



FUTURE LEADERS OF EUROPE: THE EUROPAEUM SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

2026-2027



IS THIS FOR YOU?

Are you interested in shaping the future of Europe? If so, and if you are a doctoral student in the Humanities or Social Sciences and whose research and/or extracurricular interests relate to European Studies (broadly defined) then this could be the programme for you.

The Future Leaders of Europe: Europaeum Scholars' Programme offers a unique opportunity to be part of a network of some of the brightest people of your generation. You will be able to connect your doctoral research with the world of policy making, to draw on the combined resources of eighteen Europe's leading universities, to learn how to work as a team (and what leading a team involves), and to understand the complexity of policy making. You will learn more about yourself.

Europaeum Scholars are people who "think for themselves, but not just of themselves". They are people with the capacity and the desire to create a better future for Europe, who combine academic excellence with a clear commitment to promoting the public good. Highly motivated and well organised they will have a strong interest in connecting the lessons that can be learned from academic research to the public arena.

"I would do it again any time if given the opportunity. Participating in the program gave me access to content, material, places, & people that I would not have otherwise. I could not be more grateful for the program opening up possibilities and enhancing my personal & professional life enormously."



WHAT THE SCHOLARS SAY

"The Europaeum is a rare space where intellectual rigour, European responsibility and human complexity coexist. Its greatest strength lies not only in the excellence it cultivates, but in the ethical questions it raises about leadership, care and purpose. As such, it is not merely a programme one completes, but an experience that continues to shape how participants think, act and contribute long after it formally ends."

"There have been many benefits of the Programme ... receiving training that will support my career development; networking and debating with leading scholars and practitioners; and visiting various NGOs, research centres and policy institutions across Europe."



"It is really an incredible experience: gaining a real multidisciplinary experience, improving my skills in so many fields, meeting so many interesting people and so having an extraordinary opportunity for networking ... Last but not least, the teamwork presents the most essential part of this all: putting all the experience and knowledge gained into practice, combined with ethical and moral issues."

THE PROGRAMME

The prime aim of the Programme is to engage academic thinking with policy making and to produce a new generation of leaders, thinkers, and researchers with the capacity to meet the cultural, political and societal challenges facing Europe today.

Scholars attend six modules and a conference over two years while studying for their existing doctoral degrees. Being multi-locational and multi-institutional, the programme draws upon the resources of all the Europaeum university members. They hear from Europaeum affiliated academics together with a wide range of external experts, practitioners, and leading thinkers. They visit key European and international institutions where they learn about how these function in conversation with practitioners and policy makers. There are opportunities to directly engage with people facing some of the most difficult circumstances in contemporary society. By the end you will emerge with knowledge and a set of skills and contacts equal to any group anywhere.

At its core, the Scholars' Programme involves multidisciplinary team work engaged in problem solving within the context of contemporary Europe. Scholars work intensively in small groups on a policy project that they identify, design and develop under the guidance of a mentor. Each team's policy recommendations are assessed by a panel of external experts.

Each scholar is fully funded by a scholarship worth €12,500 per annum for two years. This covers full accommodation, food, and tuition, but does not provide a stipend. A maximum of 30 places is available.

BENEFITS INCLUDE

Learning how to collaborate in a multidisciplinary team

Developing key leadership skills for success in the public or private sectors

Networking with scholars and academics from leading European universities and a wide variety of non-academic stakeholders

Hearing from a range of professionals involved in shaping policy in Europe

Experiencing several other European universities in addition to your own

Training that utilises the best professional training schemes

The ability to 'stand out' in the increasingly saturated job market for graduates

MODULES AND LOCATIONS

The Programme will start in July 2026 and proceed as set out below. Scholars must attend all meetings in full. Before applying, candidates must ensure that they can manage all the dates. Please consult the Europaeum website for final details.

The Programme balances a syllabus of broad topics with sufficient flexibility to incorporate the interests of the individuals chosen to be part of the cohort. Four key challenges facing the future of Europe will run throughout the syllabus as highlight themes: climate crisis and sustainability, democratic resilience and depolarisation; new technologies, and transatlantic relations. The contents of the modules are structured so that there is progression through the leadership, ethical, and training strands of the programme, as well as enabling organic group project development. Each module will last between 3 and 5.5 days. Project work will increase proportionally throughout the modules.

YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO
1 OXFORD (12-18 July) <i>Introduction to Europe, Leadership & Societal Problems</i>	4 Geneva (8-11 February) <i>Global Governance, Climate Crisis, & the Transatlantic Relationship</i>
2 BRUSSELS (7-12 September) <i>European Policy & Institutions</i>	5 LUXEMBOURG (24-27 May) <i>Emerging Technology & Policy</i>
3 BUDAPEST (7-12 December) <i>Democratic Resilience and Depolarisation in Europe</i>	6 HELSINKI (8-13 August) <i>Intensive Project Work</i>
	7 BRUSSELS (23-25 October) <i>Scholar Presentations to the Policy World & Europaeum Alumni Gathering</i>

The details above may be subject to change due to forces beyond our control. Please consult the Europaeum website for the most up to date information.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must be enrolled on a doctoral programme at one of the participating Europaeum universities AND be pursuing research related to Europe (broadly defined) in the Humanities or Social Sciences OR have very strong extra-curricular interests in European affairs. Applications will also be considered from doctoral students studying joint degrees which overlap with the physical, life, or medical sciences, especially where their work concerns European policy.

All applicants must have the support of their home university and their doctoral supervisor. At the point of applying, candidates should normally have at least two years left on their doctoral programme and have an excellent command of English. Applicants also need to commit to attending all the modules of the programme and confident that they have enough time to be full participants.

Applications should be made by email to the Europaeum Office and must be received by **15 March 2026**. Applications must include evidence of academic record, a personal statement, a short answer to our questions (posted online), two academic references (one of which should be from the applicant's supervisor), one leadership reference, one personal reference, and a CV.

For full details of the application process, the documents that must be submitted and our FAQs, please visit [our website](#).



THE EUROPÆUM

The Europaeum is an association of leading European universities. Founded by the University of Oxford in 1992, our aim is to foster collaboration between leading European research universities and to facilitate tripartite dialogue between academics, students and the public and private sectors. We do this through our spring, summer and winter schools, workshops, policy seminars, debates, joint MA programmes, and the Scholars' Programme. We also offer a small number of bursaries for student exchanges between some of our member universities.

The Europaeum fundamentally believes in the need for more international collaboration with greater emphasis on universities engaging with wider society. As part of this we seek to support fresh cohorts of talented young people, committed to making a difference, and who will be the essential building blocks to shaping the future of Europe for the better. This goal is at the heart of the Europaeum Scholars' Programme.



The Europaeum gratefully acknowledges the support of the Templeton World Charity Foundation, member universities who have provided various forms of support and other generous benefactors in making the Programme possible.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information or any questions, please consult [our website](#), which has an extensive list of FAQs.

www.europaeum.org

If your query is not answered there, please contact the Programme Director,
Dr Tracey Sowerby:
scholarsprogramme.director@europaeum.ox.ac.uk

Founder & Honorary Advisor to the Programme: Dr Andrew Graham
Executive Director: Anthony Teasdale
Programme Director: Dr Tracey Sowerby

“I'm beyond grateful! The Europaeum programme most definitely changed my life for the better. :-)”

“a fantastic opportunity for personal growth”

“the Programme has widened my horizons—both in terms of the people I've met, and the knowledge I've gained.”

“Loved it! And still feel nostalgic about it years after.”

“The best experience of my doctoral years”

