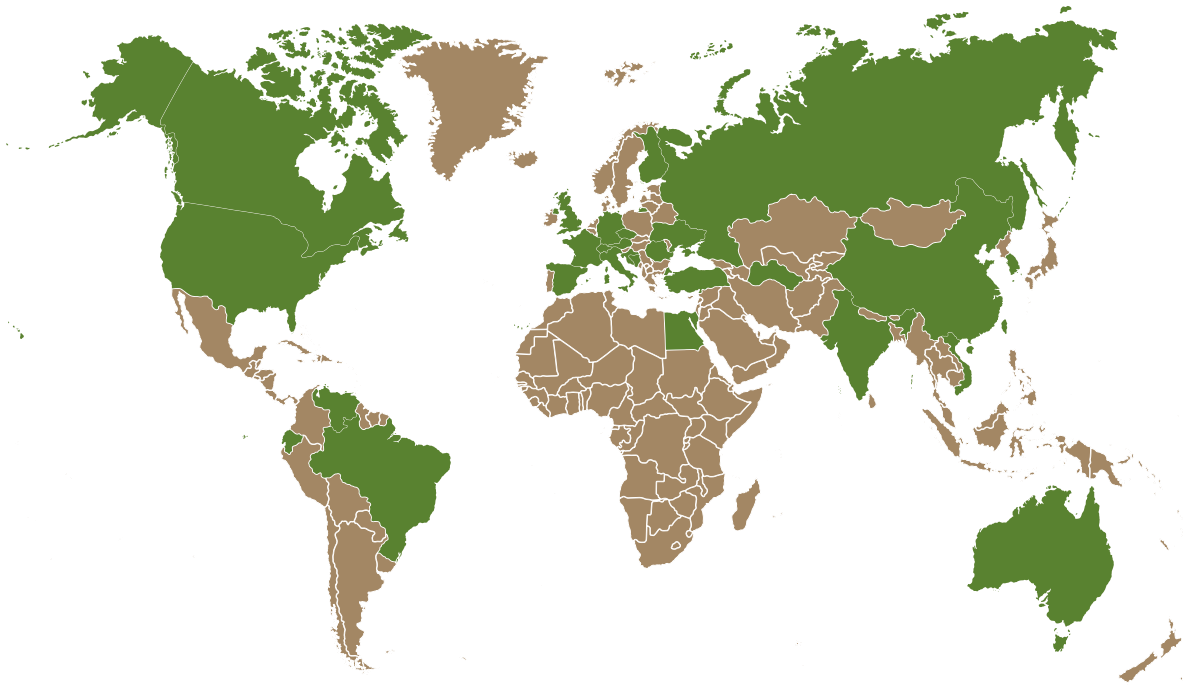
## YEAR 2: UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ

Semester 3	ECTS	Semester 4	ECTS
Research Design I	9	Colloquium	4
International Relations and European Integration	7	MA Thesis Seminar II at Charles University	12
Seminar in International Relations and European Integration	7	Master thesis	
Choice of one specialisation seminar from areas of International Administration and Conflict Management; Comparative Politics and Policy Analysis; and Management and Public Administration	7		
MA Thesis Seminar I at Charles University	6		

## 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 37 countries, with approximately equal numbers from the European Union countries, from both North and South America, from Asian countries, and from Russia

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



## HERE IS WHAT SOME OF RECENT MAIN GRADUATES VALUE ON THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROGRAMME AND STUDIES IN PRAGUE MOST:

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**Keith Prushankin,**  
**MAIN Cohort 2015, USA**

**Current job:** Doctoral Candidate,  
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.  
**Previously:** International Monetary Fund,  
Washington, D.C., USA.

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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.

**Natália de Figueiredo Coelho Maciel,**  
**MAIN Cohort 2016, Brazil**  
**Current job:** Project Coordinator at the International Organization for Migration

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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.

**Tom Morin-Robinson,**  
**MAIN Cohort 2016, Canada**  
**Current job:** Policy and Planning Officer for Strategic Communications, Public Diplomacy Division,  
NATO, Brussels

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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.



## TUITION FEES AND FINANCES

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The full tuition fee for the programme is **6000 EUR per academic year**.

The programme operates an own **merit-based fee reduction scheme**, whereby excellent and highly motivated students are eligible for **fee reductions of 2000 EUR per year** and for the very best performing students for **reductions of 4000 EUR per year**. 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 Development Scholarship programme and a sepa-

rate general merit-based scholarship, 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.). The living costs in Prague are generally considered affordable compared to many West European capitals.

## GET IN TOUCH!

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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 Michal Parizek.

His e-mail address is: [michal.parizek@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:michal.parizek@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](mailto: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 2021!