Bachelor's

European Studies

uva.nl/ba-european-studies
Top 5 reasons for studying European Studies in Amsterdam

• Broad and flexible programme: You will study the politics, law and economics of the EU, as well as Europe’s historical and cultural roots. You can also take courses in topics such as the history and culture of Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet states. Students choose one of five majors and a selection of electives or minors, and may opt to study abroad or do an internship.

• Master a foreign language: Every student has the opportunity to master one of the following languages: Arabic, Catalan, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Modern Greek, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Scandinavian languages (Danish, Norwegian, Swedish), Serbian/Croatian, and Spanish.*

• Amsterdam - gateway to Europe: You will study in the historical city centre, which feels like like a cosy village but boasts the cultural highlights of a

The European Studies Bachelor's programme cuts boldly across disciplines. It introduces you to Europe’s multi-faceted history and culture, while also giving you an overview of the political, economic and legal forces shaping the contemporary European Union. This broad perspective is crucial to understanding contemporary challenges, such as the refugee crisis, questions posed by multi-cultural societies, the trials of the euro, and the role of the EU in international conflicts, such as the military tensions between Russia and Ukraine.
I went to an international high school in Ghana where I did my A-levels. I applied for many different programmes at several universities across Europe. I realised the University of Amsterdam was the best fit for me because I wanted to be in a multicultural metropolis. European Studies had so much more variety than other programmes and gave me the chance to learn Arabic, which had always been an ambition of mine.

I want to get the most out of my study programme. I chose European Law as my major, initially because it was practical for my career ambitions - I want to work in diplomacy or with human rights law, but when I had this course briefly in the first year, I realised I actually enjoy reading laws and cases. - Sarah Osei, 2nd year, Language Arabic / major European Law

Study programme

The first year
The first year consists of twelve compulsory courses covering subjects ranging from the rise of nationalism and European literary history to the creation and workings of the EU. You will also choose one out of a wide range of languages to study and take part in two workshops: one improving academic skills and the other involving a trip to Brussels, capital of the EU.

The second and third year
In the second year you will choose one of the following majors:

- European Culture
- European History
- East European Studies
- European Law
- European Economics

International study environment: Our programme is international both in its outlook, and in terms of its staff. You will be taught by an interdisciplinary group of experts from all over the world.

Strong career prospects: European Studies graduates have a broad range of skills in various fields, which can lead to positions within governmental and intergovernmental organisations. Every year our alumni go to work for organisations such as the EU, UN, as well as the media and the corporate sector.
The programme offers substantial flexibility, as you can tailor your own curriculum by choosing electives or minors. If you want to learn more about the expansion of the EU, for example, you could select a major in East European Studies, supplemented with additional courses in European Law. Your electives may also include a period of study abroad or an internship, offering you the chance to gain invaluable experience for your CV in an increasingly competitive labour market.

Master's programmes

Students seeking broader or more specialised academic knowledge and skills may enrol in one of UvA’s Master’s programmes, most of which are taught in English, including:
• East European Studies
• European Policy
• Identity and Integration

Please visit: uva.nl/master

Suzanne van Willigen, Student

‘I grew up and still live in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. I chose the European Studies programme at UvA because I liked the fact that it had a wide variety of courses on offer, including a language course. I chose Spanish because it has become an important language that is spoken worldwide by millions of people. I hope to be studying abroad for a semester in Spain next year. The strong points of the programme are definitely its international focus and its variety of courses. I chose European Law as a major because it was one of my favorite courses in the first year and I found it very interesting to learn how the EU uses law.’ - Suzanne van Willigen, 2nd year, Language Spanish / major European Law
Career prospects

As a European Studies graduate, you will have developed unique academic abilities in a broad range of fields. Graduates take up positions at various organisations including:

- European institutions, such as the European Commission and the Council of Europe;
- Intergovernmental organisations, such as the United Nations (UN);
- National government bodies such as ministries and municipalities;
- Political parties, lobby groups and NGOs;
- International business and consultancy;
- Newspapers and other media, publishing, and cultural industries.

Accreditation and degree

The Bachelor's programme in European Studies is accredited by the Dutch government. Upon successful completion of the programme, students receive a legally accredited Bachelor's degree and the title Bachelor of Arts (BA).

Oliver Callaghan, Student

‘The European Studies Bachelor's programme in Amsterdam offered me the chance to explore a new city and a new culture, as well as an array of different subjects and courses. I chose Italian as my language course. We were advised by our tutors and by our programme coordinators to be as creative as possible in our choosing of a language, as our repertoire of languages would set us apart from others later on in our studies and on the job market. So I figured that there can't be that many people who speak Swedish - my native tongue - and Italian. I love living in Amsterdam. I have lived and worked in several countries prior to studying in Amsterdam and I can safely say that Amsterdam is my favourite city to live in. There is always something happening in Amsterdam.’ - Oliver Callaghan, 2nd year, Language Italian / major European History
Visit us

Make sure you are well-prepared before the start of your studies at the University of Amsterdam. Visit an Open Day, schedule a Campus Visit, and make sure you are well-informed about the programme. Please see: uva.nl/international