

Graduate Travel Research Grant on the European Union
May, June, July, August 2012
Report – Victor Sautry

Thanks to the travel grant received from the Centre for European Studies I was able to conduct research for my Major Research Paper (MRP) in Brussels and Paris this summer. The topic of my MRP is French Arctic policy within the context of European Union Arctic policy. The interviews I was able to do with European Commission officials and French government officials added a great deal to my understanding of the subject. Since secondary source on the information is scarce it was necessary to talk directly with the officials involved, which this research grant made possible.

The interviews with the officials helped me gain a better understanding of the EU and how it develops policy. This more thorough understanding will help me describe the processes of its Arctic policy much clearer. By understanding the thought processes of EU officials while they develop Arctic policy I am better able to understand the Commission's relationship with EU member states. My interview with a French government official was useful because I was able to ask questions on areas of French policy which are not in the public domain. The interviews were also helpful in gaining a better understanding of how the EU works and its relationship with member states. This is important because it is a very complex organization, and to be able to describe these processes in my MRP I need to have a clear understanding.

I would like to thank Dr. Joan DeBardeleben and Brigid Bedard-Hinz for making this research possible. I am thankful that the Centre for European Studies was able to provide me funding to conduct my research. The grant allowed me to conduct important primary research which will hopefully allow me to add the body of literature on EU and French Arctic policy.