



Malin Irgens, from Oslo, Norway, obtained her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) at the University of York in 2014. Due to her passion for gender equality and human rights, she proceeded with her Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Human Rights Law and Practice at the same University, graduating in 2015 with her master's thesis *Masculinities within Post-Conflict Police Reform and Sexual Violence Against Women in Intimate Relationships* receiving first-class honors.

Malin has always had a keen interest for international development, something that was further triggered during her work experiences and throughout her law degree. She has interned with Amnesty International in Oslo, Norway; Human Rights Watch in London, United Kingdom; and Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. She has also worked with Florida International University at their Health Law and Policy Clinic providing pro bono legal support to low-income residents in Miami, Florida and assisted them in applying for health insurance.

Wanting to discover how gender equality programming was done in a developing context and gain hands-on field experience, Malin took on a role as Women's Economic Empowerment Officer with UN Women in Malawi. Having had the desire to go back to southern Africa ever since backpacking around Namibia and South Africa as a 19-year-old, it was an obvious choice. Spending 1,5 years in Malawi was an invaluable experience where it allowed her to put theory into practice. She was able to lead large projects and learn from the skilled, local staff, as well as experience living in "the warm heart of Africa". It also challenged her views on the traditional way on working with development and how things may be done differently.

Returning to Norway for the past two years, Malin has worked as Program Manager for the African region at FORUT, a Norwegian NGO focusing on gender equality, children's rights and prevention of harm from alcohol and drug abuse. She was responsible for managing programs in Malawi, Zambia and Sierra Leone, working closely with the local implementing partners in those countries. She was also responsible for monitoring and evaluation in the organization, leading large workshops with 16 partner organizations on organizational development, risk analysis and evaluations.

At SAIS, Malin wishes to increase her quantitative competencies and build her skills in international economics. Her area of concentration will be Development, Climate and Sustainability, where she is excited to study the effectiveness of development work and policy implementation. Her regional focus will be the African region. Malin's goal after SAIS is to work in a public/private partnership domain and find innovative and effective solutions for sustainable, economic development with a specific focus on gender equality.

Malin is a native speaker of Swedish and Norwegian, and fluent in English. She has a basic command of French and German.