



My name is Michael Pinkerton and I was born and raised in Stockton, California. For my undergraduate studies, I went to UCLA and studied Political Science and Economics. Within my major, I focused on International Relations and Transatlantic Relations in particular. I first became interested in geopolitics following the 2008 Financial Crisis and the ensuing Euro area crisis. Since then, I have been working to hone my skills in international economic policymaking.

I began college with advanced Spanish skills after high school and went on to pursue German throughout my time at UCLA. During my junior year I studied in Berlin at Freie Universitat where I met European policymakers and learned about the transatlantic alliance from a European perspective. This formative experience in Berlin contributed to my desire to come back to Europe and study at SAIS Bologna.

After college, I moved from Los Angeles to Washington, DC to work on Capitol Hill. I worked on the Professional Staff of the Senate Finance Committee assisting with international trade related issues. During my tenure, I assisted with the drafting of the US-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement implementing legislation as well as the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act (UFLPA). After 4 years with the Senate Finance Committee, I began working at the asset manager T. Rowe Price. At T. Rowe, I used my government experience to analyze domestic and global public policy issues to assess their impact on public securities (stocks and bonds). At T. Rowe, I became the point person for both US-Europe and US-China relations. At SAIS, I hope to focus on International Finance and Asia to further deepen my expertise in these areas. After graduation, I hope to use the skills I've gained in the workforce and at SAIS to make economic policy at the Treasury Department or the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

I am very grateful to receive this fellowship, which will allow me to continue my studies without having to worry about being burdened by debt after graduation.