

## How the European Union Works

### Objectives

- To enable students to engage with businesses and organisations in member states by providing them with an understanding of the development and working of the European Union.

### Description

The course looks in detail at the development, operation and institutions of the EU, including:

- The construction of the EU
- The Treaties of Rome, Single European Act, Treaties of Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice
- The institutional structure
- The Commission, the Council, the Parliament, Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions and the other bodies of the EU
- The decision-making process
- Principles of Community law
- The *acquis communautaire*
- Agenda 2000 and institutional reform

The course also takes a detailed and analytical look at the issue of enlargement, using specific examples from both new and prospective member states.

In addition, specific areas of EU policy will be critically examined including employment/social policy, common agricultural policy, trade policy, and the Euro.

The course will include a high level of student participation in group exercises.

An open-book exam will be set for the final day; this will be to assess students' understanding and critical appreciation of the material rather than factual knowledge.

An assignment will be given at the end of the course.