

Certificate in European Studies at the European Institute

The European Institute has been issuing certificates since 1948. The Certificate in European Studies indicates that the recipient has a strong knowledge of and significant interest in Europe, and has completed substantial European coursework. Additionally, completion of the certificate essay allows for independent research on a topic of the candidate's choice. The European Institute and Columbia University provide abundant opportunity to consult with experts in the field as candidates pursue both their European coursework and their essay research.

Drawn up with the help of an assigned adviser and the approval of the EI Executive Director, the certificate requires the completion of 8 courses (24 points) taken from offerings across various disciplines. The 24 points should be distributed as follows:

At least two courses (6 points) must be research seminars and colloquia.

At least two courses (6 points) must be in the candidate's chosen discipline.

The remaining 4 courses (12 points) should be chosen from the European Institute's course list and must represent at least 3 other departments or schools. Language courses cannot be counted towards the certificate. In addition, the candidate must satisfy all requirements for an advanced degree or already possess such a degree from his or her department.

Language Requirement: Certificate candidates must have a reading knowledge of a minimum of two European languages and written and oral proficiency in at least one of the two. The candidate demonstrates knowledge of chosen languages in one of the following ways: (1) by taking a proficiency examination; (2) by earning the grade of B (3.0) or better in a language course taken while in residence that is at the level of at least the second half of the intermediate year; or (3) by being a native speaker of a European language (for foreign students only). It is expected that most candidates will demonstrate fluency in one of the two languages upon entering the program by passing the proficiency examinations, both written and oral, which are administered by SIPA in a number of languages at the start of each term.

Modern Western European languages offered at Columbia include: Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. No course credit toward the certificate or concentration is given for introductory, intermediate or advanced language study.

Certificate Essay: In consultation with the faculty adviser, all students must complete a satisfactory essay embodying the results of research on a topic related to Europe. Usually this essay evolves from work done in a seminar and/or colloquium conducted by a member of the Institute faculty. Each essay must be an original piece of research, interpretation or analysis based on primary source material and should be modeled on a journal article. Essays generally range in length from 25 to 50 pages. The essay and the recommendation of the faculty advisor must be submitted to the director for approval by the Institute's deadline, which is specified each term.

Deadlines for completing certificate applications are: August 1 for October graduation; December 1 for February graduation; February 1 for May graduation.

Students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences must complete the Certificate within five years of joining the Institute. Students in SIPA or other professional schools must complete the Certificate within three years. Students in joint programs have five years to complete the Certificate.

An East Central European Certificate program, administered jointly with the Harriman Institute, is also available. For more information, please contact the EI Executive Director.