



Laurea / B.A. in Global Governance

Surname: *Ambrosetti* _____

Name: *Massimo* _____

Organization: *Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs* _____

Role: *Italian Ambassador in Panama* _____

Location: *online interview* _____

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- 1. The Bachelor of Arts in Global Governance – as you can see from our Courses described in the booklet - offers interdisciplinary teaching, which aims to prepare professionals to face global challenges that require specific legal and socio-economic competencies, as well as a wide range of technical and scientific knowledge and soft skills to manage cultural integration, mediation and team dynamics. With regard to the issues that your sector faces, can they be addressed by relying only on a single field of knowledge or do they require the melding of several specialties?**

Thank you for your question which is very interesting. I think that, of course, in diplomacy too, but in a broader perspective for international relations.

I think that multidisciplinary approach is key. I think that we face as international practitioners, every day, we face problems, issues which are intertwined.

So, I think that a course such as your B.A. is rightly focused on skills which prepare a future international practitioner to connect the different issues you have to face in your future career.

I think this is the right approach both from an intellectual point of view and from a practical point of view. I think that the practice of international relation is absolutely related to the ability of having a multidisciplinary approach.

- 2. One of the main goals of the 3-year B.A. in Global Governance is to support the academic education of our students with a series of professional trainings so as to better identify their potential work opportunities after they graduate. For this reason, Global Governance encourages training programs and internships within institutions, firms and organizations, both in Italy and abroad, selected on the basis of their prestige and quality of the experience. Do you think that these activities are important for the placement of our students in a company/institution like yours or is it too early to do them during a Bachelor?**

I am really strongly convinced that it is a good idea to start having this kind of experiences from undergraduate level.

Personally, as ambassador, I had interns in my embassy which are, basically between the undergraduate and graduate level of their studies.

I think that it is very important to connect what you study and what you would like to do in the future in terms of work and it is very useful for two reasons.

The first one is that you have a first concrete experience of working in an international environment, in international structure; secondly, it is a good first step in preparation of the selection process that you will have to face to start a career at international level that is very challenging nowadays for your generation.

So I think to have also a good idea of what you would like to do in the future because, of course, the private sector is different from diplomacy, I mean, working in an embassy is different from working in an international organization.

The first objective should be to have a clear idea of your priority. Secondly, to understand how to say your own strategy to prepare the very difficult steps and I want to be frank, your generation has more difficulties in entry in to the labour market at international level than for instance my generation that it is also a good step for delineating a program in terms of selection processes.

- 3. Global Governance is implementing the so-called "Mentors Project". The main purpose of the project is to provide advice to students regarding choices on future studies and/or careers by putting them in touch (throughout the duration of the course) with a professional for advice and counsel. Do you think it is a worthwhile project? Would you be willing to mentor once a year a GG student (via skype or in Rome)? Do you think they are effective projects for the personal growth process of students?**

I think that it is very useful the thing you have a relationship with I mean someone who is very active in the field not only of studies but of possible future activities, for a student is important, I think, that mentoring is an important aspect of this process. Personally, I think I would be glad to be a mentor of students who are interested particularly in diplomacy, by the way, as you probably know, I have had also background as a researcher and this is a usual practice for students at different level postgraduate. When you are a PHD student you usually have a mentor. I think it's a good idea not only exchange views but also perhaps to understand more clearly what can be your objectives and what you need to do to achieve these objectives. This should be the main task for a mentor.

- 4. In order to help our students select an appropriate academic pathway to follow after they have completed the B.A. in Global Governance, the course offers three majors to choose from: Economics and Philosophy; Political Science, Law and History; Science and**

Technology. Do you think it is advisable to offer majors, or in other words, subject areas that students specialize in, in a Bachelor Degree? Would your company/institution give a greater attention to a candidate from one of those three paths or would you look only at other dimensions of their Bachelor studies? In case yes, which one of the 3 majors?

The question is rather general, but I understand probably the meaning of this kind of question. If you work at international level as diplomat, as a member of an international organization, etcetera all the matters you mentioned are important. I think that, perhaps, what it is new, and it is peculiar in your generation is a greater focus on technological implications of these areas of study and work, for instance if you take the field of security, which is very relevant for international relations. I think that nowadays you cannot exclude a good basic knowledge of some technological implications related to all the issues of our digital era, starting from the cyber dimension. So, I think that on one hand, it is good to have a good preparation and clear ideas in the economic, political, and also of course, philosophical field. As you will see in my, in my conversation with you, I think that the so-called ideational aspects of international issues are extremely relevant.

On the other hand, I think that you need to think about the operationalization of these issues and the science and the technology aspects in this respect are extremely relevant. So, I wouldn't exclude them. I don't think that this kind of choice is a sort of either-or choice.

I think that as we have said. It is important a multidisciplinary approach. And this is part of a good multidisciplinary approach to understand what the drivers of change are. And of course, science and technology are extremely relevant for change also in international relations

5. What are the competencies, skills and abilities that in general your company/institution cherishes in an applicant? What type of Master would you advise a GG student to follow to have a chance to enter your company/institution?

Well, I think if you refer to the experience of being an intern in an embassy, as I said, I think it is good to start also when you are an undergraduate, a BA student, I mean, I think that this doesn't make a big difference. I think that, of course in diplomacy, it is a really very broad field.

I mean, in the past it was common to say that diplomats are generalists. So people who can understand a broader set of problems without being necessarily specialists in any of them. I think that nowadays the diplomacy too is more specialized. And the two big sectors, which differentiate your activity is whether you work in bilateral relations; so this means either in a bilateral embassy of your country based in a foreign country or you are working in a multilateral environment, which means working in an international organization. I think that these are the two main sectors of activity for Diplomats nowadays.

So for interns, too, it makes a fairly significant difference, I would say. So you can be posted to a bilateral embassy and the kind of work you can do as an intern is focused on bilateral relations of Italy with another Country, with another foreign Country.

If you, for instance, if you work at the European Union or at the United Nations or in any other international organization, the kind of work is different because of course, you are focused on your national interests in that a multilateral environment, but the kind of interaction is different because you don't have just a counterpart, but you have a group of countries, countries with which you have to interact.

6. Would your Company potentially interview an interested candidate graduated in Global Governance? If yes, would you need to provide him with extra-training once in? Of what kind?

(the selection process for diplomatic career is an open competition directly run by the ministry of foreign affairs)

7. How can we improve the training of our students so that their skills can better respond to the needs of your sector?

Well, I think that there are nowadays very good masters really specializing in international relations and diplomacy, both in Italy and, and abroad. But I mean, if you have a good background with a master's in economics or a master's in law I mean, the thing that, uh, you can start preparing the exam for the diplomatic service. So, I think that, uh, if you want to specialize, to have a very strong focus on all the matters that you will have to prepare for the Italian exam for the diplomatic service, of course, the most practical choice would be to study in one of these masters: international relations and diplomacy.

But, I mean, if you want to keep open the door for other options and not only diplomacy, I think that a good master program in law economics can work as well. And more or less as you know, the matters for the Italian diplomatic exam are the same and, uh, are basically international history, international law, European law and international economics.

So basically, your background needs to, to cover these three main fields of study.

8. Would you or someone in your company/institution be willing to ask for a specific profile to our Global Governance Alumni Association (composed as of now of more than 100 GG graduates most of them holding a further Master/Laurea Magistrale degree)?

(The public competition to join the diplomatic service has already been discussed)

9. Would your company/institution be interested in offering internships to Global Governance students? If yes, are there any specific prerequisites or competences that our students should have in order to be selected to carry out the internship?

You probably know that the process of selection for interns, for the Italian diplomatic service, is ran directly by the ministry of foreign affairs. So I think there is an application, process, which each university knows very well because it's the outcome of a cooperation between the ministry of foreign affairs and the Federation of Italian universities -la conferenza dei Rettori. So, I mean

Segreteria Amministrativa – Informazioni: tel. +39.0672595732

Segreteria Didattica: tel. +39.0672595717 - Segreteria Contabile: tel. +39.0672595718

Fax: +39.062020500 – posta elettronica: segreteria@def.uniroma2.it

C.F. 80213750583 – P. IVA 02133971008

it's a fairly well-known process of application for all the Italian students who wish to spend some time as interns in an Italian embassy abroad.

Of course, now we have to face a big problem, a big obstacle, which is of course the pandemic. So, we have had to, to discontinue the physical presence of insurance abroad for clear reasons of bio security. But of course, we look forward to restarting this program and, uh, having a new group of interns abroad. Personally, as ambassador, I valued very much the contribution of these interns until there was the pandemic. We have regularly interns working in our embassy. And I think that for both us and them, I can say, this has been a very productive and useful experience.

So personally, I look forward to restarting these this program and offering new opportunities for interns to work as interns in our embassy.

(About the skills required) I think exactly the prior prerequisites indicated in the application, but I think that overall a personal skill is related to the attitude of a potential intern. So, I think that what it is important is to have a, a good degree of flexibility. And also, I would say curiosity for not only for a specific work, but also for international lives as this also implies a degree of adaptation. I think that what is important is to really to benefit from every aspect of your experience as an intern. I mean, you don't need to be in New York or, or in Brussels necessarily to do interesting things.

I think that what is good in this program is that you can be intern practically in almost all the countries around the world, and I think that based on this, you can really benefit from an internship in a country that you don't know, because first of all you start to familiarise with working in an international structure, such as an embassy.

And secondly, of course, you interact with different people in a different environment, so hopefully you can strengthen your flexibility, your understanding, your level of adaptation to international life. And what is also very important, I mean, this is fairly obvious, but I think that this is really key: really to strengthen your linguistic skills to be not only fluent in a foreign language, but also to be able to use this language as a tool for daily works, in order to be able to write a draft, to write a lecture, to take notes in a meeting, I think that languages early are key. You need really to master a foreign language, of course English is the most important one, but also to speak more foreign languages, than only English is clearly a very big tool for a person who is interested in working in international environment. And you shouldn't underestimate this because your generation, especially in other countries, usually has a very high level skill in speaking several languages.

10. Please report here any other comment or suggestion regarding the structure and contents of the Global Governance BA

Well, I think that, because I am not familiar with what you do in the BA in global affairs, I think that a very good good practice is to connect what you study in different sectors with a sort of exercise of simulation, for instance a practical task, writing a policy paper, manuals. You have to

imagine that you are requested to, I mean, in a diplomatic jargon, we call it *démarche* or you have for instance, to write an analysis of a specific issue. So I think that, this is very important because basically that is what you are required to do on many occasions, both I think in the public and the private sector when you work abroad, to analyse, to propose a solution, and of course, to write a draft focusing on the main aspects of the issue you are dealing with, I think for instance, so it would be a very good practice. Another practical simulation that you could consider is also a sort of a simulated and negotiation to create two teams interacting in a negotiation related to a specific aspect, and this is of course can be useful for preparing you to future negotiations in different international environments.

I think that I understand that the fundamental idea behind these courses is to offer exactly that kind of multidisciplinary approach, which is functional to address global issues. And I think that it is a good start for building an international career, because as I've already underscored nowadays it is important to have the flexibility and the ability of understanding intertwined interconnected problems. But you need also to have a specific skill set to master to deal with these problems. So, the challenge of globalization is this mix of a very broad understanding, which is based necessarily on also a generalist approach, but at the same time to have specific skills, which offer you the instruments to respond in a concrete specific way to the issues you deal with.

I understand that your program is about this. So, I wish you all the best in the sense that I hope that you can benefit for these university years and bearing in mind that this is a unique period. I mean, when you are university as an undergraduate, you build the foundations for your future in terms of work in terms of your ability of understanding the, the diversified set of issues that you will have to face.