

Study Visit

Institution:	Joint program component
Year:	Year 1
Course type:	Core program component - practical component
Assessment:	100% assignments (paper of 3000 words)
ECTS:	3

Brief description (including learning outcomes):

The study visit is a mandatory component of the first year of Mundus MAPP. It is designed to expose Mundus MAPP students to the world of policy practice. It takes place in April/May in the first academic year, and it is organized by ISS for students in all tracks, with the participation of Erasmus Mundus visiting scholars (if a scholar with a relevant profile is in residence).

The study visit consists of three days of meetings with officials from a range of organizations from the public, private and non-profit sectors such as international organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations, government agencies, think tanks and policy centers. During each meeting, a representative of the host organization will deliver a short presentation about their activities, followed by an informal exchange when students will be able (and expected) to comment and ask relevant questions.

The geographical location of study visits will vary from year to year, but will involve a trip to a major European city that is home to many relevant host organizations. Costs of travel and accommodation are borne by Mundus MAPP students – the consortium is unable to provide financial assistance. Several weeks prior to the visit ISS will send travel and accommodation information to all students in their first year, and shortly before the visit a range of materials that will allow participants to familiarize themselves with the organizations to be visited.

Learning objectives

- To combine and apply the knowledge obtained in previous work and during the study undertaken at the consortium institutions
- Obtain insights into the mission and policy of the organizations visited
- Learn to write concise reports to specific 'clients' with recommendations.

Assessment

The paper will identify challenges a chosen visited organization faces, assess its operation, and provide recommendations for changes the organization should implement. Students are advised to think in advance about the topic of the paper so that they can use the occasion of the visit itself to gather relevant information. The paper is to be submitted within two weeks after the end of the spring study visit.

The paper is graded by faculty from the four consortium institutions using the ISS grading scheme (which, in the case of CEU track students, is converted to CEU grades)