EUROPEAN STUDIES AND POLISH AT A GLANCE

Programme

Students study the nature of Europe and the forces that have shaped it through the disciplines of history, history of ideas, political science and sociology. They also develop proficiency in two modern languages of their choice (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish).

Polish course content

In languages which may be taken from scratch, such as Polish, the first two years focus mainly on developing language skills, introducing students to the main trends in the historical and cultural development of East-Central Europe and Poland, and familiarising students with aspects of contemporary Polish society. Special provisions are made for students with prior knowledge of Polish (heritage speakers, near-native speakers or those who have an entrance qualification in Polish). They study academic writing, advanced language structures and Polish-English translation.

Residence in Poland

European Studies students spend their third year on an approved course in a university or institute in the country of their major language. In the case of Poland, students spend a year at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Furthermore, all students of Polish are eligible to apply for scholarships to attend summer courses at different Polish universities (including Warsaw, Kraków, Lublin and Cieszyn).

European Studies and Polish course structure

Junior Freshman (First Year)

In the Junior Freshman year, students study their two chosen languages. They also study 'European history (1500-1800'), 'An introduction to the history of ideas', and 'An introduction to social science'.

Students who specialise in Polish take 'Beginners to Intermediate Polish' or 'Polish for Academic Purposes' (for students with prior knowledge of Polish). Students also study 'Introduction to Central, East European and Russian Area Studies'.

Senior Freshman (Second Year)

In the Senior Freshman year, students continue to study their two chosen languages. They also study 'European history (1800-)', 'The Making of Modernity, 1750-1820', and can choose from options in history, politics, sociology, and economics.

Students specialising in Polish take 'Intermediate to Advanced Polish' or 'Polish for Academic Purposes' (for students with prior knowledge of the language). Students also study 'Polish Area Studies', which focuses on current social, political, cultural and economic issues in Poland.

Junior Sophister (Third Year)

The Junior Sophister year is spent at a university abroad studying through the language you choose as your major language. Students who choose Polish as their major language spend the year studying at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. The year abroad may entail additional expenses for students but support funding under the European Union's Erasmus scheme offsets this.

Senior Sophister (Fourth Year)

In the Senior Sophister year, language work focuses on your major language. The core course in your final year is called 'Modernity and Society: Ideas and Culture in Europe since 1850'. Additionally, you will choose options from a wide range of modules from history, political science, sociology, and a number of culture and literature options from the language departments.

Students who specialise in Polish continue studying the language (they take the 'Advanced Polish' course) and culture ('Contemporary Polish Society').