

# Contemporary European studies

## Essentials

At Sussex you take contemporary European studies alongside another subject as part of a joint degree or as a minor

### What contemporary European studies degrees are there?

International Relations and Contemporary European Studies (p84)

Politics and Contemporary European Studies (p112)

### What degree can I take with contemporary European studies as a minor?

Law with Contemporary European Studies (p90)

### What A levels/IB scores do I need?

Refer to relevant subject entry for details

### Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

### How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:

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[www.sussex.ac.uk/sei](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sei)

### When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at [www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors) or call 01273 876787

### Why contemporary European studies?

Europe in the 21st century is marked by opportunities as well as uncertainties, presenting challenges to its citizens and partners that need to be understood and explained in Britain and beyond. Europe is integrating and growing rapidly, the European Union (EU) now embraces 27 countries and over 400 million people: how should it be governed? Is a multicultural Europe possible, or must ethnicity and religion remain sources of conflict in the region's politics?

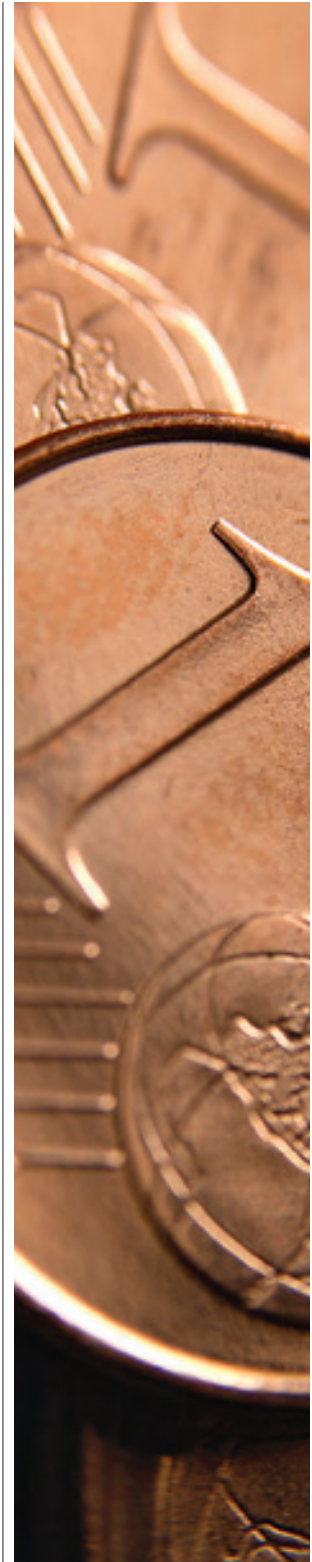
Contemporary European studies gives you an in-depth and comprehensive appreciation of the evolution of Europe and its prospects, drawing on insights from across the social sciences, and is intellectually rewarding and career friendly.

### Why contemporary European studies at Sussex?

- Contemporary European studies at Sussex was rated as joint second in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 90 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 60 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- A challenging undergraduate programme taught by experts from a range of disciplines in the arts and social sciences.
- Well-developed exchange programmes with other European universities.
- A diverse international student base drawn from all corners of Europe and beyond.
- Excellent library facilities for the study of Europe and the European Union.

### What sort of career could I have?

- Public- and private-sector careers, based on your in-depth knowledge of government affairs at both national and EU level.
- Our graduates have been successful in the EU Commission, the EU Council secretariat, NATO and in the British Civil Service European Fast Stream.
- The media and public relations: your studies here will enable you to make the contacts and connections for a successful career in these areas.
- Many of our students go on to further study.





**The German Parliament building in Berlin: European politics is an important part of the Contemporary European Studies degree programme**

**How will I learn?**

The degree uses a range of teaching methods, including contact with highly qualified staff in both lectures and seminars; tutorials and workshops – working with your peers and tutors; use of online materials and techniques; and access to one of the finest libraries of European materials in the UK.

We encourage debate and discussion with teachers and other students. You enhance your communication and research skills by making presentations and by analysing and interpreting academic, government and media sources.

The reading in this field ranges from broad historical works to more specialised social science materials. The first year looks at the historical element underlying today's Europe; the second year looks in more detail at modern Europe as a whole; and in the third year you study a range of special topics. During the first and second years the programme has a core and a more in-depth seminar stream.

**What will I achieve?**

- You gain basic historical insights into the way today's Europe evolved and what the challenges are for the future, as well as learning about current issues such as how the European Central Bank operates and why EU law is relevant in national courts.
- In a degree programme such as this, many matters are deeply controversial. We aim to give you an understanding of what the main points of view are, which facts are broadly agreed and which are contested, and to show how you can use academic methods and reasoning to put forward your point of view. You also become part of an intellectual and social community of students from around the world.
- Contemporary European studies offers a range of courses drawn from across the social sciences. The aim is to provide you with an overview of the economic, political and social dimensions of Europe, both as it is today and in historical perspective.

**Core courses**

**Courses currently include:**

**Year 1**

The core course **The Making of Modern Europe** puts today's Europe into the context of past events and processes. It does so through a series of thematic modules that examine issues such as the evolution of the ideas of Europe and European integration; and questions of the development of political structures, human rights and identity across the continent. If you are studying Contemporary European Studies as part of a joint degree (ie it occupies 50 per cent of your programme), you will take an additional seminar exploring topics from the core course in greater depth

**Year 2**

The second-year core course **The Transformation of Contemporary Europe** focuses on Europe as it is now. This course examines the challenges facing Europeans in the world of work, and the changing nature of economics, politics and society. If you are studying Contemporary European Studies as part of a joint degree (ie it occupies 50 per cent of your programme), you will take additional courses addressing how Europe interacts with the rest of the world (covering questions of migration and economic relations)

**Year 3**

In the final year of the programme, you choose from a number of options covering different aspects of European studies. Current options cover such topics as the policy process in the EU, and the interaction of economic and political systems in East and West Europe

