



My name is **Lucie Wuester**, I am German and was born in Geneva, Switzerland. During my studies at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins I aim to concentrate on European and Eurasian Studies. In 2017, I have obtained my first degree in Politics and Central & East European Studies at the University of Glasgow with Honours of the First Class. My interest in this region has developed in particular during my studies at the United World College in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where I completed the International Baccalaureate in 2013, and during my year abroad in Baku, Azerbaijan.

When studying in Mostar, I discovered a place marked by war, a powerful experience that has inspired my writing and interests. My passion for writing, and uncovering stories of places that are little spoken of, has shaped my interests within and beyond my studies. In my journalistic research, I have largely focused on the ethno-national identity issue and the process of democratization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for instance when covering the protests in 2014.

At the University of Glasgow, I had the opportunity to study one year in Baku, Azerbaijan, which has led me to focus on identity, conflict, and development in the Caucasus region. In context with my dissertation, I conducted an extensive field research in Azerbaijan to identify how the state-building process in post-Soviet Azerbaijan affected ethnic identity of the Talysh minority.

During my year in Azerbaijan I have interned at the Center for Economic and Social Development in Baku, a leading independent economic think tank in the Caucasus region. My biggest achievement lies in my work as co-author of a research paper on the prospects of diversification in the South Caucasus. My role included collecting and analysing large amounts of data to quantify the economic benefits of regional cooperation that could emerge from the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Moreover, in the context of two devaluations, I assisted in research on the currency market in Azerbaijan and participated in forums discussing proposals to ensure the stability of the financial system. Working at the CESD I have manifested my analytical ability and was able to broaden my knowledge beyond my field of studies. I believe that my experience provides a skilful and practical foundation which I will be able to build upon in my future studies and research.

In Azerbaijan, I was able to gain an intermediate proficiency in Russian, which I will continue to study at SAIS. Furthermore, I speak English, German, and French fluently and have a high proficiency in Spanish.

Since 2013, I have volunteered in NGOs that support asylum seekers and refugees in Glasgow, where I have gained significant insight into the process of migration. My role ranged from applying for benefits and assisting in submitting appeals to cooperating with institutions and NGOs. Hearing a myriad of stories by working with individual persons fleeing from crises, war, and persecution inspired me to use my skills and knowledge as an important asset in my work.

Thus, I am eager to continue my studies in international relations in order to advise on effective policy making in my future career. I am determined to build upon my past research and engagement, in order to achieve my career goals to advise political decision-makers on international politics, particularly development and security policy.

