

club.da alumni news

2 | 2025



Inauguration of the Academic Year 2025-26:
DASI, Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger, Director Martin Eichtinger



Student Volunteers at the DA's Open House 2025

+++ Welcome interview with the new DA Director Martin Eichtinger +++
+++ MSc DIA: Educating Digital Leaders +++ Alumni in Numbers +++
+++ Alumni Support for Students +++ More news from DA & club.da +++

Dear Alumnae and Alumni,

As 2025 draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on a year defined by both global challenges and remarkable internal growth. While the world navigated a series of complex crises, **club.da** and the Academy remained a steady point of connection, achieving milestones that speak to the strength of our community.

The most significant highlight of our year is a historic one: for the first time, **club.da** counts more than 2,000 members globally. This expansion across new regions and demographics is a testament to our increasing international reach. Our chapters across the globe continue to serve as vital anchors for those who leave Vienna but wish to carry the Academy's spirit with them. This "Vienna connection" remains our most successful model for community building.

We believe that a network is only as strong as its willingness to support the next generation. This year, the cooperation between **club.da** and the Diplomatic Academy Students' Initiative (DASI) reached a new level of synergy. By tightening this bond, we are not just providing a professional network; we are building a mentorship culture.

In partnership with the Rotary Club Vienna Maria Theresia (RCVMT), our mentorship programme



saw record participation this year. Seeing so many seasoned alumni offer their expertise to current students has been truly inspiring, and we are already looking forward to the 2026 edition.

The tumultuous nature of 2025 reminded us of the importance of solidarity. Because of the various global emergencies this year, we felt it was necessary to expand our support, awarding an additional scholarship to a deserving student. You can read more about our newest awardees in the pages of this issue.

This edition also marks a new chapter in leadership. We are pleased to introduce the DA's new Director, Ambassador Martin Eichtinger. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to him for his immediate support of the alumni network. With a strong administration behind us, we are already in full "planning mode" for the 2026 calendar—expect an exciting lineup of events, tournaments and lectures.

As we conclude the year, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful holiday season. May this period offer you the rest and recuperation needed to start the new year with renewed energy.

On behalf of the entire **club.da** board
and with best regards,
Oliver Authried, David Lansky, Brigitta Blaha

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

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Educating Digital Leaders for the 21st Century

Tech pioneer Dr Hermann Hauser endorses the MSc in Digital International Affairs: "Living through the Fourth Industrial Revolution, almost every aspect of our daily lives is being transformed. [...]"

With a curriculum spanning big data, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and digital diplomacy, you will be prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21st century." — Dr Hermann Hauser FRS, FREng, KBE

The Diplomatische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies is honoured to receive a testimonial from Dr Hermann Hauser, one of Europe's most influential technology entrepreneurs and a pioneering figure in the global digital landscape. An Austrian-born innovator who has shaped the Cambridge technology ecosystem for decades, Dr Hauser is best known as the co-founder of Acorn Computers and ARM – the microchip company whose designs power billions of devices worldwide. As co-founder of Amadeus Capital Partners, he continues to play a decisive role in advancing breakthrough technologies and supporting scientific innovation across Europe.

In his statement on the MSc in Digital International Affairs (DIA), which the DA organises in co-operation with the University of Innsbruck, Dr Hauser highlights the profound societal changes brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the critical need for professionals who understand the digital forces reshaping international relations. The DIA programme specifically responds to this need by integrating cutting-edge technological expertise with the analytical tools of political science, diplomacy and international law.

Covering fields such as big data, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, digital diplomacy and cyber-marketing, the DIA curriculum prepares graduates to navigate and shape an increasingly complex global environment. Dr Hauser emphasises that the programme equips stu-



dents "to understand and put to use digital technologies that transform international politics," underscoring its relevance for the next generation of leaders in diplomacy, public policy and the tech sector.

With the guidance of an experienced faculty, the support of a dedicated career service and access to the DA's international alumni network, students of the

DIA programme gain the interdisciplinary skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world. Dr Hauser's endorsement reflects the programme's ambition: to educate specialists capable not only of understanding technological change, but of shaping it responsibly and strategically on the global stage.

To learn more about the MSc DIA programme and read the entire testimonial, visit

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



“A Dream Job at a Defining Moment”

The DA's new director, Ambassador Martin Eichtinger, speaks about his path to the Diplomatische Akademie Wien, the challenges facing diplomacy today, the importance of alumni and mentoring and his vision for strengthening the DA's global reach and academic excellence.



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Tell us about how your career pathway led and prepared you to become Director of the DA.

I have had an extraordinarily mixed career; it is quite unusual for diplomats to do so many different things. I joined the Foreign Ministry in 1986 and began with a traineeship in Mexico City. Shortly afterwards, Foreign Minister Alois Mock asked me to serve as his personal secretary, a role I held for four years. I then went to the United States, where for eight years I headed the Aus-

trian Press and Information Service in Washington, D.C.

After returning to Austria, I briefly joined the Federation of Austrian Industries (iv), before being asked by the Federal Chancellor to become Chief of Staff to the Austrian Special Representative for reparations to forced and slave labourers. After one year, I returned to the iv as Head of International Affairs and later completed an internship as a project manager at a factory in eastern Russia.

Interview with Ambassador Martin Eichtinger (cont.)

Subsequently, I was appointed Chief of Staff to the Minister of Economic Affairs and Labour and later served as Secretary General. After five years, I returned to the Foreign Ministry as Ambassador to Romania and the Republic of Moldova. This was followed by an assignment as Director General for Cultural Policy and Science, and later as Austria's Ambassador to the United Kingdom.



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After more than three years in London, I joined the government of Lower Austria as a state minister. I then returned once again to the Foreign Ministry, serving as coordinator for neighbourhood policy in the Danube region, before being appointed Ambassador to Italy, a position I held until 31 July of this year. On 1 August, I became Director of the *Diplomatische Akademie Wien* – a role I had long aspired to.

Having worked in diplomacy, private industry, economic policy, labour-market affairs, health care and politics, I believe I bring a very broad perspective. I wanted to share these experiences with the next generation and contribute to educating future leaders. For me, this is truly a dream job.

How do you plan to continue the legacy of the DA in today's rapidly changing global environment?

The DA has been a prestigious institution for decades, and if one looks back over its 271-year history, it has always been a very special place. Today, it is more relevant than ever. International structures have become increasingly fragile, and future diplomats will face a

very different global landscape.

We have experienced a succession of crises, from the Covid-related financial crisis to a war in Europe, while at the same time witnessing major shifts in the international system. For a country like Austria, preserving an international order based on

rules and international law is essential, including in areas such as trade and the WTO. Small and medium-sized states depend on a just and reliable framework.

At the same time, challenges go far beyond geopolitics. Climate change, the protection of democracies and the impact of artificial intelligence are transforming our societies. Diplomats therefore need an excellent education, not just individual courses but a solid intellectual framework rooted in economics, history and international relations.

History is particularly important, because understanding the present requires understanding the past. Language skills are equally crucial, as international relations are shaped by the human factor. Our aim is to provide students with a strong foundation while encouraging them to think creatively and independently.

What role does the alumni network play for the DA?

The alumni network is extremely important to us. Over decades, and especially since the relaunch of the DA after the Second World War, it has grown into a truly global community of more than 4,000 alumni. Many hold senior positions worldwide, which greatly enhances the reputation of the Vienna School of International Studies.

Interview with Ambassador Martin Eichtinger (cont.)

The network also includes participants from our executive training programmes, not only graduates of full academic degrees. Many alumni tell me they have very fond memories of their time in Vienna, not only academically but also because the DA is, in many ways, a unique family.

We therefore make a strong effort to stay in touch through club.da newsletters, alumni events and alumni weekends. Our alumni are a precious part of this institution.

As the first Director in a long time who is not an alumnus of the DA, does this give you a different perspective?

While I am not a graduate of the DA, I have been closely connected to the institution for decades. I have taught here, organised numerous events and visited the Academy many times in my diplomatic career. In addition, I am a graduate of Johns Hopkins SAIS and therefore know very well what it means to be a postgraduate student.

Working here naturally provides a deeper insight into structures, budgets, curricula and infrastructure, but I had a good idea of what to expect. I am not a stranger to the DA.

What legacy would you like to leave as Director?

My predecessors have done an outstanding job in preserving and strengthening the DA's reputation under very different circumstances. Student numbers and international recognition have grown significantly.



We are proud of our faculty: more than 120 professors for 243 students, which is an excellent teacher-student ratio. At the same time, there is a clear need to modernise infrastructure and further digitalise processes. This year, for the first time, we

successfully implemented a fully paperless student registration system and installed state-of-the-art interactive blackboards.

Further modernisation is challenging in times of economic recession, but I am constantly working to secure additional funding and sponsorship, including from the Foreign Ministry. We are also responding to students' requests for greater geographical diversity, for example by planning new partnerships in Latin America.

My goal is to expand the DA's global reach, modernise its infrastructure and maintain the highest academic quality.

What advice would you give to recent graduates of the DA?

My most important advice is to find a job you truly love. You will only excel if you are genuinely passionate about what you do. Create an international career that matches your talents and motivation, and find the niche that suits you best.

What has been most gratifying for you so far?

Working with the students. They are curious, engaged and eager to contribute positively to the world, while also fully enjoying student life. This vibrant student body is the true gem of the institution and a constant source of motivation.

Interview with Ambassador Martin Eichtinger (cont.)

What makes a great leader, in your view?

Curiosity, a clear set of values and a willingness to keep learning. Leadership also means teamwork: allowing others to shine and surrounding yourself with excellent people. Humility is essential.

What are your plans for the future of the DA?

We want to remain attractive to outstanding international faculty and further expand our global partnerships. Vienna, with its international organisations and unique location, is a major asset. I am confident that we will continue the DA's long tradition of educating global leaders.

Thank you very much, Ambassador Eichtinger, for this interview.

Thank you for the questions.



This interview was conducted by the DA Development Department's Student Assistant Divine Boyembe and 2025 IES Abroad intern Jacob Matlin-Heiger.

On 1 August 2025, Ambassador Emil Brix passed the baton to the new Director of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien - Vienna School of International Studies, Ambassador Martin Eichtinger. We thank Ambassador Brix for his outstanding leadership over the past eight years and warmly welcome Ambassador Eichtinger to the DA community!

Ambassador Eichtinger, born on 5 April 1961 in Graz, has had a distinguished career in diplomacy, public administration and politics. Having joined the Austrian diplomatic service in 1986, Martin Eichtinger served as personal secretary to Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Alois Mock and in various key roles, including Ambassador to Romania and Moldova (2007-10), the United Kingdom (2015-18) and, most recently, Italy (2024-25) as well as Director General for Cultural Policy (2010-15)



and Austria's Special Representative for Neighbourhood Policy and the Danube Region (2023- 24).

From 2018 to 2023, Martin Eichtinger was a member of the government of Lower Austria, responsible for housing, labour markets and international relations. In addition to his diplomatic and political career, Martin

Eichtinger held key roles in the Federation of Austrian Industries (iv), where he managed international relations. In 2003, Eichtinger joined the Austrian Ministry of Economics and Labour, serving as Chief of Staff and later as Secretary General. Ambassador Eichtinger is married and has two children.

A farewell interview with Ambassador Emil Brix has been published in the #1|2025 issue of club.da alumni news. All issues are available at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/clubda-alumni-news>.

Alumni Supporting the Next Generation

The DA has long benefited from the strong commitment of its alumni to supporting current students. Through financial assistance, mentoring and career-oriented initiatives, DA alumni continue to play a vital role in fostering opportunity, inclusion and professional development for future generations of international professionals.

The central pillar of this engagement is the DA's Alumni Association, **club.da**, which channels alumni support into a range of targeted activities. This demonstrates how alumni engagement can translate into strong and meaningful support for students at critical stages of their academic and professional journeys.

club.da Scholarships: Fifteen Years of Impact

In early December, the **club.da** Scholarships were awarded for the 15th time, marking another milestone in a programme that has become a cornerstone of alumni support at the DA. This year, scholarships were awarded to students from Ghana, Kosovo, Palestine and Syria. In addition, two ad hoc scholarships were granted to students from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands this summer already.

Since the 2011–12 academic year, **club.da** has awarded a total of EUR 127,000 in scholarships to 60 students from 31 countries. Notably, two thirds of all recipients have been women, underlining the programme's contribution to promoting gender balance and equal access to education in the field of international relations.

Portraits of this year's scholarship holders will be featured in the next issue of **club.da alumni news**.

For the first time, **club.da** also sponsored a student's participation in the European Forum Alpbach 2025, enabling engagement with one of Europe's most prominent platforms for interdisciplinary and international exchange. Lew Töpfer on their experience at EFA:



"The European Forum Alpbach was a once in a lifetime experience. Getting to discuss the future of Europe with brilliant young people from all over the world in the middle of the Austrian mountains not only gave me the opportunity to delve into new topics, like ocean governance to military training, but also to reflect on my responsibility and vision for the world and to discuss these ideas with a plethora of decision-makers.

A very special aspect of Alpbach are the Fireside Chats. I was very lucky to moderate two of these: one with Peter Thompson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, and one with Melissa Fleming, Head of the UN Department of Global Communications. These conversations were incredibly insightful and a great opportunity to ask not only about the issues the world faces, but their personal journey within the United Nations.

Another highlight was getting to participate in the international evening, where I performed a Kashubian song. Getting to showcase my indigenous background on such a large stage was very special. Lastly, the IG Vienna Group made the Alpbach Forum that much more special - organizing a Pride and a Climate Protest, hosting workshops, discussing the democratic discourse and getting to experience Alpbach together which such a diverse, engaged and forward-looking cohort was simply amazing!"

Alumni Supporting the Next Generation (cont.)

RCVMT: Scholarships and Mentoring

The Rotary Club Vienna Maria Theresia continues its engagement at and for the DA as well. In the 2025–26 academic year, the Rotary Club will award a scholarship in the amount of EUR 2,000 to DA students for the fourth time, reinforcing its long-term commitment to supporting young professionals in international affairs.

Beyond financial assistance, RCVMT has played a key role in developing structured mentoring opportunities for DA students. Since the 2021–22 academic year, the RCVMT Mentoring Programme has connected students with experienced professionals willing to share insights, advice and career guidance. As of 2024–25, this initiative has become a joint programme of RCVMT and club.da, broadening its reach and strengthening alumni involvement.

Within this framework, DA alumni and RCVMT members act as mentors to interested students, offering individual support tailored to diverse career paths in diplomacy, international organisations, public service, NGOs and the private sector. With a record-setting 28 mentor-mentee pairs, the programme has reached a new peak. We thank all participants for their time and dedication as well as all volunteers who were ultimately not selected as mentors for their willingness to share their knowledge and experience.



Career Support Through da.link

Alumni engagement also extends into structured career services. The da.link career services, initiated and continuously supported by club.da, remain a key resource for DA students navigating the transition from academic study to professional life.

A highlight of this support is the annual da.link career day, held each March. On this occasion, HR experts from about 20 international organisations, NGOs, public authorities and private-sector companies make themselves available for an afternoon of 10-minute one-to-one conversations with DA students. These short but focused exchanges offer valuable insights into recruitment processes, required skill sets and career entry points across a wide range of sectors.

A Collective Effort

None of these initiatives would be possible without the dedication and generosity of the DA alumni community. club.da extends its sincere thanks to all active alumni – and in particular to its members – whose regular contributions and additional donations make scholarships, mentoring programmes and career services a reality.

Through their continued engagement, DA alumni not only give back to their alma mater but also help shape an inclusive, supportive and forward-looking environment for today's students and tomorrow's leaders.

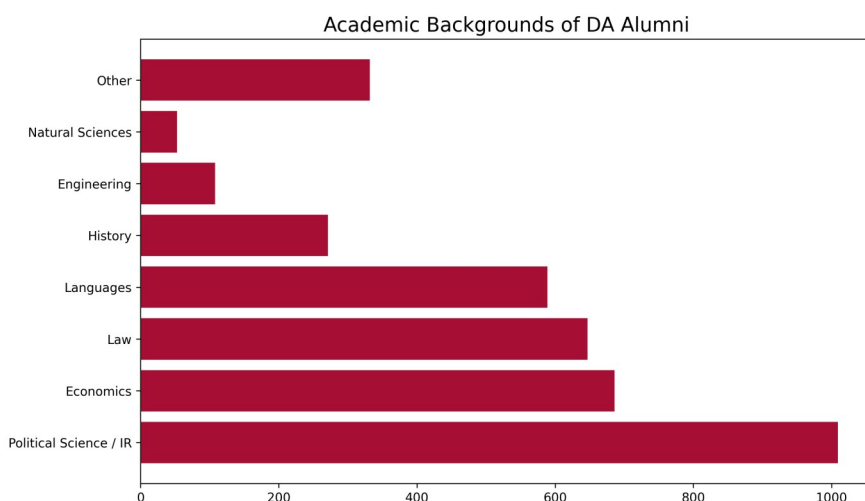


DA Alumni in Numbers:

Growth, Diversity & Change

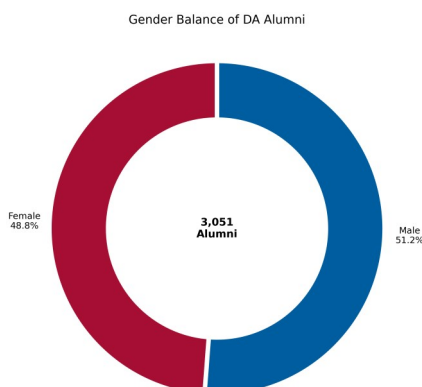
More than 3,000 alumni worldwide, rising gender balance, increasing diversity of academic backgrounds and a growing MAIS programme: the latest alumni statistics offer a snapshot of how the community of the *Diplomatische Akademie Wien* continues to evolve.

With the most recent graduation in June 2025, the alumni community of the *Diplomatische Akademie Wien* continues to grow steadily and to reflect the Academy's increasing diversity and international reach. According to our latest alumni statistics, the DA now counts **3,051 alumni** across its academic programmes DLG (since 1965), MAIS (since 1997), MSc ETIA (since 2007), PhD IIS (since 2014) as well as the former Special Programme in International Studies (SPIS, 2000-07).



Gender Balance: Closing the Gap

One of the most notable long-term developments is the evolution of gender distribution. Overall, the alumni community is now close to parity, with **48.8% female** and **51.2% male** alumni. This balance reflects a clear trend over time: while earlier cohorts were predominantly male, more recent programmes show a significantly higher proportion of women. In particular, the Master of Advanced International Studies (MAIS) and the MSc in Environmental Technology & International Affairs (ETIA) both display a clear female majority, underlining the DA's role in promoting gender balance in international careers.



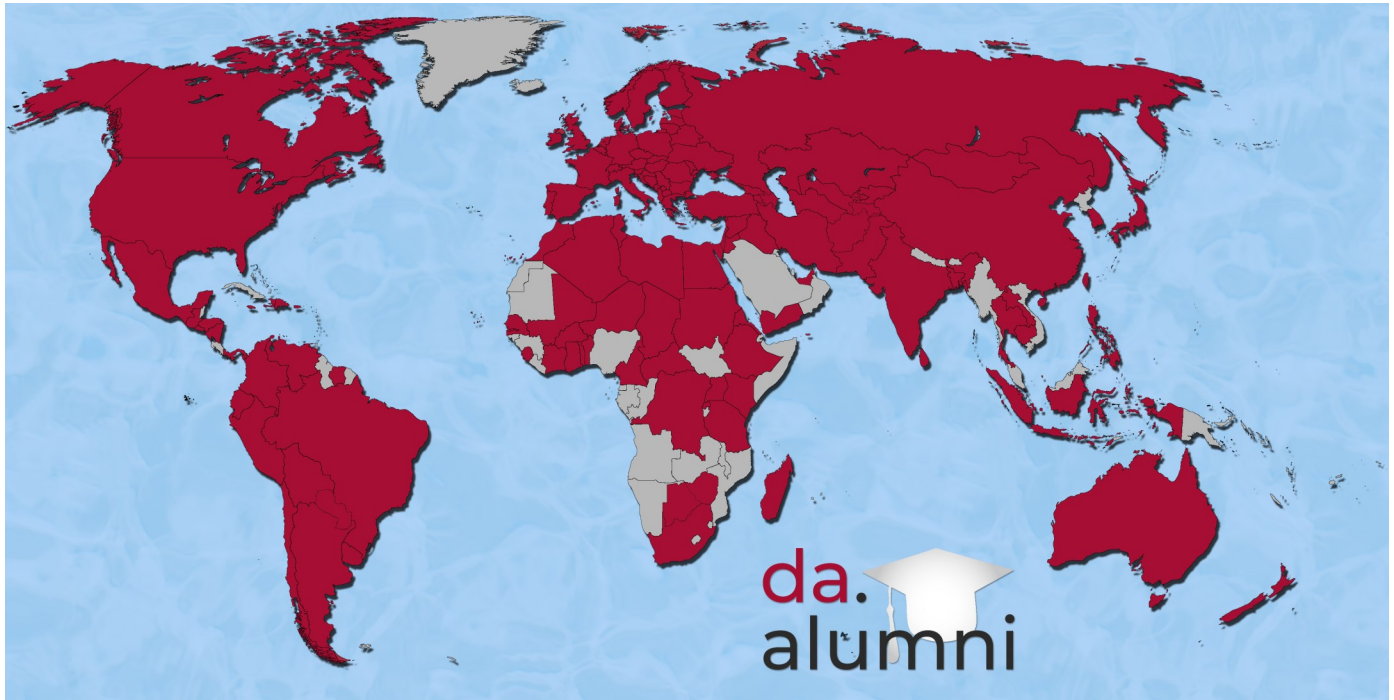
Academic Backgrounds: Hallmark Interdisciplinarity

The diversity of academic backgrounds remains a defining feature of DA alumni. Prior studies in political science and international relations form the largest group, followed closely by economics and law, while languages and history also continue to play an important role. At the same time, graduates with backgrounds in technical and natural sciences have become more visible, particularly through interdisciplinary programmes such as ETIA (see chart above).

A special shift can be seen since the DA's becoming an independent institution in 1996. Previously, most students held a background in law; since then, the academic profile has diversified significantly.

This mix highlights the DA's long-standing emphasis on interdisciplinarity as a foundation for international professional life.

DA Alumni in Numbers (cont.)



Global Footprint: International by Design

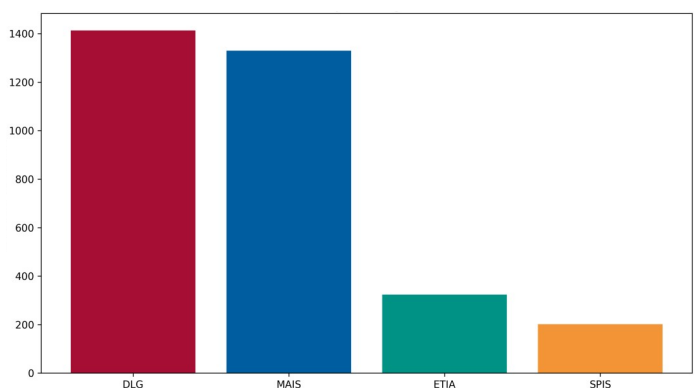
Geographically, the alumni community remains strongly European, with around 85% of alumni originating from Europe, including a substantial share from Austria. At the same time, the DA's global reach is evident: alumni represent more than 130 nationalities, with significant numbers from North America, Asia, Africa and Latin America. This international composition not only enriches the student experience in Vienna but also contributes to a truly global alumni network extending across all regions of the world.

club.da: "Your Home After Graduation"

A particularly strong indicator of alumni engagement is membership in **club.da**, the DA's alumni association. Currently, almost 60% of all alumni are active **club.da** members, underscoring the association's role as "Your home after graduation". Membership rates are especially high among graduates of the MAIS programme, reflecting both the growth of this programme and the strong identification of its alumni with the DA community.

Programme Trends: MAIS on Track to Become the Largest Programme

Looking ahead, programme development within the alumni body points to a significant shift. While the Diploma Programme (DLG) remains the historically largest programme, the MAIS has been growing steadily over the past years. Based on current trends, MAIS is expected to overtake the DLG within the next two years as the largest programme at the DA. This development mirrors broader changes in postgraduate education and confirms the strategic importance of MAIS within the Academy's academic portfolio.



News Update #1

Student Activities

From new digital initiatives to festive traditions and international engagement: this section introduces the 2025-26 DASI Presidium members and highlights recent student activities, including the launch of a new LinkedIn channel, the DASI Fair, a Thanksgiving Dinner as well as participation in a Youth Exchange under the auspices of the Federal President of Austria

Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative (DASI) launches LinkedIn channel

The 2025-26 DASI 4 — Julia Dean, Kathrin Spielvogel, Marko Rogi and Divine Boyembe — announce their new LinkedIn channel and look forward to connecting, especially with former DASI members and course speakers:

“Dear club.da network,

We are happy to share our newly created DASI LinkedIn page! We kindly invite you to follow us and stay updated on our work and events.




A special request for any alumni who were Course Speakers or part of the DASI Presidium during their time at the DA - feel free to add your role to the Experience section of your LinkedIn (you may look at the current President's profile for an example).

This will not only showcase the long-standing commitment the DASI has to serving generations of DA students, but also help connect the current DASI to our predecessors.


Thank you for your kind follow and, to previous DASI, adding your role to your Experience section. We look forward to engaging you via this new platform!”

To join DASI on LinkedIn, go to <https://www.linkedin.com/company/diplomatic-academy-students-initiative-dasi/>.

To reach out to Julia Dean, 2025-26 DASI President, visit <https://www.linkedin.com/in/juliadean791/>.


Diplomatic Academy
Students Initiative





Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative (DASI)

The DASI is the elected, independent student association that supports student life at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

Higher Education · 18 followers · 11-50 employees

 Message

 Following



Student Activities (cont.)

DASI Fair 2025 ▶

The DA's Festsaal was buzzing with energy at this year's DASI Fair on 6 October!

More than 25 student societies, clubs and committees showcased their work, projects, and events to our first-year students. It was a perfect introduction to the vibrant student life at the DA. A big thank you to the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative (DASI) for organising this fantastic start to the academic year.



◀ Culinary Society Thanksgiving Dinner

At the DA, Thanksgiving has become a cherished tradition thanks to the Culinary Society, our student society devoted to the art of cuisine.

This year, they once again welcomed all DA students to a memorable dinner where every dish was crafted with passion and care, creating an evening that celebrated gratitude, friendship and the joy of exquisite flavours.



Exchange with Federal President Van der Bellen ▶

A great honour for 19 DA students in October: Together with the DA's director and deputy director, they were invited to participate in a youth exchange on Europe at Hofburg Palace on the occasion of the official state visit of Germany's Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. A special highlight was the following personal chat with the Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and First Lady Doris Schmidauer.



News Update #2

The 2025-26 DASI Presidium

Julia Dean (President | MAIS 29)

"I'm Romanian by birth, American by upbringing, and Viennese by choice (for the last two years). Before the DA, I studied business at a small school near Boston, Massachusetts, and worked as a consultant in Los Angeles, California. My love for learning new cultures, languages and perspectives led me to pursue two exchange semesters during my Bachelors, a post-grad Fulbright research grant in South Korea, and my current studies at the DA.

As DASI president, I represent students before the administration and coordinate the work of the DASI Presidium. This year, I look forward to fostering strong communication between DASI and the student body and ensuring the DA is a welcoming, safe environment for new and returning students alike."



Divine Boyembe (Secretary | MAIS 29)

"I'm Congolese by origin and raised in Cameroon. I moved to Vienna for Erasmus and never left! Before joining the DA, I held several communication roles, from student leadership to multilingual outreach work, and learned how to adapt messaging across cultures, platforms, and audiences. I see my role as a bridge between DASI, the board, and all stakeholders - basically making sure everyone's on the same page and no important messages get lost in translation (literally or figuratively).

I'm excited to get involved with the DA community and work with all of you this year. I'm looking forward to fostering better connections across all DA programs and making sure every student feels heard."



Kathrin Spielvogel (Vice President | MAIS 29)

"I grew up in Upper Austria and completed my Bachelor's in International Business Administration in Vienna, where I was already actively involved in student associations. Before joining the DA, I gained experience in both the private and public sectors - including an internship in Hong Kong, which deepened my passion for diplomacy and global affairs.

As Vice President, I am here to be a helping hand for all student societies. Together with our societies, we aim to organize countless unforgettable events that will make your time at the DA truly special. We are committed to foster an inclusive and vibrant student life through active involvement and open communication."



Marko Rogi (Treasurer | DIA 01)

"Alongside my Bachelor's in Economy and Business, I bring a diverse background including an education in tourism (yes, that means I'm a professional chef), experience in photography and videography, and two successfully completed school building projects in Nepal and Senegal. Especially the last one taught me that when motivated and ambitious people come together, they can create something truly incredible. And in many ways, societies and their events are where that happens. They connect people with similar interests and create memories that go far beyond the classroom.

I see the role of DASI Treasurer as a way to give back to the DA community by making sure that societies have the financial security and support they need to keep creating spaces, events, and opportunities for the whole student body to connect, grow, and make the most of their time here. Because in the end, it's these shared experiences that shape our time at DA and I'd be proud to help make them possible."



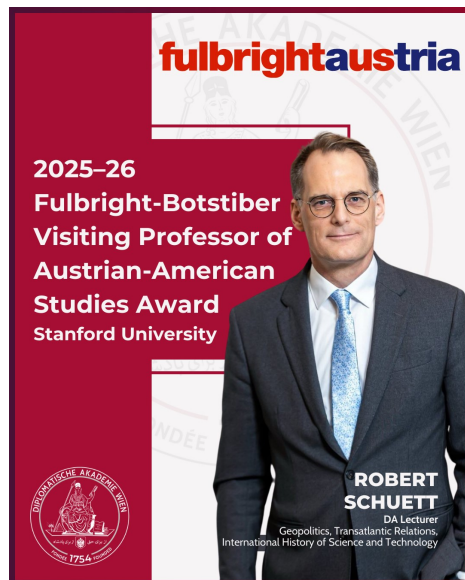
To learn more about DASI and their work, visit <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/DASI>.

News Update #3

Faculty & Teaching

► Robert Schuett wins Fulbright-Botstiber Visiting Professor Award

Our warmest congratulations to DA Professor Dr Robert Schuett who has received the 2025–26 Fulbright-Botstiber Visiting Professor of Austrian-American Studies Award to conduct research at Stanford University.



"My intellectual biography is intimately intertwined with the United States," said Dr Schuett. "To become a Fulbright Scholar and spend time in the U.S. at such a crucial moment fills me with pride and joy."

DA Alumna Returns for Public Lecture on Sustainability in Ultra-Processed Foods ▼

In October, we were delighted to welcome Roxana-Claudia Tompea (Australian Research Council Laureate PhD Scholar) back to the DA for an engaging talk on "Regulating Sustainability in Ultra-Processed Foods: Public Health Perspectives on Green Growth, Green Foods, and Greenwashing."

Moderated by Postdoctoral Fellow Vanessa Gauthier-Vela, the event sparked lively discussions among our students on the intersection of public health, sustainability, and regulation — and reminded us once again how inspiring it is to see DA graduates shaping global conversations.

Dr Schuett teaches Geopolitics and Transatlantic Relations at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien - Vienna School of International Studies and has been for many years an Honorary Fellow at Durham University, where he graduated with an M.A. and Ph.D. in politics and international relations. A former civil servant, he also serves as Chairman of the Austrian Political Science Association (ÖGPW).

His research explores the intersection of political theory, international security and diplomacy, with a particular focus on the intellectual legacy of Austrian-American legal and political theorist Hans Kelsen. His major monograph, *Hans Kelsen's Political Realism*, published by Edinburgh University Press in 2021, has recently been translated into Spanish.

Dr Schuett will spend his Fulbright Scholar time at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), conducting research on Hans Kelsen, international security and intelligence theorization. His project seeks to bridge theoretical inquiry with practical relevance, fostering dialogue between European and American traditions of thought.



News Update #4

Alumni Events in 2025

club.da, its local chapters and the Academy organised 39 events for alumni and students this year. With these pages, we'd like to express our deep gratitude to all those who made all events possible. Thank you very much for your dedication and hard work! Here's a look back at alumni events in 2025.

DA & club.da

12.03. | [da.link](#) career day 2025

27.-28.06. | 25th International Alumni Meeting



Bratislava Chapter

President: Erik Szedely

29.07. | Summer Drinks on the Danube



London Chapter

President: James Hollis

12.03. | UK DA Alumni After Work Drinks



Berlin Chapter

President: Leoni Wolf

13.03. | Uni Salzburg goes Berlin: Kultur & Networking

15.05. | Alumni Meeting in Berlin

08.07. | DA goes Berlin: Networking Event



Paris Chapter

Presidents: Kornelia Lienhart & Jil-Joanna Opiela

04.11. | DA Alumni Get-Together in Paris

02.12. | club.da Paris Chapter Meeting



Switzerland Chapter

Presidents: Jürgen Angleitner & Olivier Naray

17.10. | Afterwork Networking Dinner in Geneva

15.11. | Ball des Yachtclub Kreuzlingen

22.11. | Bal Viennois de Genève

Alumni Events in 2025 (cont.)

U.S. Chapter

President: Kara Wilson

01.04. | Spring Festival in New York

02.05. | *Frühlingsfest* Gathering in Washington, DC

04.09. | Austrian Happy Hour in Washington, DC

15.12. | Austrian Embassy Washington Christmas Party



Brussels Chapter

Presidents: Alenka Jaschke & Vera Kádas

06.02. | 21st Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels

25.03. | Alumni Meet Students in Brussels

16.07. | 22nd Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels

03.12. | club.da Brussels Chapter Advent Get-together



Vienna Chapter

Presidents: David Lansky & Oliver Authried

23.01. | Ordensverleihung an Ernst Porpacz

12.05. | Back to School ... with Professor Neudeck

12.06. | DA@IOs #1: Networking for DA alumni in IOs

28.08. | 16th Vienna Summer Meeting

25.09. | DA@IOs #2: Networking for DA alumni in IOs

27.10. | club.da Bar Talk I: "Copenhagen Calling"

27.11. | club.da Bar Talk II: "Lithuania's Leadership"

04.12. | 15th St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet



Alumni Events in 2025 (cont.)

Panels & public lectures at the DA

17.02. | Panel: „Wer hat die Unordnung in die Welt gebracht?“ (Walter Feichtinger, Gabriel Felbermayr & Emil Brix)

19.02. | Panel: “One Struggle, Many Movements: The Opposition to the Taliban Tyranny in Afghanistan”

03.03. | Lecture: “Seeking Monsters to Destroy: How America Goes to War” (Jeffrey A. Engel)

05.03. | Women’s Day panel: “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back - Gender Equality in Times of Backlash”

30.04. | World Press Freedom Day panel: “Press Freedom in the Age of AI: Safeguarding Journalism”

07.10. | Panel: “Responding to a Changing Security Environment in Europe”

20.10. | Panel: „Gespaltenes Europa“ (u.a. mit Emil Brix & Wendelin Ettmayer)

11.11. | Panel: “The Future of War: Autonomy, AI, and Accountability in a New Era of Conflict”

Most public panels and lectures can be re-watched at <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/Live>.



Sports Championships

26.01. | 21st DA Ski Championships

15.06. | DA Tennis Tournament

Information on all upcoming events for alumni is available at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Events>.



News Update #5

MSc ETIA Activities

The MSc in Environmental Technology & International Affairs (ETIA) programme is aimed at students interested in analysing environmental issues in their political, legal and technical dimensions.

ETIA courses are taught at the DA and TU Wien, complemented by student initiatives and excursions.

2025-26 ETIA Welcome Reception ►

Director Martin Eichinger, Professor Holger Hestermeyer and Catharina Purrucker, Head of Sustainability and Energy & Head of Business Development at the TU Wien Academy for Continuing Education, extended a warm welcome to the incoming ETIA cohort in October. The event brought together first- and second-year students, faculty, and programme heads to kick off an exciting academic year focused on sustainability, technology, and international affairs.



◄ ETIA Talks event series revived

COP30 may be over, but the questions it raised for global climate governance are to be answered yet. The ETIA Talk “COP 30 – Outcomes and Outlook” brought together a panel of experts to unpack what the conference meant for climate finance, global leadership and the future of equitable climate action. A huge thank you to our students Rosa Tichatschek and Jakob Gartner from the DA Environmental Society for organising such a thoughtful and timely panel!

Excursion to Linz ►

One of the 2025 ETIA excursions organised by TU Wien offered valuable insights into environmental technology and industrial innovation. At VTA, participants explored advanced wastewater treatment processes in the company's laboratories. The visit continued at voestalpine in Linz, where a guided tour showcased one of the world's most modern and clean steel production facilities, from blast furnace to automotive components.



On the calendar ...






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

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|-------------------------|--|
| 8 January 2026 | Paris Chapter Cheese and Wine Evening |
| 25 January 2026 | 22 nd DA Ski and Snowboard Championships organised in cooperation with the Austrian MFA |
| 31 January 2026 | Wiener Ball in Zürich |
| 27 February 2026 | DASICON 2026: Beyond Order |
| 4 March 2026 | club.da/RCVMT Int'l Women's Day panel |
| 11 March 2026 | da.link career day 2026 |
| 11 April 2026 | 31 st Diplomatic Ball at the DA |
| 6 May 2026 | club.da/RCVMT World Press Freedom Day panel |
| 26-27 June 2026 | 26 th International Alumni Meeting in Vienna |

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

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Imprint

- Publisher:** Club der Absolventinnen und Absolventen der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien (club.da, ZVR: 737329369)
Oliver Authried, President
Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Wien, Österreich/Austria
- Editor-in-chief:** Andreas Ehrmann
- Editorial team:** Sybil Bitter, Katharina Dück, Nicole Lojnik, Divine Amen Boyembe, Jacob Matlin-Heiger
- Design:** Andreas Ehrmann, Nicole Lojnik

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