New! Academic Excellence Scholarship Fund

Vesalius College recently launched the Academic Excellence Scholarship Fund to reward students with outstanding academic records in secondary school and whose extra-curricular achievements show evidence of leadership in today’s global society.

The College’s merit-based financial assistance can provide up to a 50% reduction in tuition per semester for students who have been accepted into a Bachelor programme as full-time, first-year students enrolling in the fall semester.

These scholarships will be renewed for students who maintain superior academic performance during each semester of their 3-year Bachelor programme.

The scholarships will be directly applied to students’ tuition fees. Note that students accepted into a Bachelor programme at Vesalius College automatically apply for the Academic Excellence Scholarship. However, in order to be considered for a scholarship, students must submit their college application by 15 April 2013.

For more information on scholarship requirements, deadlines and eligibility, please visit our website at http://www.vesalius.edu/admissions or contact Vanessa Goffard at vgoffard@vub.ac.be.

Bringing Brussels to the Classroom

During the past few months, Vesalius College has been bringing Brussels further into the classroom by holding a range of guest lectures and workshops with prominent Brussels-based experts. These lectures and workshops are held by Vesalius College’s International Affairs, Communications and Business departments, as well as the European Peace and Security Studies (EPSS) programme.

The workshops and lectures allow students to benefit from direct contact with experts, such as policymakers, international scholars, business leaders, think tank researchers and journalists. This way, students benefit not only from our guest lecturers’ expertise, but are also able to interact with them and build up their own personal and professional networks.

Recent guest lectures and workshops have included:

- “The End of the Cold War and the Great Challenges of the 1990s” Willy Claes, Former NATO Secretary General and Belgian Minister of State
- “For the Greater Good? Personal Reflections on Political Advocacy, Diplomacy and Peacekeeping” Tom Pravda, British Diplomat and Peacekeeping Expert, Co-founder of the global civic action platform AVAAZ.org
- “Preventing Mass Atrocities: The Case for a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS)” Fergus Watt, Executive Director, World Federalist Movement, Canada
- “Emerging Global Security Threats & Future Challenges - The NATO Perspective” Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Threats, NATO
- “European Communication Policies and Their Impact on Journalism” Aidan White, Director General, International Federation of Journalists
- “Today’s Global Leadership and Diversity” Regina Eckert, Senior Research Associate at Center for Creative Leadership
- “European Communication Policies: The Role of the European Commission” Dr. Wolfgang Streitberger, Counsellor to the Director General, Information Society and Media Directorate General, European Commission
- “Legal Aspects of Setting Up an International Business” Mohamed El Bakkali, Finance & Administration Director of EastNets Europe & USA and Professor at the Louvain School of Management – ICHEC & ESSF
- “European Communication Policies and the European Broadcasting Union” Nicola Frank, Head of European Affairs, European Broadcasting Union
- “Emerging Global Security Threats & Future Challenges - The NATO Perspective” Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Threats, NATO
- “European Communication Policies and Their Impact on Journalism” Aidan White, Director General, International Federation of Journalists
- “Today’s Global Leadership and Diversity” Regina Eckert, Senior Research Associate at Center for Creative Leadership
- “European Communication Policies: The Role of the European Commission” Dr. Wolfgang Streitberger, Counsellor to the Director General, Information Society and Media Directorate General, European Commission
- “Legal Aspects of Setting Up an International Business” Mohamed El Bakkali, Finance & Administration Director of EastNets Europe & USA and Professor at the Louvain School of Management – ICHEC & ESSF
Executive Course in Global Risk Analysis & Crisis Management: Don’t Miss the Early-bird Deadline!

We are now accepting applications for the Executive Course in Global Risk Analysis & Crisis Management, which will begin in September 2013.

Held during ten intensive weekend modules from September 2013 until June 2014, this course prepares participants to master the field of global risk analysis, early warning and the management of major man-made and natural disasters.

It is comprised of a mixture of intensive ‘hands-on’ training courses and comprehensive lectures given by senior officials from major international organisations (such as the European Union, NATO and the United Nations), NGOs and leading security scholars.

Participants who register before 15 April 2013 will be eligible for an early-bird reduction in course fees.

For more information on the Course, requirements and fees, please visit: http://www.vesalius.edu/execcourse.

20 VeCo Students Graduate in December 2012

During the cold winter month of December, there is always one event that makes us proud: the December Graduation. We would like to congratulate the 20 Vesalius graduates who successfully completed their Bachelor studies in December 2012. Dean Bert Mosselmans and Prof. William Chew, Head of the Academic Standards Committee, congratulated each graduate with a personal message. During the reception, graduates raised a glass with faculty and family and were excited to share their future plans. We hope to welcome all December graduates again for the ‘formal’ Graduation Ceremony in June 2013.

Save the date: Class of 2013 Graduation Ceremony
The annual graduation ceremony will be held on Saturday 1 June 2012 in Aula Qa on the VUB Campus. For more information, please contact the Events Officer, Giulia Tercovich at giulia.tercovich@vub.ac.be.

A warm welcome to our new staff members

In February, Janine Denis joined the External Relations team as Communications Officer. Previously, Janine worked for Hill+Knowlton Strategies as Account Executive. She holds a MA in Multilingual Communication from the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium and a BA in International Studies and Modern Languages from the University of Ottawa in Canada. In the short time that Janine has worked with us, she has already proven to be a great addition to the team.

In January, Giulia Tercovich also joined the External Relations team as Events Officer. Giulia holds an MA and BA in International Science and Diplomacy from the University of Trieste in Italy, and is currently working towards her PhD in Political Science at the Institute for European Studies. Prior to joining VeCo, Giulia worked at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU and the European External Action Service.
The Study Abroad Department is very pleased to welcome Bénédicte Debray as its new Housing Coordinator. Bénédicte has been working with host families in Brussels for the last twelve years and also has personal experience as a former host mother. Bénédicte has joined the Vesalius College team to help place study abroad and degree-seeking students alike in host families or to assist them in finding independent housing in the Brussels area.
In the spring semester of this year, the VeCo Student Government and a group of dedicated student ambassadors kicked off the new term with a high-energy orientation session to welcome all new students to the VeCo family.

Following tradition, the Meet and Greet of old and new students at KKs and a Bar Hop downtown were an indispensable part of the first week. Additionally, the VSG invited all students - new and old - to a “Welcome Home Party” at Brussels’ vogue bar “The Flat”. Here, everyone had the chance to catch up after a long break and to meet alumni and new students. Other nights-out, such as the famous Midterm Party and Club Night, helped bring students together outside of VeCo and relax after long weeks of studying. One highlight this semester was VeCo’s participation in Brussels’ biggest student party, “Night Circles”. This festival-like event gathered university students from all over Belgium and was a great opportunity for VeCo students to meet students from other Belgian universities.

In order to give students a voice at VeCo, the VSG hosted the General Advisory Committee (GAC) Meeting and attended the College Council Meeting. On both occasions, the VSG brought forward student’s concerns, ideas and initiatives. The VSG also added new official members to their group: the new Study Abroad Representatives will serve to give a greater voice to the large Study Abroad student population.

The VSG was also instrumental in VeCo’s Spring Term Open Day, where they represented the Vesalius student body and offered prospective students and their parents insights into the academic and social life at Vesalius College, from a student’s point of view.

The VSG is very much looking forward to the second half of the 2013 Spring Semester. Among other events, they will be organising a Spring Ball, a Game Night and a Finals Party. Additionally, the VSG will co-organise and participate in VeCo’s 25th Anniversary events, such as the International Potluck Dinner and the 25-Hour Charity Run. Interested in VSG activities? Follow the VSG on Facebook: Vesalius Studentgov (VSG).

VeCo MSc in EU Policy – Ready to Launch My Career
As one of the pioneering students in the first year of VeCo’s Master’s in EU Policy, I have found the programme to be inspiring, challenging, and one that prepares students very well for the future. As a Tanzanian living and studying in Belgium, the capital of Europe, the MSc has enabled me to gain a better understanding of the European culture and government system.

The most exciting part of the programme is the interaction between course instructors and students. The learning environment is excellent and, thanks to small classes, students are motivated to participate in classroom discussions and to share their views on different topics. This participation from students enriches academic discussions. Courses consist of lectures that provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges that the European Union is currently facing.

We also analyse European history, which enables us to forecast where Europe is headed.

I must say that the lecture series exceeded my expectations, but what I found even more interesting are the workshops on negotiation and policy that were held in the first semester. These were instrumental in helping me prepare for my current internship at EUCORD, which is an NGO that focuses on rural development in Africa. Overall, I feel that this programme has made me ready for a challenging international career.

I am very proud to be part of the first graduating class of the MSc in EU Policy!
Curriculum Focus on Research and Academic Support

In the fall of 2013, Vesalius College will launch reform measures across its three Bachelor programmes that will provide its degree-seeking students with strengthened academic core courses in writing, critical thinking, research and presentation skills. This reform will also provide our students with increased academic support from the advisory program, in addition to continuing to closely follow students’ progress to ensure that their academic expectations and personal goals are achieved.

In the first year of their three-year Bachelor programme, degree-seeking students will take four intensive academic principle courses per semester, each course receiving 7.5 ECTS. These courses will provide the framework upon which students will develop their expertise in their chosen subject. In the second and third years of their programmes, students will follow five intermediate and advanced courses per semester, each course worth 6 ECTS. Students will also have the opportunity to select a minor from a variety of subject areas and to study inter-disciplinary topics, allowing them to select courses from other subject areas taught by the College.

We trust that these reform measures will further support our students in the development of their potential and give them a solid framework upon which to build their chosen careers.

Summer Course: Practical Chinese in Brussels and Beijing

This course gives students with no prior knowledge of Chinese exposure to the Chinese language and culture. The semester will be split into two parts consisting of preparatory lectures in Brussels followed by real-life scenarios on site in Beijing. The first part (3 weeks) will be taught in Belgium and will focus on speaking (pronunciation and everyday conversation), basic practical grammar, and Chinese history, culture and customs. The second part will take place in China, and will allow students to put what they have learned into practice in real-life situations, while experiencing the Chinese cultural environment. Several field trips in Beijing and nearby areas will be organised. For more information, please visit the Vesalius College website at http://www.vesalius.edu/summer/summercourses/practicalchinese.
New Policy-oriented Capstone Course: VeCo Students 'Advise' European Union

This semester has seen the launch of the new annual International Affairs Capstone Course “From Theory to Policy-Oriented Analysis and Advice”. This senior seminar provides students in their final year the opportunity to draw on all of the knowledge they acquired during their studies in order to apply it to a real-life problem related to the European Union.

This semester, Alessio Cappelani (Deputy Head of the Maghreb Unit of the European External Action Service) cooperated with our Capstone students and tasked them with advising him on the new EU post-Arab Spring Strategy towards the Maghreb.

Students formed their own think tanks for the duration of the semester, conducted fact finding missions in the Maghreb itself (with students travelling to Algeria), consulted with senior regional experts via Skype and received training by leading think tank analysts (such as Giovanni Grevi, Director of the think tank FRIDE).

The final assignment consisted of a presentation at the European Union to the Deputy Head of the Maghreb Unit on how the EU’s new Maghreb strategy could be implemented.

“This course is extremely challenging and intense, but ultimately very rewarding for the students, the professor and hopefully also for the European Union itself” commented Professor Joachim Koops, Head of the International Affairs Department and course instructor.

Prof. Koops appointed as National Expert for Belgium in UN Peacekeeping Network

Professor Koops has been appointed as a national expert (together with Professor Edith Drieskens from Leuven University) for the international “Providing for Peacekeeping” network hosted by the Universal University in Washington, D.C. In October 2012, she presented a paper entitled “The Case of Libya,” at the Challenges of Security Cooperation in Europe Conference, hosted by the Aberystwyth University and jointly organized with the London School of Economics (LSE), United Kingdom.

Faculty Publications


Prof Dr George Terzis co-published, with Shahin, J., Woodward, A., Study on the Impact of the Crisis on Civil Society Organizations in the EU - Risks and Opportunities (European Economic and Social Committee, Publications Unit, 2013)


In March 2013, Giulia Tercovich, M.A., presented a paper, co-authored with Prof Dr Joachim Koops, entitled “The Changing Role of the European Union as a Security Actor: From Crisis Management to Crisis Response,” at the annual ECPR Joint Sessions, hosted by Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz. In February, she presented a paper entitled “The New EU Crisis Response Mechanism: An Important Step Forward for the European Union as a Global Actor?” at the annual conference of the BMW Center for German and European Studies, hosted by Georgetown University in Washington, DC. In October 2012, she presented a paper entitled “EU Crisis Response Mechanism: The Case of Libya,” at the Challenges of Security Cooperation in Europe Conference, hosted by the Aberystwyth University and jointly organized with the London School of Economics (LSE), United Kingdom.

Prof Dr Joachim A. Koops published, with Edith Drieskens, Providing for Peacekeeping: Contributor Profile Belgium, New York: International Peace Institute, 2013.

Prof Dr Luciano Morganti published, with Léonce Bekemans, as editors, The European Public Sphere: From Critical Thinking to Responsible Action, P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2012.
Study Abroad News

Vesalius Hosts Faculty Seminar on the Future of the European Union

On March 14 & 15, Vesalius College teamed with study abroad provider International Studies Abroad (ISA) to host a seminar for US university professors on “The Future of the European Union and its Struggle to Stay United: Regional Economic and Political Integration.” This seminar was organised and promoted by ISA to its US university partners and consisted of lectures and classroom observations at the American University of Rome in the first part of the week and then at Vesalius College in the latter part of the week.

Lecturers from Vesalius College included Dr. Joachim Koops, Dr. Caterina Carta, Dr. Robert Gassler, Dr. Georgios Terzis and Ambassador Andebrhan Welde Giorgis. Lecture topics ranged from the EU's common security and defense policy to its Diplomatic Service, its relations with Africa and its strategy for fighting recession under the constantly changing climate. US professors also had the opportunity to chat with current US study abroad students from the ISA program to get a feel for the students' experience in Brussels, in the Vesalius classrooms and in the internship program.

My Washington Semester Experience

I have always loved to travel and to experience different cultures. Studying International Affairs at Vesalius College has allowed me to combine these passions with my interest in world politics and history. This semester I have been abroad, studying Peace & Conflict Resolution at the American University in Washington D.C.

The programme has involved an in-depth study of the implications succeeding the disintegration of Yugoslavia during the early 90s and the wars that followed. With a particular focus on the Bosnian case, the classes have had an inter-disciplinary approach with perspectives from political theory, law, economics, sociology and psychology. In addition to more than 50 meetings with experts, NGOs, government institutions, authors and ambassadors in D.C., the programme also consisted of a three-week field study in Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia. To increase my understanding of the region, I have also been interning at the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina in D.C., a non-profit organisation that lobbies within the Congress for strengthened US involvement in Bosnia.

My experience in D.C has been fantastic. In many ways, Washington D.C. can be compared with Brussels: in addition to making friends from all over the world, this truly international city is filled with cultural, academic and professional opportunities.

Jostein Jonassen, Vesalius College student at American University

Vesalius College: Great courses, professors and location!

When trying to pick at which school to study abroad, I acknowledged that the place needed to fit a lot of criteria. Vesalius has not let down my expectations.

The courses offered have been comprehensive and fascinating. The professors are thought-provoking and well-prepared. Brussels provides plenty of opportunities to get involved at the community level in order to practice French with locals. My internship experience has been a challenging but very rewarding experience. All around, studying abroad in Brussels has provided me with all the opportunities I needed in order to feel that my higher education experience was complete.

One of the neatest things about Brussels is the international atmosphere. It is not only a European city, but a cosmopolitan one. Each day, it is easy to make friends with people from all over the world. The other unique thing about Brussels is the central location. It is in the centre of Western Europe, which makes international travel really easy to all neighbouring countries. If I had to pick again where to study abroad, I would choose the same.

Elizabeth Deschene, Study Abroad student from Minnesota State University Moorhead
Events

25 March 2013  Business Executive Lecture: Data-driven Marketing
27 March 2013  Business Executive Lecture: Challenges for Public Transport in Brussels
1 – 12 April 2013  Spring Break
11 – 13 April 2013  Model EU: 12 VeCo students will participate in the Model EU in New York City
15 April 2013  Business Executive Seminar: Challenges in Pharmaceutical Development
22 April 2013  European University Fair at International School of Brussels 17.00 – 19.00
22 April 2013  Business Executive Seminar: The Automotive Industry: Future Challenges
25 April 2013  International Potluck Dinner
3 May 2013  VeCo Film Festival
3 – 4 May 2013  25-hour Charity Run
4 May 2013  Scavenger Hunt
6 May 2013  Business Executive Seminar: Fashion Industry Today & the Difficulties Faced with the Financial Crisis
13 – 17 May 2013  Final Exams
1 June 2013  Graduation Ceremony
4 June 2013  VeCo Conference on the Future of the Arms Trade Treaty

VIP News

Invaluable Communications Experience in the Heart of the EU
The main reason I chose to study at Vesalius College was its unique Internship Programme; it has not let me down. I am currently doing my internship at Minerva Consulting and Communication, where I get to work with people who are friendly and passionate about what they do. Minerva specialises in scientific communication and has many partnerships with EU research programmes.

After only a couple of weeks, I have been able to put a lot of the lessons that I have learned and am currently learning at Vesalius College into practice, but am also learning a number of things that you cannot learn in a classroom. In my opinion, if you go into the internship with a positive attitude, you will be surprised by how much you can learn.

Jennifer Heavysedge, Communications Major – Internship at Minerva Communications and Consulting

First-hand Exposure to International Diplomacy
As an International Affairs major at Vesalius College with a good knowledge of the European Union, I could not have been happier with my choice of internship. I am currently interning at the Mission of Honduras to the EU at the Honduran Embassy here in Brussels. Not only do I get to apply my knowledge of the EU by attending meetings and conferences at the European Parliament, but I also get to learn about and experience the Central American culture and work ethic. My work consists of everything from doing research for the Ambassador to organising his work trips to various cities, which involves dealing with NGOs, think tanks and the Chamber of Commerce.

Charlotte Strindlund, International Affairs Major – Internship at the Mission of Honduras to the European Union

Alumni News

Vesalius College Helped Me Discover My Passion for International Security
Having completed my studies at Vesalius College in December 2012, I decided to acquire some professional experience before starting a Master’s programme.

Since January, I have been doing an internship at the Belgian Ministry of Defence within the diplomatic department and, more precisely, for the Diplomatic Advisor to Defence Minister Pieter De Crem.

I had no prior first-hand work experience, but I adapted quickly thanks to my education at VeCo. The largest part of my work involves reading reports from Belgian embassies, and analysing and summarising them. All of the analytical tools I acquired during my three years at VeCo help me to deliver the highest-quality work. I am also able to participate in meetings and conferences which enable me to better understand the professional and political world.

By welcoming students from all over the world, Vesalius College provided me with the international education to pursue not only my professional goals but my long-term objectives as well. My three years at Vesalius College, as well as this internship, made me want to continue a career in International Security, which is why I am currently applying for a Master’s degree in this area.

Eliane de Merode, International Affairs Major, Class of 2012