

The field of *International Relations and European Studies* was established in 2005, as a part of the development strategy of the Faculty of Social Sciences, according to the directions of reform in this area, resulting from the concerns of the Romanian society to integrate into European and Euro- Atlantic structures.

This educational field has as its main target to prepare specialists able to apprehend the complexity of *the European phenomenon*, which defines a way of thinking, acting and coordinating in the context of globalization.

*The Europeanism* emerges as a direction of development of contemporary human progress. It represents a *performance - summum* on multiple economical, political, social and cultural plans. Integration in the European performance criteria is a general concern of the Romanian society and, therefore, training of specialists has become an urgent necessity.

The field has as a main target to acquire greater knowledge and multidisciplinary (European law, European administrative and political structures, history, geopolitical and geostrategic studies etc.), ensured through collaboration with other departments within Faculties of Law, Economics and Humanities.

The knowledge offered at the program of study are needed by the future specialists in order to develop and to implement strategies to accelerate political processes, economic and social to full integration of Romania into the EU, to work in European institutions and organizations at national and international NGOs, to ensure the accomplishment of the requirements and European standards.

Graduates will acquire the qualifications to fill jobs such as:

- Expert advice, international relations and European affairs;
- negotiators (including conflict resolution);
- civil-military relations specialists (CIMIC)
- policy analysts;
- consultants;
- European and international mediators in the social - political field
- trainers for European integration;

- consultants in political, economic, legal and military organizations
- National or international government officials etc.

Our program of study will achieve educational goals in the following means:

- a. drawing up and submitting the minimum set of knowledge of law, political sciences, economics, sociology, philosophy, history acquired for our purpose;
- b. helping the students to understand the specific logic of the European approach;
- c. providing the students skills to use their knowledge to understand and develop solutions to address their constituents at an European level;
- d. developing the synthesis capacities in the main European issues.

*The training* in the field of International Relations and European Studies is made each year at the European Information Center - Craiova, following a cooperation protocol signed by E.I.C. and the Department of History. Students who follow the training are able to become familiar with the process of informing the public and non-governmental organizations in the process of European integration. Also, the students study thoroughly their knowledge in international relations and the specific tasks the EU institutions.

The graduation diploma will involve preparation for the quality of expert in international relations and European affairs. The attributes of this quality involve the profound knowledge of all issues related to European integration. The graduation diploma will be obtained after three years of studies, and will be completed by a written examination in fundamental subjects and sustains the license project at the end of studies.

After the obtaining of the diploma, the graduates can pursue their knowledge in the areas of professional activity: central and regional government institutions, consulting firms, NGOs involved in issues of European integration, multinational firms, European institutions, business and diplomacy.

Graduates are able to complete the Master level in the history of ideas of Europe and the doctoral school of history, law, economics, which have specialists in these fields.

Our program also seeks to develop and research in the history of European integration field. Research projects will address to the following EU programs

(TEMPUS, PHARE, INTERREG), NATO, Council of Europe, and a several of research programs granted by the Ministry of Education and Research, Romanian Academy, British Council, French Institute, Romanian Diplomatic Institute under the authority of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Finally, the master students can receive assistance in issues of the European integration, microeconomics, management, marketing, organizational sociology, both governmental institutions in the regions, regional development agencies and SMEs and NGOs. Summer schools, will be organized at the University of Craiova, concerning on European settlement issues, bringing together specialists from partner universities, Romanian and foreign researchers, and graduate and doctoral students. We would like this annual initiative to become a traditional one and to represent a bench-mark in the professional development of future specialists in the European affairs.

During the educational process of our students, a very important concern is their capacity to obtain the Erasmus/Socrates mobility, supported by the European Union, which offers to the master and doctoral students the opportunity to pursue an academic program of study at an EU university, on the basis of bilateral inter-university exchange agreements between the University of Craiova and partner universities.

Our Department has good relationships with other institutions for scientific research or education in the country, providing students with practical skills and learning. We mention as partner institutions the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romanian Academy, NGOs, local authorities. In the frame of the international relations of our department some important agreements were signed involving European educational cooperation within the Socrates/Erasmus and Tempus (exchange of students, teachers and joint scientific events, etc.) with important universities in Spain, France, Italy and Germany.

The ongoing educational process takes place in appropriate spaces for classes and seminars in research laboratories are endowed with special teaching means and latest information technology. The library of faculty provides the students an important number of books of specialty, over 25,000 titles published in foreign journals also, reading rooms and appropriate individual study.

The research concerns of our students are reflected in their participation of appropriate scientific reunions and to prepare the emergence of interdisciplinary journals.

In the frame of the Center for Studies of International Relations, students are working under the guidance of teachers; they participate in the preparation of bibliographies, articles, reviews, developing research projects, etc.

As the statistics show in the last years, the field of International Relations and European Studies represents a real interest from candidates, attracted by the diversity of disciplines in the curriculum and quality teaching.