



My name is Jonas Präfke and I was born in the small city of Hagenow, Germany in 1997 into a familial surrounding, which serves as a solid base for my past experiences and future perspectives.

Having pursued secondary schooling in the classical humanities, my interest in foreign languages and politics has already been evoked in high school. I soon noticed that it is of particular importance to put political and economic processes in a broader international context. An exchange project with a Polish high school brought to my attention the numerous opportunities of intercultural communication to discuss political questions of the present and the past through networks of exchange of thoughts and culture. This further fueled my interest in foreign policy and diplomacy.

My growing desire to pursue an academic education in these areas has led me to study “International Relations: Politics & History” at the transdisciplinary, international, English-medium Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany where I recently completed my Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in “Global Economics and Management”. During my studies I had the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and obtained the Certificate of Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities with specializations in International Relations and Law.

My academic interest focuses on international criminal activities such as illicit trans-border trafficking of goods, assets, as well as genocide and war crimes including their sanctioning and policing. Other interest areas comprise the international governance architecture, coercive diplomacy and military engagement. Throughout my studies I have additionally been working on the concept of social cohesion, which I used to theorize and substantiate a new explanatory avenue for the rise of populism in Germany. In terms of extra-curricular activities, I am a referee and supporter of handball, engage in aviation-related events, and have an interest in supporting refugees, which I pursued in the Refugee Support Club at Jacobs University Bremen.

Driven by the desire to gain international experience, I completed an internship at the Information Office of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern at the European Union in Brussels where I could gain practical experience in national and international politics. Striving for training in security and defense policy, another key experience has been my participation in the “Defense and Dialogue in Eastern Europe” NATO conference and simulation. My experiences of the internationalization of politics and economics, as well as of the connections within the global system fueled my desire to study international relations at the graduate level – an interest confirmed by my exchange semester at Sciences Po Paris where I explored the interesting field of security policy and military strategy.

Being able to understand and contextualize complex global questions in their political and broader global frameworks, working towards proposals for policy-relevant solutions, as well as conflict resolution by using appropriate policy-making tools in a rapidly transforming world are career-relevant skills. By extending my background in international relations through concentration possibilities in strategic studies and international law, and affording me the opportunity to familiarize myself with military strategy, tools in foreign and security policy, and the legal implications thereof, SAIS Europe will equip me with career-orienting tools and stands to have a strong impact upon my future career. My objective is to work for the German Foreign Office or an international organization dealing with international diplomacy, crisis and security issues.

I speak German as a native language and English fluently. Furthermore, I have a good command of French.