

PAUL

BA Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften

Ma Political Science and European Integration

I just found economics interesting since early high school. I was considering studying philosophy, psychology, or economics, and I expected that I'd have less labor market success with philosophy and psychology, so I chose economics.

I really appreciated that we had this common block, although I cannot say that I made too much use of what I learned there. Regarding my choice of specialization... well I didn't do any maths in high school, and I had to restart in uni which is why I wasn't as prepared as other people were. So when I could choose between classical economics and socioeconomics, I knew I'd struggle in economics and socioeconomics corresponded more with my personal interest. I found the curriculum educationally interesting but not necessarily job-market oriented – which I appreciated. I wanted to do something that I'm interested in, and which would help me develop personally – of course, someone with different interests might have chosen differently, too.

I was really satisfied with the latter part of my bachelor, and now in my master, I realize that as my bachelor was very oriented towards scientific writing, a lot of classes based their grades on writing skills. So, I think I've really developed those skills, writing and reading academically – which has really helped me with my present master. However, I feel like I'm a little lacking in practical skills – but I might also be responsible for that. I'm quite bad at quantitative methods and I always kind of managed to sneak away from practising or using those skills. And I'm missing those now.. I think it would've been of great help to have more practice with excel and statistics programs.

I had some classes I really enjoyed – especially the ones where we pre-read texts and then discussed them together in class. For most of the topics we were learning in the sociology side of socioeconomics, that formula was really helpful and engaging.

I think it's important for my understanding of the world to know economics, and I think it's obviously also important for the world. I think having a sociological but also an economical view really contributed well to my real-life understanding of the world. If I'd choose again, my priority would be socioeconomics, then sociology and then economics. I really like the mix, as plain sociology I thought was kind of boring sometimes, but economic sociology for instance was great.



I really appreciate how diverse the bachelor's program was, as it allowed me to do my thesis in a subject, I really was interested in and find an institute that would help me with it. It was a qualitative paper on homelessness in my hometown Bucharest. When I finish studying I want to work in social policy, economic policy, or migration policy in the European Union, which is also the main reason I came to Brussels. At the moment I'm studying political science, and I'm planning to do an advanced master's in European integration – where I'll specialize in economics and migration. Everything connects well to each other, I guess.