Study Visit

Institution: Joint program component

Course instructor: Karim Knio

Year: Year 1

Course type: Core program component - a practical component

Assessment: 100% assignment (paper of 1,500-2,000 words)

ECTS: 2

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.

The study visit consists of three days of meetings with officials from a range of organizations from 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.

As part of the study visit, students will be assigned in mixed ISS-CEU groups and expected to provide informal briefings prior to visiting each organization (presenter group), and debriefing (rapporteur group) at the end of each day.

Learning objectives:

- Combining and applying the knowledge obtained in previous work and during the study undertaken at the consortium institutions;
- Obtaining insights into the mission and policy of the organization visited;
- Learning to write concise reports with recommendations for specific clients.

Assessment: The paper will identify challenges the 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 on a pass/fail basis by faculty from the four consortium institutions following the Mundus MAPP (ECTS) grading scale. Reassessment is possible following ISS regulations.