

International Summer School

European Encounters: Understanding Russia and EU-Russia relations: Insights Foreign Policy Actors, Institutions and Policy-Making

Online version (remote mode)
University of Tartu Moodle platform 19-31 July 2021 i.e. 2 consecutive weeks of independent study 4 EAP

Relations between the EU and Russia went through its ups and downs over the course of the last decades. In order to have a better grasp of these dynamics, we have to look back and understand the nature of bilateral interactions and the setup of institutional framework established between the two entities. The summer school programme will introduce students to the institutional framework of EU and Russia relations. The recent crisis in Russia's relations with the United States and the European Union has aggravated the tendency to view Russia through the prism of stereotypes. Contemporary Russian Federation is often seen as a re-incarnation of the Soviet Union, a country with authoritarian political culture single-handedly ruled by Vladimir Putin, pursuing an expansionist foreign policy agenda and engaged in a new Cold War against the West. While there is a grain of truth behind each of these stereotypes, they hardly advance our understanding of the complex social, cultural and political developments that drive Russia's domestic and foreign policy. Thus the course will try to explain the role of the main foreign policy actors and institutions in the EU and Russia, which are involved in shaping bilateral relations in contested aspects in EU-Russia relations (for example such as shared neighborhood and energy relations).

This summer school will provide students with both theoretical knowledge and sector specific expertise covered by practitioners coming from HEIs, NGOs and EU institutions. At the end of the course, you will be able to apply your acquired knowledge in practice through completing a short mini-project, focused on media analysis of sources dealing with state of EU-Russia affairs.

The school is hosted by the [Centre for EU-Russia Studies](#) and [Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies](#) at the [University of Tartu](#). Founded in 1632, the UT is the leading research university in the New Europe (Times Higher Education 2018).

The school will guide you through three main cities of Estonia: the capital [Tallinn](#), the university town of [Tartu](#) and the border city of [Narva](#). The format of the school combines online lectures and webinars, supported by independent readings and assignments. The 14-days programme will allow students to meet instructors in person via Zoom and join virtual study trips, site visits, and a rich cultural and social program.

A participant, who has successfully completed the course:

- argues over the institutional setup of EU-Russia relations and identifies the main phases and events in EU-Russia relations.
- explains and distinguishes the role of the foreign policy actors and institution in the EU and Russia, involved in framing bilateral relations.
- identifies EU and Russia's foreign policy tools applied in bilateral relations.

- argues about the main contested aspects in EU-Russia relations.
- summarizes and analyzes media sources related to key issues in EU-Russia relations.

In order to complete the course and receive 4 ECTS, students will be asked to perform the following tasks:

- Complete short multiple-choice quizzes
- Take active part in the discussions
- Perform a collective wiki page assignment
- Perform a short mini-project and submit a written paper

Program (subject to change)

Timeline	Topics and activities
Day 1	Introduction to the course and participants ice-breaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar with organisers <i>Welcome to Estonia</i>
Day 2	Historical and Institutional framework of EU-Russia relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar <i>Virtual trip to Narva</i>
Day 3	EU's relevant foreign policy actors and institutions (focusing on Russia). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar <i>Virtual tour: Riigikogu, Tallinn</i>
Day 4	Functioning of EU as a foreign policy actor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar <i>Virtual tour: EU house in Tallinn</i>
Day 5&6	The place of Baltic States in EU-Russia relations: NATO, the EU and Baltic regional security. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar/s <i>Virtual tour</i> <i>A film screening</i>
Day 7&8	Russia's relevant foreign policy actors and institutions (focusing on the EU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar/s <i>Virtual tour</i>
Day 9&10	Arenas and perspectives on EU-Russia interactions and policy-making: neighbourhood, trade, and beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar/s <i>A film screening</i>
Day 11&12	EU and Russia mini-project (media digest) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar: <i>Virtual tour: KUMU/ERM</i>
Day 13&14	Closing up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations <i>Virtual conference</i>