

1 Exchange Program

3 Perspectives

Three MACIS students: Frederik Hans, Clint Claessen and Michelle Cohen set off for the MACIS exchange program with the Graduate Institute Geneva. *CIS News* welcomed their opinions on the transfer.

Based on an email exchange, Dec. 2014

How has the exchange contributed to your overall MACIS experience? Have you found it enriching, or are there any negative aspects?

Frederic: The courses at the Graduate Institute Geneva nicely broaden the range of electives not available in the MACIS curriculum. I personally enrolled for three electives in the Master's program in International Economics (Natural Resources Economics, Impact Evaluation and Strategic Project Management), which have a slightly more practical and policy-orientated focus than those electives offered at ETH/UZH. These courses allow me to further pursue an economic and econometric focus during my graduate studies, and I've found them to be a good fit with the more theoretical and research-orientated MACIS core seminars.

Clint: The exchange is a very positive addition to the MACIS program. While classes at MACIS are relatively small and contact with professors is therefore much easier, IHEID has larger class sizes and more students to interact with. Especially in terms of diversity, the IHEID and Geneva provide a wonderful opportunity to interact with students from around the world.



Photo courtesy of the Graduate Institute Geneva © 2015

Michelle: The exchange has definitely enriched the MACIS experience. I had the chance to profit from two excellent institutions and the IHEID enlarged my perspective, especially due to the many conferences that take place at the Graduate Institute and the various international organizations in proximity.

Can you describe the highlights of the exchange on a personal level?

Frederic: The student body at the IHEID has an extremely diverse cultural and educational background. As the institute's new campus is completely integrated and located directly across the UNHCR headquarters, the level

of interaction among students is very intense, as everyone keeps running into each other! In addition, the Graduate Institute organizes speeches, workshops and high-profile public lectures from the international policy community on a weekly basis. I've so far had the chance to attend talks by Joschka Fischer and José Manuel Barroso in person, sharing their opinions about the future of the European Union.

Clint: The highlights of the exchange were the activities that I took part in outside of class. While the classes overall were very interesting and more practical, I really took the opportunity to become engaged with student

initiatives. I joined the C4SI, a student-run social innovation program of 10 weeks, in which I worked with a group of students on the development of a social solution to a real-world problem. I joined the Junior Diplomat Initiative and had the honor to host an event with the Dutch and the New Zealand Ambassadors. I also joined GIMUN and participated in the 2014 Oxford Model United Nations. These three activities and the diverse student body represent the highlights for me.

Michelle: The highlight of the exchange was the diverse student body that allows for stimulating interactions as well as the diverse course options provided at the Graduate Institute.

Would you recommend this exchange to other MACIS students? Why or why not?

Frederic: I definitely recommend the MACIS-Geneva exchange to other MACIS students, in particular if she/he has an interest in pursuing more policy-orientated electives than those offered by MACIS alone. In addition, the Geneva Institute is extremely well connected with international organizations based in Geneva, which enables you to get an enhanced understanding for potential career tracks following graduation.

Clint: I would certainly recommend this exchange to other MACIS students. Students are given the chance to take classes outside of their specialization, interact with a more diverse crowd and enjoy a more international experience. Additionally, there are many internship opportunities with international organizations.

Michelle: I would definitely recommend this exchange, if a student is willing to extend the Master's degree from 3 to 4 semesters. It is a good opportunity to experience a different MA program and profit from another environment.

About the Students

Frederic Hans

is a MACIS student, currently writing his dissertation on: "The Effects of Childhood Famine Exposure on Long-Term Socioeconomic Outcomes". He holds two BA degrees in International Affairs and Economics, respectively, from the University of St. Gallen (HSG).

Clint Claessen

is a MACIS student, currently writing his dissertation with Prof. S. Bailer on: "Careers after Parliament. The Dutch Tweede Kamer and its Members' Success after Representative Life". He holds a BA degree in Political Science from the University of Amsterdam.

Michelle Cohen

is in her final semester at MACIS. Her main field of interest is Security Studies. She holds a BA in Political Science and Modern History from the University of Zurich.

How to register for the exchange:

MACIS students are entitled to register for the CIS/Graduate Institute Geneva exchange program in their third semester, but no earlier. If you are eligible for the exchange, please be reminded that your participation in this program will inevitably prolong your studies by a fourth semester.

The following conditions apply:

1. You have spent two semesters studying full-time in the MACIS program;
2. You have gained all required credit points/grades to start your MA thesis;
3. You have discussed your plans with the MACIS Coordinator of Studies and the prospective main advisor of your MA thesis.

If you meet the above-mentioned requirements, you can download the application form online, at: www.cis.ethz.ch/education.html

For more information, contact the MACIS Coordinator of Studies Benita Cserépy: macis@gess.ethz.ch