

## European Studies – Brussels Internship Program



13 week program

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# The Program

## IPA, Ireland

The US Program is organised and coordinated by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) which is a constituent college of the National University of Ireland (NUI). The IPA is Ireland's leading school of government. Through this Program, since Spring Semester 1994, US students from Universities in Washington DC, Chicago IL, Philadelphia PA, and Boston MA have undertaken internships with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) or, where appropriate, other EU-related non-governmental organisations in Brussels.

## Content and Structure:

The Program comprises a part-time internship in Brussels supported by academic courses in European Studies. The courses are delivered at the Irish College in cooperation with the University of Leuven. Students thus have an outstanding opportunity to learn about the EU both in theory and in practice. The 13-week Program is offered each Spring and each Fall Semester.



## Student Profile:

Our Program has proven to be of particular interest to students majoring in International Studies, Political Science, History, Philosophy as well as Economics and Finance. The Program is oriented towards those students who are interested in exploring, both professionally and academically, the European Union as a sui generis international organization.



# The Program

## Brussels Internship:

The objective of the internship is that, through hands-on work experience, students increase their knowledge and enhance their understanding of the European Union in all its aspects.

Internships are assigned on the basis of each individual student's academic, professional and political background as well as his/her research interests.

Students make a positive contribution to the work of the Office by carrying out a range of administrative and research tasks as well as event management as directed by the MEP's Head of Bureau. Students attend meetings of EP Committees, Delegations and Political Groups, preparing briefings and reports. As an EP intern, you will observe and experience at first hand the EU's political structure and processes as well as current developments as they happen.



## Duration

As the duration of the Program is less than 90 days, a student visa for Belgium is not required. Students do require an up-to-date passport.

## Academic Courses (Tuition or Instruction):

You will take courses in European Studies with other US students. The courses support the internship experience. There are five courses on offer which are delivered at the Irish College in cooperation with the University of Leuven:

- History and Development of the European Union
- European Union Law
- Economics of European Integration
- Comparative European Politics
- European Culture

# The Program

## Language of Instruction:

The courses are taught in English.



## Study Visit:

A Study Visit to SHAPE, the military headquarters of NATO, is factored into the Program as part of academic coursework. Our Study Visit will comprise presentations on the role of and current challenges confronting NATO and SHAPE as well as the evolving relationship between NATO and the EU. Each presentation is followed by a Q&A session.

## Meals:

Your meal plan comprises the following:

<b>Breakfast:</b>	each day
<b>Lunch:</b>	Monday to Friday inclusive
<b>Evening meal:</b>	Monday to Thursday inclusive.

Please note that, on internship days, lunch at the Irish College is replaced with a packed lunch.

All meals are prepared for you. Breakfast and lunch each consists of a buffet with a range of cooked food as well as fresh produce. Evening meals comprise three courses offering meat (red/white), fish and vegetarian options. Produce is sourced locally for the most part.

# The Program

## Celebrations:

In Fall Semester we celebrate Thanksgiving while in Spring we celebrate St Patrick's Day. Each Semester also concludes with a banquet to celebrate our students' successful completion of the Program.



## The medieval town of Leuven

The medieval town of Leuven

A University town since the early 15th century, Leuven is characterized by fine architectural styles and a tradition of academic excellence. With some 58,000 students, the University of Leuven is Belgium's largest and most prestigious University.

English is widely spoken by the locals reflecting the large number of international students and professors attracted to the town and its University. Leuven is a very safe and friendly environment for international students.

Given its location, Leuven is an ideal base for travel throughout Europe as it is situated on an important railway axis. All major European capitals are, therefore, readily accessible. Paris for example is one hour and 20 minutes from Brussels.

There are frequent trains between Leuven and Brussels.

For further information please see [www.leuven.be](http://www.leuven.be)