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Introduction to the Part-time PhD Programme for Professionals in European Studies in Brussels

European Studies in Maastricht

- Around 30 scholars from different disciplines
  - Collaboration between Political Science, History and Philosophy departments
  - Specific focus on European administrative governance
- *Interdisciplinary* research group sharing an interest in studying the process of European integration
- Strong links with other institutions in Maastricht
  - E.g. European Institute Public Administration
- Good contacts and access to information within the EU institutions and the Brussels policy-community

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Working towards a PhD alongside your full-time job?

- Conducting an in-depth investigation into a topic of particular interest

- Developing an intellectually-stimulating research project

- Making use of existing professional experience and particular insider knowledge

- Gaining familiarity with theories, concepts and approaches and applying these to empirical analysis

- Learning research methods and design

- Engaging in stimulating discussions with experienced scholars as well as with peers

- Contributing to key debates in EU governance and policy-making

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What is a PhD thesis?

- Academic treatise contributing original knowledge to our understanding of social, political or legal phenomena

- Can take the form of either
  - a book-length text presenting in-depth research findings, or
  - a collection of article-length papers published in, or for submission to, peer-reviewed academic journals

- Proof of competence to carry out research independently

- Researched, written and defended according to the procedures of the Regulations for Doctorates of Maastricht University

Typical profile our PhD candidates

- MA or MSc/M.Phil degree in political science, public administration, international relations, European studies, European Law, or a similar discipline

- Some prior experience of academic research

- Professional and/or volunteer experience in the area of intended research

- Interest in European politics, administration and society

- Curiosity to find out something new about EU affairs

- Highly-motivated, disciplined and committed to the long-term project of completed a PhD

- Ideally with support for further study from employer

Key Aspects of our PhD Programme

- Individual supervision

- Training in research and writing skills

- Tailor-made seminars on research methods

- Access to online sources at Maastricht University

- Regular group meetings to present and discuss work in progress

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Individual supervision

- Usually two supervisors
  - At least one full professor acting as 'promoter'
  - Second supervisor may be internal or external
- Regular supervision meetings
  - discuss research design and structure of the thesis
  - Present state of play and future plans
  - Receive feedback on the work in progress
  - Address any problems and challenges
- Scheduling and locational flexibility
  - 6-8 times a year
  - in Brussels, in Maastricht or online (Skype)

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Skills and Methods Training programme

- Focus on essential skills
  - How to write a PhD? and Academic writing
  - Research Design
  - Theories and approaches to European integration
- Tailor-made training on qualitative/quantitative research methods
  - Statistical data collection and evaluation
  - Process-tracing
  - Interview techniques
  - Discourse analysis
- Group meetings scheduled around participants' availability
  - <u>usually</u> in period October to May
  - 6-8 meetings + specialized tutorials based on individual needs
  - annual symposia to present and discuss work in progess
  - Occasional workshops on specific topics of interest

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Access to Learning Resourses

- Electronic learning environment to
  - access to course materials
  - communicate with supervisors and teaching staff
- Online access to UM Library
  - access to extensive e-journal catalogue
  - borrow from UM library and any library in the Netherlands (*ILL*)
- Assistance with access to libraries in Brussels or elsewhere

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Schedule and Tuition Fees

- Training and supervision takes places during the academic year (October – June)

- There is a annual tuition fee of €4.000,- payable at the beginning of each academic year

- In the first year, half the annual fee is paid as a first installment on the acceptance of the offer (i.e. by end of July), and the second half is then due on by 1 January

Admission Procedure to the PhD Programme

- Written application:
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Letter of motivation
  - References
  - Transcript of grades/MA diploma
  - Proposal of a PhD research plan
    - Introduction of the proposed research topic
    - Proposed research question
    - Provisional discussion of possible research method
    - Indications of existing literature
- Interview with the Academic Board of the programme
  - In person or via skype
  - Opportunity to explore intentions and expectations of the prospective candidate
- Final decision on acceptance into the programme made by the Academic Board

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Timetable (Guideline)

- From today: opportunity to discuss ideas and receive feedback on intended research topics with prospective supervisors
- 17 June 2019: application deadline
- Late June: selection interviews with the Academic Board of the Programme
- Early July: formal offer of place on the programme
- End of July: binding acceptance of formal offer and payment of first fee instalment
- October: start of individual supervision and the PhD training programme
- April next year: submission of revised research plan
- May next year: Progress review by the Academic Board

QUESTIONS?

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Thank you for your attention & interest

- We are happy to exchange ideas about your potential research project (see Guide for Applicants)

- Don't hesitate to contact us in case you have any questions

  - Programme Directors (for academic matters):
    - Prof. Dr Thomas Christiansen (t.christiansen@maastrichtuniversity.nl)
    - Dr Gergana Noutcheva (g.noutcheva@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

  - Programme Administrator (for administrative matters):
    - Ms Sabine Kuipers (phd-es@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

- We look forward to receiving your applications!