



Open Enrolment Semester Programmes



European Politics, Law & International Relations

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are at the core values of the European Union. No other region has displayed similar willingness to give up important parts of national sovereignty in pursuit of peace and stability, economic and social justice. Yet in the wake of the European debt crisis and the rise of nationalist political parties, the future of the Union is far from certain. In a world of converging cultures and different political and legal systems, international relations and human rights issues are fundamental to current challenges facing the EU.

The Netherlands holds an unparalleled position in the international legal universe and is at the forefront of civil liberties and human rights. Picture-perfect Maastricht is uniquely suited to study *European Politics, Law & International Relations*, with its famous treaty establishing the European Union in 1992. The city is a stone's throw away from the International Criminal Court in The Hague, as well as significant institutions such as the European Parliament in Brussels, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

The *European Politics, Law & International Relations* programme offers students a greater understanding of the contemporary European political and legal challenges. Examine national agendas, opposition to political union and the roles of international actors such as NATO and the UN.

Classes with a distinct European focus

Students in the *European Politics, Law & International Relations* programme are directly enrolled at Maastricht University and able to take classes at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences – awarded the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for outstanding education and research on European integration - and the internationally renowned European Law School, as well as the Center for European Studies (CES). Courses can also be taken at the highly selective liberal arts and sciences programme from University College Maastricht.

Courses

All *European Politics, Law & International Relations* students participate in the **Core Seminar**, a compulsory semester-long course that forms the backbone of the programme and combines strong academics with integrated study trips and unique hands-on experiences. Students can choose from more than **350 bachelor-level courses in English** offered at Maastricht University. Please refer to the CES website for a complete course overview. At least half the courses should be selected from the programme-related Majors below. This combination provides a solid understanding of the central subject while giving students the freedom to **build their own curriculum**.

Majors

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| • European Law | • Legal Studies | • Human Rights |
| • Political Science | • International Law | • Public Policy |
| • International Relations | | |

Integrated study trips

The Core Seminar begins with the **European Study Trip**, which provides a vivid European context for the central programme theme. The seminar runs for the duration of the semester and includes an interactive **lecture series** and **field trips** that highlight local achievements.

The *European Politics, Law & International Relations* programme includes, for example, attending the European Parliament in session or information briefings at the European Commission in Brussels. Visits to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg or the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague offer unique insight into European legal cases and human rights. Throughout the programme students can participate in a variety of guest lectures by prominent European politicians. True to Maastricht University's philosophy of active and self-directed learning, students undertake an **independent study project** during the Core Seminar and are encouraged to pursue their own academic interests. The Core Seminar concludes with a Symposium where students present their research papers.

"Attending a genocide trial at the ICTY, my human rights and international law courses really came to life as I witnessed what the concepts we had discussed actually meant in a practical setting."

Alison Caless, Trinity College

Academics

Credits

Maastricht University uses the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) to measure academic progress. Maastricht University courses typically have between 5-12 ECTS. How ECTS transfer depends on a student's home university or college. Generally a 5–6.5 ECTS course is the equivalent of a full semester course (3 American credit hours). CES advisors help students select classes to meet the requirements of their home university.

Programme Structure

Each CES semester is 18 weeks long and starts with an extensive 2-week introduction, followed by two 'block periods' of classes (block period 1 and 2 in Fall; block period 4 and 5 in Spring). During each 8-week block period, students take two courses of 5-6.5 ECTS or one course of 9-12 ECTS. In addition, they will participate in the mandatory Core Seminar (6 ECTS), which runs alongside the courses (see figure below). Students can earn a minimum of 24 and maximum of 33 ECTS per semester at CES. The number of hours in class varies from 12-15 hours per week; for every hour in class students are expected to spend 2-3 hours on study.

Core Seminar (6 ECTS)																	
Intro		Block Period 1								Block Period 2							
		Course (5-6.5 ECTS)				+ Course (5-6.5 ECTS)				Course (9-12 ECTS)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

High academic standard

CES programmes are designed for enthusiastic and intellectually curious students dedicated to expanding their academic horizons while abroad. To ensure that students do well, CES offers extensive academic advising, workshops and regular monitoring. Maastricht University uses Problem-Based Learning (PBL), a student-centered teaching approach. Small groups of students (12-15) work on academic or practical cases prepared by their professors. Faculty act as guides to students who are in charge of their own learning and are expected to be committed, active and self-motivated.

Practical Information

Programme Dates

Spring 2014	17 January - 7 June 2014
Fall 2014	15 August - 20 December 2014
Spring 2015	16 January - 6 June 2015

Introduction

The 2-week introduction offers a variety of academic and social activities, the start of the Core Seminar and the European Study Trip. The introduction includes CES services (such as airport pick up and phone rental), a tour of Maastricht and the surrounding area, Maastricht University orientation, a Problem-Based Learning seminar, Intercultural Communication workshops and integration into Dutch student life.

Tuition

The tuition fee includes registration at Maastricht University, academic advising, all courses (up to 33 ECTS), CES course materials, the Core Seminar, European Study Trip, field trips, extensive introduction and all CES services. For Spring 2014 the tuition fee is € 7600*.

Housing

Most CES students stay in single or double rooms at the International Student Guesthouse of Maastricht University. Rooms in the P-building have a private kitchen and rooms in the C-building have communal cooking facilities; in both buildings the bathroom facilities are shared. Housing costs for Spring 2014 range from € 2266 to € 3491*.

Visa & Residence Permit

Most students require a temporary Dutch residence permit (VVR) for stays longer than 90 days and some students might need a visa (MVV). CES assists students with every part of this process. For Spring 2014 the cost for a temporary residence permit is € 300*.

Insurance

Students need sufficient health care, liability and travel insurance for the duration of their stay. Most students are covered through their home university, but CES can assist students who need to purchase their own.

Application requirements

CES Open Enrolment programmes are competitive. Early application is recommended. Applicants must be in good academic standing, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must be proficient in English. Please refer to the CES website for more information and an online application form. Don't hesitate to contact CES with questions. We are happy to help!

Application Deadlines

Spring 2014	15 October 2013
Fall 2014	15 April 2014
Spring 2015	15 October 2014

**For detailed and up-to-date tuition, housing and residence permit fees, please check our website. Although this brochure was made with the utmost care, no rights can be derived from it.*

Contact us: Maastricht University | Student Services Centre | Center for European Studies
PO Box 616 | 6200 MD Maastricht | The Netherlands | T: +31 (0) 43 388 5282 | E: ces.info@maastrichtuniversity.nl
www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/ces | www.facebook.com/cesmaastricht

