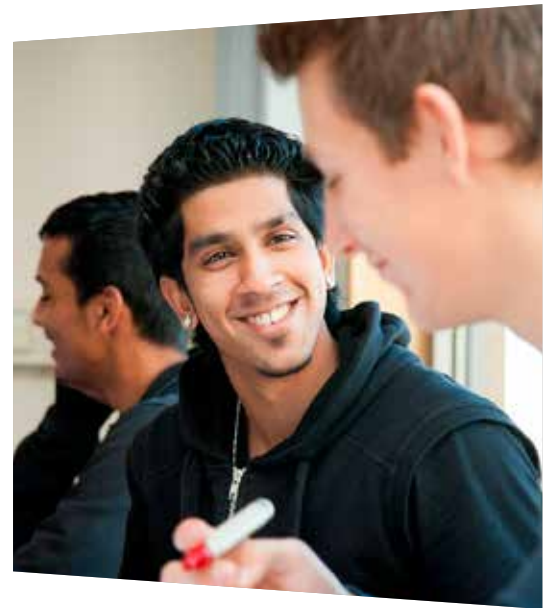


The Big Book of European Studies

A short guide to our interdisciplinary approach to empowering the European Professional to proactively resolve global challenges



For HAVO, VWO
& MBO graduates
and international
students with
equivalent diplomas

**Faculty of Management
& Organisation**

THE HAGUE
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

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1. Introducing European Studies

European Studies (ES) is an international, interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts programme that began as the first of its kind in 1990 as the school of Higher European Career Preparation (known in Dutch as the Hogere Europese Beroepenopleiding or HEBO). ES has never aimed to prepare students for a single, specific job, but for over three decades, it has combined the disciplines of European politics and business with professional skills and foreign languages to prepare students for a variety of careers assisting and advising the organisations, institutions and businesses that operate in Europe, usually in matters involving policy, public affairs, public relations, marketing and communication, fundraising or international trade.

At present, Europe faces political, cultural and economic challenges that cannot be resolved by a single sector or segment of society. Public policy cannot be made in a vacuum and private business cannot achieve sustainability without governance and regulation. These sectors to rely on each other and the organisations, institutions and businesses within them rely on professionals who can bridge the gap between them by offering advice, finding partnerships or funds and solving problems. It is this sort of professional that European Studies seeks to educate.

ES students acquire knowledge about Europe, its organisations and the challenges they face, while developing the research, communication and foreign language skills they need to meet those challenges. Along the way, they work on their personal, professional and intercultural development, becoming global citizens who can collaborate across cultural divides and go with the flow of changing circumstances. This turns them into flexible professionals who will be able to adjust to a fast-changing 21st century labour market, which is why one of the programme's mottos is "employability through adaptability."

Our Mission: Empowering the European Professional

Europe is a vital player in global economics and international affairs. It is home over 500 million people and to a variety of public and private sector organisations, including political, international and non-governmental organisations and businesses of all shapes and sizes, all of which are confronted with the changing realities of Europe's political, economic and cultural landscapes. To navigate those landscapes, organisations need professionals who can help them to operate within the European framework and meet the challenges Europe faces on a daily basis.

ES The Hague further defines Europe as the multi-stakeholder collaboration that takes place among countries, businesses and organisations, within the rules and regulations that are designed, proposed, adopted and implemented by the institutions of the EU, guided by European norms and values in all of their variety, driven by diversity and sometimes facilitated by European Funds.

Europe is an avenue to opportunity. Understanding its complexities opens ES graduates up to a diversity of career options, with Europe as a connecting thread. That knowledge, combined with professional research, critical thinking and communications skills – including intercultural



communication and languages, equips students to assist and advise different types of organisations, institutions and businesses as junior European Professionals.

It is the mission of ES to train European Professionals: graduates who are interculturally competent and able to navigate Europe's public and private sectors. They are also multilingual, which means that they have full command of English and a strong command of either French, German, Spanish or Dutch. This, combined with the programme's commitment to global citizenship and positive change – in line with the core values and 'Let's Change' motto of The Hague University of Applied Sciences – makes it possible to achieve the goal laid out in the programme's mission statement: "Empowering the European Professional to pro-actively resolve the challenges facing organisations, institutions and businesses in Europe today," through good governance, sustainable business practices and international cooperation.

There are two versions of the European Studies programme:

- European Studies 4 (ES4) is a four-year Bachelor of Arts programme open to Dutch students with a HAVO, VWO or MBO diploma (at least level 4) and international students with an equivalent qualification.
- European Studies 3 (ES3) is an accelerated, three-year Bachelor of Arts that is open to Dutch students with a VWO diploma and international students with an equivalent qualification, such as a German Abitur or an International Baccalaureate diploma. Due to its accelerated nature, ES3 is more intensive and presents different challenges, including some differences in course and project content, increased complexity and additional self-study.

A Competence-Based Vision for Education

As an applied sciences programme, ES is explicitly designed with a clear focus on what is demanded and valued by the professional field and potential employers. The programme's career-oriented approach can be seen in courses and projects that make use of:

- Real-world professional contexts for learning.
- Simulations of the professional field in and out of the classroom.
- Professional products for assessment where possible, sometimes for external assignment providers.
- The presence of the professional field in the shape of guest lecturers and project partners.
- Field visits and excursions where possible.
- Diverse work placement opportunities.

By providing professional contexts, simulating the field and using professional products for assessment (writing an export plan or policy proposal instead of taking exams on export and public policy, for example) including input from the professional field, visiting that field as often as possible and encouraging students to work in a wide range of organisations, ES is able to help students develop knowledge and skills that are in demand throughout the labour market, without committing them to a single discipline or field.

The programme is constructed around several core competences – the things our students must know or be able to do when they graduate. These core competences are agreed upon

by all of the European Studies programmes at Dutch universities of applied sciences, all of which believe that by the time they enter the labour market, each graduate should be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of Europe to analyse complex challenges related to Europe and its changing role in the world.
2. Apply knowledge of the European Union's multi-level policy framework to advise organizations, businesses and institutions.
3. Establish professional relationships, and collaborates in an intercultural and interdisciplinary environment
4. Research and critically evaluate contemporary issues, linking theory and practice to formulate concrete recommendations for organizations active in a European context
5. Use English and at least one other European (foreign) language to communicate in a work-related context
6. Demonstrate, in behaviour and attitude, awareness of strengths and weaknesses on the path toward becoming a European professional

At European Studies in The Hague, the six national competences have been further broken down into nine Learning Outcomes, which summarise what students specifically learn at ES in The Hague. These Learning Outcomes are informed by the programme's mission and its interdisciplinary approach to European Studies, which mixes the worlds of business and politics to offer students career options in either field, or in fields that bring them together.

At the end of the European Studies programme, the student can...

1. Analyse an organisation and its communication in relation to addressing societal challenges in Europe.
2. Design a product with digital output (blog/podcast/ documentary/vlog) that addresses Europe's challenges in its societal, historical, political context using credible sources, rhetorical techniques, storytelling, digital writing skills and genAI to communicate persuasively and effectively.
3. Advise an organisation on the basis of an extensive analysis of the EU multi-level regulatory and policy framework and the broader network of stakeholders to support its work in public affairs, EU policy formulation, EU decision-making, implementing EU policy or EU subsidies.
4. Collaborate in a diverse team and support its development, collaboration and decision-making by applying relevant team development models and techniques
5. Critically reflect on personal intercultural experiences and engagements during your exchange and internship by applying intercultural communication theories/concepts to personal observations and experience, articulating the relevance of intercultural competence for your future career using a prescribed reflection model
6. Propose to an organisation within the European Studies workfield recommendations with fitting professional products and practical application using visualizations on the basis of research done following the whole applied research cycle and adhering to ethical standards, applying various qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.
7. Communicate effectively and appropriately in English at minimum C1 level to a (non)specialist audience and to facilitate professional collaboration.

8. PLO 5.2 You are able to communicate effectively and appropriately in another language that is foreign to you (German, Dutch, Spanish, or French) at minimum B1+ level to a (non-)specialist audience and to facilitate professional collaboration.
9. Show professional behaviour, attitudes and values in a European professional context in relation to the values and dilemmas of their internship organisation, the broader profession and developments in society.

These Learning Outcomes are accompanied by our Body of Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes, give shape to all of the lectures, seminars, workgroups, projects and other activities that make up the European Studies programme. Students work on each outcome every year, starting at a basic level with a lot of guidance and progressing towards greater independence and a more professional command of their knowledge and skills.

The European Context

The knowledge and skills acquired at ES in pursuit of the programme's core competences could be applied at virtually any organisation, anywhere in the world, but they are taught with a specific focus on Europe and especially helpful for careers on the European stage.

Europe is, after all, our main context and it is where most graduates work after their studies are complete. As such, everything we do at European Studies has a connection to Europe and its organisations. That can be a political connection or a focus on rules and regulations, a business focus that is connected with European capital and funding or a focus on European culture, norms and values, all of which are essential for working in a European business or public sector organisation.

Ideally, we also strive to empower our students to help Europe's organisations in building bridges across the public/private divide in pursuit of multi-stakeholder collaboration.



2. Entry Requirements

As an international and interdisciplinary programme, European Studies prides itself on its diverse and multi-cultural student body and strives to recruit students with diverse backgrounds and interests. As such, the entry requirements are slightly different depending on those backgrounds and interests.

European Studies 4

Here are the entry requirements for the four-year version of European Studies:

Requirements for Dutch Students:

- A HAVO Diploma – all profiles are accepted.
- A VWO Diploma – all profiles are accepted – though VWO students can also apply for the three-year programme (ES3).
- An MBO Diploma – Level 4.

Students who are missing a subject or lack one of these diplomas can consult THUAS to enquire about Deficiency Tests for missing subjects or 21+ tests for different diplomas. Visit the site or contact the Central Enrolment Office: CSI@hhs.nl

Requirements for International Students:

- International students with a diploma that is the equivalent of HAVO or VWO can be admitted to European Studies.
- Diplomas are evaluated by the Dutch education accreditation agency called NUFFIC.
- In some cases, an English proficiency test may be required.

For details, see the full [Entry Requirements on our website](#).

European Studies 3

The 3-year fast track is essentially the same degree as the four-year variant, but in a more intensive and challenging format with some slight differences in course and project content and with more self-study. Because ES3 is offered to students with advanced secondary school diplomas, some courses from the four-year programme are combined and covered in intensive courses at a faster pace.

Requirements for Dutch Students:

- A VWO Diploma - all profiles are accepted.

Students who are missing a subject or lack one of these diplomas can consult THUAS to enquire about Deficiency Tests for missing subjects or 21+ tests for different diplomas. Contact the Central Enrolment Office: CSI@hhs.nl

Requirements for International Students:

- International students with a diploma that is the equivalent of a VWO Diploma can be admitted to European Studies.
 - This includes an International Baccalaureate, a European Baccalaureate, a German Abitur and A-Levels from the United Kingdom, as well as a wide variety of national diplomas.
- Diplomas are evaluated by the Dutch education accreditation agency NUFFIC.
- In some cases, an English proficiency test may be required.

For details, see the full [Entry Requirements on our website](#).



Alumni Story: Hi. I'm Luiza. Studying abroad is a challenge. A good challenge. Moving from Brazil to Den Haag took me out of my comfort zone and it's making me grow a lot. I am a first -year student and despite all the difficulties that an international student has to face in the first moments, studying at THUAS surpassed my expectations. I am very glad to say that I chose European Studies as my course. With the international and multi-cultural environment that the program offers, developing my skills was so much easier. The classes were extremely interesting, and the personal feedback

3. What Can You Do with This Diploma? Careers & master's for European Professionals

European Studies is not focused on preparation for any single profession. Given the fast-changing nature of the globalized workforce in the 21st century, young professionals need to be prepared for a wide range of different career possibilities.

ES students graduate with an internationally recognised Bachelor of Arts in European Studies and go on to careers as European Professionals, specialists in European (and global) affairs with the knowledge to work at the (junior) management level in a wide range of fields. They are especially equipped for international careers. They also have the right research, critical thinking, language and communications skills to be ready for anything and the flexibility to adapt to the changing needs of the 21st century. They often work as policy advisors, in (public or private) management, marketing or communications.

European Careers

With Europe in the foreground, ES prepares students to work in a specifically European context and trains them to advise organisations, institutions and businesses that are operating within that context with:

- Dealing with contemporary European affairs and challenges
- Navigating Multi-Level Policy Frameworks
- Operating in/across European countries & markets
- Collaborating across disciplines with other organisations to achieve shared goals
- Communicating with internal & external stakeholders

An ES graduate holds a unique, interdisciplinary combination of knowledge and skills from the disciplines of European politics and policymaking, combined with a foundation in sustainable business management and organisational communication. They have an interdisciplinary skill set and are able to understand and work with organisations in both the public and sectors. This skill set is suitable for different careers, but ES targets a few specific paths most connected to the programme's vision for the European Professional. These include careers in the following areas:

- Policy Advice – careers in regulatory/compliance advice, governance, sustainability advice, public affairs and related fields for different types of organisations.
- Fundraising – careers related to the sourcing and implementation of funding and project plans for different types of organisations, such as serving as a Grant Officer.
- Public Relations/Marketing/Communication Manager – careers that involve communicating with internal and external stakeholders to achieve organisational goals.
- Export/International Trade – careers that involve helping organisations find and maintain international partnerships and doing business across borders.

Each of these fields is deeply connected with Europe, through its regulations, its institutions, its cultures and its markets and each offers opportunities in different types of organisations. One

ES graduate might work with public policy by advising a private company on sustainability, for example, while another might work in marketing for a government institution or an NGO, but both will be using what they've learned at European Studies to do their jobs.

Here are some of the most common general job titles for ES Graduates:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account Manager • Ambassador's Assistant • Business Development Analyst • Compliance Officer • Consular Officer • Corporate Communications Officer • Corporate Social Responsibility Advisor • Event Planner • Export Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraiser • Grant Officer • Marketing Coordinator • Online Marketer • Operations Analyst • Parliamentary Assistant • Policy Officer • Political Advisor • Project Leader • Public Relations Officer • Sales Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Owner • Social Media Analyst • Social Media Coordinator • Social Media Marketing Officer • Sustainability Advisor
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Whether they are working as a liaison between Rotterdam harbour and foreign markets or lobbying in Brussels on behalf of business or political interests, our students are almost always engaged in cross-border careers. Sometimes they take the time to send us a picture or a note. We're always proud of them.

Some universities in the Netherlands require a pre-master if you apply after completing a Bachelor of Arts at a University of Applied Sciences, so be sure to check the requirements of any programme you're interested in. Students who pursue a master's abroad, which many ES graduates do, are rarely subject to such a requirement.

Masters/Graduate Studies

About half of European Studies graduates – especially those in the 3-year programme – choose to continue their education after receiving their BA, in order to dive deeper into specific subjects of interest. The interdisciplinary nature of the European Studies programme makes it possible to choose from a wide range of options.

Most of the master's programmes chosen by ES graduates are international in nature. Here are a few examples:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis and Security Management • European (Union) Studies • Intercultural Communication • International Business • International Development Studies • International Humanitarian Action • International Journalism • International Marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Public Management • International Relations Marketing Management • Master's in Business Administration (MBA) • Political Science • Public Administration • Peace and Conflict Studies
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For more examples, check out [@europeanstudiesthuas](https://www.instagram.com/europeanstudiesthuas) on Instagram



Opportunities for World Citizens in the City of Peace & Justice

Preparing students for an international career requires more than knowledge, skills and language courses. It's about helping them to become World Citizens – members of the global community who are dedicated to engaging with the world around them. ES graduates do not just travel the world. They try to make it a better place, either by developing innovative approaches to business, contributing to constructive government policy or working at non-governmental organisations. What better place to prepare for that than The Hague, the international city of peace and justice? The Hague is home to over 160 international organisations and companies, including:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal Dutch Shell• The International Criminal Court• The Peace Palace & International Court of Justice• Europol & Eurojust• Global Human Rights Defence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons• KPN Telecom• Aegon• The European Patent Office |
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For more on The Hague's international organisations, visit the [city's website](#).

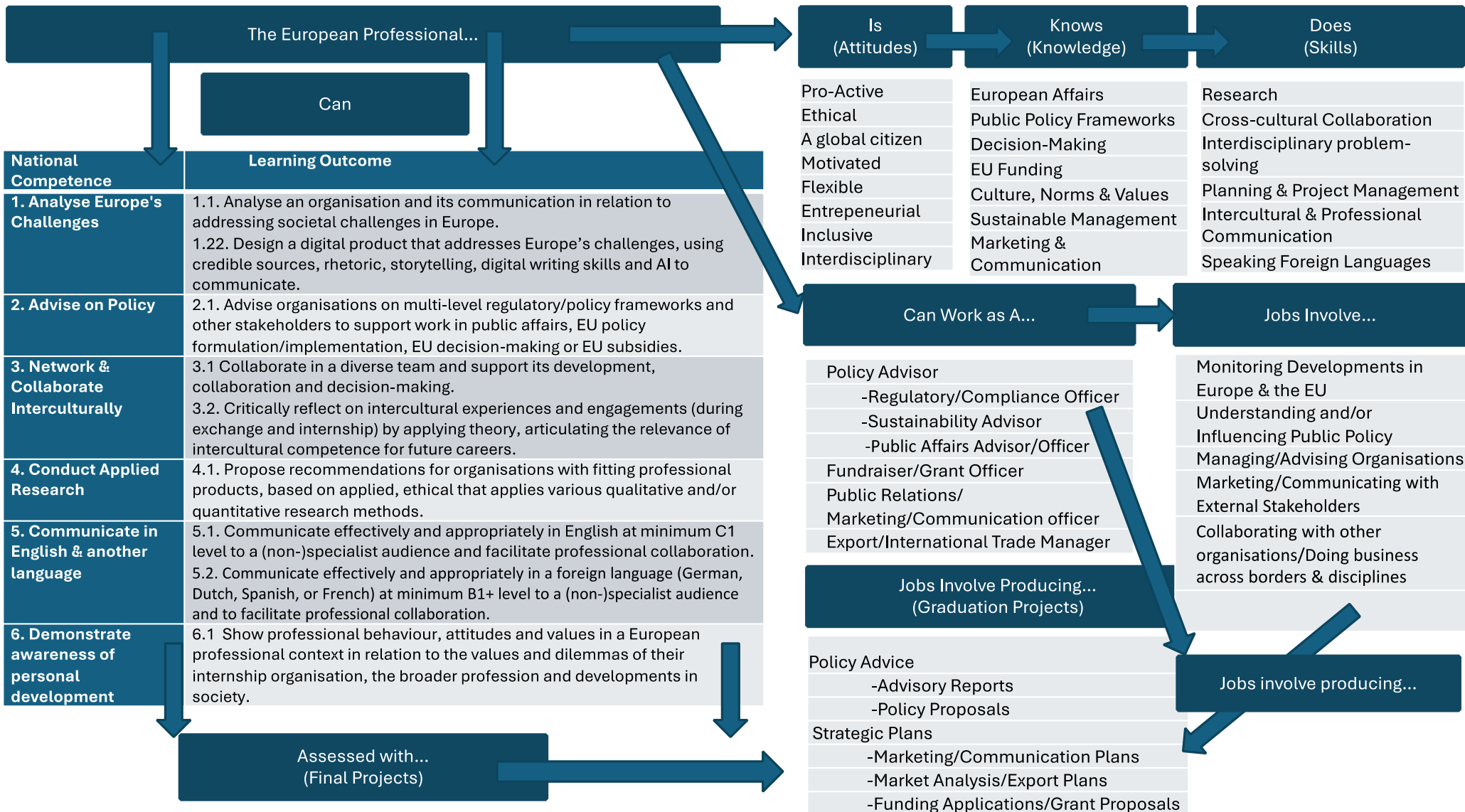


4. Programme Overview

European Studies can seem to be a bit harder to explain to family and friends at barbecues and birthday parties, because of its unique, interdisciplinary approach to European career preparation, and because the programme's name doesn't make you picture a specific job, if you zoom out and look at the big picture, it's actually not that difficult to explain or understand.

European Studies: The Bird's Eye View

This visual puts the whole programme into context.



5. Structure of the European Studies Programme

Though they follow very different courses, both versions of European Studies (the 4-year bachelor and 3-year fast-track) cover the same knowledge and skills, resulting in the same Bachelor of Arts Diploma. Both consist of a foundation year, where students are introduced to Europe and a Bachelor Phase, in which students work towards professionalisation. Both also include a Study Abroad period, which is mandatory for Dutch students and optional for internationals.

The Foundation Year

The first year of European Studies provides the foundation. You are introduced European business, politics and culture as well as the European Union and its member states. Along the way, you study the institutions, organisations and businesses operating within that landscape – the types of organisations in which ES graduates typically start their careers. You'll learn about how these organisations operate and collaborate. You'll also work on your professional skills, including research, communication, intercultural awareness and a foreign language. Along the way, you work on your own personal development and career goals.

The Bachelor Phase

After completing the first year of European Studies, you dive deeper into Europe and its organisations, tackling big challenges related to sustainability, peace & security and other themes, while continuing to work on research skills, communication skills and your foreign language. Your intercultural development continues with your exchange and your career development continues with your internship and final project (see below) which are partly customisable.

Customising the Course Load to Carve Out Your Own Career Path

ES offers a standard, core curriculum (though the curriculum is different for the 4-year programme and the 3-year fast-track) but allows for some customisation. At different moments in the programme, students are free to make their own choices in order to pursue their own interests and to personalise their CVS.

Students in ES4 will choose an Elective in the Second Year and will choose their own courses while on exchange in the third year. Upon return from exchange, students choose a minor to take a deep dive on a subject of interest. Then, students customise their entire fourth year around their own career goals, choosing the type of internship and type of graduation project that best suit them.

This gives students a lot of freedom, but also a lot of responsibility. We offer our students guidance but expect them to take that responsibility and take charge of their careers.

International Experience

In every phase of the programme, all students will get an international experience in multi-cultural classrooms that include exchange students from all over the world. They will also have the opportunity to go abroad for a five-month exchange, during which they will pursue courses of their own choosing. Exchange is required for all Dutch students and optional for international students. After returning to The Hague University of Applied Sciences, students will use the

insights gained on exchange for personal development while consolidating their knowledge and skills in a final round of courses and projects.

All students will acquire real experience in the international workplace by completing a 5-month internship at an international or internationally oriented organisation, government agency or company – in the Netherlands or abroad.

Foreign Languages

As part of its commitment to producing international professionals, the European Studies programme prioritises language learning. All students follow at least one modern foreign language throughout the programme – French, German, Spanish or Dutch (for international students only). Students can start French, German or Spanish at advanced or at beginner level – and international students can choose Dutch instead.

Students are strongly advised to start at advanced level if possible. If you had French, German or Spanish at secondary school, you should stick with it, because there are several advantages, including:

- The possibility of participating in special projects that sometimes include field trips.
- More options for going on exchange – in order to go to most of our French, German or Spanish speaking partner universities, you need a high level of the target language.
- The chance to graduate with a professional level – if you continue your language from secondary school in a Plus programme, you should be strong enough in your skills to work in that language when you graduate.

Basic French, German, Spanish, and Dutch can take you from beginner level to an intermediate level, but you'll want to continue learning on your own if you want to achieve a professional level of fluency. These courses are a good option for students with no previous foreign language experience.

Space in our foreign language classes is subject to some limitations due to fluctuations in student numbers and in the popularity of specific languages. As such, we cannot guarantee placement in specific languages. All students specify a first choice and a second choice when applying for European Studies. We strive to get everyone into their first choice, but this cannot be guaranteed.

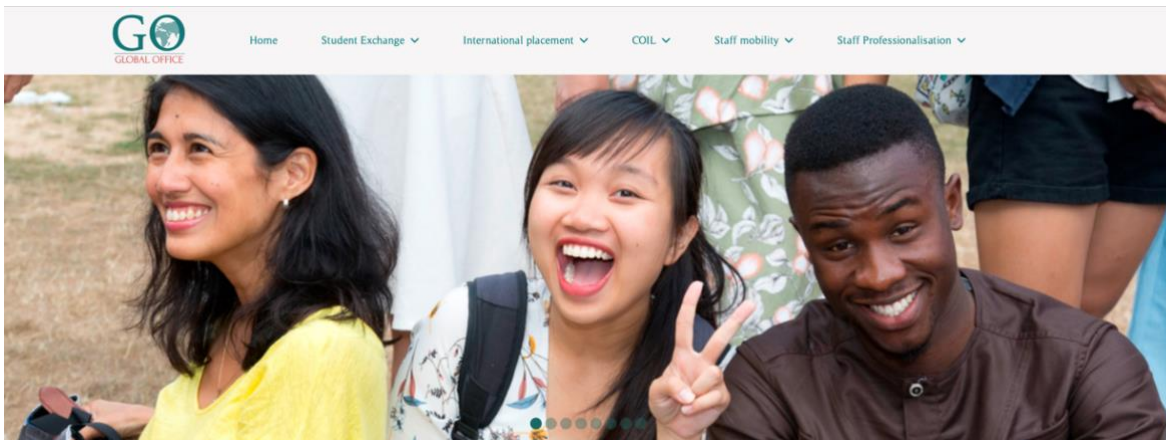
Study Success

In keeping with standard practice at Dutch universities and universities of Applied Sciences, European Studies students can earn a First-Year Diploma or Propedeuse by completing all of their courses and projects in the first year and earning all 60 credits. Students can enter the second year without a First-Year Diploma, but only if they have earned at least 50 credits in the first year. Students with less than 50 credits receive a Negative Binding Study Advice (NBSA) and have to leave the programme. It is important to get the First-Year Diploma on time, as it can have an effect on the exchange procedures.

ES is a challenging and demanding programme that requires multi-tasking, organisation and self-discipline, as well as full commitment to show up and do the work. Many of our courses – especially foreign languages – require intense practice and that makes full participation essential. It's not easy, and it's not for everyone, but for students who are up to this challenge, it's incredibly rewarding.

6. Going Abroad on Exchange

All European Studies students have the opportunity to go on exchange for 5 months in the third year (for ES4) or the second year (ES3). This is mandatory for all Dutch students and optional for internationals.



After receiving instruction on the application process, students submit an exchange application, specifying 5 countries of preference. Students who meet the criteria for going on exchange on time will be offered a place at a university in one of those countries.

The placement process is complex and, to some extent, competitive. Placement can be competitive, because some destinations are more popular than others and academic results can be used to determine priority. It is very important to attend all of the announced information sessions about this process and to respect application deadlines announced.

All students are assigned to a Country Tutor who helps them prepare and stays in touch with them while they're away.

ES has Exchange partners all over the world, though the programme prefers that students go on exchange in Europe or to a university that teaches courses relevant to Europe & European Studies. Here are some – but not all – of our partner countries. See our exchange site for full details: www.globaloffice.nu and see our [Instagram](#) for Exchange Testimonials.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia• Austria• Belgium• Bulgaria• Canada• Czech Republic• Denmark• Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finland• France• Germany• Greece• Hungary• Iceland• Ireland• Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japan• Korea• Latvia• Lithuania• Malta• Norway• Poland• Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romania• Russia• South Africa• Spain• Sweden• Turkey• United Kingdom• USA
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Minors for International students who do not go on exchange

International students who choose not to go on exchange can follow minors at The Hague University instead. Minors are comprehensive packages of elective courses focused on a more detailed exploration of themes relevant to a student's personal goals and interests.

7. Work Placement & Final Projects: Professionalisation and Graduation

Whether you're graduating in three years or four, the last year of the European Studies is about getting ready to graduate and start a career. After a minor that deepens students' knowledge on a subject of their own choosing, students face their final challenges: a 5-month internship at an approved international workplace and a final research project.

Work Placement

Each student will seek employment at an international organisation, company or government institution, where they will put all of their skills to the test while evaluating their own competences and progress. European Studies maintains a database of placement providers in the public and private sectors, but students can also find a placement on their own, provided that it meets our criteria and has a strong political, economic or cultural connection to Europe.

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the programme, there are many possibilities, but students must work at the appropriate level and their internship must have a clear European context that fits the vision of the European Studies programme. Students can do their placement abroad if desired, but The Hague and the Netherlands offer a lot of options.

Students also take an orientation course to help them evaluate options and prepare for the application process. As many as **one in three ES students are offered jobs** after completing their placements.



Student Story: Working in a predominantly Dutch office environment has shifted my perspectives. I appreciated the less formal work atmosphere, where expressing ideas and contributing to meetings is not only appreciated but expected. The emphasis on planning, efficiency, and structure will undoubtedly benefit me in executing future projects and meeting deadlines. – **Anna Sipos on her Internship**

Examples of Recent Placement Organisations

Public Sector Placements	Private Sector Placements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coastal & Marine Union • Curacao Cares • D66 • EP Nuffic • Eurojust • Europe Direct • The EU Delegation to the USA • MasterPeace – European Office • The Ministries of Foreign Affairs & Economic Affairs • The Municipality of Amsterdam • The Municipality of The Hague • The Netherlands Consulate in Dusseldorf • The Partij van de Arbeid (Dutch Labour Party) • The Portuguese Navy • ProDemos • The Province of Antwerpen • The Province of Zuid-Holland • Reliance • SOMO • Stichting Vluchtelingwerk (Foundation for Refugee work) • The Hague Security Delta • World Animal Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABN Amro • Akzo Nobel • Bali Go Live • Be Madrid • Den Haag Marketing • Donkeytrip • Ernst & Young • Holland at Home • Hunkemoller • JD Sports Fashion PLC • Koninklijke Ahold • Koninklijke Verkade • Madurodam • MetricLab • NBTC Holland • Nestle • Park Plaza Hotels Europe • Santa Fe Relocation Services • Topic Travel • Verdel • Vice • Yogyousef

Final Projects

To graduate, students must also demonstrate their knowledge and skills with a final applied research project. Students can choose the type of project based on their own professional interests and goals, but it should be a project that results in one of the standard professional products for a European Studies graduate. These include: a policy advice (an advisory report or policy proposal) or a strategic plan (a marketing/communication plan, a market analysis/export plan or a funding application/grant proposal). Students are supervised throughout their research by a member of staff with expertise in their field of research and evaluated by their supervisor and an impartial second reader.

8. Modern Foreign Languages

All European Studies graduates are multilingual, speaking their native language(s), English, and an additional foreign language learned through the programme. Language skills are a distinctive feature of ES students, setting them apart in the job market, where the ability to speak multiple languages can give them the edge they need for an international career.

Languages and Levels

Students can choose to follow French, German or Spanish at a beginner level or at an intermediate level. International students have the option of choosing beginner-level Dutch.

Students who studied French, German or Spanish at secondary school are strongly encouraged to continue that language at the intermediate level, because they can graduate with an /professional level in that language, giving them an edge on your CV. It also expands the options for studying abroad, as many of our partner universities teach in French, German or Spanish.

Intermediate courses are suitable for anyone who followed their language at secondary school. At the start, you are able to understand basic conversations and express yourself simply, but you'll be able to do a lot more by the end. The course begins at an A2.2 level of the Common European Framework for languages and aims to reach at least B2.1 which will equip you to speak your language at work. The first weeks of the course will review basic grammar and vocabulary to help you refresh your knowledge, so don't worry about it being too advanced.

Beginner courses are designed for true beginners who have never studied the language before. The course starts at A1.1 and aims to reach at least B1+ by the end. It's important to be aware that **you cannot do a language course that is below your own level**. You cannot, for example, do a beginner course if you already have some familiarity with the language (or if you followed it at secondary school) and if your teacher deems your level to be too high for your language course (beginner or intermediate) you can be moved to another language.

Class structure and attendance

First-year students take their language classes with a specific language group, which may not be the same as their regular ES class. ES3 students take MFL classes together with ES4 students. Each week, you have two language classes (one 90-minute and one 135-minute session). You will receive three assessments for the MFL modules: a written exam, an oral exam and a pass/fail for attendance/participation.

Choosing Your Language

If you apply for European Studies, you will specify your language preferences in Studielink. You will have to specify a first choice and a second choice because space is sometimes limited, especially in beginner groups. We cannot guarantee that you will get your first choice, but most students do, especially if they choose intermediate courses.

9. Detailed Overview of European Studies 4

Here is a short overview of the entire ES4 programme. The programme is divided into semesters and each semester has a theme. Most courses are assessed with practical assignments and portfolios, but some – especially in the modern foreign languages – have exams.

European Studies 4 Overview

Year 1

The theme for the First Semester of ES4 is Europe’s Challenges. It introduces students to Europe and its institutions, organisations and businesses. The second semester theme is EU challenges and takes a closer look at how organisations in the EU – including businesses – conduct their affairs. Students work on their foreign language and Professional Development and get help improving their English and intercultural communication skills.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
1	Political Challenges	Understanding European politics	European Politics, European Affairs, European Policy Frameworks	Critical Thinking, Discussion Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Written Exam	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
1	Business Challenges	Learning business management and how businesses face challenges, with integrated IT skills (including Excel) and Oral Presentation training	European Business, Sustainable Management	Data processing Public speaking	Lecture-Seminar	Written Exam, Assignments & Presentation	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
1	Research & Writing	Essential training in professional research and writing in preparation for other courses and projects	Research methods, Referencing, Standards of professional writing	Research English Writing, APA-style Referencing	Workshops	Portfolio	Professional Skills & Case Studies

1	Project: Facing Europe's Challenges	Putting political theory into practices while considering business interests in a simulated constitutional congress for a new European nation.	European Affairs European Politics European Business	Project Management Research Collaboration & networking Writing & Public Speaking	Group Project	Project & associated assignments	Professional Skills Guest Speakers & External Assignment Providers
1	Professional Development	Coaching, study skills and personal reflection. Includes free choice activities	Interdisciplinary	Various	Workshops	Portfolio	Orientation
2	International Cooperation in the EU & Beyond	Studying international organisations and multi-stakeholder collaboration with integrated research & writing skills	European Politics, European Affairs, European Policy Frameworks	Research English Writing Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Exam & Paper	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
2	EU Law & Institutions	Understanding the key players operating in the EU with a brief introduction to Law.	European Politics, European Affairs, European Law, European Policy Frameworks.	Critical Thinking, Discussion Skills	Lecture-seminar	Written Exam	Orientation & Case Studies
2	Management and Marketing	Learning how organisations interact with other stakeholders and build relationships through marketing and communication, including digital writing	European business Sustainable management Marketing & communication strategy	Research English Writing Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
2	Intercultural Communication in English	Developing intercultural sensitivity while further improving communication skills	Culture	Intercultural Skills English Writing & Presenting	Lecture-Seminar	Advisory Report	Case Studies Professional Skills

2	Project: EU Challenges in Practice	A simulated EU scenario involving multi-stakeholder collaboration to tackle global problems	European Affairs European Politics European Business	Research, writing, public speaking & foreign languages	Simulation	Project & associated assignments	Case Studies Professional Skills
All Year	Modern Foreign Languages	Development of language skills with a focus on practice	Languages	Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening	Workshops	Oral, Open Question, Multiple Choice Exams & Portfolios	Professional Skills



Student Story: I personally find it fascinating what they teach us here – it's fresh and the world news is also involved, for example, the American elections. I believe we're going to Brussels with the class in our first year, which sounds like a lot of fun. Generally, I look forward to going on excursions and familiarising myself with places that might be my future work environment. I think that's really cool. – **Ward Frenken (Year 1)**

Year 2

Students dive deeper into European politics and business in Year 2, taking on advanced themes related to Sustainability, Peace, Security in Prosperity. They learn how organisations, businesses and institutions pursue these goals through public policy, sustainable businesses practices, marketing and communications. Foreign languages and personal development continue, but there are no more independent English courses, as English skills are practiced in other modules.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
3	EU in Motion	Understanding how the EU sets priorities, creates and implements policy.	European Politics, European Affairs, Policy Frameworks	Critical Thinking, Research, Discussion Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Written Exam	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills

3	EU Public Affairs & Lobbying	Lobbying EU officials and organisations for changes to policy or regulations.	European Politics, European Affairs, Policy Frameworks	Lobbying	Workshops	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
3	Sustainable Business	Evaluating and writing about the sustainability of European businesses.	European business Sustainable management	English Writing Analysis Advice	Lecture-Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
3	Applied Research	Using advanced methods for real-world research	Research Methodologies	Research Writing Advice	Workshops	Assignment	Professional Skills
3	Project: Sustainability Summit	Students prepare & debate sustainability solutions from different perspectives	European Affairs European Politics European Business	Project Management Research Collaboration & Networking	Group Project	Project & associated assignments	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
4	Peace, Security & Prosperity in Europe	Analysing how government/EU policies maintain peace, security & prosperity on the continent	European Affairs European Politics	Research Writing Advising	Lecture-Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
4	Marketing & Communication in Europe	Learning how organisations use marketing & communication strategies to interact with other stakeholders	European Business Sustainable Management Communication Strategies	Research English Writing Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
2	Project: Fundraising in Europe	Putting marketing into practice by inventing a business or NGO and its digital marketing content before requesting EU funds	European Business Sustainable Management Communication Strategies	Research, writing, networking, public speaking & foreign languages	Guest Lectures, Group Work	Project & associated assignments	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills

2	Electives	Students choose 1 elective in Year 2 on a subject related to Business, Politics or Culture.					
2	Professional Development	Coaching, study skills and personal reflection. Includes free choice activities	Interdisciplinary	Various	Workshops	Portfolio	Orientation
All Year	Modern Foreign Languages	Development of language skills with a focus on practice	Languages	Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening	Workshops	Oral, Open Question, Multiple Choice Exams & Portfolios	Professional Skills

Year 3

Year 3 brings one of the high points: the exchange experience. Students study abroad at a partner university for a full semester, in addition to taking a full semester of advanced courses at ES. In the home semester, students explore diversity and international affairs, looking at how public policy deals with multi-culturalism and how European Business deals with international export. Students also get to choose a minor in an area of interest and continue their foreign languages. Exchange is possible in both semesters, so students can go abroad in August and take the home semester in January, or do things the other way around, depending on circumstances.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
5/6	Exchange The study abroad period is one of the highlights of the European studies programme for most students.						
5/6	Diversity in Europe	Analysing how (EU) policy deals with the dilemmas of diversity in contemporary Europe.	European Affairs European Politics	Research Writing Advising	Lecture-Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
5/6	Europe Desk	Learning how to assist real organisations engaged in international export in Europe.	European Business Sustainable Management Export Communication Strategies	Research English Writing Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills External Assignment Providers
4	Minor	A package of courses in an area of interest that is relevant to European Studies.					

5/6	Modern Foreign Languages	Development of language skills with a focus on practice & thematic integration with other courses where possible	Languages	Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening	Workshops	Oral, Open Question, Multiple Choice Exams & Portfolios	Professional Skills
5/6	Professional Development	Coaching continues Year 3, but outside of the curriculum and without credit points attached.					



Student Story: What motivated me most to go on exchange is that I thought it would be a really great opportunity to live in a different scenario for a while and gain more international experience. As a people person, I would say the things I was most excited about were meeting new people, exploring the city, and getting to know the school I would go to. People often speak Spanish to me right away, even if I respond in English. This pushed me to quickly adapt and start speaking Spanish more often. – **Lisa Maurik**

Year 4

The fourth and final year of European Studies brings everything together in a graduation phase. Students will collaborate on a final group project in which they combine research with creativity and make films, while simultaneously preparing for 5 months of Work Placement, where students demonstrate their skills at an Institution, Organisation or Business that is active in Europe, after which they will do research for an employer for a graduation project that goes beyond theory and into professional practice.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
7	EuroVisions	Researching major European Challenges and lobbying for solutions through creative storytelling and filmmaking. Includes foreign language components.	European Politics & Policy European Business	Research Critical Thinking Storytelling Blogging Filmmaking Foreign Languages	Workshops and Film Festival	Portfolio	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
7/8	Work Placement						
	5 Months of full-time work for a European employer, in the Netherlands or abroad, starting in the middle of the fall semester and ending in the middle of the second semester. Includes Personal Development						
8	Final Project	Students conduct applied research to produce a professional product, such as piece of policy advice (an advisory report or policy proposal) or a strategic plan (such as a marketing/communication plan, export plan or grant proposal) for a real-world assignment provider (in most cases, the same employer as the Internship). Conclusion of Personal Development.					

10. Detailed Overview of European Studies 3

The three-year version of European Studies covers the same content and competencies as the 4-year programme and results in the same Bachelor of Arts, but is taught in a more compact and challenging package to a smaller group of students.

The first year of the fast-track starts out largely similar to the 4-year programme, but some courses are modified with extra content and/or assignments and other additional challenges. Things will accelerate quickly after that, with fast-track students going through an intensive bootcamp at the end of the first semester that allows them to accelerate their pace as they progress towards the higher-level courses in the programme.

The second year will offer a more compact version of the bachelor phase of European Studies, as well as the chance to go on exchange, which four-year students do in their third year and the final year will bring fast-track students into the same graduation phase as the students in the four-year programme, allowing all students to graduate with the very same Bachelor of Arts of European Studies.

It is essentially the same programme, but more challenging and with a faster pace. It requires more self-study and better time management skills, so it is best suited to the motivated and disciplined student.

Alumni Story: My name is Taylor and I was an ES3 student. Having experienced both WO and HBO I can definitely say HBO suits me better and prepares me to fully stand on my own feet in today’s dynamic labour market. In comparison to a research university, the way of educating focuses more on your skills. When you are required to do a presentation, you are taught first how to present yourself. How do you make sure people listen to you? Another difference is the level of personal attention. My tutor was sincerely concerned in my well-being. Lecturers will greet you in the hallway and know who you are.



European Studies 3 Overview Year 1

The theme for the First Semester of ES4 is Europe’s Challenges. It introduces students to Europe and its institutions, organisations and businesses, while also helping students acquire professional skills. The second semester dives deeper into advanced courses about how the organisations in Europe, including the EU, try to meet those challenges, especially with regard to international cooperation, peace, security and prosperity. Students also learn about how organisations use marketing and fundraising in order to get the resources to meet those goals.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
1	Political Challenges	Understanding European politics	European Politics, European Affairs, European Policy Frameworks	Critical Thinking, Discussion Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Written Exam	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
1	Business Challenges	Learning business management and how businesses face challenges, with integrated IT skills (including Excel) and Oral Presentation training.	European Business, Sustainable Management	Data processing Public speaking	Lecture-Seminar	Written Exam, Assignments & Presentation	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills

1	Research & Writing	Essential training in research and writing in preparation for other courses and projects	Research methods, Referencing, Standards of professional writing	Research English Writing, APA-style Referencing	Workshops	Portfolio	Professional Skills & Case Studies
1	Project: Facing Europe's Challenges	Putting political theory into practices while considering business interests in a simulated constitutional congress for a new European nation.	European Affairs European Politics European Business	Project Management Research Collaboration & networking Writing & Public Speaking	Group Project	Project & associated assignments	Professional Skills Guest Speakers & External Assignment Providers
1	Professional Development	Coaching, study skills and personal reflection. Includes free choice activities	Interdisciplinary	Various	Workshops	Portfolio	Orientation
	Additional Content	Throughout the first semester, there are extra lectures and readings related to public policy, management and marketing	European Affairs European Politics European Business Marketing	Research Collaboration & Networking Other essential skills	Intensive training	Various	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies
2	International Cooperation in the EU & Beyond	Studying international organisations and multi-stakeholder collaboration with integrated research & writing skills	European Politics, European Affairs, European Policy Frameworks	Research English Writing Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Written/Multiple-choice exam Paper	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills

2	Peace, Security & Prosperity in Europe	Learning how EU policy keeps the continent safe and secure while maintaining a healthy economy	European Politics, European Affairs, European Policy Frameworks	Research English Writing Skills	Lecture-Seminar	Multiple Choice Exam Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies
2	EU Law & Institutions	Understanding the key players operating in the EU with a brief introduction to Law.	European Politics, European Affairs, European Law, European Policy Frameworks.	Critical Thinking, Discussion Skills	Lecture-seminar	Written Exam	Orientation & Case Studies
2	Intercultural Communication in English	Developing intercultural sensitivity while further improving communication skills	Culture	Intercultural Skills English Writing & Presenting	Lecture-Seminar	Advisory Report	Case Studies Professional Skills
2	Intercultural Communication in English	Developing intercultural sensitivity while further improving communication skills	Culture	Intercultural Skills English Writing & Presenting	Lecture-Seminar	Advisory Report	Case Studies Professional Skills
2	Project: Fundraising in Europe	Putting marketing into practice by inventing a business or NGO and its digital marketing content before requesting EU funds	European Business Sustainable Management Communication Strategies	Research, writing, networking, public speaking & foreign languages	Guest Lectures, Group Work	Project & associated assignments	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
All Year	Modern Foreign Languages	Development of language skills with a focus on practice & thematic integration with other courses where possible	Languages	Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening	Workshops	Oral, Open Question, Multiple Choice Exams & Portfolios	Professional Skills

Year 2

Students dive deeper in Year 2, taking on more advanced themes related to Sustainability, as well Diversity, while also developing research skills and their foreign language. Fast-track students get to go on exchange in the second semester, though international students can choose to take minors in the Netherlands as well.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
3	Sustainable Business	Evaluating and writing about the sustainability of European businesses	European business Sustainable management	English Writing Analysis Advice	Lecture- Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
3	Applied Research	Building on research skills learned in Year 1 with advanced methods Connected to semester project	Research Methodologies	Research Writing Advice	Workshops	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
3	EU Public Affairs & Lobbying	Lobbying EU officials and organisations for changes to policy or regulations.	European Politics, European Affairs, Policy Frameworks	Lobbying	Workshops	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
3	Diversity in Europe	Analysing how (EU) policy deals with the dilemmas of diversity in contemporary Europe	European Affairs European Politics	Research Writing Advising	Lecture- Seminar	Assignment	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
3	Modern Foreign Languages	Development of language skills with a focus on practice & thematic integration with other courses where possible	Languages	Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening	Workshops	Oral, Open Question, Multiple Choice Exams & Portfolios	Professional Skills
3	Professional Development	Coaching, study skills and personal reflection with free choice activities	Interdisciplinary	Various	Workshops	Portfolio	Orientation
4	Exchange The study abroad period is one of the highlights of the European studies programme for most students.						

Year 3

The third and final year of European Studies 3 brings fast-track students and 4-year students back together for a final sprint towards their future career. This includes a full semester of Work Placement, in which students demonstrate their skills at an Institution, Organisation or Business that is active in Europe, and a final semester of study that includes a final foreign language course, a graduation project and the conclusion of their personal development. These activities can be done in a different order depending on circumstances.

Sem	Course	Description	Knowledge	Skills	Teaching	Testing	Career Prep
7	EuroVisions	Researching major European Challenges and lobbying for solutions through creative storytelling and filmmaking. Includes foreign language components.	European Politics & Policy European Business	Research Critical Thinking Storytelling Blogging Filmmaking Foreign Languages	Workshops and Film Festival	Portfolio	Orientation & Case Studies Professional Skills
7/8	Work Placement						
7/8	5 Months of full-time work for a European employer, in the Netherlands or abroad, starting in the middle of the fall semester and ending in the middle of the second semester. Includes Personal Development						
7/8	Final Project	Students conduct applied research to produce a professional product, such as piece of policy advice (an advisory report or policy proposal) or a strategic plan (such as a marketing/communication plan, export plan or grant proposal) for a real-world assignment provider (in most cases, the same employer as the Internship). Conclusion of Personal Development.					

11. Minors & Electives

European Studies students follow the same core programme – often called a major – but are also free to customise that programme, to some extent, with their language choice, minors and – in some cases - electives.

Minors

ES4 students take minors in Year 3 and all students choose minors during their exchange period. Those who go abroad select minors at a partner institution while the international students who choose to remain in The Hague follow minors at The Hague University of Applied Sciences. Students will also have the opportunity to choose one minor in their fourth and final year. Students can choose one of the minors offered by European Studies, but also have other options.

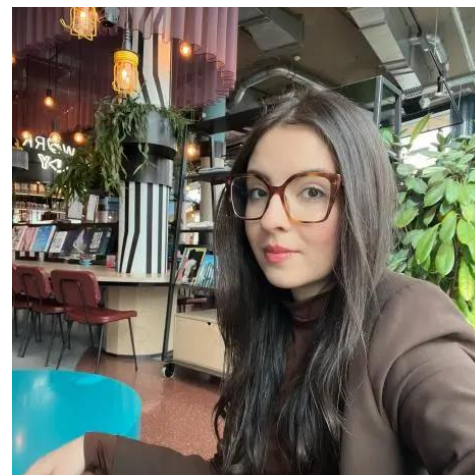
There are minors offered to all students at THUAS by a variety of programmes, and ES students have access to some specific minors offered by sister programmes like International Communication Management. Here is an overview of some of the European Studies minors. For a complete list of what is offered throughout THUAS, see the Student Portal. Availability is subject to change.

Overview of European Studies Minors

Sem	Minor	Description	Knowledge/Skills	Testing	Career Development
1	International Law	Immersion in international public & humanitarian law with a focus on human rights	Law	Exams, Essays & Moot Court Presentation	Orientation & Case Studies
1	Political Communication in the 21st Century	An investigation of politics and mass media in Europe and their impact on one another	Politics Communication Intercultural skills	Essays, Presentations and Exams	Orientation & Case Studies
1	The Art of Protest	Examining advocacy strategies and the evolution of protest, as well as its political and cultural impact	Communication Intercultural skills Lobbying	Assignments & Event	Professional Skills, Orientation & Case Studies
2	Caught in the Middle: The EU – EaP – Russia	Exploring the relationship between the EU, Eastern Partnership countries and Russia and their wider ramifications on international affairs, with an online collaboration project	Politics International Relations	Assignments	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies
2	Europe's Challenging Neighbourhood	Exploring the EU's Neighbourhood policies and the various foreign policy and security challenges faced in a fast-changing world	Politics International Relations	Assignments	Professional Skills, Orientation & Case Studies
2	Diplomacy & Foreign Policy in the EU	Learning the basics of diplomacy and then applying them to case studies in the EU's relations with North America, Africa and Asia	Public Sector Diplomacy & Foreign Policy Research & Analysis	Assignments	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies
1	French Language & Culture	Improving French-language skills while developing an understanding French culture	Languages Communication Intercultural skills	Written & Oral Exams	Professional Skills Career orientation
1	Spanish Language & Culture for Beginners	An introduction to Spanish language and culture for total beginners	Languages Communication Intercultural skills	Written Exam Oral Exam Portfolio	Professional Skills Career orientation

1	Spanish Language & Culture	A chance to explore intensive development of Spanish language skills	Languages Communication Intercultural skills	Oral & Written Exams	Professional Skills Career orientation
2	Business & Society in Post-Brexit Britain	Analysing the impact of Brexit on Europe, as well as its businesses and exploring the future of EU-UK relations.	Interdisciplinary Intercultural skills Politics & Business	Assignments	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies

Student Story: Both of my minors are from THUAS. One is French Language and Culture (M&O faculty), and the other one is Crisis Communication (Communication faculty). I decided to do the Crisis Communication minor because I really liked the presentation during the Minor Market, and I always wanted to explore that area within European Studies. So, I thought it would be a great opportunity to finally dedicate my time and effort to it. And I also “clicked” with the teacher and felt from the first impression that it would be a great minor. So far, I am really obsessed with both – Estefania Salazar Martrus



Electives

All European Studies 4 have the option of choosing an Elective course in the second semester of their second year (ES3 students do not usually have room for electives because of the intensive nature of the programme). Electives are optional courses that provide additional depth in one of the core aspects of Europe: Business, Politics or Culture.

Sem	Elective	Description	Knowledge/Skills	Testing	Career Development
2	Corporate Governance & Value-Based Leadership	Analysing how organisations are structured & run, with special attention to ethics, good governance and leadership strategies	Interdisciplinary Public & Private Sector Management Governance	Assignment	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies
1 or 2	Sustainable Entrepreneurial Thinking	Developing and pitching sustainability solutions in the world of business.	Business Entrepreneurship	Assignment & Presentation	Professional Skills Orientation

1 or 2	European Culture: From 1000 BCE to TikTok	Analysing the culture(s) of Europe and the development of art, literature, music, cinema and popular culture	History & Culture Communication Intercultural skills	Oral Exams	Orientation
1 or 2	Gender & Sexuality in Europe	Discovering the complexity of life in Europe for women & LGBTQ+ with special attention to the evolution of their rights in Europe and the EU	Interdisciplinary Politics, Business & Culture Intercultural skills	Portfolio	Orientation
2	Pan-American Studies	Exploring the cultures of North and South America and understanding their relationship to Europe and how it has changed over time.	History & Culture Communication Intercultural Skills	Presentation & Written Exam	Orientation
1 or 2	Exchange Perspectives for Local Impact in Collaboration (EXPLICO)	Applying Design Thinking strategies to solving problems related to migration and mobility in a student-led project	Interdisciplinary Public and private sector Research & Teamwork	Portfolio	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies
2	Professional Development & Core Principles of the EU	Understanding European values and applying them to personal career development.	Interdisciplinary Personal development	Portfolio & Presentation	Orientation
1	European Identities & Ideologies	Understanding the different political ideologies and ideas about identity that power debate and division across Europe today	Public Sector Political Science	Assignments	Professional Skills, Orientation & Case Studies
2	Human Rights in Europe	Learning about European Law and the processes by which it strives to protect and ensure human rights.	Public Sector Politics & Law Advocacy	Portfolio	Professional Skills Orientation & Case Studies
2	War, Instability & Poverty: Facing the Outside World	Understanding the complexities of EU external action and analysing approaches to international affairs.	Public Sector Politics & foreign policy	Assignments	Professional Skills, Orientation & Case Studies

12. Exams and Assignments

Because of its interdisciplinary and intercultural nature, European Studies uses a wide variety of assessment strategies for courses and projects. Each course is assessed separately with (a mix of) exams, assignments or presentations. Some exams involve multiple choice questions, while others have open exam writing assignments, while others involve both. European Studies also makes extensive use of presentations, oral exams and projects, and generally aims for assessment strategies that challenge students to apply knowledge in a hands-on fashion, often by producing professional products like policy proposals and marketing plans.

Exams and Re-sits

By law, students are given two opportunities per assessment per year whenever possible. For every exam, assignment or presentation, there is a second chance, called a re-sit, for students who missed the first opportunity or would like to improve upon their results.

Exam Procedures

All exam procedures are made known to students in advance, including the timing of exams on the year calendar, registration procedures and grading procedures.

The school year is divided into two semesters and those semesters are divided into two terms. Some courses run for a single term while others last the full semester. As such, there is an exam period at the end of every term, but the number of exams can vary.

Deadlines for assessments that do not include a central exam (essays, reports) are usually scheduled during or after the term and not necessarily during the exam period.

Students register for exams and receive grades using Osiris, an online registration tool. Osiris and instructions for using it are accessible through the Student Portal. Results for all exams or other assessments must be published on Osiris within 15 business days of the exam or deadline. If it takes longer, students are entitled to file a complaint with the Exam Board.

The quality and fairness of exams is monitored by an Exam Board, which also investigates any complaints or problems that arise.

Feedback

Assessment is an important part of the learning process and to make the most of it, students need feedback on their performance. Quality feedback is a high priority at European Studies, which is why all exams are subject to inspection. Exam inspections are scheduled shortly after each exam period and announced for students, who have the option of viewing their exam and requesting feedback. Students are also entitled to view any and all assignments and associated grading checklists during inspection, or by appointment with their teacher.

13. Support and Supervision

European Studies is a challenging programme that demands hard work and personal responsibility. For some students, it can be a big adjustment, but the good news is that they do not have to make that adjustment alone because the programme offers a lot of support.

Supervisors

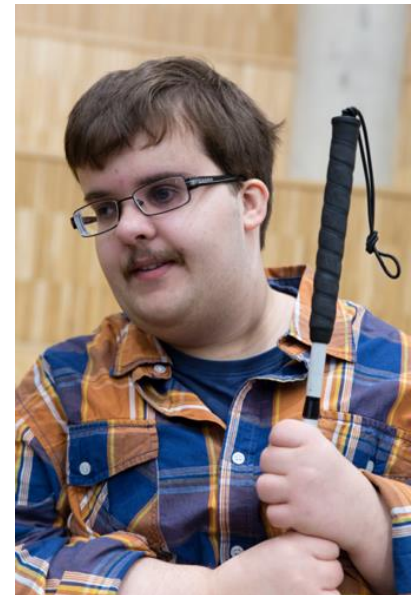
All first-year students are assigned an Educational Career Supervisor (ECS), a staff member who helps them adjust and coaches them, in addition to helping them keep track of their study progress and guiding career development throughout the programme. They can also offer help in the event of personal problems that can adversely affect schoolwork. In the first year, a student mentor also guides each class. Supervision is fairly close in the first two years. As students progress through

the programme, they are given more autonomy, but they will have mentoring during the most important activities – including the final project and work placement.

The Student Counsellor, Confidential Advisor & School Psychologist

If students encounter personal, medical or other types of problems that affect their ability to study or their results, they can turn to the student counsellor (Decaan), who can offer advice about school regulations and legal matters, financial matters and special support arrangements for students with a disability (including illness, physical disabilities or learning disabilities such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorder). For personal matters, there is a Confidential Advisor who is ready to listen and The Hague University of Applied Sciences has a team of School Psychologists who provide counselling services and a wide range of trainings on dealing with learning disabilities, fear of failure and other issues.

Student Story: My name is Brendan Verschut, I am a Dutch student at European Studies. I found out about this study by looking at details on the study's website, as well as going to both the trial and open days. Though there are multiple institutes that provides these studies, I heard (through connections) that THUAS was by far the best option, since 'a partner in crime' went to this university as well. As of yet I have had a very positive experience at this study program. Some things may not be so easy for me compared to a non-visually impaired, but both the lecturers and myself always try to look for alternatives should the regular approach hinder me. My motivation and the study's co-operation has allowed me to get this far. I have been complemented for both this motivation and my independence as well as my willingness to co-operate and attempt to solve problems. Finally, I want to add that both the Dean (Decaan) and the Exam Board have been very co-operative in helping and providing the right facilities to make my study and exams possible.



14. Our Commitment to Quality: The Code of Conduct

The European Studies is more than a study programme. It's a community of hard-working students, teachers and support staff who work together to build bridges to a successful future. To create the kind of culture that protects that community and provides quality, European Studies has a Code of Conduct: principles to govern the way that people work and interact.

It is not a detailed list of rules. Instead, it states the five basic principles that underlie how students and staff in the ES programme should interact and operate and clarifies five basic agreements about what staff and students at ES should expect from one another. These agreements illustrate the kind of culture that ES is committed to maintaining and serve as a reference point.

The European Studies Code of Conduct

1. We are proud to be here and committed to participating in the community.

This means that all staff and students have chosen to be a part of the community and are committed to being where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there. It also means everyone commits to being prepared and ready to get to work, and to making the most of every opportunity. The greater the effort, the greater the likelihood of success.

2. We can count on each other to do what is expected of us and to do it in a timely fashion.

Studying and teaching are hard work and require a great deal of multi-tasking and careful time management. Being part of ES means committing to use both in order to guarantee that our work is done (and done well) on time. Students and staff alike are expected to know what is expected of them at all times, by following directions and holding to agreements, and everyone is expected to respect their deadlines.

3. We respect each other as well as each other's efforts and time.

Mutual respect is an essential ingredient in any professional environment. Everyone has a right to feel safe, welcome and valued at ES and all members of the community are committed to making sure that everyone does. This means showing respect in our communication, our behaviour and the feedback we give on each other's work, and it also means showing respect for each other's limited time. Everyone at ES is committed to working and communicating with maximum efficiency

4. We set high standards for ourselves and do what it takes to (help each other) meet them.

ES is dedicated to helping its students succeed, but success does not come easy. It takes commitment to maximise your potential to reach the highest possible standards in your work, to earn a diploma that everyone can be proud of. We are also committed to helping each other to reach those standards, bringing out the best in each other, by encouraging and supporting one another and providing constructive feedback to each other. No matter who you are, if you need help, all you have to do is ask for it and be willing to put the work in. When everyone chips in, and makes the most of every opportunity, we can all share in each other's successes.

5. We are honest with each other and honest with ourselves.

Trust and integrity is essential to any professional and a cornerstone of what staff and students at ES can expect from one another. Everyone at ES agrees to take responsibility for themselves and for their work and is expected to behave in an honest and transparent fashion. And, because this is an institution dedicated to learning, we recognize the importance of giving and receiving feedback and then reflecting upon it. When we give feedback, we commit to a constructive approach, and when we receive feedback, we take it seriously and, where applicable, we use it to better ourselves.

In short, all members of the ES community – teachers, support staff and students – have to be able to count on one another. If we want to make the most of our time together, we all have to commit to upholding this code together.

15. Optional & Extra-Curricular Activities

European Studies offers a complex programme of courses, projects and assignments, but the intercultural learning experience at ES goes beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to pursue activities of their own choosing to help with their development. As part of their career development, students earn credits for a wide range of tasks relevant to the programme and to their own interests, from independent research to volunteering, study trips or career orientation.

There are many extra-curricular activities for students. ES has its own student association, ESCAPE, which plans parties and field trips – including trips abroad. The Hague University is a community and that community is host to a number of student organisations, sports clubs and other activities, from debates and guest lectures to film screenings.

Important Committees

Students can also choose to serve the European Studies programme by joining:

- The Programme or Faculty Committee, which meets with management to discuss the quality of the programme and to represent the interests and concerns of students.
- ESCAPE, our study association/PR Team, which plans parties, study trips and other activities in addition to getting real-life experience with marketing and public relations. See [@escapethuas](https://www.instagram.com/escapethuas) on Instagram



Pursuing a Future in France, Germany, Spain or the UK

European Studies also offers Extra-Curricular opportunities to explore career options in other European countries, with projects that connect to the three main languages studied in our programme. With Futur France, Zukunft Deutschland, Project UK and Ñ de España, students dive deep into studying the language, culture, and economics of France, Germany, the UK and Spain, complete with film screenings, field trips and – whenever possible, trips abroad.





Student Story: I feel like this university is a center of social life. There are so many events happening on campus that I lost track after just a few weeks – markets, shows, and activities every other day. It's the kind of place where you want to stick around after class, grab a coffee with friends and chat. It's not just about going to lectures and rushing back home. From the start, I felt this experience would be open and diverse, and I wasn't wrong. The school is welcoming, and the professors are friendly and communicative. Their approach makes me feel more comfortable about participating in classes or reaching out to them. – **Dominika Valušková**

16. Contact or Visit European Studies

Choosing a study programme is hard work, especially given all of the choices available. The best advice we can give to any student or parent is that it is essential to do your homework and research every study programme in detail to make sure that you find the one that's right for you. To help you in this process, European Studies hosts events, invites you to shadow a student and answers questions on social media.

Open Days

There are three Open Days every year in which you can attend presentations on the programme and meet with staff and students to ask questions. To find out about Open Days or to sign up, visit the office The Hague University of Applied Sciences website (www.hhs.nl).

Contact or Shadow a Student

On the official The Hague University of Applied Sciences website (www.hhs.nl) you can also sign up to be contacted by a current student who will answer your questions, and if you'd like to know more, you can sign up to Shadow a Student for a day. Once you sign up, one of our students will contact you and make an appointment to meet up with you and take you to class, so that you get a real and personal experience with our programme.

The Shadow a Student programme allows for a very personal experience, but if you'd rather visit with a group, we can try to arrange that as well. Depending on demand, European Studies occasionally organises Trial Days, in which a group of visitors is able to come for a full preview of our programme, complete with interactive assignments.

Contact European Studies Directly

European Studies is part of the Faculty of Management & Organisation and you can contact us through our Front Office on business days (Tel. +31 70 445 8600, E-mail: MO-FrontOffice@hhs.nl) but the fastest way to get an answer is to contact us at EuropeanStudies@hhs.nl, where you'll get an answer within one day, 365 days a year.

Find and Follow Us on Social Media

European Studies makes extensive use of social media, where you can get the latest updates about our programme, see what our students and staff are up to and ask questions and get an answer within 24 hours, 365 days a year. We're on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and are working on launching our Snapchat in the near future.

In the meantime, you can find us on the following channels:

Facebook

European Studies has a [Facebook Page](#) with general information, news and updates that anyone can access. Here is the direct address:

<https://www.facebook.com/europeanstudiesthu/>



Instagram

We also post updates and news about our programme, as well as profiles of students and graduates, on our Instagram page, [europeanstudiesthuas](#). Here is the address:

<https://www.instagram.com/europeanstudiesthuas/>



YouTube

If you really want to know what it's like at European Studies, but you aren't able to visit, check our [European Studies @ THUAS YouTube channel](#), where you can see a wide range of videos about our programme, as well as student-made vlogs showing you what student life is like in our programme, at our University, and in the city of The Hague. Here is the address:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNIC5yxdY1nbg7SpfSvWgxA>



17. The European Studies Academic Calendar

European Studies divides the academic year up into 2 semesters. Courses typically run for a full semester with exams and project weeks at the end. The calendar changes every year, but Semester 1 always starts at the end of August/beginning of September, with exams right before Christmas and projects right after.

Semester 2 starts in late January/Early February, with exams and projects in late May/early June, followed by several weeks of re-sit exams and administrative procedures. Summer vacation starts in mid-July and runs until late August.

There are additional, week-long breaks in October, February and May. The exact dates vary, but our programme and university usually stick to the same vacation dates used by public schools in The Hague region (Haaglanden). The Hague University of Applied Sciences also observes all of the public holidays in the Netherlands.

Here is an overview of what the semesters typically look like. Please note that no dates are included and details are always subject to change.

School Calendar Week	Schedule
Semester 1	
0	Intro Week
1	Classes
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
	Autumn Break
8	Classes
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
EP2	Exams Semester 1
	Christmas Break
	Lesson-Free Week: Activities May Be Scheduled Here Later
PW-1	Project Weeks
PW-2	
PW-3	
	Lesson-Free Week: Activities May Be Scheduled Here Later

School Calendar Week	Schedule
Semester 2	
1	Classes
2	
	Spring Break
3	Classes
4	
5	
6	
7	
EP3	(Re-sit Exams)
8	Classes
9	
	May Break
10	Classes
11	
12	
13	
EP4	Exams Semester 2
PW-1	Project Weeks
PW-2	
PW-3	
EP4H	Exam Resits
	Lesson-Free Weeks: Activities may be scheduled here. Final Administration for First-Year Diplomas and Binding Study Advice Procedures will take place.
	Summer break
0	Intro Week Year 2

