

MASTER PROGRAMME EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

Politics, Law and Economics are highly influenced by European decisions. Knowledge of European institutions, policies, decision procedures and law is therefore extremely relevant for everybody working in the public and private sectors. The unique master programme in European Union Studies imparts students with a profound theoretical and practical knowledge in these areas, by connecting political science, law, economics, history, communication studies and languages.

The programme also provides opportunities for studying abroad, enhancing the international qualification and the language competences of its students. Also the whole study programme is taught in English (since Curriculum 2016), intensifying the international focus. The master programme takes account of political and socio-economic processes and includes European practitioners and experts from the European institutions in its teaching programme. By simulating decision, procedures and moot courts students practice preparing bargaining positions and negotiating these position in the framework of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the Commission and the European Court of Justice.

The Master programme provides students with:

- a qualification as experts in European law, politics and economics a profound knowledge of political processes and decision making mechanisms within the European Union
- a first intensive contact with European institutions during the study visit to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg
- the chance to acquire additional skills during a semester abroad
- the possibility to develop their cultural and language skills within an international educational environment

The process of European integration changes the political, economic and cultural practice in all member states. It demands for profound knowledge of European Union law, the underlying decision procedures and the implementation on the national level. Further knowledge on the legal and political settings in other member states, the social-economic background and their positions is a prerequisite. In line with enlargement processes this demands have multiplied and with the transformation of the European Union into an internationally relevant actor, Foreign Policy is newly defined. This demands for an academic reflection and a practice-oriented education, imparting this knowledge on transformation processes.

Relevance for the employment sector

Within this dynamic field, not only public actors play a role, but also private actors - including small and medium sized businesses, interest groups, and civil society organizations - are required to present their demands within a constantly changing framework. European Union studies provides the necessary competence for this dynamic field. At the University of Salzburg it complements the Bachelor programme "Law and Economics", but also other bachelor programmes in the area of social but also natural sciences. The relevance of this study programme is underlined by the high number of students from neighboring countries. Graduates find their field of employment in the public (parliaments, public administration, EU institutions, UN) as well as in the private sector.

Didactically innovative

To fully implement its ambitious aim of providing high quality education – practice-oriented and interdisciplinary –, the master programme has to advantages over other programmes: on one hand, team-teaching includes perspectives from other disciplines; on the other hand, innovative teaching methods are introduced, particularly in the „simulation“courses. These courses are taught by teams of teachers of different disciplines and experts from European institutions, and real European negotiation situations are simulated. This allows very effective and intensive capacity building for students.