

da. alumni news

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The *2022 in Review* Issue



diplomatische
akademie wien
School of International Studies

First PhD IIS graduation
New MSc DIA programme
Alumni-funded Scholarships
Celebrating Together Again
Alumni Network Statistics
Alumni Events: Past and Future

Dear Alumnae, dear Alumni,

This year has seen the return of in-person events and we came back with a record! ClubDA has organised **48 events** this year, surpassing the previous record of 41 events established in 2018. But we don't stop here. We continue to innovate and bring new ideas. We want you to enjoy our events as much as we do organising them.

Mixing traditional lectures and podium discussions with new initiatives to expand to new demographics and recent graduates is also on our minds. This year, ClubDA started its series of **After Work Clubbings**—drinks, networking and more in a top Vienna club. But we also have something on offer for young parents: play dates and get-togethers have started in February. Planning for 2023 has already begun and we invite you to have a look at page 16 for more information on upcoming events.

Positive news don't end here. ClubDA has also set a new record in **membership fees**. These remain the most important income for the Club which finances our activities and—more importantly—our support to current students. Every year in December, ClubDA awards scholarships to students in need. This year was no different and we once again provided five scholarships, which brings our total to EUR 94,500 since the scholarship programme started in 2011. By the end of 2023, we will have provided over EUR 100,000 to students through the **ClubDA Scholarships** programme. So far, 42 students from 23 different countries have received support from ClubDA.

Im Rahmen der ClubDA-Veranstaltungen wurde auch die deutschsprachige Reihe **„Frauen im Gespräch“** wieder aufgenommen. Am 22. November 2022 war die Journalistin Hannelore Veit zu Gast bei ClubDA-Vizepräsidentin Brigitta Blaha. Themen des Gesprächs waren u.a. die Arbeit von Journalist*innen, die Rolle von Medien und deren Verhältnis zur Politik. Durch das langjährige Wirken von Hannelore Veit als US-Korrespondentin des ORF waren auch Vergleiche zwischen den Herausforderungen in den USA und Europa (z.B. Pressefreiheit) Gegenstand der anschließenden Diskussion.

Finally, our international activities are flourishing and our ClubDA President, David Lansky, has established a regular exchange with our international chapters. Reflecting on previous meetings and improving future events is a cornerstone of further evolving our activities as an international club. After all, it is our international chapters which enable us to be a truly international network.

With kind regards for the ClubDA Board,
David Lansky, Brigitta Blaha and Oliver Authried

PS: To support our work and the ClubDA Scholarships programme, kindly use the QR code or visit <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Membership>.



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News from the Academy

Announcing the graduation of the DA's first PhD student
Introducing the new MSc in Digital International Affairs



It's been quite a special Graduation Ceremony on 30 June at the Main Ceremonial Hall of the University of Vienna. Besides 75

proud MAIS graduates, the DA had the honour to also congratulate its first alumna of the **PhD in Interdisciplinary International Studies (PhD IIS)** programme.



Photo: DA/Peter Lechner

With a background in Political Science and International Relations and a keen interest in American foreign policy and the U.S. Presidency, Corina-Ioana Trăistaru's doctoral research focused on post-9/11 decision-making in U.S. foreign policy during the Bush and Obama Administrations. To answer the question of "Why do states comply with international law?", Corina's interdisciplinary research in International Relations and International Law treated decision-makers as socially embedded individuals constrained by social and institutional frameworks that decision-makers also transform through their actions.

As a graduate of both the DA's MAIS and PhD IIS, Corina thoroughly enjoyed her years at the DA as well as

her time in the wonderful city of Vienna. Beyond proud to be the first-ever graduate of the joint PhD programme between the DA and the University of Vienna, she was delighted to enjoy the opportunity of further strengthening her research skills while also working as a Research Assistant in the DA's Department of International Relations during her doctoral studies.

Says Professor Markus Kornprobst: "Corina sent in her application when the ink on our agreement to establish a joint PhD programme with the University of Vienna had barely dried. We were very happy to admit her. A strong programme needs strong students! Courses in International Law, courses in International Relations, doing and re-redoing the thesis proposal—Corina cruised through her coursework. This proved to be an excellent foundation for an excellent thesis that gets at the underlying causes of why leaders abide by or violate international law. Congratulations, Corina! You make us very proud!"



The DA is happy to share more exciting news about our academic programmes. Next fall, the DA will be launching its new **MSc in Digital International Affairs (DIA)**. This programme will be organised in co-operation with the University of Innsbruck. The MSc DIA is a two-year full-time interdisciplinary programme on the digital transformation of international affairs, equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to shape the international relations of tomorrow. 



More information on all academic programmes of the DA and its partners is available at <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/Programmes>.

da.alumni: Our strong global network in numbers

Alumni statistics of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien since 1964

It's been five years since we last had a quantitative look at the alumni network of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien—Vienna School of International Studies. Therefore, we think it is time to re-visit our data and see how your network has evolved with 525 new members since 2017.

Including the Class of 2022, **2,767** graduates of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien's academic programmes make up its global alumni network. **1,344** Diploma Programme graduates are still the largest group within the DA's alumni network. In addition, **1,155** students have graduated from the MAIS programme, **277** from MSc ETIA and **202** from the

Special Programme in International Studies (SPIS). The latter had been offered from 2000 to 2007 and was merged with

MAIS when it became a full two-year programme. Finally, this year Corina-Ioana Trăistaru became the **first** alumna of the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary International Studies (see cover photo).

212 alumni have graduated from more than one course, the most popular combinations being DLG+MAIS (103) and SPIS+MAIS (101).

Let's stay with fields of studies a bit longer. When the DA became an independent public institution, in 1996, and MAIS was first introduced, more than half of all DA alumni had a background either in law (33.6%) or languages (18.4%). This changed dramatically over the past 26 years.

Now, almost a third – **903** – of our alumni hold a degree in Political Science or International Relations. **615** alumni have studied economics, **606** law and **548** languages before they enrolled in one of the DA's programmes.

In this context, it is also interesting to look at the specific DA programmes: Most MAIS (**47.0%**) and SPIS (**32.7%**) alumni have a back-

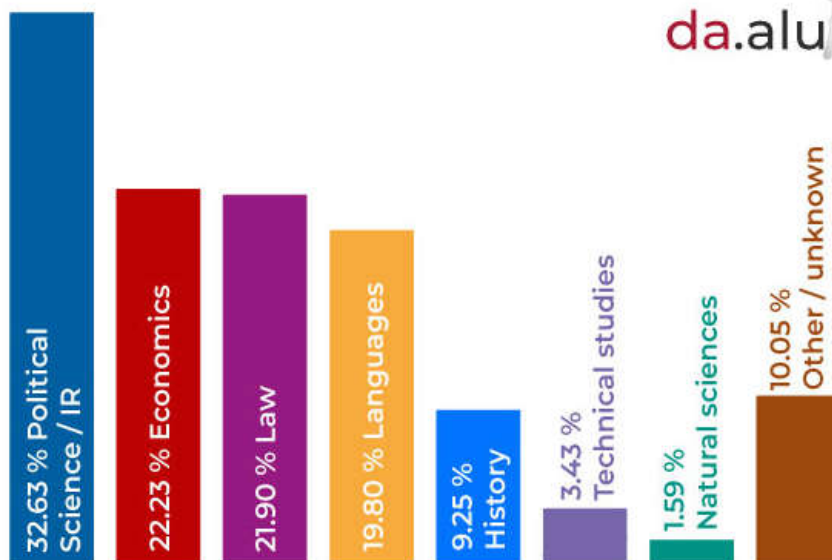
ground in Political Science while the Diploma

Programme is still a stronghold of lawyers (**27.8%**) and linguists (**24.1%**). The introduction of the MSc ETIA programme, on the other hand, brought a new group of economists (**33.2%**) and graduates of technical studies (**14.8%**) and natural sciences (**7.6%**) to the DA.

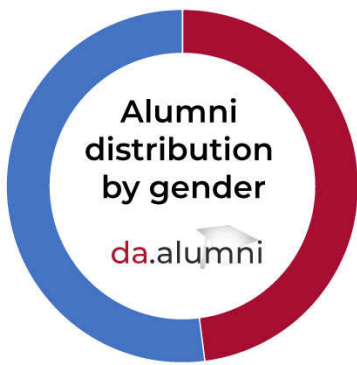


48.57 % DLG 41.74 % MAIS 10.01 % MSc ETIA
0.04 % PhD IIS 7.30 % SPIS

Alumni distribution by previous fields of studies



da.alumni



52.04 % Male 47.96 % Female



10.84% Former members
59.20% Members
29.96% Non-members

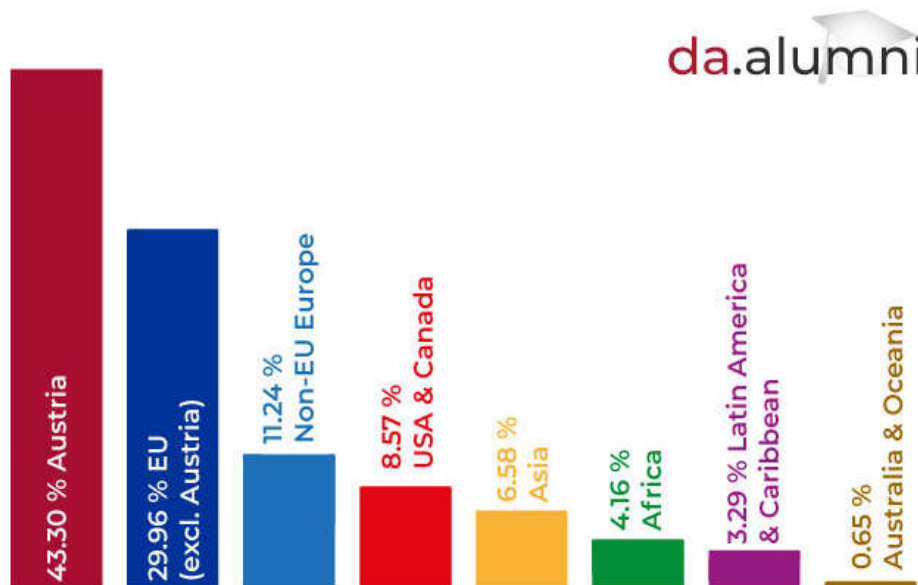
DA alumni know and appreciate the diverse student body at the Academy. Until 1996, alumnae made up only 23.5% of the DA's entire alumni network. Since then, more female than male students were enrolled at the DA almost every year.

Hence, now there are **1,440** alumni and **1,327** alumnae of the DA's academic programmes.


1,198 of all DA alumni hold an Austrian citizenship, **829** come from the 26 other EU member states and an additional **311** from non-EU countries in Europe.

Most DA alumni hold citizenships of the following ten European and North American countries:

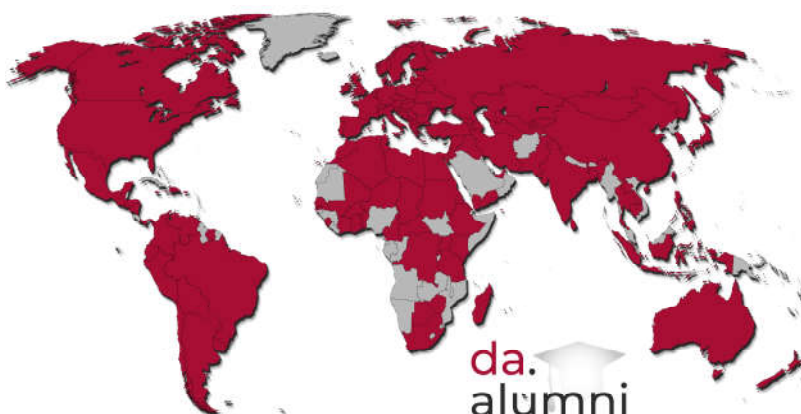
Austria	1,198
United States	188
Germany	146
Italy	98
United Kingdom	92
France	88
Poland	62
Romania	53
Hungary	52
Canada	49



When it comes to geographical diversity, the DA is proud that ever more parts of the globe turn DA red on our alumni map (see below). Since 1996, students from no less than **130** countries from all continents have graduated from the DA. And looking at our current student body, this number is set to rise even further soon.

Finally, ClubDA is proud that more than 70 percent of all DA alumni have eventually joined the Club. Currently, **1,638** out of 1,816 ClubDA members are DA alumni. 

Nicole Lojnik, Andreas Ehrmann



DA Alumni Statistics

The information presented here is based on the anonymised data of 2,767 alumni of the five academic programmes the DA has been offering since 1964 (in chronological order): Diploma Programme, MAIS, SPIS, MSc ETIA and PhD IIS.

To read earlier articles on this topic, visit our archive at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/daalumni-news>.

ClubDA Scholarship awardees 2021-22



Julia Anna Höftberger
MAIS 26 (2021-23)

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

My biggest motivation was to better understand how the world works, what forces influence, threaten and hold it together - as banal as that sounds. I wanted to learn to independently analyse and interpret social trends, I wanted to learn to "read" the time I live in.

Would you say the DA has been what you hoped for?

Absolutely, I would even say the DA exceeded my already very high expectations. On the one hand, the courses are extremely stimulating, I haven't been bored for a minute and I have grown a lot intellectually. In addition, I am always impressed by how many events outside of the courses the DA offers providing additional insights into current debates as well as into the professional field of international relations; be it in the form of the career talks, the skills workshops or the diverse evening events. My colleagues and I often joke that you never know which ambassador or foreign minister you might bump into on campus.

Finally, do you have any advice for incoming students?

"Do your best without putting too much pressure on yourself!" That would probably be my advice to incoming students. Because the variety of things on offer can be overwhelming, especially in the first few weeks, and you often wish the day didn't have just 24 hours because there are so many events you don't want to miss.



Farzanah Shafii
MAIS 26 (2021-23)

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

As a person of Hazara descent, I have been involved with and interested in various international issues such as ethnic conflicts, human rights and international security from a young age. My current career path has not only been shaped significantly by my family history and my upbringing, but it further confirmed my deep passion for interdisciplinary studies. I wanted to find a way to connect my previous studies and interests with other disciplines and the MAIS programme provides exactly that.

What do you plan to do after finishing your studies?

It has always been my dream to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. However, ever since I have started my studies at the DA, I got insights into the work of IOs and NGOs which is why I also take this into consideration as a possible career path of mine.

What advice would you give the next generation of MAIS students?

Always be well prepared and plan your time well. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't be spontaneous. Be spontaneous, be open to new things and try your hand at everything. Never say no. There is so much to learn and see and it's not always about getting good grades or doing everything perfectly.

ClubDA Scholarship awardees 2021-22

What brought you to the DA, why did you choose ETIA?

Having initially studied Political Science and coming from an economy which heavily relies on agriculture for subsistence and is often confronted with environmental issues such as soil degradation and climate change, I thus found in ETIA an opportunity to combine my political science knowledge together with more technical insights in environmental studies, which I hopefully intend to implement in my home country, Africa and the world in general as a remedy to the situation.

Do you think that you can contribute to changing the world through your work? How do you see yourself accomplishing this?

As aforementioned, my hope is that after studies I will transpose the skills and knowledge gained not only regionally but also globally. The best possible way for me to accomplish this is by creating educational platforms on environmental impact assessment and also acting as a bridge between the affected population and world leaders. In all, the sole aim is to revoke the term 'sacrifice generations', which has mostly been used as an excuse by most generations to not pay attention to the side effects of their environmental misdeed.

Are you already involved with DA's alumni network or are you planning to do so in the future?

Currently, I am not part of the DA Alumni Network, but I am planning to be an active member, because I believe in the fact that when you receive light you have to transmit it to others.



Felicite Moisa Onana Ibogo
ETIA 15 (2021-23)



Alumni-sponsored scholarships

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

The ClubDA Scholarships are available for first-year students and financed by ClubDA membership fees and additional donations.

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 133,000 have been awarded through both programmes since 2011.

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

ClubDA Scholarship awardees 2021-22



Miloš Nešić

ETIA 15 (2021-23)

How did the ClubDA Scholarship impact your academic year?

The scholarship granted by ClubDA made a significant impact on my first year at the DA. It helped me to overcome my financial burden by covering a vast part of my daily expenses and made it possible for me to focus more on my studies than on working on the weekends.

What are your plans after graduation and where do you see yourself in the future?

After I graduate from the MSc ETIA programme, my plan is to find a job within some of the international organisations, such as OSCE or the United Nations, dealing with questions of environmental matters.

How and in which form would you want to be involved with DA's alumni network?

Especially nowadays, being in the right place at the right time means a lot. One of the main pretexts for that is to have well-timed information provided by people who are more experienced and at the inflow of information. After I graduate, I would like to stay within the DA's alumni network helping out younger colleagues to overcome any potential struggles with their studies and future careers.

Viktor Mutwiri Kirima

MAIS 26 (2021-23)

What was your main motivation for enrolling at the DA?

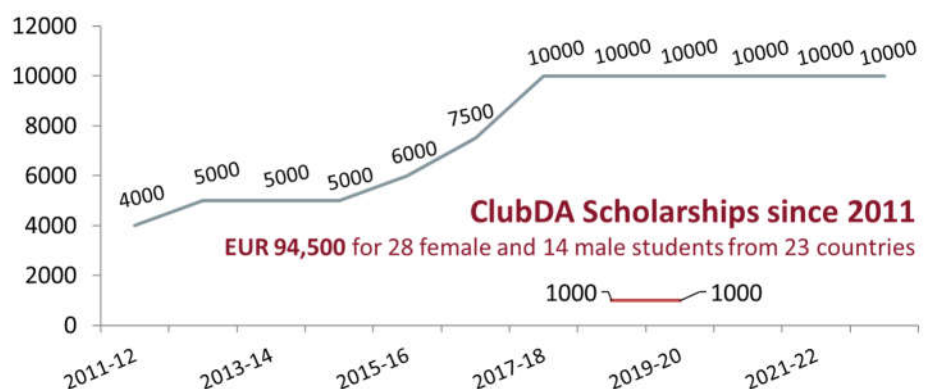
During my Bachelor's degree in Law, I developed a keen interest in International Law and International Affairs. Consequently, I was determined to hone this academic interest from an interdisciplinary perspective, cognizant of the fact that a proper mastery of International Affairs is best possible through the lenses of: Law, Economics, History & Politics. In addition, the city of Vienna is renowned as a hub for diplomacy and international organizations, making it an ideal place to engage with this discipline practically.

What was your personal highlight of the first academic year?

Writing! The number of academic papers, essays, assignments and other side projects I have authored have been numerous. Initially, I was a bit dubious of my ability to enjoy these tasks especially when working under immense pressure, but in hindsight, I have learnt a great deal. I am certain that this has prepared me to tackle the Master Thesis head on. As they say, 'Trust the Process!'

How and in which form would you want to be involved with the DA's alumni network?

Foremost, growing up my parents always stressed on the importance of gratitude and giving back. As a beneficiary of the ClubDA scholarship, I hope to pay it forward by making a contribution towards the next generation of DA students who may be in need of career mentorship or even material support. Secondly, I hope to remain in close contact with my contemporaries at the Academy by participating in various alumni events. One good turn deserves another.



Hall of Fame Scholarships 2021-22

What brought you to the DA and why have you chosen ETIA?

Having been founded in 1754, the DA is one of the oldest and most renowned institutions of this beautiful city. My interest in pursuing my studies at the DA started years ago after having heard about several positive experiences from alumni. Once I learned about the existence of the ETIA programme, I immediately knew this was the next logical step in my educational path as ETIA combines my previous field of study abroad in natural sciences with multilateralism, which has played a large role during my entire life. Furthermore, Vienna is one of the most relevant cities from an international point of view and holds a dear place in my heart as it is the city I grew up in.

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

What sets apart the DA from other educational institutions is the direct exchange and dialogue with the most highly qualified experts in the respective fields who have a lot of practical experience that they are willing to share with students. This offers unique insights into what might await us in our future careers. This is not only shown in classes but also through weekly career talks that the DA organizes, through which it deliberately aims to prepare students for life after the DA.

Who are the people you would like to meet and work with in the future?

In the future, I hope to work with people with a clear vision, who inspire me and who challenge me to see issues from different viewpoints.



Milica Vujacic
ETIA 14 (2020-22)



Iris Zerlauth
ETIA 14 (2020-22)

What brought you to the DA and why have you chosen ETIA?

After having finished my Bachelor in International Business and completed various internships and study programs abroad, I was fascinated when recognizing the interdependency between economic interests, the environmental challenges and their possible innovative technical solutions, in context with legal boundaries. The combination of technical, diplomatic and political aspects of ETIA complements my prior financial and economic background perfectly. The international context and various backgrounds and experiences of the teaching professors and international students further spurred my interest for the DA and TU.

What are your professional aspirations?

Various internships and work experiences during my studies have given me already a first glance at what is ahead! I am looking to work in a challenging, dynamic environment such as, for example, in consulting or project management, where I would be eager to actively broaden my skillset and network while generating a sus-

tainable and effective impact. Professionally, I would love to move abroad for a couple of years, improve my language skills, explore challenges and experience some adventures.



"A Backpack Full of New Experiences"

Farewell interview with the DA's former deputy director, Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger

This summer, Carmen Hagen and Yana Krastina from the DA Music Society sat down with Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger for an in-depth interview about her time at the DA—both as a student and as our deputy director. They reflect on her background in music and arts, her career as a diplomat, her success as our deputy director, the struggles of the pandemic, a brand-new DA building, and her future in New York.



er they wanted to be Croatian, Serbian, or Bosnian; and many of them had a difficult time deciding which nationality to choose for their future. Having a Bosnian mother, a Croatian father, and a career in Belgrade, showed how complex and challenging these decisions were for them. We also heard about the atrocities committed in this terrible conflict and observed the arduous negotiations that eventually lead to a fragile peace on the Balkans. That was the ultimate motive for me, personally, to become a diplomat and to contrib-

ute to the best of my abilities to a better understanding between societies, cultures and nations. I have never regretted this step.

For both a career in music and in diplomacy, you need a sound academic education, stamina, discipline and a strong sense of leadership in order to motivate different stakeholders to work together towards a common aim. Directing an orchestra or chairing a multilateral meeting at the United Nations – these activities are very much alike when it comes to the necessity of bridging gaps, or harmonising a broad scope of interests, opposing instructions and personal temperaments. Musicians and diplomats need to listen to the nuances and details of the positions that are presented by all partners involved in the production of a piece of music or of a UN resolution. It also takes physical and mental resilience when you negotiate day and night with only short breaks and sometimes with just a bottle of water and a few cookies at hand. A diplomat must be able to gather background information on multi-faceted issues related to international peace, development, or international law. A dedicated diplomat motivates his or her staff and colleagues, reaches out to a broader public, such as NGOs, scientists, political decision-makers or interested citizens. A diplomat raises budgets for projects and assists his or her fellow citizens when they are in trouble abroad. This vision has been a central theme in my professional and personal life for thirty years, since my husband is a diplomat as well.

DA: *You already expressed how you could use the abilities that you developed in your musical background. What about creativity? Can you say you find ways to express your creativity in your daily life as a diplomat?*

DA: *As a professional musician, you became one of the first diplomats in the Austrian foreign service with an educational background in arts. Would you like to elaborate on how your career evolved from arts and music into diplomacy?*

Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger: I am convinced that many academic paths and educational backgrounds can lead to a personally fulfilling career in diplomacy. I enjoyed studying piano at the Vienna Conservatory, which is now the private University of Music of the City of Vienna. In my class we were 20 very ambitious piano students with 19 nationalities between us – a fascinating intercultural mix! We felt like a family with the same aim in mind: to become professional musicians. I also studied Musicology and French Literature and Language at the University of Vienna and thus acquired my PhD.

An academic background in music together with a concert diploma, a diploma in teaching piano, and the PhD formed a solid basis for pursuing my academic education at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien. At that time, the DA was part of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and the diploma course took two years. Again, there were 20 students in my class, originating from 18 countries – and, once more, I felt very much "at home" in this lively atmosphere.

At the DA, I took a deep dive into constitutional law, international law, European law, political science, and international economics. Sadly, while I studied at the DA, a neighbouring state – the former Yugoslavia – was torn apart in a cruel and bloody war. This terrible crisis had a severe impact on our student body and on our community because many of our fellow students were Yugoslavian citizens. They had to decide wheth-

Yes, absolutely! When I was leading the recruitment department in the Austrian Foreign Ministry, we were looking for young men and women with special talents, be it in the domain of languages, legal affairs, cultural affairs, or political sciences. I believe that a well-performing diplomatic corps is like a colourful bouquet of flowers, embracing different characters and skills.

Working in diplomacy sometimes feels like working with clay. We start off with a general topic, receive specific instructions, analyse the positions of our partners – and at the end we use our creativity, sensitivity, and knowledge to contribute to or finalise an international agreement, a development project or an international conference.

There are many outlets and possibilities to be creative, and we should never let our motivation dry up for the benefit of our teams, colleagues, and constituencies. We should always keep our spirits up, engage in life-long learning and work with an open mind.

DA: Now turning to your path specifically at the DA: in 2016 you became the Deputy Director of the Academy. Originally what was your motivation when you took over this position and how do you view that now? Did you achieve your aims?

It was a very conscious decision I took more than six years ago. Being an alumna of the DA myself and having been in charge of recruitment for the Austrian Foreign Ministry, I felt this was exactly what I wanted to do. Once you enter the DA and walk through its corridors, you notice that many languages are spoken and that various opinions are voiced and discussed. You also feel a spirit of conviviality. What can be more motivating than to work in such an inspiring environment?

It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me to work with and to work for brilliant students from all over the world, to organise Executive Training Programmes for public officials sent to the DA from many countries, to contribute to the planning of an additional building to the DA and to manage the complex administration of a renowned academic institution.

It goes without saying that we all had to tackle unexpected and sometimes very worrying situations: we experienced a terrifying night when a terror attack temporarily paralysed

Vienna. The COVID-pandemic forced us to fundamentally change the way we worked, studied, and lived together under the roof of the DA. Students, staff and faculty managed this situation rather well and thus kept the positive spirit of the DA, founded more than 270 years ago, alive. I remember the weekly COVID-prevention meetings over the last two years – meetings that brought about solutions to a broad range of challenges and problems.

It was in the context of the pandemic that we have all learned a lot about crisis management and crisis communication. We certainly also grew with this challenge and came out stronger in many respects. This was teamwork at its best.

DA: If you look back at the last six years, do you have some specific moments in mind you would say were especially inspiring to you?

The valedictorian speeches – and I have heard quite a few of them in the last six years. They are perfect summaries of what the students experience at the DA. I take a lot of pleasure out of these presentations!

I am also the head of the Executive Training Programmes of the DA and I fondly remember an inspiring women's leadership online course with women leaders from Libya, which took place in times when international lockdowns forced us to work from home. Young, talented, and dedicated women – who lack career options and training offers – particularly appreciated the possibility to network and improve their diplomatic skills and knowledge in an online-course organised by my team. These Libyan women deeply impressed me with their eagerness to learn more about our culture. And, vice versa, they also allowed us to better understand their position in the world.

DA: Could you name any task that was particularly difficult to manage in your career as a diplomat? What was a challenge?

The three Austrian Presidencies of the European Union were tasks that challenged the Austrian diplomatic corps. The European Union has become larger and larger and more complex over the years. Presiding over the EU for six months can be compared to a marathon. We all felt that we came out of the process – maybe a little tired – but also fitter due to new and well-established personal networks, improved skills and knowledge. Our endurance had been tested. At the end of the day, this experience was very stimulating and rewarding.



My husband and I also experienced rather terrifying moments, such as the terror attacks on the Twin Towers in New York, and the terror attacks in Paris, where many people lost their lives due to attitudes of hatred. We had to look after our fellow citizens in those days of anxiety and stress. Then we analysed these situations in order to understand what had gone wrong in society and how remedies can be found to avoid these conflicts in the future. This is what diplomats have to do: face the challenge, and try to reduce or eliminate negative trends in and between societal groups and nations.



DA: What makes a person a good diplomat?

As I mentioned before, many skills are needed to be successful in diplomacy: A good diplomat has an open mind, and has mastery of foreign languages. Negotiation skills and physical stamina are also quite helpful. And last but not least: a good sense of humour can help to surmount challenging situations. We are privileged to be able to cooperate with brilliant academics, talented artists, influential politicians, opinion-makers, or ambitious entrepreneurs. This is probably the most rewarding side of our profession. We can also help people in distress – a task that is equally rewarding. Man-made or natural disasters mostly happen without prior warning. This is when you roll up your sleeves and get to work to locate fellow citizens and help them to the best of your abilities. There are many surprises waiting in a diplomatic career, both pleasant and unpleasant, but this makes our life exciting.

DA: As a woman with a very impressive career, what is your piece of advice for young professionals at the start of their careers?

I always try to be honest to myself, my family, my students and my colleagues. Honesty safeguards your credibility and your reputation in diplomacy and many other international professions.

Particularly as a woman, you also have to watch out to protect your physical and mental resources. I call on women to find a way to balance work and personal life and conserve their stamina and the positive energy that they need for building a fulfilling career. Physical and mental exhaustion has negative effects on you, your family or your teams. Plant a flower, paint, play music, cook a good meal, recharge your

energy – and then carry on at work with a healthy and inspiring attitude! This is my advice after thirty years in the diplomatic service.

What are you looking forward to?

I look forward to returning to my diplomatic career in the Austrian Foreign Ministry. I have thoroughly enjoyed my six years at the DA, and I will take many good memories with me and a backpack full of new experiences in the area of academic management and scientific exchange. My new position is as the

Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York – a visible, vibrant platform of exchange for artists, scientists, and thinkers from both Austria and Europe, as well as from the USA. Which job could be more desirable? I will lead a wonderful team at the ACF NY, and my Deputy will be a brilliant young lady who is an alumna of the DA!

And, of course, I look forward to life in New York, the most exciting city in the world. I'm also looking forward to seeing again many DA alumni as interns, guests, and project partners.

At the end of this talk I wish all students, alumni, members of the DA staff and faculty, and friends of the DA all the best for the future – in both their private and professional lives. 🌍

Introducing Martina Schubert

In September 2022, Martina Schubert took over the role of Deputy Director of the DA.

Before joining the DA, Ms. Schubert had served as Deputy Head of the Austrian Mission to NATO. Besides her career in the Foreign Ministry, she has acquired extensive experience in the European Commission and the private sector, most notably as Senior Vice President Corporate Public Affairs at OMV.



For more information, please visit <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/Training>.

Finally Back Together Again

Graduation Ceremonies, 22nd International Alumni Meeting and
Induction of the 2022-23 academic year



"Let the games begin." As every year, the DA's director, Ambassador Emil Brix, used this quote to kick off the new academic year at the Academy on 5 October 2022. Before that, the DA was honoured to welcome the Austrian Minister of Justice, Alma Zadić, who delivered this year's keynote address.




However, when we recap official DA ceremonies and festivities of 2022, we have to look back even further. On 30 June, we not only celebrated the graduations of the 58th Diploma Programme, the 25th MAIS as well as the 14th MSc ETIA.



One day later, we also had the pleasure of hosting a great number of our alumni and partners again at the DA's 22nd International Alumni Meeting which, by tradition, includes ClubDA's General Assembly, the DA Sommerfest and an alumni excursion—this time to Vienna's Alte Donau.



This page is dedicated to us all reconnecting in person after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let the games continue. 



Recordings of our graduation and inauguration ceremonies:
<https://www.youtube.com/DiplomatischeAkademieWien>.

Alumni Meetings 2022

The Diplomatic Akademie Wien and ClubDA thank all chapter presidents, the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative (DASI) and all other alumni, students and partners who made the following 48 events possible!

DA & ClubDA

DASICON 2022 ClubDA networking event

25.02.2022 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

ClubDA Call on the Situation in Ukraine

01.03.2022 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

da.ink career day 2022 16.03.2022

Film screening „A Road to Mecca“ 01.04.2022

Film screening „Nawalny“ 03.05.2022

Conference Recharging Austro-American Relations

09.06.2022

Reunion of the DLG 32 alumni 01.07.2022

22nd International Alumni Meeting

(ClubDA GA, Sommerfest, Excursion) 01/02.07.2022

Alumni meet students in Jerusalem 03.07.2022

Im Gespräch mit... Bundeskanzler Karl Nehammer

27.09.2022

Reunion of the DLG 15 alumni 21.10.2022

Belgrade Chapter

Alumni meet students in Belgrade 16.05.2022

Berlin Chapter

Wanderung um den Schlachtensee 06.05.2022

Sommer-Treffen in Berlin 07.07.2022

Bratislava Chapter

Dinner & Drinks 31.03.2022

Reception in co-operation with Advantage Austria for alumni of Austrian universities 07.12.2022

Paris Chapter

Alumni Meeting 14.06.2022

Apéro "La Rentrée" 30.09.2022



Switzerland Chapter

Alumni Meeting in Geneva 07.06.2022

Stadtzürcher Seeüberquerung /

Austrian Business Circle Picknick 13.07.2022

Informal Alumni Drinks for

DA and Johns Hopkins/SAIS graduates 02.09.2022



ClubDA Anniversary Celebrations

Studying at the DA goes beyond receiving education. It also includes forming bonds, meeting friends and becoming a family. No matter if it had been 15, 10 or 5 years – some connections are meant forever. Hence, ClubDA was happy to have organised three Anniversary Celebrations via ZOOM this year:

ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2017
28.04.2022

ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2012
12.05.2022

ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2007
09.06.2022

USA Chapter

- Dinner at Georgetown Waterfront 24.05.2022
- Summer Happy Hour: Washington, DC 10.09.2022
- Summer Happy Hour: New York 13.09.2022
- Alumni Meeting in New York 11.11.2022
- Gathering at the Austrian Cultural Forum NY 30.11.2022

Latin America Chapter

The cost of climate activism in Latin America
03.12.2022 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

Brussels Chapter

- Alumni meet students in Brussels 29.03.2022
- 13th Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels 13.07.2022
- 14th Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels 18.10.2022
- 15th Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels 14.12.2022



Graz Chapter

Inaugural Meeting 17.11.2022

NEW

Vienna Chapter

- Alumni Meeting for Parents
02.02.2022 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)
- Women's Day panel discussion 08.03.2022
- Gerhard Wolf on "Sustainability: What's in store for us?"
23.03.2022 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)
- DAperitivo in Vienna #2 02.06.2022
- Alumni Meeting for Parents 04.06.2022
- Elhaj As Sy on "Covid, Climate & Conflict" 11.07.2022
- 14th Vienna Summer Meeting 01.09.2022
- Alumni-Meeting für
Beschäftigte in österreichischen Ministerien 13.09.2022
- 1st ClubDA After Work Clubbing 16.09.2022
- Back to School ... with Professor Row 10.11.2022
- Frauen im Gespräch: Hannelore Veit 22.11.2022
- Alumni Meeting for Parents:
A Winter Fairy Tale 27.11.2022
- St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet 01.12.2022



On the calendar ...



- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 17 January 2023 | Alumni-Meeting für Beschäftigte in österreichischen Ministerien |
| 24 January 2023 | New Year's Drinks in London |
| 31 January 2023 | Virtual Open House of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien |
| 3 March 2023 | DASICON 2023: (De)Globalisation |
| 3 March 2023 | 2 nd ClubDA After Work Clubbing |
| 11 March 2023 | Charity Ball at the DA: "Garden of Lights" |
| 15 March 2023 | da.link career day 2023 |
| 30 March 2023 | Alumni meet students in Brussels |
| 30 June - 1 July 2023 | 23 rd International Alumni Meeting |



Follow us online

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 at <https://clubdanetwork.com>.

Follow us on social media and stay informed:

-  @DA_vienna
-  @DA_vienna
-  @DiplomatischeAkademieWien
-  @DiplomatischeAkademieWien
-  @DiplomatischeAkademieWien

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