

# Bachelor of Arts (International Honours)

Celebrating ten years of graduations



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# Introduction

The University of St Andrews and William & Mary have collaborated to design, develop and establish a truly global undergraduate degree, which celebrates its tenth graduating cohort in the summer of 2024. The Bachelor of Arts (International Honours) degree combines the best of both historic universities to create this unique international programme. The joint degree allows students to spend two years at each institution for a total of four years, either spending alternate years at each institution (ABAB) or spending first and fourth year at the same institution (ABBA). Students may study one of six degree majors: Classical Studies, Economics, English, Film Studies, History or International Relations. Upon successful completion of the degree, students are awarded the BA (International Honours) degree jointly by both universities.

Students of the programme call themselves WaMStAs and they are part of a very special community which transcends borders and fosters a global outlook, enriching both universities with fresh ideas and perspectives. This guide celebrates the tenth graduation with reflections and profiles from the first ten years of graduates, and from staff at William & Mary and St Andrews who have been integral to the success of the programme.

**Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE**

Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
– University of St Andrews

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“This Joint Degree Programme is outstanding in providing a humanities-based education in a truly international setting. Students reap the benefits of a traditional liberal arts education, learning how to think and argue with creativity and rigour and growing into well-rounded individuals and global citizens. The University of St Andrews is delighted to have partnered with William & Mary to deliver a programme which combines the best of our two great and global institutions for ten years and is committed to continuing to do so.”



**President Professor Katherine A. Rowe**

President – William & Mary

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“Since William & Mary’s founding by royal charter, our vision has been a global one: we bring together great hearts and minds to understand and change the world for the better. We take great pride in the Joint Degree Programme with St Andrews. It is the crown jewel of our many international partnerships, readying students for lives as global citizens and professionals in an increasingly interconnected world.”



### Professor Frank Lorenz Müller

Assistant Vice-Principal (Dean of Learning and Teaching) and Provost, University of St Andrews

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"Studying for a degree not at just one but at two great and ancient seats of learning located in two different countries? This idea immediately made sense to me. I was convinced it would deliver great educational outcomes and offer students an amazing journey. Perhaps my reaction was coloured by my background. In Germany it has always been common for students to complete their studies at more than one university. Moreover, the ancient tradition whereby young artisans criss-cross the country as "journeymen" to hone their skills before becoming masters in their craft is also still very much alive in central Europe.

The Joint Degree Programme, delivered by the University of St Andrews and the William & Mary, draws on the age-old wisdom of these venerable traditions to enable a very special crop of students make a success of the twenty-first century. Our carefully selected cohorts of bright, energetic and confident students are not just provided with rigorous and challenging scholarly training on two beautiful, historical campuses. Moving from continent to continent while navigating different educational traditions, adapting to new circumstances and mastering new skills also equips WaMStAs with unrivalled agility, resilience, flexibility and gumption.

In our globalised world with its ever more rapidly changing challenges, these strengths are more valuable than ever, and the University of St Andrews is delighted that it can work with William & Mary to train that special group of future leaders."



### Suzanne Raitt

Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and Chancellor Professor of English at William & Mary

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"I am thrilled to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our unique joint degree with St. Andrews. Over the past decade, this collaboration has fostered cross-cultural connections and unique learning experiences for our joint students. Students benefit from a curriculum that combines various pedagogical styles, European and American, over the course of two immersive years on each campus. Our students have the privilege of studying in two distinct academic environments on two of the most beautiful campuses in the world. They engage in lively debates, collaborate on research projects, and forge friendships that span continents.

These experiences shape graduates who are not only well-versed in their fields but also possess a global outlook – an invaluable asset in today's world. Whether they pursue careers in diplomacy, business, the arts or academia, the rich experiences of joint degree students empower them to bridge cultures, appreciate diversity, and find common ground.

I remain grateful to the dedicated faculty and administrators at both universities for their commitment to this program. As we celebrate this milestone, I also look to the future and our shared commitment to our students as, together, we equip global citizens who will shape our world for the better."



### Ester Ruskuc

Vice-Principal (Strategy, Policy and Planning), University of St Andrews

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“This programme is a jewel in the crown of our two great global institutions. The tenth anniversary graduation is a celebration of its success through the achievements of the WAMSTA students and the creativity and support from all the colleagues over more than fifteen years. Readiness to consider and engage with challenges of an increasingly unstable and divided world has never been more needed; and a programme which demands pace and adaptability and sits at the confluence of two continents, histories, and educational approaches is an excellent preparation for leaders that this world will need. To have been part of the WAMSTA Team from the start is a great source of pride for me and in addition to personal growth I have also grown the community and the friendships that make working in a university so rewarding.”



### Teresa Longo

Associate Provost for International Affairs & Executive Director of the Reves Center for International Studies at William & Mary

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“As our university-wide friendship with St Andrews continues to flourish, I am delighted to celebrate the 10th graduation of students in the Joint Degree Program. Like St Andrews, William & Mary has a strong record of convening great hearts and minds from across the world. It is an honor to do this work together.

Students are rightly at the center of this initiative. I also find it exciting that through the Joint Degree Program, people at both universities have built new structures and opportunities. Behind the scenes at William & Mary, staff from the Arts & Sciences Deans Office, Institutional Accreditation, Undergraduate Admissions, the University Registrar, Student Affairs and the Reves Center for International Studies have embraced international work through the JDP.

At the Reves Center, we are especially proud that our bond with St Andrews also includes a flourishing summer study abroad program, an exchange program and an opportunity for students to make their first trip abroad.

Just as I am thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments leading to this celebratory year, I also look forward to the years of friendship still to come, faculty research still to be developed, and the global awareness that will shape our students' future.”



### Lisa Jones

Associate Dean (Curriculum) –  
Arts & Divinity and Academic Director  
for BA (International Honours),  
University of St Andrews

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“This unique international joint degree programme presents students with opportunities and challenges that go beyond the usual degree experience. Our students negotiate their studies across two great institutions, two countries, two continents; as a result, they develop into resilient, experienced, global citizens as well as learned graduates. I am always so impressed by the level of accomplishment and the skillset possessed by our graduating students as they launch themselves into the world beyond university, leaving the programme with a clear confidence in their abilities, an international outlook, and a strong network of connections on both sides of the Atlantic.”



### Harmony Dalglish

Academic Director of the St Andrews  
Joint Degree Programme and  
Assistant Professor of Biology at  
William & Mary

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“The Joint Degree Programme is a truly international programme that fully integrates students into two universities. Our students study topics with rigor and depth and pursue the liberal arts to bring an interdisciplinary perspective to their thinking and analysis. JDP students successfully navigate different academic and human cultures, which cultivates a high level of resilience, maturity and confidence that employers and graduate schools recognize and value. Graduates leave the program with a deep appreciation of how much they’ve grown during their unique educational experience and what they might contribute to their communities, their professions and the world.”



### Samantha Lister

Director of the Global Office,  
University of St Andrews

“The BA (International Honours) is a special collaboration and a unique programme, and I am delighted to be part of the celebrations for its 10th Graduation Anniversary. Over the last 10 years, we have graduated over 200 students, who have not only studied with both St Andrews and William & Mary, but who have created and made the WaMStA experience what it is today, and ensured that each new generation of WaMStAs are supported by their peers as well as the universities. It has been a real pleasure to work with all of our students, and to see them become even more capable, confident, independent, resilient and globally-minded than when they started their journey with us. I wish all of our WaMStA alumni all the very best in their next adventures, and hope they will keep in touch with us.”



### Joint programme crest

This Coat of Arms was created out of a desire for the Joint Programme to be represented in each University's unique heraldry and symbols, but also as a symbol which unites shared experiences. Designed by the Ormond Pursuivant and by Andrew Hashim and Abigail Gomulkiewicz, two students from the first cohort of the Joint Degree Programme, the Coat of Arms is used by both students and alumni in matters concerning the Programme and their experience of it. The Ormond wrote the petition to The Lord Lyon King of Arms for a Grant of Arms to be used for and in conjunction with the Joint Programme. The Lord Lyon granted the request.

### Emma O'Horo

WaMStA Student President,  
St Andrews side, 2024-2025

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"The BAIH has been an invaluable experience to all students who go through the programme. The programme demands constant adaptability. The split between two distinct intellectual and natural cultures rewardingly allows students to experience the best of both. For me, the programme especially taught intentionality with relationships. Inexhaustive list of relationships include friends, professors, societies, and administrations. The active connection to both schools and people is difficult, however a pertinent skill to hold post-graduation and life in general. Frequent facetimes with friends at both schools, email exchanges with professors, and events like homecoming or graduation that bring everyone together are the little experiences that support this difficult programme. Every person in this programme is unique but brought together by these shared experiences. Because of this programme, students benefit from intentional relationship building skills that I never expected when applying. The BAIH programme demands academic, cultural, and interpersonal growth that is unmatched by any other degree programme."



### Charli Foulds

WaMStA Student President,  
William & Mary side, 2023-2024

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"The Joint Degree Program has challenged me to grow in more ways than I could have expected but has given me the most amazing college experience! Both St. Andrews and William & Mary have provided fantastic opportunities to grow and learn, whilst offering a unique environment. Moving to the US during college has allowed me to broaden my horizons exponentially, as well as meet the kindest people, true friends for life, who I would have never crossed paths with otherwise. St. Andrews was always my dream university and being able to experience the fun variety of traditions over in Scotland, whilst being introduced to entirely new ones over in Williamsburg has been an amazing adventure! I have loved the community that we've created throughout the JDP over the four years; it was briefly a struggle, having started during Covid, but now in my senior year I have had the opportunity to meet amazing members of the JDP in both countries over the years! Serving as President in my final year has been incredibly fulfilling in terms of continuing to build the JDP community; I hope that the cohorts of years to come will be able to grow closer and continue to create a network of resilient, adventurous, and kind individuals!"





# Class of 2015



## Anne Tepper

Washington DC, USA, History  
(Language Requirement: German)



“Above and beyond what I learned in our top-notch classes, my most valuable takeaway from my time in the Joint Degree Programme was the ability to adapt. As a member of the first cohort, and one of eight students starting at St. Andrew’s – for me, after growing up in the States – the Programme required a lot of quick adaptation: different banking, different academic structure, different healthcare, and a different side of the road, just to start!

After a year at St. Andrew’s, it was time to head back to the US to the College of William & Mary. We went from being legal drinking age, to not! We left behind new friends, brought some back with us, and made some new ones, so we had to learn to maintain friendships across continents. Indeed, there were challenges, like the grading rubric being adjusted to better align the two institutions grading curves. That said, the experience was transforming.

While my degree track was History, the requirement to take classes outside our discipline would come in handy after graduation. I was able to parlay a course in financial accounting into professional accounting roles. While that wasn’t the original plan for using my degree, I was able to take my passion for history and what I learned about adaptation to later secure a role in the Finance Department of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. My work now contributes to keeping historic sites throughout the U.S. up and running through responsible financial management, including oversight of grant funding for a diverse array of preservation projects.

Not every education-to-career path is linear, and the Joint Degree Programme prepares you not just through your course of study, but through the structure of the program and how it teaches you to deal with change.”

# Class of 2016



## Elizabeth Courtney

Westport, CT, USA, International Relations

“After graduating from the Joint Degree Programme, Elizabeth moved to Washington, DC where she worked as a Public Affairs Analyst at financial services firm, Nomura. In 2019, she returned to school to pursue a Masters Degree in International Economics and Conflict Management at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies. She now serves as Humanitarian Advocacy Advisor for CARE USA, where she leads the organization’s policy and advocacy response to the global hunger crisis and provides direct support to humanitarian emergencies in Haiti, Colombia and Central America. Elizabeth lives in New York City with her husband, Nick, and her cat, Lupa.”



### Meredith Lerner

Maryland, USA, International Relations

Meredith Lerner graduated from the BA (International Honours) joint programme in 2016, where she studied International Relations. While a student, Meredith was a Collaborations & Study Abroad intern at St Andrews and a peer advisor at William & Mary. After graduation, Meredith worked for nearly two years as a paralegal at a public interest law firm in Washington. She is now a Research Associate at the US government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington ("CREW"). Meredith's primary focus areas at CREW are executive branch ethics and public financial disclosure reporting.

At CREW, she has written blog posts on those topics and worked on complaints before US government agencies. She also works with CREW's research team to track and analyze presidential conflicts of interest."



### Caroline Gaynard

France, International Relations

"The Joint Degree Programme is a unique experience which has had a lasting impact on my career trajectory. The combined reputations of two high-calibre schools, along with the skillset that I have developed through such a programme, were looked upon very favourably by graduate schools. After obtaining my BA in International Relations I was hence able to attend the University of Cambridge, from whom I now hold an MPhil in Development Studies. Afterwards, I was hired by a humanitarian NGO as the Emergency Desk's Assistant, which was a position requiring solid organizational skills, the ability to take initiative and think on my feet. These are qualities which I have developed through the programme and which have helped me demonstrate to employers that I had the soft skills necessary to make a valuable contribution to their work. After being an assistant, I applied for a field position and was deployed as Deputy Financial and Administrative Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Additionally, the opportunities which both universities offer have also been crucial to helping further my career. For instance, at St Andrews I joined the Race2 charity committee which helped me gain fundraising and event planning experience, worked with the Study Abroad office on implementing a buddy scheme, and participated in the Ambassador Programme. Moreover, at William & Mary I took advantage of the Project on Peace and Security to intern with the International Development Law Organization, volunteered at the local retirement community and participated in a social entrepreneurship seminar. The BA (International Honours) degree is full of opportunities to gain valuable job skills and experience prior to leaving university.

I graduated from the BA (International Honours) programme in 2016 and chose to take the ABAB route. I found it very helpful to maintain continuity in terms of classes, projects, extracurricular activities and friends. The fact that I was able to return continually after one year meant that the transitions between the schools were much smoother. It was the equivalent of spending a year studying abroad."



# Class of 2017



## Matthew Ribar

Greensboro, NC, USA,  
International Relations

“When I left the joint degree program, I spent two years working in Washington, DC as an impact evaluator at Mathematica Policy Research. I supported evaluations as far afield as Benin, Cabo Verde, Liberia, and Cabo Verde. In 2019 I started my Ph.D. in political science at Stanford University. My dissertation work studies the political economy of land formalization in West Africa, but I’ve kept one foot in the policy sphere by collaborating with international NGOs like Mercy Corps.

The joint degree program helped me gain experience navigating the complex international environments in which I work. My academic career also means that the deep specialization in International Relations I gained in the joint degree program is useful almost every day.”



## Blair Toedte

Knoxville, TN, USA, International Relations

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“After graduating from the Joint Degree Program with a BA in International Relations, I moved to Miami to pursue a career in journalism with BBC Monitoring. Beginning as a researcher, I was soon hired as a digital journalist with a focus on Central America and Mexico, reporting on all things politics, security, the economy, and even the World Cup. Also while with the BBC, I explored the world of sports reporting, liaising with colleagues in London to report on the Super Bowl, the World Baseball Classic, and even Lionel Messi’s arrival in Miami. After more than six years with the BBC, I took a job as a press specialist with USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance in November.

Since graduating in 2017, I can say that one of the most useful skills I gained through the JDP was adaptability. Throughout my time with the BBC and USAID, I have experienced extreme changes, learning to work through a pandemic, physical moves, and leadership changes. Being adaptable has made all these changes more bearable, and I know that it would have been much more difficult had it not been for lessons learned during the JDP.”



## Marcel Plichta

Inverness, UK, International Relations

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“Marcel graduated the JDP in 2017 with a degree in International Relations. During the JDP he interned for the FBI, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and U.S. Department of State in Mexico City, Mexico. After the JDP, Marcel pursued a Master’s Degree at the University of Glasgow and worked at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

After returning to the United States, Marcel worked as an Intelligence Analyst for several U.S. government contractors and the U.S. Department of Defense for several years. Marcel then returned to St Andrews to pursue a PhD in International Relations, which he is currently doing. While studying, he has published articles on US Africa Policy and the use of drones for the Atlantic Council, Foreign Policy, The Telegraph, and the Spectator. He now lives in the Highlands while he pursues his degree and works in the private sector.”

# Class of 2018

## Emily Asinger

Charlotte, NC, USA, International Relations

“Hi, I’m Emily Asinger, JDP 18’, with a degree in International Relations. I have worked for The Educe Group, a software consulting firm out of Bethesda, MD, since graduation. I have found that the communication, analysis, and project management skills that I built through my degree have been extremely useful in my career and have helped me excel in the firm. I recently moved to Charlottesville, VA with my boyfriend, who is pursuing his MBA.

We actually met at the reception for the JDP on Admitted Students Day at William & Mary! I’m enjoying living back in a small college town after having lived in DC for the past 5 years. This past October, I celebrated my 5-year reunion at William & Mary with some of my friends from the Programme, Ashley Brenton and Kameryn Point. I plan on visiting St. Andrews this summer for the first time since graduating back in 2018, and I am so excited to return! I already have plans to visit the Whey Pat, The Cottage Kitchen, and Jannettas.”



### Liam Arne

Manassas, Virginia, USA,  
International Relations

“My life has been a whirlwind since graduating from the Joint Degree Programme in 2018! In Fall 2017, I interviewed successfully with Booz Allen Hamilton, and the biggest topic of discussion was the depth and breadth of skills I’d developed in an International Honours program. However, I had already applied to a Fulbright grant teaching English in Taiwan. When I mentioned that application in my interview, Booz Allen suggested that I delay my start date if I got this Department of State-funded scholarship – and it all worked out!



After graduation, I started my yearlong Fulbright cultural exchange grant in Taiwan. I proceeded into a fantastic year connecting with 800+ students at Li Ren Elementary School in Taichung, Taiwan. In between my 13 classes a week, I studied Mandarin, conducted community service, and visited all 22 counties of Taiwan.

As I departed Taiwan, I returned to my hometown to take care of my mother while starting my career at Booz Allen. I began Federal partnering strategy, strategic communications, and regional coordination for the National Language Service Corps (NLSC). This work was incredibly rewarding. I helped to enable virtual interpretation for COVID testing in 17 languages, interpretation and cultural support for unaccompanied minors at the southern border and Afghan refugees, and translation of a low-density Gambian language for a war crimes trial.

Since starting at Booz Allen, I have had many exceptional opportunities to grow as a professional and an individual. I contributed to a significant literature review detailing future international affairs challenges. I moved onto the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF) Diversity & Inclusion education and training team in 2022 and then started as a strategic communicator for SAF International Affairs. I employ the writing and international relations skills fostered in my undergraduate degree on a daily basis. I also served as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Network co-chair to employ my Arabic language and cultural studies to foster a community in celebration of the MENA region.”

### Georgie Farrington

High Wycombe, England, History

“Having graduated last summer, I am doing my Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) to train to be a secondary school history teacher. I have been on placements at some really diverse schools in London and really enjoying the course! I would be happy to talk to any current JDP students who think they might want to teach in the UK.

Being a part of the JDP has definitely helped me find my feet with teaching. My ability to adapt to new situations in front of me is essential in the classroom and something I learned through the programme. The lifelong friends that I made also provide a constant support when I’m having a bad day or a particular troublesome class. Lastly the depth of historical knowledge that I have gained as part of the breadth requirements of the programme has meant that I can bring in new and exciting material into my classroom to support what my students are learning.”



### Meher Babbar

New York, USA, History

“After graduating from the JDP, I began law school at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. I graduated from law school in 2021 and then moved to New York City to work at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, a white shoe law firm. I worked as a litigation associate at Cravath for two years before beginning my current job – clerking for a federal judge on United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. I remember my years in the JPD quite fondly and am grateful for the invaluable perspective I gained by studying in two different countries and at two venerable institutions. My time in the JDP was also great for preparing me to become an international traveler – since graduating I’ve traveled to the south of France and Turkey and am hoping to add Malaysia and Indonesia to that list this year!”



### Campbell Alexander

Dunblane, Scotland, Economics

“I loved my time at St Andrews and William & Mary, and I am still very good friends with people I met as a result of the programme. The perfect mix of campuses allowed me to explore different cultures, classes, and traditions, and the programme gave me freedom to study subjects that I wouldn’t be able to do if I did a conventional degree, as well as allowing me to experience living in two amazing parts of the world. Since completing the Joint Degree Programme I’ve been working in a finance role at Lloyds Banking Group, having joined their Graduate scheme out of university. During this time, I completed my Chartered Accountancy qualification and I now live and work in Edinburgh.

Since graduating I have enjoyed travelling and like to stay active, participating regularly in many sports including golf, skiing and running. I have completed 3 marathons to date, with the most recent in Los Angeles towards the start of this year. I hope to continue this pursuit for the next few years. I return to St Andrews regularly to spend time with friends or to play golf and it always brings back great memories I look forward to visiting Williamsburg next time I’m over on the east coast and maybe grab a coffee at Aromas or pop down to Lake Matoaka.”





# Class of 2019



## Conor Scanlon

New York, USA, International Relations

“When I look back upon my time in the JDP, what stands out to me are the two very different experiences I had at each school and how this impacted me for the years to come post-graduation.

At St Andrews, I think about the unique and worldly experiences I was able to take in that helped me grow as an individual. Whether it was going on solo travel adventures, embarking on a charity hitchhike across Europe, or taking on an internship with the State Department, I felt that St Andrews gave me the opportunity to passionately dive deep into what I wanted to learn and experience. At William & Mary, I think about the community feel at the school and my own social growth within that environment. From my participation in pickup and club soccer, symphony orchestra, and working at the GRI house on Scotland Street, I cultivated friendships and relationships that I still cherish and maintain. I feel that W&M welcomed me with open arms and allowed me to grow as a part of the greater community on campus.

Ultimately, I think about my undergrad experience in the JDP as something that truly transformed me from a wide-eyed 18-year-old moving into Sallies, into a more confident, capable and resilient graduate four years later. Had I made the decision to pursue a more “traditional” undergrad experience (i.e. one university for four years, with perhaps a study abroad semester), I may have had snippets of this overall experience, but I know that I wouldn’t have grown into the same person that I am today. I truly cherish the JDP for the opportunities it gave me, and for the world it exposed me to.

Upon graduating from the JDP in 2019, I’ve spent the past five years in the tech consulting space, working with both public and private sector clients. Currently, I live in the Bay Area and work for a boutique consulting firm focusing on Political Risk and Security-based consulting for tech companies. Outside of work, I engage with many of the same hobbies I developed in the JDP; I organize pickup soccer games and utilize my musical background as a creative outlet in my spare time. And of course, I still keep in touch and reminisce with the friends I made during my time in the JDP.”

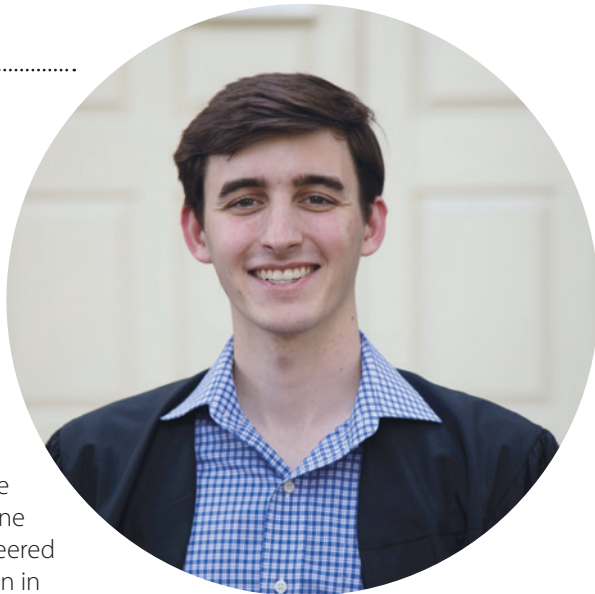


## Stephen Ryan

Newark, Delaware, USA, English

“As an English major in the Joint Degree Programme, I was thrilled to be able to follow my passions, both academically and extra-curricularly, at both St. Andrews and William & Mary in ways that complemented one another. For example, I was a clarinetist in the University of St. Andrews Wind Band and a committee member on the Born to Dance Marathon in support of Save the Children while in Scotland, and I played saxophone in the W&M Pep Band and volunteered with TribeTHON, a dance marathon in support of the Children’s Miracle Network, in Williamsburg. That I could take advantage of these opportunities while receiving a world-class, international education captures the magic of the JDP. I’m forever grateful for the friends, memories, skills, and knowledge that I acquired at both schools, and I’m thrilled that the Programme is going strong with you, our 10th graduating class!

After my graduation, I attended the Columbia Publishing Course at the University of Oxford. Though Oxford is second to St. Andrews of course, this intensive program on all things book publishing provided a strong foundation for my current career at Penguin Random House in New York City. At Penguin, I work with the Bookmaking teams that turn written stories into the physical books (and eBooks!) you know and love. In addition, I work with hundreds of international publishers, collaborating to make sure they have the materials they need to bring our books to readers all over the world, in English and in translation. The JDP gave me the international experience and adaptability to manage these processes at Penguin, and I couldn’t be more grateful for my time at both St. Andrews and W&M. Congratulations on your graduation, Class of 2024!”



## Caroline Stepniak

Virginia, USA, English

“During my time in the programme from 2015 – 2019 studying history, I was heavily involved in community service, Classical studies, archaeology, and the WaMStA Board. I participated in fundraisers and service outings in Circle K International (William & Mary) and St Andrews Student Volunteer Service (St Andrews), including dog walking and cleaning at the local animal shelter in Williamsburg, Heritage Humane Society. In addition, I participated in the Classics Club at William & Mary, leading as President (Consul) and founding the Classics Honor Society my senior year. I also enjoyed learning archaeology while at St Andrews, interning at my professor’s archaeology lab, and going out in the field for digs. Learning this skill opened my eyes to Scotland’s beautiful landscape and the preciousness of historical artifacts. Lastly, I invested back into the Joint Degree Programme, taking up a position on the the WaMStA Board three of my four years in positions ranging from Peer Advisor for History, Communications Representative, and Vice President. Although I was poised to move into an archival career upon graduation, due to personal health reasons, I underwent a few back operations and quickly changed my path to healthcare. My experience in the Joint Degree Programme adapting to changing situations, cultural differences, and thinking quickly on my feet allowed me to transition easily to healthcare.

After graduation, I moved to New York City and worked at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center 2019-2023, as a Clinic Coordinator managing a Urologist’s clinic and prostate oncologist’s clinic. This position was incredibly rewarding throughout COVID-19. Whilst working full-time, I completed a Masters in Health Management at Columbia University. Although I thoroughly enjoyed my friendships and the apartment I had settled into in the Upper West Side, I moved to England this past July 2023 to join my English boyfriend of 6 years (met at St Andrews). I now live in Cornwall working remotely at the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as an Integrated Care System Assessment Planning Coordinator responsible for the logistic coordination of the CQC’s assessments of the new National Health System’s structure. My time at St Andrews has allowed me to transition smoothly to living in the UK with minimal cultural challenges and feel more confident living abroad.”



**Stephen Ryan**

Newark, Delaware, USA, English

“I am 100% more worldly, well-traveled, and energetic about my academic and personal success. My time as a student of both universities is a hard earned badge I will wear with pride for the rest of my life. I cannot begin to truly explain how grateful I am for this opportunity; the friends I’ve made, the numerous countries I’ve been to, and the millions of cups of tea I’ve drank on both continents, all have made me into the woman I am today.”



# Class of 2020

## Lincoln Hartnett

Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA,  
Economics

"I graduated from the Joint Degree Programme in 2020 with my degree in Economics. Currently I live in Los Angeles where I spend my time helping build a space station, going out to restaurants, and watching movies with fellow '20 JDP grad Truman Ruberti. I work for a company called Vast as an IT Infrastructure Engineer. Vast is trying to build the world's first commercial space station. I support that mission by building the cloud infrastructure we use for mission control systems, manufacturing design, simulation software, and other corporate IT software. Before Vast, my first job after graduation was at a healthcare software company called Epic based in Madison, Wisconsin. Epic is the software that hospitals and doctors' offices across the United States and parts of the UK use for supporting patient care, tracking data, and generating revenue. I worked through a few different roles at Epic, from IT systems support, technical account management, and cloud infrastructure engineering. My experience with data science and mathematics that I picked up during the programme helped me get a start in IT. I'm a message away if anyone in the JDP ever wants to talk about jobs in IT or Aerospace, Los Angeles, or their favorite college bars (Aikman's for St Andrews and Paul's for W&M)."



## Zhuhan Jin

Beijing, China, Economics

"My name is Zhuhan Jin, from Beijing, China, and I am one of the proud alumni of JDP '20, graduating with a BA(Hons) in Economics. My time in the JDP gave me the courage to explore the world, importantly, with the respect and understanding from diverse perspectives (thanks to general requirements from WM side). This invaluable experience broadened my worldview and prepared me for life beyond the programme.

After completing the JDP, I pursued an MPhil in Economics at the University of Oxford. During this period, my study was particularly enriched by the interdisciplinary approach, where I explored the integration of techniques and modeling frameworks from various subjects into Economics. This experience was a natural extension of the JDP's interdisciplinary spirit, which had already encouraged me to consider a wide array of perspectives, ultimately deepening my appreciation for the importance of cross-disciplinary studies.

Currently, I am a PhD candidate at the National University of Singapore and Future Cities Lab at Singapore ETH center, honored with a President's Graduate Fellowship. My research focuses on the social network's effect on individual daily leisure activity scheduling and its impact on travel mobility patterns, continuing my journey of exploration in the academic world."



### Cassandra Cooper

Tampa, FL, USA, International Relations;  
Minor: Psychology

“Cassandra is a Brazilian-American from Tampa, Florida who speaks both Portuguese and Spanish. She earned her BA(IH) in International Relations with a minor in psychology through the William & Mary–St. Andrews Joint Degree Programme.

Cassandra is a current 3L in her last semester at the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. where she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the American University International Law Review and Co-Director of the International Refugee Assistance Project. Cassandra has participated in the Lawyering Peace Program in conjunction with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and an International Criminal Law Practicum working with the War Crimes Research Office. She has interned at the Department of Justice within the Criminal Division in both the Office of International Affairs and Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section. These experiences in combination with her undergraduate studies have inspired her to pursue a career in litigation relating to public international law.

After graduating from law school, she will be moving to New York City to start her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. In her free time, you can find her exploring the outdoors with her dog, Mocha, roller-skating, or catching up with friends at a local coffee shop.”



### Alyssa Skvarla

Anaheim, California, USA, English

“Almost four years post-grad, yet it remains all too easy for me to recall vivid memories from my time in the Joint Degree Programme; move-in day at St Andrews, arguing with my dad in the student store about how I didn’t need the quintessential red gown because of its cost but him rightfully emphasizing the importance of this experience and these years; experiencing my first birthday snow in Williamsburg. The coffee shops tried and true, the pastries consumed, the cities and countries visited—all of these places and experiences wouldn’t have been accessible to me without the JDP.

Some of my dearest friends came out of the programme, as well as many precious memories I know I will keep for years to come. (Also the red gown, which I’ll keep for the years to come, too).

Since graduating in 2020, I have been with the same ed-tech company in a variety of different roles, adapting to meet product needs and sales demand, which I’ve excelled in since the JDP enforces flexibility and adaptability by its unique format. I now work as Digital Project Manager, and in this role, I get to see the textbooks and courseware I help work on published and utilized by universities at home and abroad. While I am back in the US after my time away in Scotland, I still have the chance to work with international teams, which I greatly enjoy.

Due to graduating in the peak of the COVID pandemic, I started work remotely and continue to do so. With this flexibility, I keep myself based in San Francisco where I enjoy another sort of microclimate, reminiscent of St. Andrews. However, with the people I connected with during my JDP years, I can hop to new cities to see old friends. I am grateful for the programme and wouldn’t have picked it any differently with the hindsight of these past years.”



# Class of 2021

**Madelyn (Maddie) Sisson**  
Alexandria, VA, USA, History

“Maddie Sisson graduated from the Joint Degree Program with a degree in History in 2021 and a certificate in Public History from the National Institute of American History and Democracy. She worked as a Group Educator at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation immediately after graduation, and then went on to get her Master’s Degree in Museum Education from George Washington University, which she obtained in July of 2023. She now lives in Alexandria, Virginia and works as the Lead Specialist for Family Learning at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, where she started full time in August of 2023.”



**John Mann**  
Memphis, Tennessee, USA, Economics

“Embarking on the joint-degree programme with the University of St Andrews and the College of William & Mary was a unique and transformative journey that had a profound impact on my personal and professional development. Through the joint-degree programme, I felt deeply ingrained in the culture and traditions of each institution and was able to form lifelong friendships with peers from around the world. I grew to appreciate the distinct yet complementary educational approaches of each school – the ‘depth’ of St Andrew’s degree-focused instruction and the ‘breadth’ of William & Mary’s liberal arts offerings. Beyond academics, I was highly involved in both schools’ extracurricular organizations, rowing on William & Mary’s crew team, hosting office hours as an elected degree representative of JDP, giving tours of the University of St Andrews as a Student Ambassador, and writing for the St Andrews Economist. Navigating the joint-degree program well-prepared me for challenges and opportunities post-graduation. After the joint-degree programme, I received a Master’s of Science in Finance from Vanderbilt University, and I currently work for a private equity firm as member of their investment team.”



# Class of 2022

## Catie Brown

Alexandria, VA, USA, International Relations

“After finishing my studies in International Relations through the Programme, I began my career in Washington, D.C. at the Brookings Institution where I currently serve as the Development Coordinator for Foreign Policy. I attribute my ability to move swiftly to my next adventure to both William & Mary and St Andrews. At St Andrews, I was able to dive into the depth of my studies and examine the world of international relations from several different angles. In addition, at William & Mary, I was able to open my field to its adjacent studies, which included nonprofit management courses. Through the Programme, I combined the two experiences to join a nonprofit where I specialize in international relations research. Each day I spend after graduation, I continue to see how fortunate I was to participate in such a unique program. I am more well-rounded than I could have imagined and maintain close personal and professional relationships across the globe. I hope to move back to the United Kingdom one day, and I take the opportunity to travel to Europe as often as I can.”



# Class of 2023

## Bennett Hawley

Washington DC, USA, International Relations & Science Policy

“Bennett Hawley '23 is a recent graduate from the International Honors Joint Degree Programme between the University of St Andrews and the College of William & Mary. As a student, he studied international relations and science policy with a geographical focus on Eurasia. An avid researcher, his work has been published in *The Monitor Journal of International Studies and Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology, and Society* and Bennett has delivered guest lectures at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution and the University of Notre Dame Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Professionally, Bennett has held positions with the Japan Society of New York, U.S. State Department, DHInfrastructure consulting for the World Bank, U.S. Embassy London, U.S. Department of the Treasury, and U.S. European Command. Bennett is now a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, supporting clients across the U.S. federal government.”



## Olivia Little

Houston, Texas, USA, English major, Film & Media Studies minor

“My time in the JDP was both incredible and challenging. Both universities pushed me academically and socially, and I will always be grateful for the things the programme taught me. From our favorite buzzword “adaptability” to grit to optimism, the programme fostered several traits and skills in me that I will carry for a lifetime.

My four years in the JDP were, in a word, tumultuous. I wouldn't have it any other way. By being heavily involved with the WaMStA Student Partnership, I was able to navigate every nuance of the programme with my peers and build the most incredible relationships. I am thankful for the JDP not for its prestige or academic rigor (although it has both of those in spades). Rather, I am thankful for the JDP for the relationships and connections I've made with fellow WaMStAs—a wide web of support and friendship no matter the year or subject. These four tumultuous years filled with laughter and tears were some of the best of my life and pushed me to expand my worldview socially and academically.

I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful tiny group of those of us that have made it all the way through this programme. For my cohort at least, it was quite the uphill battle to get there. However, I am so incredibly impressed by each of my friends as we all move forward with our lives, always carrying a bit of St Andrews and William & Mary wherever we go around the globe.

Post-graduation, I am now doing my master's in creative writing at the University of Cambridge at Selwyn College down in England. Loved the UK so much I had to come back! Don't worry, St Andrews. Cambridge is a great city (I am loving it!), but it's got nothing on the three streets on the Scottish seaside. I'm hoping to secure a job in editorial or film work (or anything to do with writing or production!) once I've obtained my masters. In this time of flux where my future employment (and general future!) is up in the air, I'm grateful for the skills the programme taught me: if you stay cool and patient under pressure and continue to work hard, everything will, in time, work out how it is meant to.”





# Class of 2024

## Ian Wilson

North Kingstown, RI, USA, Classical Studies:  
Ancient History and Archaeology

“The Joint Degree Programme offered me unique opportunities for study, research and travel which have proved crucial for my education in ancient Mediterranean archaeology. My close relationships with William & Mary professors aided me in securing research grants throughout college and developing a compelling honors thesis. St Andrews lecturers taught me innovative approaches to archaeology which have become foundational for my scholarship. The opportunity to study overseas allowed me to conduct hands-on research at Roman archaeological sites across Europe and Asia. This summer, I will be excavating at the Roman-era cities of Pompeii and Antiochia Ad Cragum. In Fall 2024, I will commence a postgraduate degree in archaeology. My education in the JDP made all of this possible.”



## Katherine Hughes

Fairfax, VA, USA, International Relations

“The Joint Degree Programme can never be described as “easy” but looking back over the last four years, the growth at the end makes the challenges worth it. Thanks to the JDP, Katherine has become more resilient, adaptable, and confident. She now has close friends on multiple continents, developed a passion for traveling (especially solo), and always has a story about being adaptable for job interviews! Katherine is most grateful for the strong connections she has built with other students in the JDP who supported her through the challenges and celebrated her wins.

Katherine was involved in the William & Mary/St Andrews Student Partnership throughout her time in the program and served as treasurer, president, and IR degree representative and peer advisor. She loved working to build a JDP community at both schools and helping younger students through the challenges of the program.

At St Andrews, Katherine was an analyst for the St Andrews Foreign Affairs Review, an online IR publication. Katherine was also very involved in the University of St Andrews Boxing Club and served as Vice Captain during her third year, one of her favorite parts of university. During her third and fourth years, Katherine was also a copy editor for the Monitor Journal of International Studies at William & Mary.

Katherine has also held several internships and research positions related to her international relations interests during her time in university. She has worked for AidData and the International and Political Affairs of the Caucasus Lab at William & Mary, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, and US Indo-Pacific Command. She also conducted multiple independent research projects with grants from William & Mary, her favorite of which was using Russian-language state news to investigate Russia’s use of private military companies. After graduating, Katherine plans to pursue a career in international relations.”



# Milestones

- **June 2010**  
Institutional agreement to offer a joint degree signed by St Andrews and William & Mary, finalising many of the arrangements and commitments of both universities
- **2011**  
First BA (International Honours) cohorts enrol at William & Mary (August) and St Andrews (September)
- **November 2014**  
WaMStA students set up the WaMStA Student Partnership, a student society which operates across both institutions
- **January 2015**  
Joint coat of arms, designed by students, is officially approved by the Lord Lyon
- **May 2015**  
The first cohort celebrate Commencement at William & Mary
- **June 2015**  
The first cohort celebrate Graduation at St Andrews
- **August 2017**  
The first Classical Studies and Film Studies students enter the programme, after the universities agreed to expand the subjects offered to include two new majors.
- **May and June 2019**  
We celebrate the fifth graduating cohort of WaMStAs
- **May and June 2020**  
The first virtual graduation takes place.
- **May and June 2024**  
We celebrate the tenth graduating cohort of WaMStAs.

## Weblinks

[University of St Andrews](#)

[William & Mary](#)

[Facebook page](#)

[WaMStA Student Partnership](#)





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