

Leandro Gabriel Montes Ruiz: Statement of Purpose.

The study of the State has consistently been at the core of my academic interests and explorations. Definitions of the State tend to be debatable, but most charge this institution with the delivery of security, either as its sole *raison d' être*, or as a public good whose effective realization allows for the delivery of more comprehensive ones. Defining the kind of security provided by the State at these times of globalization is by no means a simple task, as responsibilities as disparate as fighting-drug trafficking organizations; combatting cyberwarfare and terrorism; addressing environmental challenges, and securing compliance with the regulations of trade and finance are often categorized under this umbrella term. Today some question the preeminence of the State as the principal actor in the conduct of International Relations, referencing its inability to perform these tasks on its own and arguing that this institution is on the way to being superseded by actors in civil-society, the private sector, or supranational institutions. Others, however, expect it to retain its prerogatives while undergoing some transformations. As a student hoping to pursue doctoral studies in Political Science, I regard shedding light on these debates as an imperative from a perspective that ties the study of the conduct of IR to its necessary political dimension through interdisciplinary lenses. This IHEID's Master in International Relations/Political Science is unique in allowing me to do this while harmonizing my previous academic and professional experiences with this goal.

As an undergraduate student, most of the courses that I took part in touched upon the themes covered by this program, and I produced several pieces of research that I am convinced provide me with a robust preparation for it. The most significant was my Senior Essay, a sixty-page exploration examining the foreign policies of revolutionary Cuba and Iran, which sought to unveil trends that account for a "revolutionary tradition" of International Relation as described in the writings of Martin Wight and Hedley Bull; this was in turn contrasted with Stephen Walt's

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works on the same subject. I regard the constant exchange between contemporary case-studies and the seminal works in the discipline as fundamental, and I was pleased to see Elisabeth Prügl's class on the *Theories and Theorists in International Relations* as one of the core courses of this program precisely for that reason.

My inclination for the subfields of International Governance and Comparative Politics has motivated me to enquire into the work of faculty members at the IHEID. Thomas Biersteker and Stephanie Hofmann are notable examples of this: Professor Biersteker has conducted research on "the dialectic of world orders"; a theme closely related to my Senior Essay, an exploration that I aspire to revisit. Professor Hofmann's research on the role of ideologies in shaping states' participation in the creation of international organizations has also captured my attention, as I consider writing a thesis examining the failure of South American states to build a robust and long-lasting international organization that brings their security interests together.

Additionally, I have taken part in some professional and volunteering experiences related to the themes comprised by this Master in International Relations/Political Science: My participation in Strasbourg as a Council of Europe intern conducting research on trans-European policies against drug-trafficking was an incredibly illuminating one, as I was able to witness first-hand how states insist on the need of increased international cooperation and a change in paradigm to face these challenges, and how no agreement can be reached on what to replace the current paradigms with. An earlier experience that I fondly remember is my participation in 2011 as a facilitator at Initiative for Peace; a conference that brought Timorese youths together to discuss the challenges of state building in this country.

I regard the IHEID'S diversity in its top-notch faculty and student body as its greatest asset when it comes to delivering an education that can prepare me for the international career in scholarly research that I aspire to. I left Uruguay to complete my high-school studies in Singapore aiming to get started on this journey, which I would later continue in the US. Joining

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the IHEID and this program would be the best opportunity available to build upon my international experiences, as this would allow me to capitalize on Geneva as a place that allows for a constant immersion in the discipline and to contribute to my peers at the Institute. Through the excellence of its small student body and faculty, this institution will help me become the scholar that I aim to be by fostering my sense of enquiry and challenging my current perspectives. I am determined to help others achieve this by bringing my own share of diversity and valuable experiences into the IHEID, should I have the honor to join this Master in International Relations/Political Science this fall.

## **Leandro Gabriel Montes Ruiz**

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### *Education.*

**United World College of South East Asia.** (Singapore)

Bilingual –English and Spanish – International Baccalaureate Diploma.

**The Colorado College.** (United States)

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – *magna cum laude*.

Cumulative GPA: 3.902 / 4.0

### *Honors and awards.*

Hochbam Award for Distinction in Political Science.

Dean's list. Member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

### *Competences and Skills.*

Oral and written fluency in English, Spanish, and French.

Intermediate Italian and Portuguese.

Solid computer skills (Windows, Apple) and Office Package.

### *Work Experience.*

#### **Hotel Receptionist at *Posada Rocamar.***

*Rocha, Uruguay. February – May 2011.*

Main responsibilities: Assisting guests with *Check-In and Check-Out* procedures, customer service, ordering items from external providers, keeping statistics on each guest's purchases and completion of a final report on the collected information.

#### **Intern at NGO *Lihuk Panaghiusa. Inc.***

*Cebu, Philippines. June – December 2012*

Main responsibilities: Assisting with the planning of various educational programs; tutoring high school and college students in Spanish and English; designing computer literacy courses for senior beneficiaries of the NGO. Particular tasks included organizing a Human Rights workshop and acting as a liaison with various donors and sponsors as well as reporting to them on the NGO's monthly activities.

#### **ITS Representative at Colorado College.**

*Colorado Springs, U.S. A 2013 - 2017*

Main responsibilities: assisting faculty, students, and staff with connectivity issues and use of specific college devices; hardware repairs; imaging of institutional computers; oversee lab computers and reporting of widespread connectivity issues to the College.

#### **Intern at the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.**

*Strasbourg, France. January – June 2016*

Main responsibilities: Conducting research on Trans-European policy on drug abuse and drug trafficking; writing reports on the activities of the group and the particular policies of the Member-States. Translation works of policy papers from Spanish to English and French for staff member as well as assistance on their individual research projects.

***Other non-paid experiences:*** *Organizer and facilitator of the Initiative for Peace youth conference, East Timor 2011. Co-chair of the discussion group on Latin America "La Junta", 2017. Peer tutor at "Compromiso Educativo Uruguay", 2013.*