

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE 2014

PREMIUM PROJECT

Are you that motivated master's student who's ready to take on a challenge?

- Are you a Master student studying an MA programme dealing with European Studies?
- Do you have a strong affinity with European politics and European Union institutions?
- Are you part-time available in March through June?

Then this might be an excellent opportunity for you to bring your knowledge into practice. For a project on the European Parliament (EP) elections (in the wider sense of the term), we are looking for motivated MA students who are up for a challenge.

Project summary

The 2014 European Parliament elections will be the first pan-European test of public opinion since the crisis erupted, triggering a wider loss of confidence in the EU. And this time, the poll has greater consequences than ever. Under the Lisbon Treaty, the results of the elections will influence the choice of a new President of the European Commission. A majority of the European political parties are set to name lead candidates for the Commission presidency. The candidates will lead their parties' campaigns for the elections and be the public faces of different visions of Europe.

In this quest we aim to organise one of the first debates between candidates for the presidency of the European Commission.

This is to take place on 28th April at the Theater aan het Vrijthof, Maastricht.

The event will be organised by Maastricht University, the Municipality of Maastricht, the League of Young Voters in Europe and the European Youth Forum.

The debate will seek to gather questions and input from young people from across Europe, using the vast networks of the organising parties.

Maastricht University has contacted 50 European universities overall to send in questions and to participate in the event through side events, for example by setting up a live-stream of the debate.

The League of Young Voters will use its online platform (www.youngvoters.eu), social media, and network of elections-related youth campaigns to ask young users to suggest questions and topics one month prior to the debate.

What would we like you to do?

- We are looking for Master students to help organise the event,
- to act as "ambassadors" of this debate towards FASoS students and towards those from other universities and towards non-academic partners

- We would like you to help in selecting the questions for the debate
- We would like you to think along with us how this debate fits into the quest of turning EP elections into 'first order' elections. You could reflect on how these insights could be disseminated (by for example by way of a blog).
- We would ask you to make a little film. You will get a camera and support from the University.
- At the end of the PREMIUM project you would have to write a reflective essay on this experience.¹

What is in it for you?

1. Be part of one of the first debates on the Commission Presidential candidates
2. Extend your organizational and diplomatic skills
3. Build up a network with:
 - Academics from Maastricht University and other universities
 - Students from Maastricht University and other universities
 - Non-academic partners for example with the European Youth Forum and the Municipality of Maastricht
4. Invest into your future career

PREMIUM

The project is linked to the UM programme PREMIUM for motivated and talented MA students. PREMIUM is an extracurricular programme that offers students the opportunity to work on a challenging task assigned by a company, NGO or educational institution in a multidisciplinary setting. This means that you will have the chance to take part in workshops aimed at your future career and get guidance from a career counselor at the Student Services Centre. If you finish the project and PREMIUM programme successfully, you will be awarded an official certificate.

Find more information on the workshops and the career package by going to:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Main/Education/InnovationAndExcellence/ExcellenceProgrammes/PREMIUM.htm>

Application

Are you the student we are looking for? Then please apply before Wednesday, 5th March 2014 by sending your CV, motivation letter and academic transcript (preferably PDF files) to Christine Neuhold, c.neuhold@maastrichtuniversity.nl

¹ Here one could for example address the question of second- versus first order elections and how the "election" of the Commission President fits.

