

EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES IN RIGA SPRING SCHOOL 2016



WHAT IS THE SPRING SCHOOL – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES IN RIGA?

The Spring School – European Union studies in Riga is all about politics in the European Union: Learning new skills in public administration, as well as international and comparative politics. The Spring School aims at widening the range of students' knowledge on the European Union, its operating framework, Europeanization and European values. The knowledge and skills that you gain, as well as the experience of living in Latvia, one of the most dynamic countries in the EU, will enhance your professional development.

The Spring School offers students two study modules: (1) EU studies – Foreign Affairs and (2) EU studies – Domestic Affairs. The first module study courses are focused on the European Union's foreign policy developments. The second module focuses on the European Union's domestic issues, such as government organizations, decision making processes and the Latvian political experience.

The Spring School EU studies-Foreign Affairs module aims enhance knowledge about European Union activities, its operating framework, the Europeanization process and the fundamental values in democratic society. The EU studies–Domestic Affairs focuses on the Latvian political experience as a European Union member state – political regime transformation, institutional functioning, as well as the public administration reform process since independence and the modernization process of public administration.

SPRING SCHOOL PROGRAMME:

1. Lectures:

The Department of Political Science, faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Latvia will offer the following courses: *Governance and management of the European Union; Europeanization: from partnership to membership; Foundation of the European Union; Seminar: politics and policy in Latvia.* These courses will be taught by leading faculty at the Department of Political Science: Professor Žaneta Ozoliņa, Associate Professor Iveta Reinholde, Associate Professor Daunis Auers, and doctoral student Aleksandra Vonda. **The courses will be taught in English.**

2. Field trips:

To the most significant Latvian political institutions (the parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet of Ministers, Riga City Council); 2) A tour to the project partners and municipalities; 3) Debates with representatives of the NGO sector;

3. Social and cultural activities:

Welcoming cultural evening with University students and faculty professors, an excursion to Rundale and Jelgava castle, participation in the Night of Museum, commonwealth picnic, sports activities and participation in the Riga Marathon.

The Spring School starts on the **1st of March** and ends on the **31st of May**. Students will obtain **21 ECTS**.



CHECKLIST FOR PARTICIPATION

1. All interested applicants must be fluent in English and interested in European Union studies at the bachelors' or master's program level;
2. Applicants must submit a motivation letter and CV. The Motivation letter must be submitted by 20th November 2015 and e-mailed to aleksandra.vonda@lu.lv. Students selected for the programme will be contacted by 20 December 2015.
3. The participation fee for the EU semester in Riga is 1 500 EUR;
4. Students must also pay for the study visa (for more information please visit Ministry of Foreign Affairs website – <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/consular-information/entry-into-latvia>) and insurance for the period of study;
5. Students must cover residence costs (around 100 EUR per month) + other expenses. Please be aware that you will have to pay for some of your meals while in Riga, we estimate it is another EUR 300 per month;
6. Arrival in Riga - You will be responsible to travel to and from Riga at your own expense. You can easily get to Riga by air, bus or train from all major European cities.



Students of the first Spring School with former President of Latvia Andris Berziņš (2011-2015) at the conference on "Enhancing Parliamentary Democracy". Foto by Chancery of the President.

Students of the first Spring School in Old Town in Riga. Foto by: Aleksandra Vonda