

GET YOURSELF CONNECTED

The International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS) generates and promotes opportunities for active commitment of political science students. Students from the University of Zurich and Bern are already actively involved in this international network but it is time more Swiss students learnt of the benefits that come from being an IAPSS member.

IAPSS is a platform for political science students and students from other disciplines interested in political science issues. It provides its members with a constant flow of information on matters current to the field of political science as well as the latest news on opportunities to organise and to take part in national and international projects. The main goal of the Association is to make a global impact in the political science sphere. To achieve this aim, IAPSS is in the process of expanding its international network of political science students to increase the exchange of information and knowledge, aggressively promoting cross-cultural cooperation and learning. In addition, IAPSS encourages research, academic debate and cross-discipline initiatives through its various projects, thus stimulating academic development of students of political science worldwide. IAPSS strives to alleviate the process of integration of political science students into the highly demanding professional world through an elaborate network between students, universities and potential business partners, with the aim of bringing to all mutually beneficial cooperation.

The History of IAPSS

The IAPSS' story began in 1996 over a shared beer in Rome between Dutch and Italian political science students. On the 31st of October 1998 – two years and much hard work later – the International Association for Political Science Students was born and officially registered in Leiden, The Netherlands. In the since IAPSS has since embraced over fifty member associations representing approximately 10,000 students in more than forty countries on all continents. It has evolved from a loose network to an Association with a permanent Secretariat in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where a team of students is works to initiate and coordinate projects on the local, regional and international level. These committed students are elected by the IAPSS General Assembly and come from around the world to live, study and work one year in Ljubljana. Thus, the Association is international, politically independent, non-profit and completely student-run.

Just Do It! Becoming IAPSS Active

IAPSS has various dynamic projects on different levels. A good tool to get an overview of the possibilities of active student's commitment is the 'IAPSS Yellow Pages', to be found online. This information portal contains lists of conferences, seminars and training sessions that IAPSS members can attend, as well as such for summer schools or internships. Such events enable students to meet and exchange with other political science students from all over the world and improves their skills on scientific debating and professional skills. The 'IAPSS Yellow Pages' also contains links of grant making institutions, think tanks and various political science associations of various countries. It is a particularly good resource if you are looking for specific datasets or professional help for your thesis. Yvon Braam, Chairperson of IAPSS, recommends checking them out regularly. "If you do so, you are updated with the latest information about IAPSS and opportunities for students. Of course, you're better off if you also subscribe to the IAPSS newsletter."

The association not only supplies information it also offers many opportunities to become active in different fields. Publish a scientific article in the IAPSS journal, *Politikon*, or write for the monthly magazine, *A Different View*, where students around the world express their opinions about political issues. If you are more interested in sharing your academic and research interests with other people, get involved in IAPSS Working Groups. The Working Groups enables you to exchange knowledge, articles, academic and personal ideas on specific topics or research designs.

If you are looking to improve your organisational and management skills you might also organise a conference, a simulation or a seminar of our own. IAPSS headquarters will assist with all the logistical support they can provide. You can even become a part of one of the statutory bodies of IAPSS including the Executive Committee, the Supervisory Committee or the Disciplinary Committee.

Opportunities Waiting on the Web

Student-run organizations are only remain efficient and dynamic if there are visionary people involved who actively commit themselves and who are ready to develop something new together. The large number of IAPSS-activities and the enthusiasm and professionalism of the participants shows that there are many students all over the world who want to be part of the network and want to contribute to this unique possibility of cross-cultural exchange. For the individual student, it is a chance to deepen personal knowledge on topics of interests, to hear academic opinions not discussed at their home university and to experience intercultural exchange.

In short, IAPSS offers you a great way to build up an international network and provides opportunities you would never have without joining this international community of students. For more information about IAPSS and international opportunities waiting for you, visit www.IAPSS.org or email Stephan.Schatzmann@iapss.org.

Switzerland & Australia Make IAPSS History in 2007

In Spring 2007 more than 150 students from around the world will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of IAPSS with the most ambitious and exciting event in the Association's history. An international team consisting of Stephan Schatzmann (Zurich, Switzerland), Sandra Rubli (Bern, Switzerland) and Dylan Kissane (Adelaide, Australia) will present an 8-day international conference that not only traverses a wide academic agenda but also traverses international borders as it makes its way from Geneva to Lyon.

About the Conference

The theme of the conference is:

Aid, Trade & International Organisations: Working Hard or Hardly Working?

This theme will allow for the conference to consider such issues as human development, human security, human rights, international political economy, the role of international organisations, globalisation, non-governmental organisations, the gap between the Global North and the Global South and conflict resolution.

The conference will draw on the significant international and nongovernmental organisation resources of Geneva. As well as an intense academic program, visits are planned to major international institutions and there will be lectures from experts in key fields. Students will have the opportunity to present papers on the theme of the conference to smaller streamed panels of their peers with the best papers being submitted for review and potential publication in the IAPSS Academic Journal, *Politikon*.

Geneva will also play host to one of the grandest social events in IAPSS history: The 10th Anniversary Gala. Celebrating the success and growth of IAPSS over the past decade, the gala will bring together IAPSS members from around the world for a night of celebrating everything IAPSS.

Leaving Geneva, participants will transfer to Lyon, France for the General Assembly element of the conference. A European crossroad dating back to Roman times, both the history and modernity of the city will reflect this historic 10th anniversary IAPSS conference. Participants will be housed in the region of the city known as Vieux-Lyon and will dine and socialise on some of the oldest *rues de pave* in all France. The farewell party – to be hosted in the nightclub district of Lyon – will see the conference close out with a bang, a wonderful end to what is planned to be a truly magnificent celebration of an international IAPSS.

Applying for the Conference

Applications for the conference will consist of three components. Firstly, all applicants must complete the official application form. Secondly, applicants must provide a digital/electronic passport sized photograph of themselves. Thirdly, applicants must supply a 1500 word essay on the theme of the conference.

The essay is particularly important for the academic component of the conference, as students will be actively involved in presenting and testing their ideas with their peers. These essays and the wider academic program will form the foundation for more extensive papers to be written in groups during the conference. These group papers will go on to be submitted for publication in the IAPSS journal, *Politikon*.

Call for Helpers

The Organising Committee is seeking interested students in Switzerland and France to assist in the organisation and management of the conference. This is a perfect opportunity for students interested in networking with fellow political science students from around the world to not only expand their personal networks but also supplement their organisational and management skills. If you would like to be involved in what will certainly be the biggest student-managed political science event of 2007 contact Stephan.Schatzmann@iapss.org and get more information.

Stephan Schatzmann
Dylan Kissane

Dylan Kissane, 26, is a PhD candidate in the School of International Studies at the University of South Australia. His research focuses on anarchy and chaos in international relations theory, empirical approaches to international political analysis and security issues in the Asia-Pacific. He work has been published in Australia, Europe and South America and he has presented conference papers in Australia and across Europe. He lives in Lyon, France.