

POLSIS MA Study tour visit Brussels, January 2013

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Every year all MA students based within POLSIS have the opportunity to take part in an study trip to Brussels. This year, [Dr David Bailey \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/profiles/bailey-david.aspx\)](#) and Dr Luis Cabrera led a group of around 30 MA students to Brussels. The study group visited the NATO headquarters, and a number of the European Union institutions (European Parliament, Council, and European Commission), and also attended the University's own office based within Brussels.



As part of the visit to the European Parliament we met with two West Midlands MEPs, Michael Cashman and Malcolm Harbour, who were able to provide some insights into the political work that goes on within the Parliament.

The trip also includes a social element - with a day trip to the medieval city of Bruges - and a group meal on one of the evenings. All of the students had a good time - combining learning about the concrete day-to-day work at many of the institutions that they study about in their academic studies, with a chance to get to know and socialise with other students on the MA trip. Every year the trip cements good friendships amongst students who subsequently go on to find work and conduct further study related to international relations and politics globally. Indeed, it's an excellent opportunity to bring together those who will be participating in and studying the global politics of the future, on a study tour designed to improve its participants' understanding of the global political institutions of today.