



My name is Fatima Hewaidi. I am a dual Libyan-Canadian citizen, originally from Benghazi and raised between Abu Dhabi and Vancouver. I chose SAIS because I was looking for a policy-oriented education in international relations and economics. In particular, I chose SAIS Europe because I wanted to study in an intimate setting where I could get to know my peers and professors outside the confines of a classroom. Bologna was an extraordinary backdrop for that.

Having graduated from the MA program a year ago, what I learned at SAIS continues to influence my daily work. Currently, I am a consultant at the World Bank Group's Development Economics Group, where I work for the Doing Business project. I collect and analyze data that measures the ease of starting a business in 190 global economies. I also occasionally deliver workshops to government delegations on best practices in implementing reforms that improve private sector growth. Whether it was writing a case study, designing a presentation, or speaking to a government official – SAIS has equipped me with the right skills to tackle diverse tasks that I encounter every day.

I feel immense gratitude for my peers, professors, and the administration at SAIS Europe for compelling me to make decisions with an open mind and through an informed lens. Their stories and experiences have colored my view of the world, and helped me realize that there is nuance and complexity to every challenge, trend, and reality impacting our planet. I am also grateful to the support of the alumni community of SAIS Europe. Thanks to them I have been able to fund part of my graduate studies. And as I continue to interact with SAIS alumni around the world, I feel proud to be a part of this supportive and impressive group.