

da. alumni news

SUMMER EDITION 2024



+++ News from the DA and club.da +++ Focus on Human Rights +++
+++ In memoriam Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein +++
+++ Scholarship awardees 2023-24 +++ Through the lens of Iro Oren +++

Dear Alumnae, dear Alumni,

Another year has passed. This always means some change. One of those changes is myself. I like to greet and welcome you as new president of **club.da** for the year 2024-25 and I can't wait to start this year with a few new colleagues on **club.da**'s board, too. However, a brief look back to last year means some time for review and reminiscence.

This time, some sad news also reached the DA and our Club. Members have passed away and we want to keep their memory alive and look back at their life achievements and their invaluable contributions to the DA and **club.da**.

The Club supported five first-year students with scholarships, hoping to make their student lives easier. Five students who showed their desire and dedication to the DA and their studies, while also juggling jobs and DA's student community duties. While the Club can't help with studies themselves, some support sometimes goes a long way. It's great that in these pages you get to know the awardees, their motivation, their goals and how the Club's support helped them.

Graduation time is always a time for change. An exciting chapter ends, but new ones open. These days the DA's graduates embark on new journeys. Their careers, their paths may take them somewhere in the world, their student days might be over, but they are always welcome back at **club.da**, your DA home after your student journey at this place has ended. Many friendships are made and prevail



through that network. But **club.da** is not only welcoming 'back': We are also proud of our large network of local chapters, where fellow alumni take over the mantle of chapter heads to keep the DA community together outside of Vienna.

Coming back to Vienna, the International Alumni Meeting 2024, including the traditional DA Sommerfest, was once again a joyful gathering. But we won't stop here, our event calendar for this fall and next year is already being filled and I can only encourage you to check back regularly – the Club organises a mix of events, and we hope to welcome many of you to those. Thanks to our chapter network, those spread everywhere and I'm sure you'll find something that suits your interest and schedule.

We're also happy to keep close ties with the DA and also share news of what's happening and going on there, too.

Concluding, I hope to bring you interesting news from our network and look forward to an exciting year ahead, full of great events and meeting amazing people!

For the entire board of **club.da**,
Oliver Authried

PS: To support our work and the **club.da** Scholarships, kindly visit
<https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Membership>.

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News from club.da

New president, new statutes and a year full of amazing stories

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Or do they?

On 28 June, the annual **club.da** General Assembly elected a new board headed by the first ETIA alumnus in the position of **club.da** president, Oliver Authried. He succeeded David Lansky, who from 2020 to 2024 had been the first MAIS alumnus in this role. David, however, will continue to support the Club's work as—together with Brigitta Blaha (DLG)—one of two vice-presidents.

At the same time, we express our deep gratitude to all board members who did not run for another term: Sophie Surinder (former treasurer), Manuel Rodaro (deputy secretary), Patrick Osland (auditor) and Sarah Ducellari (election committee).

Two board members take over new roles in 2024-25: Andreas Lernhart (treasurer) and Roger Hilton (deputy treasurer).

Finally, it is a great pleasure to welcome four young new colleagues to the board: Mila Wölfer (MAIS 26, deputy secretary), Carmen Hagen (MAIS 25, auditor) as well as the two new election committee members Richard Murphy (MAIS 19) and Stefania Velez Soto (MAIS 25). We look forward to your initiatives and already thank you for your engagement and dedication for **club.da**.



Furthermore, the General Assembly approved a slight amendment to the **club.da** Statutes. Until the update taking effect in 2026, the Club's board had to consist of seven members, at least four of them being DA alumni. From next year on, the GA may elect five to seven board members. Still, more than half of those members have to be DA alumni.

During the obligatory "Any other business", former **club.da** president (1990-2000) Franz Fleischmann (DLG 08) announced his retirement from active Club duty. Since 2000, Franz served as member of the Advisory

Council and, hence, provided new generations of **club.da** volunteer leaders with his insights and experience. We thank Franz for all he has done for **club.da** and wish him all the best and, above all, good health!

As always, the full meeting minutes of the General Assembly will be available on the **club.da** website in due course..



More information on the topics covered is available at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Board> as well as at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/History>.

Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein

Tief betroffen teilt die Diplomatische Akademie Wien (DA) mit, dass ihr ehemaliger langjähriger Direktor, Botschafter i.R. Dr. Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein, am 6. Mai 2024 im Alter von 97 Jahren verstorben ist.

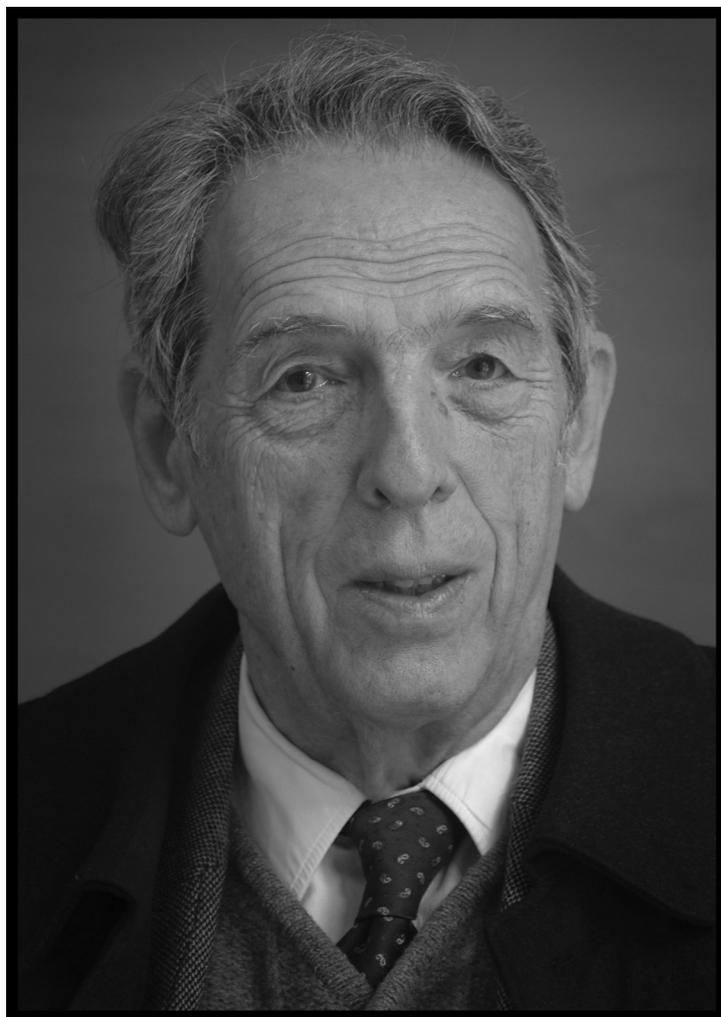
Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein, 1927 in Graz geboren, trat 1956 in den österreichischen diplomatischen Dienst ein und wurde nach diversen Stationen im Außenministerium 1978 zum Direktor der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien berufen. Eine Funktion, die er acht Jahre lang, bis 1986, innehatte.

In seine Amtszeit fiel ein neues Gesetz über die Diplomatische Akademie Wien, die Modernisierung des Lehrplans – geprägt auch durch sein Studium als Fulbright-Student in den USA – und er schuf Grundlagen für spätere Neuerungen sowie die Ausgliederung aus dem Außenministerium.

Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein setzte als Direktor auch schon Vorgaben, die sich bis heute als Interdisziplinarität niederschlagen: Studierende sollten Probleme aus dem wirtschaftlichen, politischen und rechtlichen Gesichtswinkel betrachten. Auch wurden von ihm Konferenzsimulationen und Verhandlungstrainings an der Akademie ins Leben gerufen. Darüber hinaus initiierte er den „Verein zur Förderung der Lehre“, um durch Sponsoring aus der Privatwirtschaft die Akademie zu unterstützen und Stipendien zur Verfügung zu stellen.

Bis heute deutlich sichtbar ist der während seiner Amtszeit als Direktor erfolgte Ausbau eines bisher ungenutzten Gebäudetraktes mit einem der wichtigsten Räume der DA, dem Festsaal.

Seine diplomatische Laufbahn war auch durch seinen Einsatz für die Europäische Integration geprägt, u.a. in der Delegation bei der Europäischen Gemeinschaft für Kohle und Stahl und seine Zuständigkeit im Außenministerium für die EFTA und die Europäischen Gemeinschaften, wie auch die Leitung der österreichischen Delegation während der vorbereitenden Verhandlungen



der KSZE und ehrenamtlich später als Präsident und Ehrenpräsident des Europäischen Forum Alpbach.

"Als Student in der Direktionszeit von Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein durfte ich erleben, wie prägend er als Mensch für unsere Kenntnisse und Einstellungen zu Diplomatie und internationalen Beziehungen war", würdigt der heutige Direktor der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien, Botschafter Dr. Emil Brix, die Leistungen Pfusterschmid-Hardtensteins. Als eine seiner schönsten Erfahrungen bezeichnete Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein die Gemeinschaft mit den Studierenden.

Seine bis zuletzt tiefe Verbundenheit mit der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien zeigte er u.a. mit der von ihm verfassten "Kleinen Geschichte der Diplomatischen

In Gedenken an den ehemaligen langjährigen Direktor der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien, der am 6. Mai 2024 97-jährig verstorben ist

Akademie Wien: Ausbildung im Bereich der internationalen Beziehungen seit 1754", die unter <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/About/History> abrufbar ist.

Im Juni 2021 stellte er darüber hinaus ein Buch über seinen sowie den Lebensweg weiterer Generationen seiner Familie an der DA vor. Die Buchpräsentation unter dem Titel "Vom Kaiserreich zur Republik" ist unter <https://youtu.be/M4gjZ3BSO2c> zu finden.

"Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein wird uns nicht nur als Direktor der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien, sondern auch für sein jahrzehntelanges Wirken in der Diplomatie und der österreichischen Außenpolitik in Erinnerung bleiben", so Direktor Brix. "Wir drücken Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtensteins Familie unser tiefempfundenes Mitgefühl aus." 

Auszüge aus der Ansprache Hermann Hagspiels im Rahmen des Requiems für Botschafter Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein am 12. Juni 2024

„[...] Ich erlebte [Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein] als einen ausgezeichneten Pädagogen und Institutionsleiter: in seiner Funktion als Direktor der Diplomatischen Akademie in Wien und später als tatkräftigen Präsidenten des Europäischen Forums Alpbach. Beide Institutionen haben Heinrich Pfusterschmid sehr viel zu verdanken, ja ohne ihn gäbe es sie wahrscheinlich nicht mehr in dieser Form und mit ihrer internationalen Reputation. [...]

Hineingeboren und aufgewachsen in einer Familie, deren Wurzeln sich in Österreich, Deutschland, Frankreich, Slowenien und Italien bis ins 11. Jahrhundert zurück verfolgen lassen, war Heinrich Pfusterschmid das Denken in internationalen Bezügen gewissermaßen zweite Natur; bis in die letzten Tage seines bewussten Daseins beschäftigten ihn die Entwicklung Europas und – am 30. Jahrestag der österreichischen Abstimmung über den EU-Beitritt sei es erwähnt – die Sorge um die Zukunft der Europäischen Union. [...]

Geschätzt habe ich vor allem seinen Gerechtigkeitssinn, sein abwägendes Zuhören, sein Bemühen um die Förderung junger Talente über alle Standesgrenzen und weltanschaulichen Divergenzen hinweg, seine in jeder Situation höfliche und doch gleichzeitig offene und geradlinige Art. [...]

Mit großem Respekt und Dankbarkeit denke ich an die letzten Jahre unserer gemeinsamen Arbeit an der wirklich bemerkenswerten Geschichte der drei Generationen Pfusterschmid-Hardtenstein: Carl, Nikolaus und eben Heinrich. Es war für mich eine äußerst bereichernde Erfahrung im Austausch mit einem

umfassend interessierten Zeitzeugen des 20. Jahrhunderts, wie es davon nur mehr wenige gibt. [...]

Den selbst verfassten Rückblick auf sein Leben, in dem er das Angestrebte gegen das Erreichte abwägt, beendet Heinrich Pfusterschmid in seiner sympathisch unprätentiösen Weise mit den Worten: „Das endgültige Urteil wird einmal auf einer anderen Ebene gesprochen werden. Man kann nur hoffen, dann bestehen zu können. Bis dahin muss man froh und dem Herrgott dankbar dafür sein, was man erhalten hat und was einem erspart geblieben ist.“

Hermann Hagspiel ist Absolvent des 20. Diplomlehrgangs der DA.



Professor Pondi celebrating 20-year anniversary at the DA

4 directors, 5 deputy directors, 2 deans, 2,000+ students - and 1 Professor Jean-Emmanuel Pondi. With a Jubilee Lecture on "State Building or State Disintegration? On the Dynamics of the Alliance of Sahelian States in 2024", the DA happily celebrated his 20-year teaching anniversary on 5 June. Professor Pondi, vice-chancellor of The ICT University Yaoundé, has been a non-resident faculty member in the DA's Department of International Relations since 2004. A recording of the above-mentioned lecture is available at https://youtu.be/LTii6_Sph8E.



On the Dynamics of the Alliance of Sahelian States in 2024", the DA happily celebrated his 20-year teaching anniversary on 5 June. Professor Pondi, vice-chancellor of The ICT University Yaoundé, has been a non-resident faculty member in the DA's Department of International Relations since 2004.

A recording of the above-mentioned lecture is available at https://youtu.be/LTii6_Sph8E.

Standing together with the LGBTQIA+ community in celebration of the Vienna Pride

We reaffirm our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. Let us join hands and hearts, celebrating and supporting inclusive societies that respect the dignity and human rights of LGBTQIA+ people and endeavour to ensure all individuals in society are treated equally in all spheres.

Over the years, our participation in the Vienna Rainbow Parade has become both a tradition and a highlight for our students, and we're very proud to say that once again our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends marched in the parade to support and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community.



It's hard to say goodbye!

Sadly, another era came to an end ...

Genny Chiarandon left the DA after 16 years

Regular readers of **da.alumni** news might recognise the title of this section. Over the past years, several "legends" of the DA have taken their well-deserved retirement.

Now, the DA's students, faculty and staff sadly bid farewell to Genny Chiarandon, who had been the heart and soul not only of the DA's Academic Administration for 16 years. However, being an alumna of the MAIS programme, we look forward to Genny remaining an important part of the DA family and to seeing her at many **club.da** events to come. We wish the "Master of DA Universe" all the best for her future endeavours!



Focus on Human Rights: Musikzimmer renamed "Human Rights Space", #WeAreDA Human Rights series

The principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the body of human rights law that builds on them are at the core of Austria's post-war legal system. The DA is steadfast in its dedication to these principles, a commitment deeply embedded in our curriculum.

As we celebrate the 270th anniversary of our founding, we honour this by naming one of our main event rooms 'Human Rights Space', thereby underscoring our strong belief in the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

In an era where fundamental freedoms are increasingly under pressure in many regions of the world, we believe it is crucial to emphasise basic human rights and equality for all.

The official naming ceremony by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk, will take place on 1 October 2024.

More information on the new Human Rights Space is available at

<https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/HumanRightsSpace>.



Through the lens of Ido Oren: A sneak peek into our 2023–24 Fulbright Visiting Professor's time in Vienna

"I greatly enjoyed having lunch at Pizzeria Riva with student in my seminar on 'How Washington Works' (second term).

When I open my apartment's windows each morning, I take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the DA's courtyard.

Hiking amidst the vineyards in the Vienna Woods is a favourite recreational activity. It's hard to believe that the area is within Vienna's city limits."



With students in How Washington Works, January - March 2024
Photos: © DA/Andreas Ehrmann and © DA/Ido Oren (3)



club.da Scholarship awardees 2023-24

"I strive to contribute to making the world a slightly better place. I truly cherish living in the present, and I hope to carry that sense of contentment into the future."

club.da SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE



JULIA JEUTTER

Could you tell me a bit about your background?

I was born and raised in Austria, with a German father and an Austrian mother. Although I attended school in Germany, Austria has always been my home. I developed a love for Ancient Greek during school, which was a subject I truly enjoyed. Initially, I had planned to study philosophy after completing my education, but I spent a year in Canada, where I honed my English language skills. Following that, I pursued a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communication Studies while also delving into Philosophy. Throughout my studies, I've consistently worked part-time, including internships at various embassies (Belgium, US, German Bundestag), and I've been employed at University of Vienna for the past three years.

What motivated you to pursue the Master in Advanced International Studies programme at the DA?

Based on my diverse internships and experiences in the field of international relations, I decided that pursuing a master's degree in this area at the DA was the right path for me. The programme's multidisciplinary approach ap-

pealed to me, especially considering my background in philosophy and communication studies. My interests naturally lean towards political topics, making this programme an ideal fit for my aspirations.

How has receiving the scholarship impacted your academic journey?

The scholarship has been incredibly beneficial for me. Before, I had been working part-time, however, the scholarship has allowed me to reduce my working hours, alleviating some financial burdens and giving me more flexibility to focus on my studies. I also value the networking opportunities provided by the alumni club. Moreover, the scholarship has helped me strike a better balance, enabling me to also participate in extracurricular activities such as society events or career talks.

Who inspires you?

I find inspiration in the works of Emanuel Levinas, particularly his profound insights into how we construct our own identities in relation to the "other". His perspective resonates deeply with me, emphasising the definition of identity not by differentiating ourselves from others, but in the face of the other.

Julia JEUTTER

MAIS 28 (2023-25)

Lastly, what are your aspirations for the future?

I'm not entirely sure yet. Ultimately, I strive to contribute to making the world a slightly better place. I truly cherish living in the present, and I hope to carry that sense of contentment into the future.

To learn more about Julia Jeutter, please visit <https://www.linkedin.com/in/julia-jeutter-690527123>.

This interview was conducted by Katja Palaszewski, who is enrolled in the DA's 28th MAIS programme.

club.da Scholarship awardees 2023-24

Could you tell me more about your background?

I was born and raised in Syria. After finishing my Bachelor's degree in English Literature, I studied translation and started working as a teaching assistant at the same university. Soon after, I started my own translation work, which greatly broadened my horizons and helped me better understand the world, since I worked mainly in the field of politics and international relations.

Why did you decide to study at the DA?

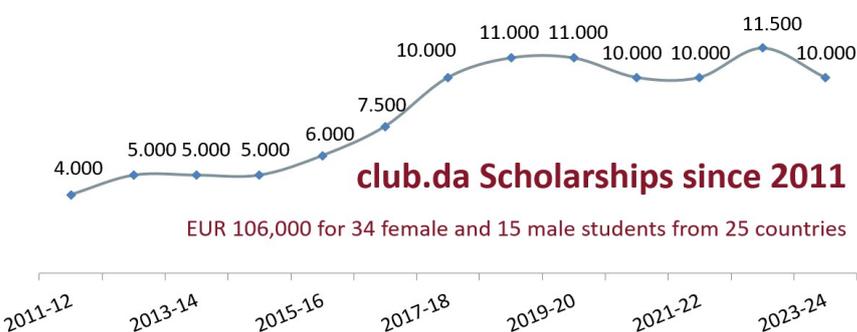
The war in my country showed me the importance of understanding the state of international affairs and how countries impact one another on the global stage. War made me feel that the world around me was losing sanity, and that there was no, or very little, regard given to marginalized people who simply wished to stay away from violence and live in peace. Therefore, I felt the need to deepen my understanding of international relations and diplomacy. I couldn't think of a better place to have this

Qusay Khamis
DLG 60 (2023-24)

experience than Vienna and the Diplomatische Akademie. Aside from the academic quality offered here at the DA, Vienna is also one of the European capitals for diplomacy. I wish to use the unique opportunities Vienna and the DA offer to build connections and strengthen networks to better help those in need, particularly those affected by wars.

How will you stay active after graduation?

Studying in this environment means forging long-lasting



"We are living in a volatile era; therefore, it is helpful to know that a strong well-established network is still working hard to ensure safe landing for DA future graduates."

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QUSAY KHAMIS

friendships and future professional relationships. I intend to maintain these connections because I strongly believe that all of us here will have an impact on the international stage.

This interview was conducted by Anna-Sanziana Beschia, who is enrolled in the DA's 60th Diploma Programme.

Alumni-sponsored scholarships

There are currently two scholarship programmes which are solely funded by DA alumni.

club.da Scholarships are available for first-year students and financed by membership fees and additional donations. At the end of 2023, club.da concluded its "Road to 100K", having spent more than EUR 100,000 on scholarships since 2011.

The Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarships are open to second-year students and based on donations by the members of the DA's Alumni Hall of Fame.

In total, EUR 144,500 has been awarded through both programmes since 2011.

<https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Scholarships>

club.da Scholarship awardees 2023-24

Can you start by telling us a bit about yourself and your background?

I was born and raised in Vienna. In high school, I took on five languages, igniting my passion for a profound engagement with other cultures and, ultimately, diplomacy. Fascination with East Asia, particularly Japan, inspired me to pursue a degree in Japanese Studies at the University of Vienna. During my undergraduate years, I seized the opportunity to undertake an exchange year at a Japanese university and did an administrative traineeship at the Austrian Embassy in Japan. Throughout my studies, I continued to work part-time in order to save up for my master's degree at the DA.

What would you say characterises you personally and professionally?

I would say self-determination and responsibility are two traits that define me both personally and professionally. I've always been someone who takes initiative and strives to handle whatever tasks come my way with diligence

and accountability.

When you're not busy with work or studies, how do you like to unwind?

I enjoy cooking, playing board games or PlayStation, watching historical dramas and fantasy series as well as spending time cuddling with my cats. These activities help me relax and recharge after a busy day of working and studying.

Katja PALASZEWSKI
MAIS 28 (2023-25)

Let's talk about your decision to pursue the Master of Advanced International Studies (MAIS) programme. What led you to choose this path?

After spending 12 years in school, my love for languages led me to explore what I could do with them. I've always had interests in various fields and found that diplomacy offers a way to combine languages with diverse disciplines. I was particularly drawn to the MAIS programme because of its reputation as the best in its field. I worked and saved up for it, in order to be able to pursue this dream of mine.

Can you share some highlights from your experience at the Academy?

The people I've met here have been incredibly inspiring, and I've been amazed by how easy it is to connect with others. The career service resources and the club.da platform have been particularly valuable in terms of networking opportunities and feedback on my application documents.

This interview was conducted by Julia Jeutter, who is enrolled in the DA's 28th MAIS programme.

"On a professional level, I aspire to contribute to bridging the ever-intensifying East-West dichotomy and fostering greater global unity.

Personally, my goal is to attain fluency in ten languages and establish friendships and networks in the countries those languages are spoken in."

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KATJA PALASZEWSKI

club.da Scholarship awardees 2023-24

What brought you to the DA, and why did you choose MAIS?

During my studies in law, I've developed a deep interest in international public law, diplomacy, and international relations. After graduation and some work experience, I reaffirmed my interest in the area, and I wanted to deepen my knowledge in this field. Therefore, I decided to do my masters in international relations. I wanted to study for a master with a multidisciplinary focus and also in an international city. That is how I decided to come and study the MAIS programme at the DA.

What motivates you to pursue a career in international relations?

I believe that a significant part of our lives is dedicated to work; therefore, I would like to have a meaningful job. I aspire to take roles that allow me to collaborate with organizations, states or individuals to drive a positive impact in the world. This is the main motivation I have to pursue a career in this field.

What are some of the highlights of your time at the DA?

The chance to connect with a diverse and lively community was one of the biggest highlights of my time at the DA. The DA has students from all over the world and with different backgrounds, which ended up being a very enriching experience. Another one of the highlights of the DA was also the vast opportunities they give students to attend many events about international relations that are organized or hosted by the DA.

How did the scholarship benefit you?

I vividly remember the day I received the scholarship. I was just going through a health problem and the scholarship came just as a reminder that good things also happen in difficult times. I am financing my studies by myself. Thus the club.da scholarship has lightened part of my financial load. It's facilitating my trip to Brussels, and it is allowing me to have some calm months. Moreover, I

"The chance to connect with a diverse and lively community was one of the biggest highlights of my time in the DA. The DA has students from all over the world and with different backgrounds, which ended up being a very enriching experience."



found it especially meaningful that the funding came from DA alumni. Knowing that there is an active alumni network is a very valuable asset and it motivates me to be an active member and contribute to it. In the future, after graduating from the DA, I would like to give back some of the benefits I've got to other students as well.

Let's talk networking: How would you like to be involved in the DA's alumni network after your graduation?

I definitely would like to keep in touch with the DA's alumni network. I believe that being part of this global community even after graduation is an amazing and very valuable opportunity. Also I would like to support the alumni network and keep making it possible that more students in the future can benefit from the network.

This interview was conducted by Laetitia Skalla, who is enrolled in the DA's 17th ETIA programme.



The unabridged scholarship awardee interviews are posted at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Scholarships>.

club.da Scholarship awardees 2023-24

Hi Laetitia! To start this interview, I would like to ask you to shortly introduce yourself.

I grew up in the southernmost part of Austria, in a small village, very idyllic by a lake in the midst of the Austrian alps. My family and I moved to Seattle when I was about two years old and stayed there for almost five years as my father had accepted a job position in the U.S. The time I spent in the there has definitely shaped my personality and led to my open-mindedness towards different cultures. Today, I am a Yoga teacher in Vienna, have lived in Sweden and am constantly looking for opportunities to travel and explore the world.

How come you decided to enroll in ETIA at the DA, what is your academic background?

My academic background lies in biomedical studies. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, I continued doing a double-degree in Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine. I moved to Sweden in the fall of 2022 and spent almost one year living and studying in Scandinavia. The first thoughts of sustainability and reducing waste came to me while working in the laborato-

ry, where enormous amounts of plastic waste are produced through sterile working. After finishing my Master degree, I was eager to pursue a traineeship at the European Medicine Agency in Amsterdam. Unfortunately, I was lacking the background and experience in international affairs, not being a suitable candidate for the internship. After this rejection, I began looking for educational possibilities to gain knowledge in economics and law. When I found ETIA, I knew it was the optimal study program combining my interests of international affairs and my technological affinity. Today I am grateful that I did not get the job in Amsterdam.

How has the DA impacted your professional goals?

I often catch myself being impressed about how much I have already learned here. To be frank, I have not really been very interested in diplomacy or political studies before. Here I would like to insert the cliché saying of "If you never try, you'll never know." Oh, how glad I am that I tried. I would have never believed that I would enjoy

participating in political discussions and learning about trade agreements or legal declarations. I am living through major shifts of perspectives and am so proud that I get the best education on which I can base my arguments on. The student body and community at the DA has especially influenced my way of thinking, getting very inspired by my colleagues and their academic and personal journeys. As healthcare is still a major field of interest of mine, I would like to continue combining my knowledge gained in the laboratory with my environmental studies and work towards challenging current healthcare policies, ensuring sustainable and fair access to medicine for those in need.

This interview was conducted by Karem Parraga, who is enrolled in the DA's 28th MAIS programme.

Laetitia SKALLA
ETIA 17 (2023-25)

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LAETITIA SKALLA

"When I found ETIA, I knew it was the optimal study program combining my interests of international affairs and my technological affinity."

Hall of Fame Scholarship awardee 2023-24

DA: What brought you to the DA and why have you chosen MAIS?

Judith Bauer: The DA boasts a rich array of courses complemented by foundational pillars designed to foster interdisciplinary learning among its students. This unique structure enables students to cultivate both specialized expertise and a broad-based understanding of global affairs simultaneously.

In selecting the MAIS programme, I was particularly drawn to its emphasis on international exchange opportunities during the second year—an aspect of the programme from which I have been fortunate to benefit. I firmly believe that the MAIS programme offers an exceptional pathway for individuals aspiring to embark on an international career.

What impact does/did the Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship have on your second academic year?

Receiving the Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship was a deeply gratifying experience, one that filled me with a sense of pride regarding my academic achievements and profound appreciation for the generosity demonstrated

Judith BAUER
MAIS 27 (2022-24)

by the esteemed members of the Hall of Fame. Reflecting on the journey that has led me to this point in my academic pursuits evokes a sense of humility, as I am reminded of the invaluable support and guidance I have received.

While the scholarship undoubtedly represents a meaningful contribution towards my educational expenses at the DA, it covers just slightly above 5% of the total costs. While this gesture serves as a commendable acknowledgment from the esteemed DA alumni, its practical impact on alleviating the financial burden for students is limited.

It is important to recognize that the issue of affordability within educational institutions transcends individual acts

"The MAIS programme's emphasis on international exchange opportunities offers an exceptional pathway for individuals aspiring to pursue international careers, and I am grateful to have benefitted from this aspect."



of philanthropy. Rather, it is indicative of systemic challenges that necessitate an institutional reform, particularly in a nation such as Austria, which may pride itself for its accessible education for all.

Receiving the Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship has reinforced my steadfast belief in the principles of equal access and opportunity for all deserving students. Rather than solely serving to mitigate the costs of my education, I view this scholarship as an affirmation of the importance of fostering an inclusive academic environment, and hope for a future where a beneficiary may spend the award solely on recreative purposes instead.

What are your professional aspirations?

I am interested in the establishing and sustaining of peace within and beyond regions. I believe that it is the international community's duty to ensure a global positive peace, but that it only will last once nations have a truly equitable relationship and once an emphasis is put on listening to each other. Towards this, I aspire a career in finding diplomatic solutions outside the MFA and outside any political party.

DA Sommerfest 2024

Impressions from our traditional closing of the academic year



500+ guests – students, alumni, friends and family as well as partners and generous sponsors of the DA – again turned our traditional Sommerfest into a very special and fun evening.

Many thanks to all of you for your visit!
We hope to see you again next year.
The Sommerfest '25 will take place on 27 June 2025!

24th International Alumni Meeting

Guided tour of the Wien Museum and casual get-together at Restaurant Resselpark



club.da



Photo galleries and more information on da.connect:
Recordings of livestreams and more videos from the DA:

<https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/connect>
<https://www.youtube.com/DiplomatischeAkademieWien>



Grafik: www.goodfreephotos.com



<https://da-vienna.ac.at/Events>

On the calendar ...

10 July 2024	19 th Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels
22 August 2024	15 th Vienna Summer Meeting at Schweizerhaus
28 September 2024	Alumni Meeting for Parents
1 October 2024	Inauguration of the Academic Year 2024-25
5 December 2024	St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet
26 January 2025	21 st DA Ski and Snowboard Championships
12 March 2025	da.link career day 2025
12 April 2025	Charity Ball at the DA
27-28 June 2025	25 th International Alumni Meeting in Vienna

club.da
Your home after graduation



For up-to-date information on all our events please check out our event calendar at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/events> or log in to our networking and career platform **da.connect** at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/connect>.

Follow us on social media and stay informed:

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