

club **da**news

ClubDA Scholarships 2017-18



Interview with DA's new director,
Ambassador Emil Brix

Pilo Pichler

19th International Alumni Meeting



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EDITORIAL



Dear Alumnae,
Dear Alumni,

Austria has a new government. After swift and seemingly harmonious negotiations, a new group of politicians is going to govern our country. It appears that Foreign Affairs tasks will be split between Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and his EU agenda and former career diplomat Karin Kneissl. The idea of creating Austria Houses as one-stop-shops for Austrian affairs abroad is back and promises a consolidation of funds and man/woman power.

Even the A-Préalable, the entry exam into the Austrian Foreign Service, and its need for re-evaluation and modernisation, found its way into the government programme.

We do wish the new government and its protagonists good luck and lots of success.

A repositioning has also taken place at the Academy. The Diplomatische Akademie Wien will make sure to consequently use its official English designation “Vienna School of International Studies” from now on, underlining the fact that most DA students find their careers in the corporate world.

I am happy to announce that the growing membership of ClubDA allows, starting this year, the financing of four ClubDA Scholarships for students in their first year at the DA (see cover).

The Vienna School of International Studies, formerly known as Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, starts well equipped into the academic year 2017-18 with a new director, new language coordinators, new postdoctoral fellows and a new Distinguished Fulbright Professor. For this issue of DA News, we’ve spoken with all of them.

So Christmas may come, while a prosperous year lies ahead of us according to the economic forecasts! May 2018 also be a healthy and peaceful one for all of us.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!
Oliver Kitz

Oliver Kitz (DLG 19) is President of ClubDA.

DA Alumni Hall of Fame Talk

An interview with ...

Ambassador Emil Brix, new director of the DA Marie-Theres Engelmayer

Ambassador Brix, could you tell us a little bit about yourself and your career?

I was born and raised here in Vienna and started my career here as well. I have always been interested in our eastern neighbours and started learning about their languages, history and culture very early on. When I was young I had two career paths in mind: academia or diplomacy. I tried not to pick one, and gained experience in both fields. Eventually, I ended up at the MFA, and then became Head of Cabinet



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for the Ministry of Science and Research. I have since worked as Austrian Consul General in Krakow, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in London, Director General for Culture at the MFA as well as Ambassador to the UK and, most recently, to the Russian Federation.

How did you end up studying at the Diplomat-ische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies and what has changed since then?

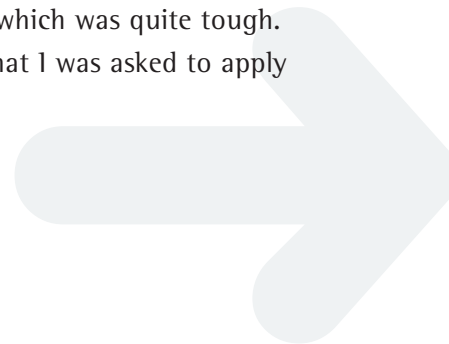
I wanted to combine both academia and diplomacy. Quite frankly, the Academy offered me just that: the highest academic standards combined with a practical approach to politics. It was and still is a prestigious Austrian institution, which has affected my career in many positive ways. The DA hasn't changed in its principles because neither has diplomacy. It still focusses on the most current issues. Maybe the methods have changed. However, the mission of providing the best education for an international career is still the main priority.

Speaking of changes, what changes can we expect in your time as Director of the Academy?

I want the Academy to keep its finger on the pulse. I would like to give more attention to digitalisation, such as digital diplomacy. We should also take a look at new developments in geopolitics. Maybe that is a little bit ambitious, but I really want to have our students to graduate from university with the ability to deal with the future big players of the world.

How did you find out that you would become the DA's new director?

I heard about the chance of becoming the director when I was in the middle of my job as Ambassador in Moscow, which was quite tough. I was happily surprised that I was asked to apply



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for the role; somehow it is like a child's dream come true, because mixing academia and diplomacy is part of the Director's work and I am looking forward to doing exactly that. I really want to do both; there is the academic standard we need to keep up, but there are also diplomatic and political changes going on that I want the students to be able to analyse and understand.

What does the DA Alumni network mean to you?

The Alumni network is a life-long bond. We live in the heydays of the individual, but this network is an element that works for community thinking and that is why it is so important.

What is it like to be back in Vienna?

I love my hometown and I enjoy it very much, although I have to admit I miss the creativity and innovation potential that Moscow and London offered. I definitely see the potential for Vienna to take the same path and learn from these big, buzzing and sometimes brutal cities.

Nowadays, it seems like conflict is on the rise.

Are diplomats the miracle cure?

That is very easy to answer: no. Nevertheless, it makes sense to educate future decision-makers in subjects like international relations. We have to find a common solution to the world's problems, which is only possible when we understand different positions regarding those problems.

Many people think going into diplomacy means giving up your free will. What do you say to that?

It's an illusion. I have always decided what my career would be. Everyone should try to be the master of his or her own progress. I wanted to go to London, I wanted to go to Moscow, and I wanted to become the director of the DA.

What advice can you give current students?

Be curious, keep an eye out for opportunities but don't make decisions too quickly. I think the most crucial point is to really stay open. The DA doesn't prepare the students for one career; it shows them that there are many chances out there.

Marie-Theres Engelmayer is enrolled in DA's 11th ETIA Programme (2017-19) and Social Media Assistant at the DA.

DA Insight: New lecturers at the DA

Sonya Farquharson Coordinator for English Language Training

When Mrs. Farquharson joined the Academy in September, she said it herself: “I’ve got big shoes to fill. Mr. Chester, my predecessor, was so popular among the students and just an incredible teacher.”

But only a few months in, she found her way into the hearts of the students with her beautiful British accent and her joyful spirit. Born in Cheltenham, West England, Mrs. Farquharson studied Political Science and Law, but later focused on the teaching of Legal and Business English in Vienna.

Before she joined the Vienna School of International Studies, she used to work for Cambridge Learning and as a freelancer for special occasions, such as English skills training for the upcoming Austrian presidency of the Council of the European Union.

As a lawyer and political scientist, Mrs. Farquharson enjoys the Academy’s setting very much, because she shares the same interests as the enrolled students and therefore encourages the students to have fruitful debate.



“I really don’t want my students to just tick off the English course as one thing more in their curriculum. I want them to enhance their English skills, so they can advance and become more confident using English.” She therefore has an open door to all the students and wants them to know that she is there to help with master’s theses, assignments or even simple questions.

DA Insight: New lecturers at the DA

Bernadette Couloumies-Friscic, Coordinatrice du Département de Français

Our new French language coordinator, Madame Couloumies-Friscic, is not really a new face at the DA. She has been part of our faculty for more than ten years now. The Toulouse-born French native moved to Vienna more than 30 years ago and started working at the Institut français d'Autriche and the University of Vienna. When she took over from Chantal Cali in September “a lot of administrative work, contracts and numbers awaited me” Mrs. Couloumies-Friscic says. Smiling, she adds, “Actually I am not a numbers person, but I know all the hard work is worth it because it embraces the Francophonie in this faculty.”

The hard work seems to have paid off because she can already celebrate a success: the DA is now officially host of the language certificate ‘Diplôme professionnelle’ (DFP RI) – a certificate specialising in French for diplomats, civil servants in international organisations and journalists, as well as students pursuing these careers. “My baby”, as she calls it, “has finally come to life. And what is even more rewarding is that we have already so many interested parties. I have got very positive feedback and applications from our students or even employees of the UN. Clearly there is a need for an education in special terminology for this field.”

Indeed, Mrs. Couloumies-Friscic is passionate about her work and promoting French. Her



students feel she wants them not only to be interested in studying her mother tongue, but also to approach the language in a professional and structured way. When working with DA students she says they are more demanding and eager to learn than other students. “One thing I really enjoy is that the students here are really interesting. They come from all over the world, speak so many languages and have open minds. That gives me the incentive to always deliver the best I can.”

DA Insight: New lecturers at the DA

Emmanuel Comte Postdoctoral Fellow

Emmanuel Comte is a historian of European integration and of immigration to Europe since 1945. In October, Mr. Comte joined the DA as one of two postdoctoral fellows for the Chair of History at the Academy. Mr. Comte was previously a lecturer at the Department of History of the University of California, Berkeley and Max Weber fellow at the European University Institute. He earned his PhD at the Paris-Sorbonne University.

‘Europe and the migration challenge’ will be the title of Mr. Comte’s course in the third term, in which he wants to give the students a good understanding of the implication and roots of migration, especially in a European context. “The one thing that I want to pass on to the students here at the DA is that migration cannot be understood without the labour factor. We need to go a few steps back in order to comprehend migration. The origins for migrations, I am convinced, lie in the economic factors of labour.”

It took Mr. Comte no more than a second to answer the question about why he came to the DA. “I really enjoy the interdisciplinary setting. I am convinced that it enhances my research interest as the Academy understands that history and economics, as well as international law and



political science are fields that actually interact with each other and this combination is important to understand the current world and its issues. In fact, it is the key for successful future policy makers.”

DA Insight: New lecturers at the DA
Rachel Johnston-White
Postdoctoral Fellow

Ms. Johnston-White is the second new postdoctoral fellow at the Academy. She completed her PhD at Yale, where she put particular emphasis on the political and religious history of twentieth-century France. Her thesis 'State Violence, Christian Activism and Human Rights in France, 1940-1962', sheds light on the relationship between human rights and religion. "Religion has been ignored for too long by many historians. It is a very important variable to understand why people do what they do and therefore write history."

During her time at the DA she will continue her research on this matter and specialise in 'post-war' human rights. But Ms. Johnston-White will also pass her knowledge on to our students in seminars like "Religion and Human Rights in Contemporary Europe", where she will highlight the secular and religious origins of human rights, the relation between monotheistic religions and human rights, as well as posing the question "What can religion offer to human rights in today's world?"

The good things she heard from other researchers about the city brought her here in the summer of 2015 for a different fellowship. Positive rumours about Vienna were proven to be true and she



immediately fell in love with the city, most of all with the quality of life the capital has to offer. Now, Ms. Johnston-White wants to soak up the Vienna experience and adapt to the Viennese way of living. Consequently she is very engaged in the DA's life: she was a member of the jury at the Debating Society's most recent debate, she welcomed prospective students to our faculty and she is currently taking a German course with students at the DA.

How the DA can help her in her research journey? "The DA", said Ms. Johnston-White, "really shares the values I preserve for my research; it even emphasises them."

DA Insight: New lecturers at the DA

Donald J. Stoker

Distinguished Diplomatic Academy-Fulbright Professor of Political Science 2018

From Monterey to Vienna: Mr. Stoker normally teaches at the Naval Postgraduate School in California. His interest lies in the strategy of war with an historic approach. At the DA he will shift his focus to American foreign policy. “American foreign policy is very different and Europeans have a very different perspective on it as we in the U.S. conceive it. I want my students to question everything they know and be open for new understandings and perceptions.”

“In my time in Vienna I will be working on a new book for the Cambridge Press that will deal with the phenomenon of ‘limited war’; that means a nation that is fighting a war below the resources they could give. I do interviews with all kinds of people and experts, because my object is to bring the most perceptive specialists together and accumulate knowledge. The Fulbright Scholar Programme didn’t fall into my lap - I really wanted to go for it.” For the military historian Fulbright is a good opportunity to get out of his comfort zone and see things differently.

To Mr. Stoker, Vienna is a fascinating city and the distance to his hometown doesn’t really matter to him, thanks to the helpful staff members, who “do so much for me without me even



asking for it.” He also mentions the international student body, which makes teaching at the DA so much more interesting.

All portraits of DA's new lecturers have been compiled by Social Media Assistant Marie-Theres Engelmayer.

Check out DA's [Facebook page](#) for more portraits of students and staff.

Polemics – The Magazine of the Diplomatic Academy

For several years now, DA's students have been successfully publishing "Polemics – The Magazine of the Diplomatic Academy" which features articles on a broad variety of topics written by the students. Since 2016, we include one Polemics article in every DA News issue. To enjoy the current issue of Polemics in its entirety, please go to www.polemics-magazine.com

Kim Jong-un's Game of Thrones: The Unpredictable Pursuit of a Madman or the Calculated Scheme of a Machiavellian Prince?

Songvi Koo

Tensions between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the latter's nuclear programme are now higher than ever after the DPRK's latest nuclear test in September. The nuclear crisis is hardly a new one.

Since the DPRK withdrew from the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty in 2003, it has carried out six tests. Yet the latest is particularly noteworthy as the DPRK claims to have tested a hydrogen bomb, which may be loaded on an intercontinental ballistic missile and thus damage U.S. territory directly.

Unsurprisingly, President Trump burst out with inflammatory statements against the Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un, which of course angered the proud young leader. Names such as "Rocket Man", "Crazy Dictator" and "Mentally Retarded Person" covered front pages.

Yet despite the flood of media coverage, some questions remain unaddressed: Who is Kim Jong-un? What is his political goal? Could it be, contrary to seemingly everyone's belief, that Kim's actions are actually a deliberate strategy of sustaining his kingdom whilst maintaining his position on the throne, and that the international community has misunderstood the prince all along?

According to conventional wisdom, Kim is a wacky and illogical actor who cannot be reasoned with, negotiated with, or expected to behave rationally. The "Rocket Man" is crazy and risks everything by waging an impossible war against a superpower.

Many believe Kim is foolish for isolating the DPRK from the world economy and international institutions since this would surely deprive him of public support and thereby weaken his legitimacy.

At a recent Security Council meeting, Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, insisted that Kim is irrational, that he is begging for a war, and consequently, only the strongest sanctions may curb his actions, adding that the U.S. will not tolerate any states acting against its will.

The government of the Republic of Korea, which allergically avoids any military options, shares the U.S.' conviction regarding the necessity of comprehensive sanctions: "Slowly but surely, sanctions will stifle the DPRK. We are merely waiting for the momentum...of course, as soon as the DPRK agrees on an irreversible, verifiable, and transparent elimination of all its nuclear weapons, the ROK and the U.S. are ready to sign the Peace Treaty, which will ease Kim's fears about regime collapse. We are not considering

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an artificial reunification,” said Dong-ik Shin, the ROK Ambassador to Austria.

However, certain experts offer a different point of view. David Kang, director of the Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California, claims that not only is Kim rational, but he is also a consistent leader with a vision and with the capability to move his country towards that vision.

After his father's death, Kim announced his Byungjin (Parallel) development plan, which emphasises both economic and nuclear development simultaneously. In addition to this long-term plan and as opposed to what conventional

wisdom postulates, the young leader is also conveying a consistent message about his nuclear armament. He has announced that the DPRK's nuclear weapons programme is for self-defence purposes only, and unless the DPRK is attacked first, he will not initiate an attack either.

David Slinn, the former British ambassador to the DPRK, agrees that the DPRK's behaviour is a calculated scheme. At a panel discussion on the DPRK nuclear issue held in Vienna in October, the diplomat explained how the nuclear weapons programme is a critical tool for securing not only



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the survival of the regime from external threats, but also the legitimacy of the regime internally. He stressed that the isolation from the outside world is both carefully and deliberately crafted by the leadership itself, and that current international efforts might not have the dramatic effect that the international community is hoping for. "This is going to be a long game. There is no quick niche solution," said Slinn.

Machiavelli, the famous Italian philosopher, may help us better understand the behaviour of Kim. First, because the DPRK is not your typical modern state, it has many characteristics of a pre-modern kingdom. North Korean citizens have never experienced democracy. All they have

known is the pre-modern kingdom and 36 years of colonization.

Second, the DPRK is still surrounded by hostile neighbors, or at least Kim believes he is, just like Machiavelli's Prince. Third, the country is built upon the Kim dynasty and the mythology surrounding the family. Kim inherited the right to rule by birth. In sum, Kim is quite literally the prince of an endangered kingdom.

Within the Machiavellian framework, it becomes easier to analyse Kim's political goal as well as





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his methodology. Kim wants his kingdom to stay closed and undemocratic and he wishes to stay on the throne and develop his dynasty. To achieve this goal, the more closed off the DPRK is, the better.

This also explains why increased sanctions have not been effective. Keeping with Machiavelli's advice, the DPRK has established sound laws and a strong military force and Kim is the head of both the administration and military. Kim also follows Machiavelli by not relying on the military power of allies or auxiliaries, not to mention the goodwill of his adversaries or international institutions. Thus, it seems highly unrealistic to hope for the prince's surrender of his nuclear weapons or his integration into the international community.

"Know your enemy and know yourself; in a hundred battles you will never be in peril," said Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese philosopher. It remains true that the international community has not studied Kim enough. Once we finish our homework, we might come to the conclusion that Kim is behaving strategically to maintain his kingdom and throne.

If so, it will be highly unlikely that Kim will officially surrender his nuclear weapons. However, it is apparent that Kim also wants some degree of a de facto peace, under the calculated amount of tensions. If the international community can accept this hypothesis, it may come up with a practical solution to achieve the common goal – de facto peace – instead of echoing the ineffective messages of condemnation.

*Songyi Koo is enrolled in
DA's 21st MAIS Programme (2017-18).*

For more highly interesting articles please visit
www.polemics-magazine.com

DA Insight: New Career Services programme

da.link career services Andreas Ehrmann

In higher education, alumni relations and career services are two closely related fields. Now they have joined forces at the Diplomat-ische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies too. This past summer, I had the pleasure of taking over the DA's Career Centre in addition to the Alumni Office and launching our new **da.link career** services programme for students and alumni.

In close cooperation with our alumni network, we offer a broad range of initiatives with the goal of supporting our students and alumni on their journeys to their 'dream jobs'. Here are some highlights:

da.link career talks – Wednesday Sessions
Inviting alumni and HR professionals who share their experiences in different fields

Targeted events for career planning in the form of workshops, lectures, presentations and discussions allow students to make direct contact with

leading representatives from the worlds of diplomacy, politics, business, culture, international organisations and NGOs. For this, the DA draws from the large network of DA alumni. Formal and informal meetings with alumni working in international organisations, EU institutions or international enterprises, banks or consultancy firms are an integral part of da.link career talks.

da.link career skills – Seminars and Workshops
Equipping students with a broad variety of skills necessary for today's job market

The DA organises specialised skills workshops on academic writing, rhetoric and presentation techniques, international negotiations, team management, and IT skills, as well as simulations of job interviews or press conferences. In addition, we organise training sessions on crisis management, event management, public diplomacy, social media and a preparation course for competitions organised by the EU's Personnel Selection Office (EPSO).



da.link career day – Professional Speed Dating
Networking with potential employers and finding out about key assets and expectations
On the initiative of ClubDA, CEOs, department heads and high-ranking HR managers from highly renowned international organisations,



NGOs and the private sector have been invited to an annual da.link career day since 2013. During the course of this professional ‘speed dating’, the representatives sit down and talk with DA students about their career plans, give advice, share their experience and offer jobs, internship positions, follow-up meetings, etc.

In addition, students have the opportunity to analyse their interests and learn how to facilitate their job search in a goal-oriented way, as well as put together convincing applications during individual counselling sessions with our staff.



To find out more, please visit our **da.link career portal** at <https://career.da-vienna.ac.at> or contact us at career@da-vienna.ac.at.

Andreas Ehrmann is head of DA's Alumni and Career Services team and ClubDA Secretary General.

DA Insight: Student life at the Academy

DA Student Magazine POLEMICS – CALL FOR SUPPORT Christine Luby



office of the IAEA will offer writing and editing workshops, as well as one-on-one mentoring sessions.

We have lots to look forward to in this coming year, including three more issues of the magazine and we would love ClubDA alumni to be a part. There are several ways you can partner with us: First, if you work in Vienna and would like a copy of Polemics delivered to your place of business, send us an email. Read it and share it with your colleagues so that our student writers can get exposure to the international community. Secondly, if you'd like to support us financially, you can purchase an ad for your business or sponsor an issue of our magazine. And finally, if you know of an interview opportunity which would be of interest to one of our young writers, we would greatly welcome that invitation.

Thank you for reading, supporting and being a part of the Polemics team. Happy Holidays!

polemics@da-vienna.at

As the ClubDA newsletter goes out this holiday season, the first issue of Polemics will have just hit the stands. We are incredibly proud of our contributors who have upped the game by increasing the quality of our journalism. Our Editorial team has challenged students to dig deeper in their writing, find fresh perspectives, and to hone their interview skills by sitting down with diplomats and prominent alumni. Our talented design team is gaining exposure to key programmes for today's business world like InDesign and Wordpress. In the second trimester, journalists from Reuters and the press

Christine Luby is enrolled in the DA's 21st MAIS Programme (2016-18). She represents the editorial team of POLEMICS.

DIE KUNST DER DIPLOMATIE

DA Insight: Student life at the Academy

Ball Committee – Die Kunst der Diplomatie

Rachel Loper, Chiara Reichel and Sarah Henry



Dear ClubDA members,

We are very excited to invite you to the 25th Charity Ball an der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien, where we will be celebrating "Die Kunst der Diplomatie" on Saturday, 24th February 2018.

In showcasing both art and diplomacy, we are working in close cooperation with the Secession, and their iconic style will serve as the backdrop to the evening's festivities.

As many of you will know, each year the ball is solely funded through sponsorship and our aim is to donate as much as possible to a very worthy cause. This year, all proceeds will go to St. Anna Kinderkrebsforschung, helping in their care for children affected by cancer as well as in their research to find a cure. In order to make a sizeable donation to St. Anna and also to have the best possible event we can, we ask you for your support. If you, someone you know, or your place of work may be interested in partnering with us, we would love to hear from you so that we can work towards this goal together!

Tickets are available now for purchase online at diekunstderdiplomatiewien.eventbrite.com and if you are not already following us on social media, make sure you do for all of our updates and special announcements.

Facebook: Charity Ball an der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien

Instagram: @diekunstderdiplomatie

Please don't hesitate to contact us at ball@da-vienna.at for more details!

We look forward to, once again, welcoming you to the DA in February.

Best wishes,

Rachel Loper, Chiara Reichel and Sarah Henry

Rachel Loper, Chiara Reichel and Sarah Henry are enrolled in the DA's 21st MAIS Programme (2016-18).



2018

DA Insight: Student life at the Academy

DASICON 2017 – The EU up for debate Natalie Bereuter

After a very successful conference on the OSCE last year, we would very much like to welcome DA alumni to attend DASICON 2018. This year's conference will take place on 2 and 3 March 2018 in the DA's Festsaal and it will concern the EU.



Since Austria will take up the European Council Presidency in the second half of 2018, we would like to stimulate a discussion with our five panels on several pertinent issues related to the EU. On Friday, our speakers will debate the EU's role in the international system and its relations to its Eastern and Southern neighbours, as well as the EU as a potential value community. On Saturday, the focus will be on the media's portrayal of the EU, with the example of the so-called refugee

crisis. Lastly, we want to look ahead by analysing the impact of Brexit and its potential for triggering EU reforms.

This event is free of charge and is fully financed by sponsors. Therefore, in order to turn DASICON 2018 into an inspiring and successful event, we would greatly appreciate any kind of support from the DA alumni community. Please feel free to contact us under info@dasion.org.

Natalie Bereuter is enrolled in DA's 21st MAIS Programme (2016-18) and president of this year's Conference Committee.

DA Insight: Student life at the Academy

ETIAtalks 2017-18 – GREEN DIPLOMACY

Julia Kraft, Sarah König, Valerie Hengl and Birgit Van Duyvenbode

ETIAtalks aims to serve as a forum to explore and discuss issues of current relevance in the fields of energy and the environment as well as related technologies and their intricate relation to politics, law, economics and international affairs. Therefore each academic year three panel discussions are organised under an overarching theme.

This year's three panel discussions stand under the title 'What a Disastrous World it is...', and seek to bring attention to disastrous events related to the environment.

Therefore, it was only natural to hold the first panel discussion on 'Natural Disaster Prevention' on the International Day of Natural Disaster Prevention, 13 October 2017.

Dr. Christoph Matulla (ZAMG), Dr. Rudolf-Miklauer (BMLFUW), Dr. Susanne Hanger-Kopp (ETH Zurich and IIASA) as well as Dr. Eberhard Faust (Munich Reinsurance Company) critically dealt with national and international efforts to prevent natural disasters, and discussed issues arising from the cooperation between different institutions working on establishing disaster prevention methods.

The second panel discussion will take place on **27 February 2018** on the topic of 'Waste in Space – is Space Wasted?' in the Festsaal of the DA. Earth orbits are quickly filling up with infrastructure and waste, called the 'Kessler Syndrome'. This poses a very pressing threat to current and future space activities and therefore also to the environment here on earth. Join us in discussing this current topic and hear what our international experts have to say!

For further information please visit www.etiatalks.at or follow us on Facebook.

If you or your organisations are interested in supporting our efforts, please contact us at etiatalks@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATES:

ETIAtalks 27 February and 12 April 2018

Julia Kraft, Sarah König, Valerie Hengl and Birgit Van Duyvenbode are enrolled in the DA's 10th MSc ETIA (Environmental Technology & International Affairs) Programme (2016-18) and are this year's heads of ETIAtalks, together with many helping hands.



DA Insight: Student life at the Academy **Sustainability Committee**

Ansgar Fellendorf

In virtually every class we learn about the Sustainable Development Goals, resource management and future challenges. The DASI Sustainability Committee aims to further raise awareness for socio-environmental issues and act on a local level. The committee was founded in late 2016 and now, well into the second year, we continue working with successful formats and develop new ideas.

First, smoothie sales not only provide us students with much needed vitamins, but also the committee with fundraising income. This money has been spent on repairing a few of the abandoned dusty bikes in the DA courtyard for the student community to use. Another continuing project is the student garden, which provided the DA community with fresh produce over the summer.

Additionally, we went to the release event of the movie 'Guardians of the Earth' which grants unique and humorous insight into the Paris Agreement negotiations. Earlier this month we

also hosted the first clothes swapping event, where students and friends could exchange clothes they do not wear anymore. A catwalk for the best new outfit put a lot of smiles on our faces!

We are planning a workshop on trade and its impact on sustainability, an event on the nexus of climate change and gender in cooperation with the international organisation 'Sustainable Energy 4 All', and a waste project. We are happy that many new motivated and bright students joined the committee to implement ideas, and maybe even more importantly: make the time at the DA fun and worthwhile!

We are always looking forward to receiving new input and funding possibilities. Please do not hesitate to contact us at sustainability@da-vienna.at.

Ansgar Fellendorf is enrolled in the DA's 10th ETIA Programme (2016-18) and co-chairs the Sustainability Committee.



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DA Insight: Student life at the Academy

Debating Society Nora Chiche

The Debating society organises three public debates throughout the year between DA students, with the help of professors and external judges who are experts in their fields. Our debates offer an opportunity for speakers to tackle controversial topics, improve their public speaking and sharpen their analytical skills.

We welcome students with different levels of debating experience. For many it will be their first experience, yet they pick it up quickly!

Apart from debates, we organise workshops which cater to all levels of debating in order to give the students a chance to learn and refine their public speaking skills.

If you are interested in joining us or supporting the society's activities, please contact Nora Chiche (nora.chiche@da-vienna.at).

Nora Chiche is enrolled in the DA's 21st MAIS Programme (2016-18)

The Societies' and Committees' profiles have been collected by the two student assistants at DA's Alumni and Career Services office, Social Media Assistant Marie-Theres Engelmayer and Administrative Assistant Elizabeth English.



DA Alumni Hall of Fame Talk

An Interview with ... Richard Slomka Oliver Kitz

How did you learn about the Diplomatic Academy back in Communist Poland?
 Richard Slomka: I heard about the DA when a representative of the Austrian embassy in Warsaw came to my university, Warsaw University, and recommended postgraduate studies at the DA.

Was it easy to adapt to a Western system? What was your biggest 'aha moment' or surprise during your first days in Austria?

The first weeks were not easy but after three to four months everything became routine. Actually, I had been in West Germany and Holland for a total of six to seven months before and had therefore little trouble adjusting.

What were your biggest takeaways?

Besides the interesting academic programme at the Academy, it was definitely fascinating to study and live in the same building with colleagues representing many different cultures of our globe. At that time, there were students from at least 25 countries at the Academy. To learn tolerance and live with different mentalities and behaviours day to day for two years was one of the most interesting experiences in my life.

Are you still in contact with some of your former colleagues?

Directly after graduating from the DA I was. Now, almost 35 years later, these contacts are unfortunately very limited and rare.



Did the DA leave a lasting impression on your life and did it pave the way for you in some way?

My studies at the DA have definitely changed my life. My original worldview was confronted with a broad international perspective and I discovered my ability to work in an international environment.

How did you find (and get) your first job?

An Austrian logistics company was planning to open a branch office in Poland and hired me to prepare me for a position as their representative. In the end they changed their plans for Poland and after three years they offered me the CEO position at the Austrian mother company. So, instead of going to Poland as a branch office manager, I stayed in Vienna and started to build a network of daughter companies in Eastern Europe. And I worked on sales in North America at the same time as well.

How did you progress from there?

After eight years at the company I founded my own production and trading company focused on clothing production and connected services.

Tell us a bit more about your business ...

My company is producing clothing for known brands and fashion houses in Western Europe and the U.S. The production takes place in Eastern Europe and Asia. In addition to the production of clothing we offer our customers logistics, financing and insurance services.

How did you manage the step from employee to entrepreneur?

When you are convinced that you can do better than your boss or you have a unique concept and good business plan, you should start your own business. It is important to be honest with yourself and not to overestimate your own abilities. In other words, your business concept and approach should be realistic and add value. You always have to count on your own abilities, particularly in the first years after founding your own company.

Your schedule must have been extremely busy with being on the road five to six days every week and starting a family at the same time. Did you have to sacrifice a lot for your career?

My business is international and the first years were very critical. If you want to have a family, you have to find a partner for life who understands and identifies with your goals and who is ready to accept a big part of the responsibility. In particular in the beginning of my own business life, I was at home mostly at weekends only and my wife took great care of our kids.



If your life were over tomorrow, what would be your predominant feelings and thoughts?

I would never say that what I have chosen as my way of life is incorrect, as my job became my passion. Yes, not everything was perfect – but who is perfect, anyway?

I have met a lot of nice and interesting people from different countries. In my company, people from approximately 15 different nationalities work together and it is fascinating to connect all of them and lead them towards one goal. My eldest son is already fully integrated in the company. I know that I would have a smile on my face if my life ended tomorrow.

Would you live your life the same way or do you have some regrets?

Maybe I would marry a few years later to first grow more mature. Otherwise – yes, I like challenges and would take the same kinds of risks.

What is your management philosophy?

Respect for each other is of utmost importance. The best and strongest argument always wins and is decisive in decision-making processes; not the position of a specific person in the company. I support a flat management structure and assigning clear responsibilities to one's staff.

On the other hand, you have to keep in mind that the market and your customers dictate the requirement of building the right organisational structure of your company and tell you which people you need to find to cover all their needs.



Do you have any good advice for the students of the DA today?

You have to believe in your ideas and abilities, take chances if they appear and have enough courage. But you also have to be realistic, consistent and prepared to manage not only successes but sometimes also serious problems.

We've talked a lot about your professional life. To close, would you share some personal information with us?

I am married and have two grown sons. I like reading, good food, and doing sports as well as watching sport events. I also like to watch good movies and listen to great music of all different types. Travelling is part of my job so I have to like it as well.

Thank you, Richard!

Richard Slomka is an alumnus of the DA's 19th Diploma Programme (1982-84) and founder of the Vienna-based Polaris Handelsgesellschaft m.b.H.

Oliver Kitz is an alumnus of the DA's 19th Diploma Programme too and president of ClubDA.



ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Belgrade Chapter Iva Vučićević

I was full of a mixture of excitement and curiosity as I walked to a downtown café in the pedestrianised area of central Belgrade. The café is situated on the corner of two streets, the larger of which is called Street of Vuk Karadžić – a reformer of the Serbian modern language, who spent his formative years in Vienna in the early 19th century. With the Austrian embassy located only a couple of minutes walking distance, the venue resonated with myriad of historical, geographical and societal crossroads that Austria and Serbia share.

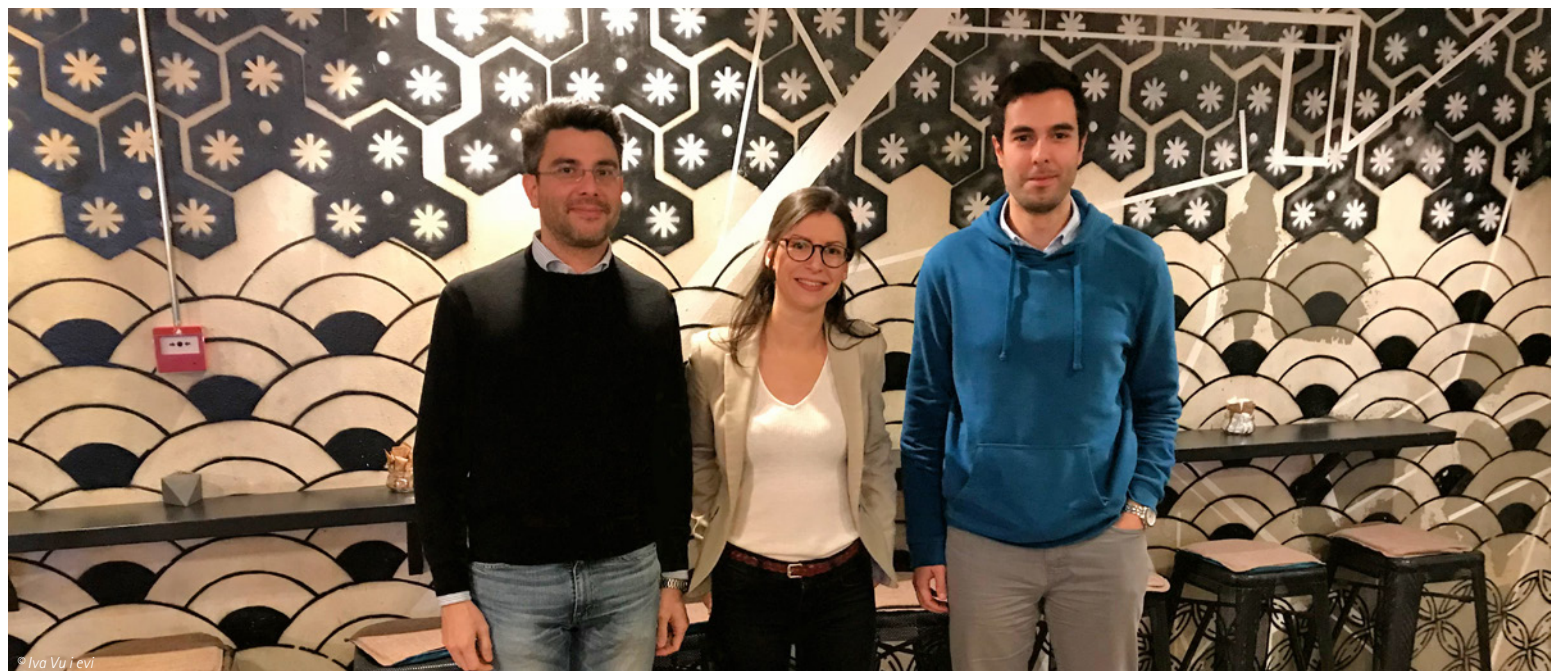
This is where the inaugural meeting of the local chapter took place on 7 December 2017. Following brief introductions, we shared professional paths, international experiences and reminisced about our time at the DA. Mixing languages, debating all kinds of topic and sharing future plans, it was wonderful to see such diversity, all the

while connected through our studies at the DA. They say time flies when you're having fun, and one thing is sure – this was just the beginning.

Austria and Serbia have close and fruitful diplomatic relations, not least thanks to dozens of DA graduates, participants in Executive Programmes and diplomatic tenures of its directors. They have all contributed significantly in the past and will hopefully continue to do so in the future.

We invite all DA graduates living in or visiting Serbia to join us. The ClubDA Belgrade Chapter is here to offer kind support for all sorts of practicalities.

Iva Vučićević is an alumna of the DA's 18th MAIS Programme (2013-15) and organiser of the inaugural meeting of ClubDA's new Belgrade Chapter.



ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Vienna Chapter David Lansky

The ClubDA Vienna Chapter has successfully been handed over to the ‘next generation’ and awaits alumni with interesting events and great opportunities to socialise and reconnect. The public policy careers of the previous heads of the Vienna Chapter, Finja Draxler (MAIS 18, 2013-15) and Jasmin Ploner (ETIA 7, 2013-15), have led them to Brussels. They have therefore ‘passed the torch’ in order for me to continue the splendid work they – and the president of ClubDA, Oliver Kitz – have already done.

Naturally, I plan to continue the successful events series the two former presidents have initiated. The so-called ‘Vienna Stammtisch’ was initiated under the presidency of Finja and

Jasmin and it turned out to be a hugely successful format, enabling Vienna alumni to reconnect and discuss current international policy issues in a traditional Viennese setting. This quarterly get-together provides both more recent alumni and alumni of years past with an opportunity to socialise and be more connected to the ClubDA network. Thanks to the generous support of ClubDA, we were also able to provide attendees with complimentary drinks at these occasions.



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ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Vienna Chapter David Lansky



Additionally, the Stammtisch has welcomed well-known guests, who provided their expertise so as to enable fruitful discussions. The chapter draws on the wide DA alumni network in order to invite speakers from all professional sectors with diverse backgrounds. At the second Stammtisch in April 2016, we had the pleasure of listening to Hermann Hagspiel (DLG 20) speak about his time working in Papua New Guinea, where he consulted on agricultural projects initiated by the archbishop of Mount Hagen, supported by the Austrian embassy in Canberra. Lucia Kronsteiner (DLG 36) visited the Vienna Chapter Stammtisch after the summer. Ms. Kronsteiner provided us with insights into the politically sensitive area of sanctions, particularly with the cases of Iran and Russia. Next up was oil expert Arno Dettlinger, with whom we discussed energy policy issues. The last Stammtisch, this November, was graced by the former Austrian ambassador to Turkey, Klaus Wölfer.

I am happy to say that the success of the past Stammtische will continue and that new formats of alumni meet-ups will arise in the course of next year. I would gladly welcome any suggestions and ideas to further our possibilities to reconnect, stay in touch and strengthen our Vienna DA network: david.lansky@da-vienna.at.

David Lansky is an alumnus of DA's 19th MAIS Programme (2014-16) and president of ClubDA's Vienna Chapter.

Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings Andreas Ehrmann

Since ClubDA implemented its chapter strategy in spring 2009, nineteen local chapters have organised 216 alumni meetings in Vienna and around the world. More than 6,800 graduates and students as well as friends of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies took part.

Recently, the following meetings took place:

27 June 2017:

Working breakfast for Dutch alumni of the DA
The Austrian ambassador to the Netherlands, DA alumna Heidemaria Gürer, invited Dutch alumni to her residence.

30 June - 1 July 2017:

19th International Alumni Meeting

For the 19th time, the DA and ClubDA organised an alumni homecoming weekend. More than 250 alumni and friends of the Academy accepted the invitation to ClubDA's General Assembly, DA's traditional Sommerfest and an excursion to Schloss Hof, Schloss Niederweiden and Nickelsdorf. During its annual General Assembly, the Club's

board and members took their time to bid farewell to DA's director Ambassador Hans Winkler. On Saturday, the group first visited two exhibitions about Empress Maria Theresia. In Nickelsdorf, we had a discussion with Mayor Gerhard Zapfl and representatives of the Austrian police and military forces on the refugee situation in 2015. This was followed by a tour of the refugee registration facility at the Austrian-Hungarian border and concluded at a local Heurigen, Stodl Schenke. To see more impressions, please visit our [online photo gallery](#).

12 July 2017:

Reception for and with Albanian alumni

The Austrian ambassador to Albania, DA alumnus Johann Sattler, invited Albanian alumni to his residence.



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Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings Andreas Ehrmann

3 August 2017:

Farwell Garden Party for Christian Autengruber



The former co-president of ClubDA's Warsaw Chapter and deputy head of the Austrian embassy in the Polish capital, DA alumnus Christian Autengruber, invited alumni, colleagues and friends to his farewell.

24 August 2017:

9th Vienna Summer Meeting



What started out as the inaugural meeting of ClubDA's Vienna Chapter at Schweizerhaus has become a cherished tradition. 25 alumni met at the Wiener Prater this year.

20 September 2017:

Alumni Meeting with Professor Markus Kornprobst in Astana

The Austrian ambassador in Astana, DA's former Deputy Director Gerhard Sailer, invited DA alumni from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as well as representatives from the local Kazakh Diplomatic Academy and Nazarbayev University to a reception on the occasion of a visit by DA's International Relations chair, Professor Markus Kornprobst.

4 October 2017:

1st Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels

17 October 2017:

Firstspaziergang auf dem Wiener Stephansdom



20 September 2017:

Kunst im Herbst in Berlin

DA alumni in Berlin enjoyed a guided tour of Berlinische Galerie and dinner at a restaurant close by.

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Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings Andreas Ehrmann

23 November 2017:

5th Alumni-Stammtisch in Vienna
(see article on page 29)

28 November 2017:

2nd Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels

30 November 2017:

**Concert by the Transylvanian State
Philharmonic Orchestra**

DA alumnus Gerhard Reiweger, former Austrian ambassador to Romania, organised a special invitation for students and graduates to this concert at the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein.

1 December 2017:

St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet



One of ClubDA's main goals is to maintain a link between the Academy and its graduates. Another is to give support to DA students. As every year, ClubDA combined these goals and organised a meeting of ClubDA members and DA's new students. With this annual gathering, we try to encourage DA graduates and students alike to get to know each other, and help to increase the ever-growing worldwide DA network.

7 December 2017:

Belgrade Chapter Inaugural Meeting
(see article on page 28)

The Diplomatische Akademie Wien and Club-DA would like to thank all chapter presidents, the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative (DASI) and all other alumni, students and partners who made these events possible.

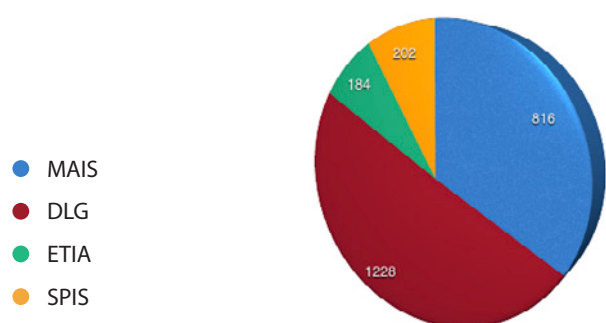
Please visit our website <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/> to see additional photos of recent meetings and find out more about upcoming events organised by the DA and ClubDA as well as its local chapters.

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DA Alumni-Statistik 1964–2017

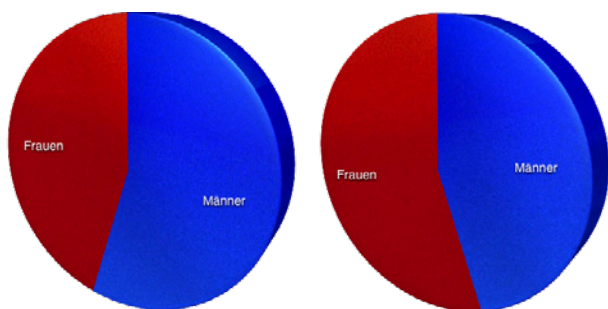
Katharina Dück

Alumni nach Lehrgängen



Von 1964 bis 2017 absolvierten insgesamt **2.242** Studierende aus **124** Ländern den Diplomlehrgang der DA Wien, das SPIS sowie die Master-Studiengänge MAIS und ETIA. **1.228** Personen beendeten erfolgreich einen der bislang 53 Diplomlehrgänge, **816** MAIS-, **184** ETIA- und **202** SPIS-Alumni komplettieren die Liste, wobei **101** Personen ihre Zeit an der DA nach dem SPIS bzw. **82** nach dem DLG mit einem MAIS- oder ETIA-Studium fortsetzten.

Geschlechteranteile seit 1964 / seit 1996

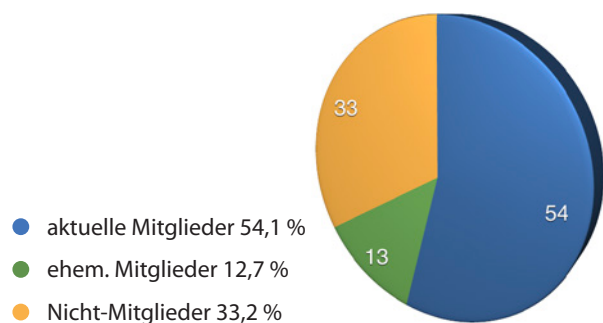


weiblich 45,5 %
männlich 54,5 %

weiblich 54,8 %
männlich 45,2 %

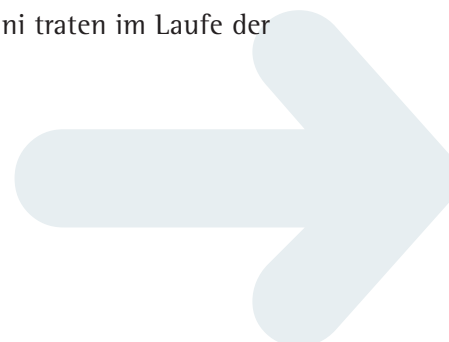
Vor allem in den Anfangsjahren der Diplomatischen Akademie war der Frauenanteil noch gering, insgesamt stehen bislang **1.020** Absolventinnen **1.222** männlichen Kollegen gegenüber. Dies ändert sich jedoch stetig. Seit der Ausgliederung der DA im Jahr 1996 sind **864** Studentinnen gegenüber **714** Studenten deutlich in der Mehrheit.

Anzahl der ClubDA-Mitglieder an der Gesamtzahl der DA-Alumni



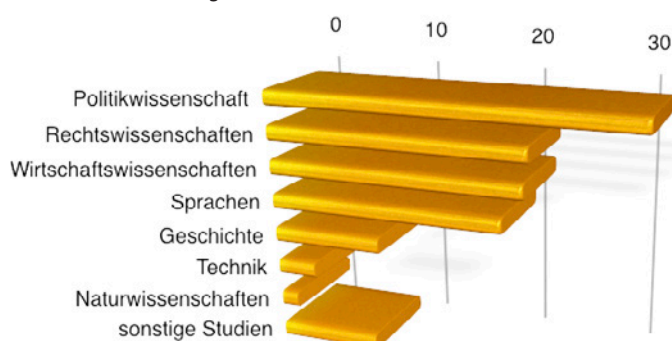
aktuelle Mitglieder 54,1 %
ehem. Mitglieder 12,7 %
Nicht-Mitglieder 33,2 %

Mehr als die Hälfte aller DA-Alumni überzeugen die Idee hinter dem und die Leistungen des ClubDA. **1.213** Alumni der vier genannten Lehrgänge sind aktuell Mitglieder des ClubDA, weitere **285** haben den Club verlassen. Der ClubDA hat aktuell **1.403** Mitglieder. Insgesamt **66,8** Prozent aller Alumni traten im Laufe der Jahre dem Club bei.



Vorstudien der DA-Alumni

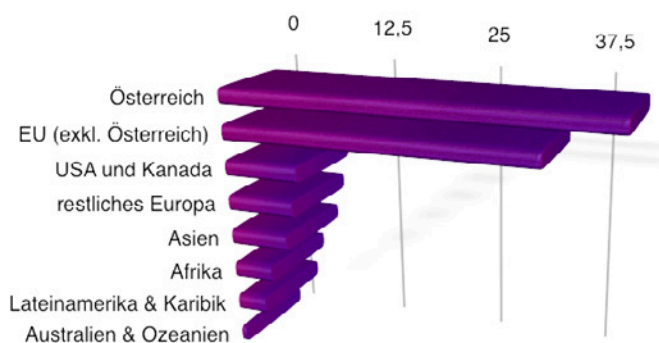
Mehrfachstudien möglich



Die Diplomatische Akademie zeichnet sich durch hohe geografische wie auch fachspezifische Pluralität ihrer Studierenden aus: **712** DA-Alumni kommen aus der Politikwissenschaft (inklusive Studien internationaler Beziehungen), **505** aus den Rechtswissenschaften, **496** aus den Wirtschaftswissenschaften, **454** haben Sprachstudien absolviert und **213** sind HistorikerInnen. Technische Studien haben **77** DA-Alumni abgeschlossen, naturwissenschaftliche **34**. Darüber hinaus haben **198** DA-Alumni sonstige Vorstudien besucht.

Herkunftsregionen der DA-Alumni

Doppel- und Mehrfachstaatsbürgerschaften möglich



Wie bereits erwähnt, stammen die DA-Alumni aus nicht weniger als 122 verschiedenen Staaten. Die größte Gruppe bilden wenig überraschend **937** ÖsterreicherInnen, weitere **761** Alumni stammen aus anderen EU-Staaten. Aus den weiteren Ländern Europas kommen **168** Alumni, aus den USA und Kanada **186**, aus Asien **145**, aus Afrika **98**, aus Lateinamerika und der Karibik **74** sowie aus Australien und Ozeanien **14**.

Die zehn seit 1964 am stärksten an der Akademie vertretenen Nationen sind:

Österreich	937
USA	146
Deutschland	110
Frankreich	73
Großbritannien	73
Italien	71
Polen	58
Rumänien	47
Ungarn	44
Kanada	40

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ON THE CALENDAR ...



Jan/Feb 2018 Wiener Eistraum

10 January 2018 Meet & Greet am Neujahrs-Àpèro von AdvantageAustria in Zürich

27 January 2018 16th DA Ski and Snowboard Championships

27 January 2018 Alumni Meeting in Bansko

24 February 2018 DASI Charity Ball @ DA Wien

28 February 2018 Fondue in Berlin

5 March 2018 12th Alumni Hall of Fame Talk

13 March 2018 da.link career day 2018

31 May-2 June 2018 11th ClubDA Outdoor Weekend

29-30 June 2018 20th International Alumni Meeting with ClubDA General Assembly, DA Sommerfest and the traditional Alumni Excursion

Berlin: In addition to the above-mentioned event, chapter president Leoni Abel plans a summer meeting at a beer garden, a hiking event in fall and the traditional thanksgiving dinner.

Brussels: “Alumni-Stammtisch” every two months

Ottawa: Chapter president Birgit Scheichl kindly invites all interested alumni to get in touch with her in order to set up meetings in 2018.

Sofia: In addition to the above-mentioned event, chapter president Evgeni Ivanov plans a Garden Party in mid-September. And we invite our Bulgarian alumni to meet our current students on the occasion of the 6th study trip to Bulgaria in April.

Vienna: “Alumni-Stammtisch” every three months

Imprint

Publisher: Club der Absolventinnen und Absolventen der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien; Oliver Kitz, President ClubDA

Editorial team: Katharina Dück, Andreas Ehrmann, Marie-Theres Engelmayer, Elizabeth English

Layout: Stephan Lindner www.grafikatelier.at

We thank our contributors:

Natalie Bereuter, Nora Chiche, Ansgar Fellendorf, Valerie Hengl, Sarah Henry, Sarah König, Songyi Koo, Julia Kraft, David Lansky, Rachel Loper, Christine Luby, Chiara Reichel, Birgit Van Duyvenbode, Iva Vučićević

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For exact dates and additional events please check out our online event calendar at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Events>.