



LSE European Institute MPhil / PhD in European Studies

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MPhil / PhD in European Studies: general application information

Important note:

Places on the MPhil / PhD in European Studies programme are very limited and there is a great deal of competition for them. If you intend to apply we strongly recommend that you do so as early in the academic year as possible. We strongly recommend that you apply by no later than 9th January 2017.

If you have any questions about our MPhil / PhD in European Studies Programme, please email Jen Robottom, MPhil / PhD Programme Manager at j.l.robottom@lse.ac.uk

About the LSE European Institute – research environment

The LSE European Institute is a vibrant community of scholars and students which commands international admiration for its analysis of – and public engagement with – the issues and processes which are defining contemporary Europe.

At the LSE European Institute, we pride ourselves on the bridges which we build between discipline, combining different perspectives and analytic tools to maximum effect. Our permanent staff and our visiting scholars are internationally recognized leaders in their fields, from political science, economics, law and international relations to philosophy, sociology and the history of ideas.

Rarely has the study of Europe been so intellectually challenging and politically essential. The LSE European Institute is right at the heart of the intensifying debate about the EU's future beyond the current crisis. Our public lectures and debates shape the European policy agenda with high-level speakers from politics, business, academia, think tanks, the media and public administration.

The LSE European Institute is one of the world's leading centres for research on the politics and economics of Europe. The LSE European Institute was ranked first in European Studies research in Britain in the prestigious national Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) of 2008 and it is also a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

The LSE has won the UACES prize for the best PhD in European Studies, arguably the most prestigious doctoral prize in European Studies, four times.

Our doctoral researchers have published articles in a wide variety of academic journals during their doctoral studies. In 2009, a European Institute doctoral researcher won the joint prize for the best article by anybody in the Journal of Common Market Studies.

You will be situated in a world class social science institution with outstanding academic facilities and a powerful public profile. The European Institute alone typically offers about eight seminar or lecture series a year amounting to about 120 events.

We encourage applications to our MPhil / PhD programme in European Studies from outstanding students who wish to undertake research that falls within the expertise of at least one of our permanent faculty members (please see page 9).

The MPhil / PhD in European Studies welcomes applications for multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research on Europe in the following areas:

- Governance and Democracy in the European Union;
- Political Economy in Europe;
- European Society;
- Europe beyond the EU.

These are outlined in full on page 6.

Entry requirements

All applicants should have completed a taught MSc having obtained a **GOOD MERIT**, normally defined as **an overall average of 65 percent or above, and 70 percent or above on the dissertation (a distinction)**. Students who have not already taken a masters degree or equivalent will normally be recommended to apply for one of the Institute's own taught masters programmes.

The minimum School English language entry requirement (IELTS) for MPhil / PhD students is 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in all components and a minimum of 7.0 in the writing component.

Application Process

We recommend that you apply online as this is the quickest and cheapest method. Please refer to the **Graduate Admissions website** for further information:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/home.aspx>

When applying, you should provide evidence of your ability to undertake independent research and state your research topic as accurately as possible on a separate sheet.

In addition you should submit a personal statement of between 1,000 – 1,500 words describing your academic interests and your purpose and objectives in undertaking a

doctoral research degree. Your personal statement should also explain why you have chosen LSE.

You should also submit a sample of recent, marked written work (e.g. an MSc coursework or dissertation).

You also need to include two reference letters.

All applications will be processed by the School in the first instance and then passed on to the European Institute's PhD Selectors for consideration. All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed (either face-to-face or via Skype).

We endeavor to assess applications as quickly as possible, but you should allow at least eight weeks from the date on which you submit your application. If you apply outside of term time it will take considerably longer for your application to be assessed.

Applications and Funding

The application process begins in October and continues until all places are filled. We operate a rolling admissions process, so there is no deadline. However, applying before 9th January 2017 will ensure that your application can be considered for the initial round of scholarship funding.

Competition for scholarships is extremely strong. The available financial awards that applicants may be eligible for are: LSE PhD scholarship funding, ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) funding the Leverhulme Doctoral Studentship on the theme of 'The Challenge of Escalating Inequalities', to be selected from any LSE Department.

Please note the funding that is offered is very limited and there is considerable competition for it. If your application is successful you must make sure that you have made adequate financial provision for your program of study. Under no circumstances will LSE be able to help you register without sufficient finance. Please refer to the **Financial Support Office website** for full details:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/moneyMatters/financialSupport/Home.aspx>

Informal application enquiries

Places on our MPhil / PhD programme are limited and we strongly recommend that you submit your full application and supporting documents to the Graduate Admissions Office as early as possible.

You may also, if you wish, get in touch with an EI member of staff (academic) whose research best matches yours and ask them (informally) if they would like to consider reading your research proposal and whether they would like to supervise you. However, it is not their decision to take. It is the internal PhD Selectors who will read and assess your application, and if the Selector feels your application is strong enough, he / she may pass it on to potential supervisors. It might therefore be helpful if you mention in your personal statement if you have been in contact with any member of staff.

Contact details

For general information and advice on the MPhil / PhD programme please contact Jen Robottom, MPhil / PhD Programme Manager at j.l.robottom@lse.ac.uk

European Institute Research Themes

Research in the LSE European Institute is focused around the four interdisciplinary research themes below. Applications for research are welcome in one of these four broad themes:

1. Governance and Democracy in the European Union

Governance in the European Union is continuously in flux: powers are transferred from member states to EU institutions while the nature and scope of European integration are subjected to a greater degree of scrutiny and public criticism than at any time in its history. As the inter-institutional dynamics of the Union shift in response to the euro crisis, the very legitimacy of the EU is being challenged as never before. As the EU enters uncharted waters, researchers at the European Institute explore the politics, processes, institutions and norms of the European Union as well as the relationship between the EU, its national governments and the domestic politics of its member states. Our research examines how institutional rules, national politics and legislative dynamics are interacting to shape policy outcomes and institutional developments in Brussels and in the member states.

2. Political Economy in Europe

This research concentrates on the interaction between political and economic processes in Europe. We study these interactions in different areas: in the monetary field we examine the interaction between the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, the political responses to the crisis and the institutional reforms that the evolving crisis has imposed on the Eurozone. In the European Institute we also examine how different social models affect the workings of capitalism and how the different varieties of capitalism in turn influence social models. We also analyse the interaction between the labour market institutions and the economic governance of the EU and the Eurozone.

3. European Society

Europe's political leaders have called into question the merits of multiculturalism as a response to Europe's increasingly diverse societies. While mainstream politicians steer clear of any suggestion that Europe should abandon its commitment to 'unity in diversity', there is a rising tide of 'populist' rhetoric which warns that Europe's identity – an identity allegedly forged by its cultural, religious and humanist inheritance – is threatened by the presence of migrant, and especially Muslim, communities, and the prospect of Turkish EU membership. Research at the European Institute examines the diversity of cultural, political and philosophical ideas invoked in Europe's name, the ways these have been politically contested and reshaped, and the extent to which they intersect with the lived experiences of Europeans. In our research we combine the

methods of philosophy, sociology, political science and anthropology.

4. Europe beyond the EU

Europe has an impact beyond its borders, not only through its 'normative power' and formative conditionality but also through its policies and economic weight. At the LSE European Institute, we examine these external influences and their implications. Special emphasis is placed on Turkey and the Balkans and their problems of economic adjustment and growth, state-building and minority rights, and alignment with EU norms. Recent developments in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Ukraine, and Turkey have shown the limits of the EU's 'soft power' and called into question the EU's ability and willingness to exercise a decisive influence beyond its borders. Moreover, issues emerging in the wider European 'periphery' (such as issues concerning statehood and secessionism, minority rights, and Islam and democracy) are also posing important policy and moral challenges within the European continent.

Research Proposal

Your research proposal will allow us to assess the strength of the proposed project and the availability of appropriate supervision within the Institute. It should be no more than 2,000 words, outlining:

- What is your general topic and why is it important?
- What is the research 'puzzle' you wish to explain?
 1. What is the core research question you want to answer? [this should normally be one sentence]
- What do existing theories/explanations suggest for your topic and what are their limitations? Where is the gap? What is your likely contribution?
- What are the main hypotheses of the work?
- What methodology do you intend to use?
- What are your case studies, if any, and what are your case selection criteria?

You should also indicate if you have discussed your proposed research with any member of the LSE academic staff and the name of that person.

You may find it helpful to read one of the books that are available on preparing a PhD. One good example is: Patrick Dunleavy, 'Authoring a PhD: How to plan, draft, write and finish your doctoral thesis or dissertation' (Palgrave Macmillan).

Personal Statement

Your personal statement should provide the following:

- A clear sense of why you wish to undertake a PhD
- What you hope to gain from PhD study
- Why have you chosen this particular topic?
- Details of prior research experience – for example, an undergraduate and / or MSc project
- To what extent did the project involve independent thinking?
- Why have you chosen to apply to the European Institute?
- Why do you want to study at London School of Economics?
- If you have discussed your research proposal with a member of academic staff prior to the submission of your application, why do you consider that person to be an appropriate supervisor for your research?

European Institute Supervisors and their Research Interests



**Dr Rebecca Bryant Associate Professorial Research Fellow,
Room COW2.14, ext. 6341**

Research: ethnic conflict and displacement, border practices, transitional justice, and contested sovereignty in Cyprus, Turkey, and the south Caucasus, comparative analysis of everyday life in unrecognized states, bourgeois conceptions of modernity in the early Turkish republican period.



Dr Joan Costa-i-Font, Room OLD 2.37, ext. 6484

Associate Professor (Reader) of Political Economy.

Research: Economics of European social policy; public choice and the European welfare states; economic theories of social motivation, health systems, aging and long term care.



Professor Paul De Grauwe, Room COW 1.03, ext. 6464

John Paulson Chair in European Political Economy.

Research: International monetary relations; monetary integration, theory and empirical analysis of the foreign-exchange markets; and open-economy macroeconomics.



Dr Spyros Economides, Room COW 2.07, ext. 7384

Associate Professor of International Relations and European Politics, Deputy Director of the Hellenic Observatory.

Research: European foreign and defence policy; EU and the Balkans; international relations of the Balkans; Europeanisation of foreign policy; Greek foreign policy.



Professor Kevin Featherstone, Room COW 2.02, ext. 6027
Eleftherios Venizelos Chair,
Director of the Hellenic Observatory.

Research: The politics of the European Union and processes of Europeanisation; the politics of the euro-zone; contemporary Greek politics and public policy.



Professor Simon Glendinning, Room COW 1.07, ext. 7630
Professor of European Philosophy,
Director of The Forum for European Philosophy.

Research: Philosophy of Europe; phenomenology and deconstruction; moral philosophy of animals.



Dr Sara Hagemann, Room COW 1.05, ext. 3777
Assistant Professor.

Research: Transparency and accountability in political systems; national and international governance systems; democracy, elections and representation in the EU; EU politics and policy-making.



Dr Bob Hancké, Room COW 2.09, ext. 6409
Associate Professor of Political Economy.

Research: Comparative economic performance; comparative industrial organisation; EMU; European works councils; French economy; German economy; industrial restructuring.



Professor Sara B Hobolt, Room COW 1.02
Sutherland Chair in EU Institutions.

Research: Political behaviour; democracy and representation in the EU; elections and referendums; public opinion; comparative European politics.



Dr Abby Innes, Room COW 2.10, ext. 7301
Assistant Professor of Political Economy.

Research: Political sociology; political economy of transition from communism; political values in the UK; political corruption in Europe; varieties of capitalism in Europe.



Dr Jennifer Jackson Preece, Room COW 2.06, ext. 6109
Associate Professor of Nationalism.

Research: Normative responses to nationalism, ethnic conflict and religious intolerance; human and minority rights; multiculturalism; minorities and migration in Europe.



Dr Mareike Kleine, Room COW 1.01, ext. 7558
Associate Professor of EU and International Politics.

Research: Theories of international cooperation and International Political Economy; formal and informal governance; the interplay of domestic politics and international institutions; negotiation theories; normative questions of global governance; qualitative methods; history and theory of European integration.



Dr Jan Komarek, Room COW 1.04, ext. 6364
Assistant Professor.

Research: European Union law; courts and judicial process; European constitutional theory; the interaction between law and politics in the EU, post-communist Europe.



Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis, Room COW 2.05, ext. 6937

Associate Professor of Political Economy.

Research: Greece and Southeast Europe (Balkan development and EU accession, regional cooperation, inter- and intra-regional trade, Greek economic policy); labour market policy and performance (labour market flexibility, EMU and labour market reform, wage disparities, unemployment); regional policy and performance (regional policy in NMS, regional labour markets, spatial economics).



Dr Esra Özyürek, Room COW 2.08, ext. 6971

Reader in Contemporary Turkish Studies.

Research: Anthropology; secularism; religion; memory; political culture; Islam in Europe; Christianity in the Middle East; religious conversion; anti-Semitism; Holocaust; Turkey; Germany.



Dr Waltraud Schelkle, Room COW 1.06, ext. 6942

Associate Professor of Political Economy.

Research: Policy coordination and economic governance in the European monetary union; social policy and financial market regulation; theories of political economy.



Dr Eiko Thielemann, Room CON H314, ext. 6012

Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy.

Research: Public policy-making; comparative politics; European Union; international co-operation (burden sharing, public goods, etc.); asylum; immigration; migration.



Dr Jonathan White, COW 1.09, ext. 5403

Associate Professor (Reader) of European Politics.

Research: Political sociology of contemporary Europe; citizenship and the EU; democratic theory; social theory; qualitative research methods.