

Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) is the preeminent institution in the United States for the study of international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Its faculty is renowned. Its student body is vibrant and diverse. SAIS combines academic rigor, public policy relevance and practical experience in remarkable ways. Washington lies at the heart of so many of these matters. SAIS' location is ideal.

With the support of the DAAD, at SAIS one profits from the opportunity to become both generalist and specialist, a crucial combination in this day and age. I appreciated in particular the opportunity to explore and develop my own professional niche. My focus on Black Sea security became enhanced in myriad ways. As a direct result of my studies, I gained access to U.S. State Department officials and obtained numerous, ongoing invitations to engage with U.S. diplomats and brief key parts of the State Department on European security and Black Sea strategy.

My studies at SAIS – made possible thanks to DAAD - created a bridge to professional placement. I was hired by the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. to lead its Black Sea program. This entails hosting roundtables, commissioning articles and doing my own publishing for a range of public policy outlets and journals. In addition, I've become an adjunct professor, teaching European security at Georgetown University and George Washington University. Finally, I received this summer a grant to write a book over the next two years on Black Sea security. I can honestly say that none of this would have been possible without my studies at SAIS, which proved to be absolutely invaluable.

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