

Study Plan Double Degree in International Relations with China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU)

1st year at Luiss – a.y. 2025-2026

During the first year (2025–2026), students will complete courses and activities according to the Luiss study plan of the Master's Degree in International Relations, which will be recognized by the partner university based on the following conversion table jointly agreed upon by Luiss and CFAU.

Courses attended at Luiss	ECTS	Recognition in CFAU study plan	ECTS Credits
Demography and Social Challenges	6	Theories of International Relations (compulsory)	3
Comparative History of Political Systems	6	Comparative Political Analysis (compulsory)	3
International Economics	6	China's Economy and China's Economic Relations with Foreign Countries	3
Comparative Politics	6	SINO US Relations and US Diplomacy	3
Module: Digital Tools and Undertaking Research	2	Policy Research and Report Writing	2
Writing and Reading Academic Text	2		
Writing a Master's Thesis	2		
Research Methods for Social Sciences	6	Valid only for Luiss degree	-
Academic and Professional Communication skills	6	Valid only for Luiss degree	-
Comparative Public Law	6	Valid only for Luiss degree	-
IA Literacy	4	Other Activities	-
International Organization and Human Rights	6	International Law	3
Total	58	Total	17

2nd year at CFAU – a.y. 2026-2027

Study Plan Abroad

Courses attended at CFAU	ECTS	Recognition in Luiss study plan	ECTS Credits
Trilateral Relationship among China, the United States and Russia	2	Core Abroad 1	6
One Elective to choose from a list	2		
General Situation of China	3	Core Abroad 2	6
Diplomacy of Contemporary China	3	Elective Abroad 1	6
Political Theory (Chinese Political Theory)	2	Elective Abroad 2	6
One Elective to choose from a list	2		
Chinese Language	4	Chinese Language	6
Introduction to International Relations or One Elective to choose from a list	3	Core Abroad 3	6
Approaches and Methodologies in Social Science or One Elective to choose from a list	3	Elective Abroad 3 Other Activities	6 4
Thesis	18	Thesis	16
Total	42	Total	62

Important Rules

- This study plan is designed for students taking part in the mentioned Double Degree Program and spending the academic year 2026-27 at CFAU.
- Selected students are required to read and understand the study plan and its rules. These are to be considered binding to the successful completion of the double degree program.
- The list of courses to be taken abroad may be subject to changes should the academic offer at CFAU be amended.
- During the mobility, students will be subject to the rules of the partner university.
- The Chinese language course and exam will be taken during the mobility year, as part of the Double Degree program. The course will be recognized in Luiss as the compulsory second language of the Master's Degree in International Relations.
- At the end of the program, if compliant with both Luiss and CFAU academic requirements, students will obtain both CFAU Master's Degree (shuo-shi-xue-wei) in International Relations (issued by CFAU - China Foreign Affairs University) and the Laurea Magistrale in International Relations (issued by Luiss).

Thesis and Graduation

- Students will complete a joint thesis during their mobility year, under the supervision of two advisors – one from each university.
- Both supervisors must approve the proposal, which must meet the standards of both institutions.
- Each institution will grade the final thesis according to its own standards.
- Students must respect the thesis procedures and deadlines from both institutions.
- Students are reminded that they are required to comply with the Luiss regular procedure regarding the thesis assignment, registration for the degree exam and upload of the thesis. For further information, please check the [following page](#).
- Luiss Students will defend their thesis in CFAU during Summer 2027 (as per CFAU deadlines).
- At Luiss, students must submit and discuss their thesis in one of the following sessions: Autumn session (October/November 2027) or Extraordinary session (March/April 2028), as per Luiss procedures and deadlines. Please note that graduation in the Summer session (June/July 2027) at Luiss will not be possible, as CFAU Transcripts of Records are usually not available in time for Luiss graduation procedures.

Conversion Table

Courses taken at CFAU during the a.y. 2026-27 will be transferred to the Luiss degree according to the following grade conversion table. Please note that the conversion table may be revised and updated should the distribution of grades at the partner university change.

Luiss Guido Carli	CFAU Grades
30 e lode	95-100
30	90-94
29	85-89
28	80-84
27	
26	
25	75-79
24	
23	
22	
21	70-74
20	
19	
18	
< 18 fail	0-69

While every effort will be made to provide students with complete, accurate and timely information, Luiss reserves the right to change, amend, modify, or revoke the aforementioned program. Luiss is not responsible for any cancellation or modification due to events beyond its control. If the program is cancelled or modified for these reasons, Luiss will inform all interested students in a timely manner.

Published in March 2026.