



SCIENCES PO



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Press release

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Sciences Po and LSE launch a double degree in international affairs

One hundred years after the signing of the entente cordiale the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Sciences Po in Paris have joined their intellectual strengths to produce a double degree in international affairs.

Staff and students of Sciences Po and LSE will gather with members of the French and British embassies in Paris on Tuesday 20th January 2004 to formally launch the programme.

The programme focuses on international politics and diplomacy taught by world class faculty of each institution. A feature of the programme will be a special seminar in which students will be taught by practising diplomats. On graduation students, who will be fluent in French and English, will have the Master of Sciences Po and the MSc in the Practice of International Affairs from LSE.

The first class of this programme started at Sciences Po in October 2003 with eleven students selected from a pool of 157 applicants. The students come from France, the UK, Canada and Colombia.

'When it came out that a double degree was being set up between Sciences Po and LSE, leading to a MSc. called "The practice of International Affairs", I felt as if it had been designed for me' said Anne-Sophie de Brancion, one of the first students on the programme. 'The programme exactly corresponded to my plans of doing a Master in IR at the LSE after Sciences Po, but enabled me to "save" a year, by combining the Sciences Po and the LSE Masters. Moreover, the programme's special focus on the practical aspects of international affairs, on negotiation particularly appealed to me'.

Stephanie Durand, who has worked as an intern in a number of international organisations such as an NGO, the French Embassy in Washington and at the UN, feels that the programme corresponds to her experience to date and planned career in an international organisation, *'I think it is a unique opportunity to have two degrees from two well known schools. And the LSE seems to be great for international development. I will try to take the best out of the two systems which, I guess, are very different'.*

For Blandine Pons the attraction of the programme is having the experience of living and studying in two different institutions, *'To my mind LSE is the Anglo-Saxon equivalent of Sciences Po, as demanding and as prestigious. After living the two experiences I hope I will be able to have a less narrow minded and a more challenging perspective on how to conceive the world and my interaction within it'.*

LSE Director, Howard Davies said *'We are delighted to be working with Sciences Po on this programme and hope it will be the start of a wider collaboration in the field of public policy and international affairs. Our two institutions are uniquely placed to work together in these fields and to develop a strong European perspective'*.

'Sciences Po and the LSE are both strongly involved in the international competition that the best universities in the world have to face. Being together will reinforce our commitment to the creation of a top European network of best ranked universities' said Richard Descoings, Director of Sciences Po.

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The London School of Economics and Political Science is the world's leading social sciences institution for teaching and research. Based in the heart of London, LSE has more than 8,000 full and part-time students from more than 150 countries world-wide. Around half of the students are undergraduates, the other half postgraduates and researchers, studying in 19 departments and around 30 research centres or institutes. LSE alumni and former staff include 13 Nobel prize winners, 29 past or present Heads of State, and around 60 current UK MPs or members of the House of Lords.

Sciences Po offers several curricula, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral programs. In addition to its regular student body of 6,000, each year 6,200 public and private sector executives and managers enroll in continuing education courses at Sciences Po. Sciences Po is one of the leading institutions for social science research in France, with a wealth of scholars in political science, sociology, economics and history. Affiliated to it are 8 research centers, 173 research and faculty members, a Doctoral School with 600 doctoral students. With 900,000 volumes including 620,000 books, 4,500 newspapers, reviews and periodicals, a wide variety of digital resources, Sciences Po has the richest humanities and social science library in continental Europe. The *Presses de Sciences Po* with six academic journals, a catalogue of 950 titles (30 new titles per year) contribute to disseminating scholarship in French humanities and social sciences on both the national and international levels.

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