

# Simona Saladino

Nationality: Italian

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## Profile

PhD candidate in International Studies at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”. My research focuses on the evolution of EU–China relations in the post-Cold War international order, with particular attention to the tension between normative principles and economic interests in European foreign policy toward China between 1989 and 2001.

My academic interests include Sino-European relations, European foreign policy, global governance, international political economy, and the strategic competition between China and the United States.

During my academic training, I have gained experience in diplomacy simulations and policy-oriented research activities, including an internship at the U.S. Consulate General in Naples within the Political-Economic-Commercial section.

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## Education

### PhD in International Studies

Department of Human and Social Sciences

University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy

November 2025 – Present

Provisional Dissertation Title:

*The Crucial Decade: EU-China Relations from Tiananmen to WTO Accession (1989–2001)*

Research focus:

EU–China relations, European foreign policy, international political economy, and the post-Cold War international order.

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### Master’s Degree in International Relations

University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Italy

September 2023 – July 2025

Final grade: **110/110 cum laude**

Thesis Title:

*Geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative: The Competition Between China and the United States and Italy's Position (2013–2025)*

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### **Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and International Relations**

University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy

September 2019 – July 2022

Final grade: **110/110 cum laude**

Thesis Title:

*European Union and China: Historical, Political, and Economic Relations (1975–2021)*

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## **Research Interests**

EU–China relations

European foreign policy

US–China strategic competition

Transatlantic relations

Global governance

International political economy

China in the international system

Post-Cold War international order

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## **Professional and Research Experience**

### **Political-Economic-Commercial Section Intern**

U.S. Consulate General — Naples, Italy

September 2024 – March 2025

Conducted research and drafted analytical reports on political, social, and economic developments in Southern Italy.

Authored a research report titled "*The Chinese Presence in Southern Italy*", analyzing Chinese economic activities and networks in the region. The report contributed to the Consulate's internal research and monitoring activities.

Assisted diplomatic staff in monitoring regional developments and supported the organization of diplomatic and institutional events.

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### **Faculty Advisor – NHSMUN Simulation**

WSC Italia — New York, United States

March 2023 – March 2024

Mentored students participating in the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) conference in New York.

Provided guidance on diplomatic negotiation, public speaking, and resolution drafting, helping students understand multilateral diplomacy and UN decision-making processes.

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### **Project Coordinator**

WSC Italia — Lamezia Terme, Italy

January 2024 – March 2024

Coordinated educational activities related to Model United Nations simulations, managing communication and logistics between schools, educators, and participants.

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### **Project Assistant**

WSC Italia — Lamezia Terme, Italy

June 2024 – October 2024

Promoted the project “*Ambasciatore del Futuro*” in schools across Italy and supported the organization of diplomacy simulations and educational activities.

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## **Academic Activities**

### **National Model United Nations (NMUN)**

Washington D.C., United States

November 2022

Delegate representing Israel in the GA1 Committee.

Participated in multilateral diplomatic negotiations on global security and disarmament and contributed to drafting and negotiating resolutions with international delegations.

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## **Publications and Policy Articles**

Saladino, S. (2022).

*Italia–Cina: il controverso rapporto internazionale.*

<https://www.improntesociali.it/2022/05/19/italia-cina-il-controverso-rapporto-internazionale-impronte-sociali/>

Saladino, S. (2022).

*Riflessioni: la situazione dei diritti umani nel mondo.*

<https://www.improntesociali.it/2022/04/19/riflessioni-la-situazione-dei-diritti-umani-nel-mondo/>

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## **Languages**

Italian — Native

English — C1

French — B2

German — B1

Chinese (Mandarin) — B1

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## **Digital Skills**

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

ECDL Certification

Social media communication tools

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## **Driving Licence**

Category B