



Laurea / B.A. in Global Governance

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Do you agree to publish this interview on our official website : Yes

- 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?**

In the work that we do in international cooperation it is crucial to have knowledge in a variety of fields. My Political Science Studies helped me to understand the decision making behind our work and to advise policy makers which is a fundamental part of what we do. But this is only one part. Policy is only an instrument to work with the challenges and opportunities there are in the respective technical field – be it energy, climate protection, biodiversity, or any other topic. It is important to have a factual understanding of these fields alongside knowledge in policy, law, economics and so on.

- 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?**

It is never too early to gain work experience. I have personally done some internships during my studies and gathered work experience which helped me a lot to find the field in which I want to work in. Our company offers 6 months', paid internships for students once they have graduated from their bachelor's degree (or are about to graduate) and I think this is an ideal time to get first work experience. Don't push yourselves too hard when you have just started studying: Especially at the beginning of the studies there is a lot basics that you need to be taught. Also, I think it's important to dedicate time for socialising and getting in touch with people.

- 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?**

Yes, it would be my pleasure. I have some being mentored at the start of my career and also mentoring later on. It is important to have people that you can rely on and can openly ask questions about the field of action. It obviously requires some commitment from the students themselves, too. I would expect a mentee to be proactive and that they aware of the requirements and skills they have. Provided these conditions are fulfilled, I'd be very happy to be part of this program.

- 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?**

When recruiting, we don't look a lot at the name of the course, or the subjects a candidate attended. It's rather the whole picture that counts. Agencies like ours are increasingly looking for people with overarching knowledge and therefore it's good to have some basics in fields such as political science, government, administration etc. Then, of course it's good to have a specialization in a particular field. Myself, I have also studied some physics. This relates to many challenges that we have in the field of energy policy, but the same could be true for other fields e.g. a legal path for good governance or a medical background for global health. It is always good to have a mixture of knowledge.

- 5. What are the competencies, skills and abilities that in general your company/institution cherishes in an applicant? Do you hire Bachelor-only students or you require a Master? What type of Master would you advise a GG student to follow to have a chance to enter your company/institution?**

Generally, for academic profile jobs we hire people with a master's degree at least for our international staff. In our field offices we have a lot of national staff (approximately 70% national of in-country staff) for whom the recruitment requirements very much depend on the training and academic system of the respective country. Here in Jordan, we have a lot of people with a bachelor's degree. Concerning the overall competencies, one crucial skill is flexibility. Our staff should be flexible in terms of working conditions, as we work globally and conditions are very different in each country. We are also looking for flexibility with regard to the topics one deals with and the tasks one performs. Furthermore, intercultural competencies are very important. This includes language skills, as we work in roughly 120 countries and in circumstances where people do not necessarily understand English. Lastly, it's good to have a general understanding of the global challenges and the challenges international corporation face at the moment. This doesn't mean one needs a degree in this field, but showing an interest in the subject definitely helps.

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?

Yes, we would definitely. But since we are a government-owned enterprise, we must have transparent and application-based hiring processes. As mentioned previously, the academic path is only one part, the person also has to present themselves in way that we think fits and they have to give a good motivation for the field of action they apply for. That being said, there is a certain tendency to wait until people have a few years of work experience, either through a work contract or volunteering in similar fields to ours, which is an asset for the candidate that would benefit him. People should consider this when applying with us.

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

If the skills and requirements mentioned above are covered in a study course that is something good. From my personal experience, a lot of the aspects that count in your career cannot necessarily be put in a university context but are rather things happening aside. The university can provide the framework for people to engage in all kinds of extracurricular activities – be it work experience, volunteering, or similar. But in the end, it's the individual student who has to use these opportunities. Overall, the course could provide the right framework for students to expand their skills beyond the academics.

8. 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?

The requirement for six-month internships with a salary, is that the person should have finished their undergraduate studies or is about to finish them. Their academic training and experience



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should also generally be connect to the field of work they apply for. We don't ask for specific courses this early in a career. GIZ assigns interns to specific units or tasks with a clear profile, which people can look into and see whether it is something suitable for them. Then again, the skills we are looking for are important e.g. intercultural expertise, flexibility, prior work experience are of benefit. For us the key is to have motivated people willing to make contributions and that also show a general understanding of the framework that we work in. From what I have learned about your course, I think it is a great preparation for this set of skills.