

LIVE, STUDY & WORK IN BELGIUM

STUDY Islam and Citizenship in Europe with Dr. Soleiman Kiasatpour while attending Vesalius College in Brussels, Belgium. INTERN with international organizations over the course of seven weeks **or** take a second class from over ten courses in international affairs, business and communications. LIVE with a European family and get an “insider’s view” of European life. VISIT Belgium, Holland and Morocco and take optional trips to many nearby cities.

COURSES

Students earn 6 hours:

PS 450: Islam and Citizenship in Europe

AND

PS 403: Internship (competitive) [internships can be taken for credit in other majors if approved by respective departments]

OR a second course from international affairs, business, and communications (past courses have included-- Art in Belgium, The European Union in the World, Lobbying in the EU, and Topics in European Film History)

* The Islam and Citizenship Class is approved for credit in Asian Religions and Culture major and Religious studies, as well as Arabic major and Sociology.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Brussels, Belgium, with excursions to Agadir and Marrakech, Morocco, and Amsterdam and The Hague, the Netherlands

Students will learn local culture and customs through home-stay experiences in Brussels, Belgium. The out-of-country excursions will utilize hotels (Morocco and The Netherlands)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Many European countries have large Muslim populations and Belgium is no exception. Mainly from Turkey and Morocco, Muslims in Belgium are faced with the core issue that all immigrant groups face—how to integrate and maintain their cultural and political identity. As such, Brussels, which is almost a quarter Muslim, serves as an ideal location for a course on Islam and citizenship. The course is open to WKU students and any Vesalius College (Brussels, Belgium) student as well as other study abroad students. Ultimately, WKU students will study alongside European and American students. This diversity provides an environment for students to learn more about the politics and culture of the region.

Brussels is the “Capital of Europe” and provides a great venue for learning about the European Union. In addition to the European Commission, European Parliament, and United Nations offices in Europe, Brussels is home to NATO Command, hundreds of multinational corporations and NGOs and the most embassies of any city in the world.

Along with the “Islam and Citizenship in Europe” course, students will enroll in a second course offered at Vesalius college and or, if accepted, intern with a multinational corporation, intergovernmental organization or non-governmental organization.

Past internships have included: the European Parliament, NATO, the EU Observer, Godiva Chocolatiers, Fulbright Commission, Citigroup, Serve the City and UPS.

The program includes both in-country and out-of-country excursions:

- Amsterdam, The Netherlands – meet the city councilor who is of Moroccan background and has one of the most diverse districts; visit the Blue Mosque;
- Agadir and Marrakech, Morocco – visit mosques and souks in Morocco, take a crash course in Arabic for the traveller, visit a Berber village and the largest square in the Middle East and North Africa; learn about the diversity of ethnic groups in Morocco and why some chose to emigrate; check out the beaches of Agadir
- The Hague, The Netherlands (optional day trip) – visit the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and site of the World Court and beach of Scheveningen
- Brussels – Islamic Cultural Center, Military History Museum, the EU, NATO, U.S. Mission to the EU; U.S. Embassy
- 3 free weekends for optional travel to – Paris, Cologne, Barcelona, London (and other destinations)

Live with a European family in Brussels and eat home-cooked meals. Learn more about Europe from your host family.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify the key issues confronting Muslim populations in Europe
- Describe how Muslims identify themselves in Europe
- Explain how ethnic identity can serve as a source of cohesion, conflict, and misunderstanding
- Explain the different strategies that the EU and European states have taken in regards to diverse communities
- Explain the ways in which Muslim immigrants have been presented in the mainstream media
- Compare and contrast identity politics among select European states
- Examine the legitimacy of claims linking immigration, and specifically Muslim immigration, to social problems in various European countries

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: *Brussels, Belgium with excursions to Agadir and Marrakech, Morocco and Amsterdam and The Hague, The Netherlands*

ACADEMIC TERM: *Summer 2014: May 24, 2014 – July 11, 2014*

PARTIAL ITINERARY (*subject to change*)

May 24	Depart U.S.	June 13-16	Excursion to Morocco
May 25	Arrive in Brussels, Belgium	June 27	Optional Excursion to The Hague
May 26	Orientation at Vesalius College	July 11	Return to the United States
May 27	Classes meet		
June 6-8	Excursion to Amsterdam, The Netherlands		

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to ALL majors and minors.
- Permission of instructor(s) is required.
- 2.50 GPA.
- Current WKU student eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).

- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure (parent/guardian permission for anyone under 18 at time of departure).
- Students must possess passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date.
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by Judicial Affairs.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment prior to departure is required.
- Students must complete the [Study Abroad & Global Learning application process](#) prior to being registered in this course. We suggest you start this application process immediately and respond to all emails promptly

BASE PACKAGE

Estimated Cost: \$5,600

Included in Base Package

- Undergraduate tuition for 6 credit hours (including WKU course and Vesalius College Internship or second course)
- Lodging in Belgium (home-stay costs), Morocco, and The Netherlands (hotel and hostel)
- Daily breakfast and most dinners at home-stays in Belgium
- Some laundry and Internet access through home-stay
- Round-trip flight between Belgium and Morocco
- Course-related ground transportation in Belgium, Morocco, and The Netherlands, including transport from airport to home-stay upon arrival
- International medical insurance

Excluded from Base Package

- Transportation between your home and departure airport.
- Round-trip airfare between the United States and Belgium. Student may choose to fly with instructor and other participants.
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flight / program changes.
- Meals & Services and beverages not mentioned in the program
- Independent travel (non-program travel).
- Personal expenses.
- Travel cancellation/interruption insurance. *Highly recommended.*
- Visa/immigration fees (U.S. citizens do not pay visa fees for Belgium or Morocco).
- Airport taxes (payable only in cash locally).
- SAGL Study Abroad Application fee of \$150.00

Study Abroad courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts. Final program fee subject to change due to travel arrangements.

Green Sheet subject to change due to adjustment in program or pricing.

CLICK HERE TO APPLY:

http://wku-ip.terradotta.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=11019&Type=O

For questions contact soleiman.kiasatpour@wku.edu or call 745-6359

TERMS & CONDITIONS

<p>Your TopNet Account will be billed according to the following Payment Schedule:</p> <p>February 1, 2014 - Priority deadline for application with non-refundable \$250 deposit*</p> <p>February 1, 2014 – Program Fee will be charged to student’s TopNet account. Balance must be paid prior to program departure. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit card – NOT billed to student account.</p>	<p>Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment:</p> <p>After February 1: 25% of program cost After March 1: 50% of program cost After April 1: 75% of program cost After May 1: 100% of program cost (No refund).</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program. A student may remain in the program by providing an award notification from WKU’s Student Financial Assistance that verifies ability to pay the program fee immediately after aid is received.</p>
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LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Passport Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date, which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.