

## **EU-Asia**

### **General information**

The EU-Asia programme is part of the ULB's Master in European Studies. It offers access to the ULB-Waseda Double Master in European and International Studies, which is a double degree taught course involving the Waseda University Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSAPS) and the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Department of Political Science as well as the Institute of European Studies (IEE) of the ULB.

The programme seeks to bridge teaching and research on European and Asian experiences of regional cooperation. It offers participants the possibility to join leading academic communities in both regions as regularly enrolled master students of both Waseda University and the ULB. It is a 2-year programme (4 semesters/120 ECTS) taught entirely in English. The programme offers the advantage of a fully integrated and guaranteed international mobility leading to the award of a double degree that is fully accredited in Belgium for the ULB and in Japan for Waseda University. Participants spend two semesters at each of the two degree-awarding institutions and are expected to fully integrate in both institutions. It is also a research-focused graduate programme for which students are expected to write an original master's thesis under the joint supervision of academic staff at GSAPS and at the ULB Department of Political Science/Institution for European Studies.

### **Eligibility**

The EU-Asia programme welcomes applications from highly motivated students who are informed, engaged and experienced, with an excellent academic track record and a demonstrated interest for both European and Asian affairs. While all applicants are welcome, their eligibility will be determined on the basis of two sets of documents:

1. Previous diplomas and related transcripts;
2. Language skill certificates

#### *Previous diplomas and transcripts*

As a minimum eligibility requirement, applicants must hold at least a bachelor degree or equivalent in one of the social sciences – political science, international relations, history, sociology, law, media and communication studies, area studies or cognate disciplines. Eligibility will be determined on the basis of equivalence of diploma: that is, the diploma must correspond to at least a 180 ECTS bachelor course (three years of full-time studies).

Applicants who have not completed their undergraduate degree at the time of applying but expect to do so before the enrolment deadline are also eligible if admitted. In such cases offers of admission are conditional, meaning that the successful completion of an undergraduate degree must be demonstrated before the admission offer can be finalized.

#### *Language skill certificates*

Applicants are required to provide proof of proficiency in English and such proof should be sought well in advance of the application window. Recognised language certificates and proficiency levels are **exclusively** the following:

- TOEFL Score of iBT 86/PBT 550 or above,
- IELTS 6.5 or above
- ITACE with minimum level: B2
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), grade B
- A prior full English-language diploma

### **Selection of applicants**

In order to be considered for the EU-Asia programme, applicants are requested to follow the application procedure detailed below and provide all of the required documents, in addition to the documents required for determining eligibility.

Successful applicants combine an excellent academic record with a strong statement of motivation that clearly expresses their specific interest in the programme, as well as a clearly laid-out research project.

Following the assessment of all applications, eligible applications will be ranked by the admission board and a single list of successful and reserve applicants will be established. Successful applicants will then be informed and asked to undertake the administrative steps to complete their formal admission and enrolment procedure at ULB.

### **Fees**

The fees for students applying to the programme at the ULB is the same as the regular ULB fee. They cover tuition fees at both visited universities, as well as administrative costs. The fees do not include the cost of housing, food, visas, travel, or other expenses.

### **How to apply**

**STEP 01.** Prepare all required documents in a **single file** before the application deadline. We strongly advise you to start the process well in advance, particularly with regard to English proficiency requirements.

The required documents and file type are the following:

1. Diplomas from previous studies (PDF)
2. Transcripts from previous studies (PDF)
3. Proof of English language proficiency (PDF)
4. Applicant CV (PDF)

5. Applicant Motivation Letter (PDF)
6. Applicant Personal Research Project (PDF)
7. Copy of valid ID (PDF or JPG)

The description of required documents 4 through 6 is provided below.

**STEP 02.** Send **all** of the application documents in a **single email** to the following address: [eu-asia.phisoc@ulb.be](mailto:eu-asia.phisoc@ulb.be). This address is used **exclusively** for receiving applications to the programme. You will receive an automatic reply confirming that your application email has been received. Emails other than application emails will not be read or responded to.

Your application email must be sent **by the application deadline at the latest** (see below). **Applications sent after the deadline will automatically be considered as ineligible.**

Please make sure that all of the application documents are included in your application email. **If your application file is incomplete, your application will be automatically considered as ineligible.**

**STEP 03.** Applications are reviewed and ranked by the admission board. There are three possible outcomes to the review process. Applications can either be successful, placed on the waiting list, or unsuccessful.

Successful applicants are contacted by the admission board and asked to confirm their interest. Should successful applicants decline to confirm their interest, applicants on the waiting list are contacted based on the ranking adopted by the admission board.

Applicants who are not informed that their application has been successful by 1 May (for non-EU nationals) or 1 July (for EU nationals) should consider that their application has been unsuccessful. **Unsuccessful applicants will not be informed any further.**

**STEP 04.** Successful applicants who have confirmed their interest are asked to finalise their enrolment in both degree-awarding institutions following local rules and requirements. Participants enrolled in the programme through the ULB will accomplish their first academic year (two semesters) in Brussels, and should expect to arrive by mid-September in order to undergo orientation and for the beginning of term.

### **Required documents**

1. *Diplomas from previous studies.* A scanned copy of the official diploma of each academic degree obtained by the applicant. Accepted languages include Dutch, English, French and German. If the diploma is in another language than those listed, two versions must be submitted: the original and a certified translation.
2. *Transcripts.* An official transcript or mark list from all universities the applicant has attended, for all study years. Transcripts or mark lists may be in Dutch, English, French or German. If the documents are in another language than those listed, two versions must be submitted: the original and a certified translation.

3. *Proof of English proficiency.* See requirements for language certificates above. In addition to the listed certificates, applicants can prove English proficiency by having a prior full-English language diploma, that is a diploma of secondary or higher education for which English was the language of instruction. Proof of previous studies in English should be signed and stamped by the degree-awarding institution.
4. *Applicant CV.* The CV provides a summary of the applicant's educational and professional background as well as any other information that might be relevant in the context of their application.
5. *Applicant Motivation Letter (250 words).* The letter should state the reasons why the applicant has chosen to apply for the programme at this particular time in their studies and/or career. In particular, the letter should outline career goals and how graduating from the programme would help the applicant toward achieving them. The letter can also highlight formal and personal achievements as well as any relevant experience that the applicant would like to bring to the attention of the admission board, explaining why these achievements and experiences are significant to their application and to the programme.
6. *Applicant Personal Research Project (800 words).* Successful applicants will be expected to undertake a personal research project and write an MA thesis over the course of the programme. The personal research project must use the following template and provide information for all of the indicated fields.
7. *Copy of valid Passport/ID.* The applicant must provide a scanned copy of their passport or official ID with all relevant information clearly legible. **Passports must be valid for the duration of the programme.**

## Deadlines

Applicants who are not nationals of a Member State of the European Union by the application deadline must submit their application by email by 1 May of the previous academic year at the latest. Successful applicants will be contacted and asked to confirm their interest by 1 June of the previous academic year at the latest.

Applicants who are nationals of a Member State of the European Union by the application deadline must submit their application by email by 1 July of the previous academic year at the latest. Successful applicants will be contacted and asked to confirm their interest by 20 August of the previous academic year at the latest.