



Vrije
Universiteit
Brussel



Institute for
European Studies
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

European studies in Brussels

Law | Politics | Economics



"Europe needs well-trained and critically thinking intellectuals who help shape the policies of the future. The principles underpinning teaching and research at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel help address the challenges we face today and have formed a stimulus in my personal career".

Karel de Gucht, European Commissioner for Trade



THE INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES AT THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Brussels - the Heart of Europe

As the beating heart of Europe, Brussels is a special place for students of European Studies. Brussels offers fantastic internship and job opportunities in the EU institutions, at NATO, or at one of the many multinational headquarters in the city.

Brussels is in many ways the ideal city for international students. As one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, and with over 70,000 students, it's easy to fit in. With so many different nationalities in Brussels, the amount of languages used is vast, yet English is widely spoken.

It's next to impossible to get bored in this city. Nowhere else in Belgium can you find such an exciting range of cultural activities. Brussels may not be associated with high glamour, but it's easy to be seduced by its charms. The quality of life is high in Brussels, so much so that many students end up staying in here long after their studies.

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is known for its critical thinking, interdisciplinary approach, and openness of its staff. The VUB offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as PhDs in various domains, and is also world renowned for its research. Home to 10,000 students, this is a hive of activity, where students from different disciplines mingle to share ideas. The VUB places great importance on equal opportunities, diversity and social commitment.

The main VUB Etterbeek campus is just a few metro or tram stops away from the historic city centre. The campus is a green and leafy space, and reflects the international atmosphere and diversity of Brussels itself. On campus there is a full range of amenities including extensive sport and leisure facilities, banks, libraries and a cafeteria.

Why the Institute for European Studies?

As a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence since 2002, the Institute for European Studies (IES) is an international and interdisciplinary centre for research, education and training.

Besides our PhD and postdoctoral research, IES offers two renowned Advanced Masters in European Studies and EU and International Law, as well as being a pioneer in e-learning and training on EU issues. IES is small enough to welcome each student as an individual, but large enough to provide diversity, quality teaching and research.

Our institute comprises both academic staff and EU practitioners, combining theory and practice. For all our courses we invite eminent guest speakers from international organisations, such as NATO, and EU institutions such as the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament. IES boasts excellent teaching facilities and a modern working space, right next to the amenities of the VUB Etterbeek campus.

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SUMMER SCHOOL EUROPEAN POLICY MAKING

Each year in July, the IES organises an inter-university Summer School, together with the University of Vienna and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. This programme provides two weeks of intensive study (equally divided between Brussels and Vienna) on European Policy Making. For the period 2012–2014, the Summer School will receive Jean Monnet funding, as recognition of its excellence.

Programme Objective

To broaden students and young professionals' knowledge of the European institutions, European law and the European decision-making process in general.

A theoretical framework is linked to study visits at the European Commission, the Parliament, and the Council. These visits are complemented by lectures from senior academics and high-level officials from the European institutions. The Summer School concludes with two simulation exercises, typically, in the field of health and safety policy and foreign and security policy.

Programme Benefits

The Summer School has proved to be a valuable asset when preparing for the competitions organised by the EU institutions to select future officials. Our Summer School alumni can be found in European institutions, national administrations, law firms and in academia.

The Summer School is part of the IES Postgraduate Certificate in European Policy-Making and, taken together with the EU-modules, offers 25 ECTS credits*.

More information & applications

[W] www.ies.be/summerschool

[E] summerschool@ies.be

* Accreditation expected 2012

PHD RESEARCH

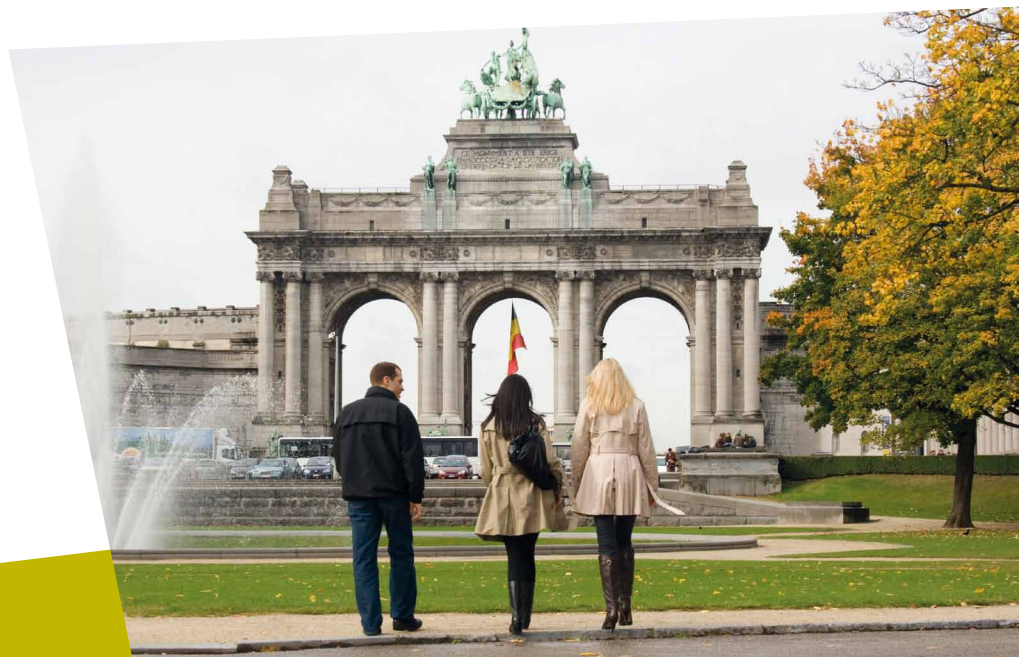
The Institute initiates annual calls for PhD projects and selects candidates on the merits of their research proposal to embark on our PhD research programme. The IES is currently home to over 30 PhD or postdoctoral researchers.

Our research focuses on the EU in an international context. It explores EU institutions, policies and law within the context of globalisation and international law and politics. Research projects analyse the role of the EU as a global actor and the interaction between the internal and external dimensions of EU policies. They also address the inter-relationship between the EU and international organisations. To this end, IES favours an interdisciplinary approach involving various disciplines including law, social and political sciences, economics and communication sciences.



"Carrying out my PhD research at the IES is a wonderful experience – the working environment is everything a researcher could wish for, with plenty of facilities and colleagues to exchange ideas with. Since my research focuses on EU policy, being located in Brussels is ideal."

Claire Dupont's research assesses the extent to which climate policy objectives are integrated into the EU's energy policy sector. She focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy and gas infrastructure policies and asks the question: to what extent do these policies help or hinder the achievement of long-term climate objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80–95 per cent by 2050?



TRAINING

The Educational Development Unit (EDU) of the IES organises regular 3-day training sessions on the European Union institutions and policy processes. The sessions are designed for students and professionals seeking a better understanding of the European structures and the EU decision-making process. The training concept builds on the outstanding academic expertise of the Institute for European Studies combined with the experience of Brussels-based practitioners, combining theory with practice.

Drawing on its well-known academic expertise in EU matters, the unit is also specialised in organising and conducting a wide range of **customised training sessions** and seminars for national governments, companies and other organisations, ranging between 1-3 days to 6 months or even 1 year. The objective of customised training is to broaden and update knowledge on EU institutions, structures, procedures and policies relevant for the everyday work of the organisation.

Webinars



IES' Wednesday Webinar series complements our traditional in-house training sessions. Webinars offer increased flexibility and accessibility. The webinar platform allows for the combination of face-to-face lecturing with additional presentation and instant feedback options. Webinars are held on a monthly basis, on Wednesdays from 12-13:15.

Teaching Services

The Educational Development Unit (EDU) of the IES offers an extensive range of postgraduate courses on various topics related to European integration. The EDU conducts an exchange programme for students from the US; customised summer schools; as well as graduate teaching programmes on EU matters in collaboration with Brussels-based universities such as the University of Kent in Brussels and Vesalius College.

More information:
[W] www.ies.be/training
[E] edu@ies.be

E-LEARNING

The EU-modules, developed in 2006, offer a structured and interactive way of getting acquainted with the history of the European Union, its structure, policy areas, decision-making process and law. The modules are user-friendly, offering structured information, which is free from EU-jargon, along with various integrated learning tools to develop a basic understanding of the European Union. There is also the possibility to concentrate in-depth on more specific topics.

The EU-Modules combine a knowledge/theoretical component with a practical component, which consists of case studies, real-life scenarios, EU case law, practical examples from the day-to-day work of the institutions, and exercises in order to make the topics covered more tangible. Moreover, the main advantage of following the online modules is that they are accessible at any time and from anywhere.

The EU-modules currently cover the following topics:

- History and Theories of European Integration
- European Union Institutions
- European Union Decision-making Process
- European Union Law
- European Information

The EU-modules can be taken either individually or as a package. They can also be studied in conjunction with in-house courses and training organised at the IES. The modules constitute part of the IES Postgraduate Certificate in European Policy-Making and, studied together with the Summer School on European Policy Making, offer 25 ECTS*.

* Accreditation expected 2012

More information:
[W] www.emodules.be



ADVANCED MASTERS

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International and European Law



"As a recent law graduate, I felt the need to pursue an advanced LL.M. programme, which will equip me with an international perspective and for the challenges of working in an increasing global legal environment. The LL.M. programme at the IES offers this and more. Some of the professors are EU practitioners or in major international law firms, which creates great networking opportunities. Moreover, I was drawn to the fact that IES is truly multi-cultural and multi-national, which is reflected in the diverse composition of the student body and the university's commitment to internationalisation."

Pauline Nguru, LL.M. student 2011-2012

The LL.M. in International and European law has been an internationally renowned programme for over 40 years. Created in 1971 as the Programme on International and Legal Cooperation (PILC), one of the most established of its kind in Europe. It is a demanding, one-year daytime programme.

Programme Objectives

The LL.M. provides a broad advanced education in international and European law, which prepares students for further research or employment at international legal and policy making levels.

Programme Benefits

The teaching staff is composed of a mixture of academics and professionals with a broader European and international background, including practising lawyers and European Union officials. The legacy of this highly qualified staff is one of the key reasons for the high level of applications received each year.

Up to 40 students from all over the world are admitted every year to the programme. This diversity presents a unique opportunity for inter-cultural communication.

The LL.M. enhances your academic and problem-solving skills to further reflect and act autonomously on international and European topics.

Is it for you?

To qualify you need to have a university law degree and proven proficiency in English.

More information and applications:

[W] www.ies.be/llm

[E] pilc@ies.be

EUROPEAN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

Master of European Integration and Development



"Having worked in Brussels for three years, I wanted to underpin my day-to-day job with an academic education in European politics. The programme is well designed to provide students with in-depth knowledge about main policy areas of the European Union. Studying alongside work is challenging and you need to set your mind to it, but teachers are enthusiastic and prepare ready-to-use study material which saved me precious time."

Stella Willborn, EACI, European Commission

The Master of European Integration and Development is a one-year programme organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics, Politics and Sociology and the Solvay Business School.

Programme Objectives

It provides advanced students and practitioners with an in-depth analysis of the European integration process, European institutions and European legislation. Depending on their backgrounds and interests, students can choose between two specialisation streams:

- European Political and Social Integration (EPSI)
- Economic Integration (EI)

Programme Benefits

The Euromaster is an interdisciplinary programme that combines academic excellence with practical experience. This is reflected in its teaching staff, which is a meticulous mix of renowned academics and carefully selected practitioners in EU policy-making, and in its student cohort.

Organised in the evenings, the Euromaster is highly accessible for students who wish to study alongside their professional activities, either full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years).

Is it for you?

To qualify for admission, you need to have a university Master's degree in social sciences, an excellent academic record (or relevant professional experience), and proven proficiency in English.

More information and applications:

[W] www.ies.be/euromaster

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