

EURUS E-Newsletter

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EU Study Tour and Internship Experiences By Anca Gurzu

The EU Study Tour is definitely an experience worth having. I have to say the three weeks went by amazingly fast, but they were filled with great memories and certainly a lot of new information! We had the chance to travel to all the major EU institutions in cities like Brussels, Strasbourg, Luxembourg and the Hague, and meet with professionals working in various fields, ranging from justice and home affairs to chemical weapons to EU-Canada relations. While the number of sessions seemed at times a bit overwhelming, in retrospect it is clear how valuable they were. You get to learn first-hand from practitioners about topics that interest you but that you may only peripherally touch upon in your classes. There is definitely a sense of satisfaction and excitement when entering the buildings where all the major EU decisions take place. Besides the actual sit-down sessions, the tour also offered great networking opportunities. Both the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands and the Quebec Delegation to Brussels hosted a reception for us. There was also a lot of mingling opportunities at the European Parliament and other institutions. Of course there are also all the new friends you make – people who share the same interests as you and with whom you will also share many adventures across Europe. The tour experience definitely enriched my summer!

And so did my internship with Europolitics! This is a daily bilingual publication on European affairs. Since this was a journalism internship, my main tasks were that of a reporter. I was often out of the office, attending news conferences, press briefings and hearings at the European Parliament, Commission and the Council. I also had the opportunity to attend the Council Summit, where I saw all the heads of state from the 27 member states. I also experienced the changing of the rotating presidency (Denmark to Cyprus) and attended briefings by their permanent representatives there. I wrote articles almost every day, on wide-ranging topics such as immigration, asylum, religion, fraud, foreign policy and culture. Due to my knowledge of Romanian, I also got to write about the political developments in Romania. The press pass allowed me almost unrestricted access to many institutions and events, which was a great way to meet new people but also to better understand the internal workings of this organization. Overall, this was a highly dynamic and fun workplace. I had the great opportunity of being part of the Brussels media corps for two months – which was certainly a gratifying experience!

Visiting Scholar

Dr. Licinia Simão, from the University of Coimbra in Portugal, is visiting EURUS this summer and is available to students for consultation until August 23. Dr. Simão is an Assistant Professor in International Relations at the University of Coimbra and Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies at the same university. She wrote her PhD on EU relations with the South Caucasus states (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), using a security community conceptual framework. She has given lectures this summer in conjunction with the Centre for European Studies as well as the Jean Monnet Chair.

Her research interests include EU foreign policy, security dynamics in the post-Soviet space, especially in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, and Security Studies and Foreign Policy Analysis more broadly. Dr. Simão is happy to talk to students about their research projects. Feel free to contact her for a meeting. She is located in the Instructor's office in EURUS (3rd floor River Building), and you can also reach her by email at: liciniasimao@gmail.com

Russian Language Program: Bishkek Experiences My name is Chris Manor - I am a second-year EURUS MA student. I spent the summer of 2012 studying Russian at The London School in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with colleagues from EURUS. Bishkek is the perfect place to learn Russian - and is also a perfect launching-point for excursions into Kyrgyzstan's mountains. I also travelled to Almaty and Shymkent in Kazakhstan during my stay in Bishkek, two other extremely rewarding experiences. My three months in Bishkek will never be forgotten given the professional teaching of Russian at The London School and, of course, my experiences with folks from EURUS and with new friends. A rewarding learning environment, mountain hiking, horse treks, traveling around Kyrgyzstan and into neighbouring Central Asian countries (and some late nights) make Bishkek the perfect place to study Russian. All of this is possible with EURUS and I am forever grateful for this opportunity and to be a member of the Institute.	Upcoming Events <i>Sept 5</i> – EURUS orientation for incoming students, followed by a BBQ at Hartwell Locks for all EURUS faculty, students and alumni. Please RSVP to: carleton.ca/eurus/events 
Highlights from the Spring and Summer *EURUS Director Jeff Sahadeo was able to bring 10 students with him to a conference he presented for at the University of Toronto in late April *Former President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbayeva visited Carleton and EURUS hosted a round table discussion.	EURUS signs agreement with the Uzbek Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies EURUS director Jeff Sahadeo visited Tashkent in July to forge scholarly and professional connections between Canada and Uzbekistan. Professor Sahadeo had productive meetings with the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The highlight of the trip was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between EURUS, representing Carleton University, and the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The accord envisages scholarly exchanges, joint conferences and publications. Professor Sahadeo looks forward to encouraging intellectual engagement between Uzbek scholars and those from Canada and other western countries.
Research Profile: Professor Crina Viju My current research project focuses on the Global Europe strategy, representing a reorientation of the European Union (EU) Common Commercial Policy, which aside from a different view on market access proposes a new generation of free trade agreements with key trade partners. Through this new initiative, the EU wants to reinforce its position as an economic global power and to impose a European model of society to the rest of the world. The EU's first round of new generation FTAs are with South Korea, India, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Canada. My research interest into this topic is from 2 different points of view. Firstly, on the EU-Canada negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Agreement, I am analyzing the factors that can hinder the achievement of a comprehensive agreement. And, secondly, on the economic effects of this initiative on the EU member states, especially on the new (post-2004) member states, identifying the winners and losers within the EU of this new strategy.	Select Courses Offered at EURUS this Fall EURR 4101 – <i>The Balkans in Transition, 1918-1989</i> Professor Mark Biondich This seminar examines the Balkan experience in the twentieth century, beginning with steps toward modernization and independence, and then interwar efforts to construct democratic societies. Finally, we will look at the spread of Communist power, the influence of nationalism and interaction with great powers to the east and to the west. EURR 4205 – <i>Gender, Identity and Politics in Post-Communist Societies</i> Professor Andrea Chandler The relationships between political transformation, identity-building, ethnicity and gender politics in the transitional states of Europe and the former Soviet Union, considered in comparative perspective.