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Arqus Joint Master's Programme European Studies - Europe as a Global Actor

GRADUATION CEREMONY



29 January 2026
15:15 CET

University of Graz, Aula Main building, 1st floor,
Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



Vilnius
University

The Arqus Joint Master's Programme European Studies is a full-time, two-year programme (120 ECTS) offered entirely in English and jointly delivered by the universities of Granada, Graz, Leipzig, and Vilnius under the umbrella of the Arqus European University Alliance. It brings together the expertise and academic excellence of these four partners to examine Europe in a global context — how Europe acts, is perceived, and is challenged — by exploring the relationship between Europeanisation and globalisation, the role of the EU and its institutions, Europe's neighbours, the interaction between EU and non-EU states, and the effects of global politics and global developments on European societies and governments.

Students receive comprehensive training in European integration, EU governance, and institutions; comparative politics, international relations, and foreign policy analysis; political economy and socio-economic transformations; the legal and policy dimensions of the EU and its external action; regional studies focusing on Europe's neighbourhoods and global partnerships; and rigorous research methods, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, academic writing, and project design.

The programme develops intercultural communication and multilingual competencies, teamwork in international settings, policy analysis and advocacy skills, stakeholder engagement, and an informed understanding of ethics, sustainability, and digital competences relevant to European public life. Organised as a joint degree programme within the Arqus Alliance, it offers complementary focus areas and a distinctive intercultural learning experience supported by an international student cohort and mobility within the consortium.

Implementing this programme has been an exciting journey through the challenging years of the pandemic. Following successful accreditation under the European Approach, the first cohort of the Arqus Alliance's inaugural joint degree programme commenced in the 2023/24 academic year. We are now proud to celebrate our first graduates, and with them, the success of the programme.

Agenda

14:30 – 15:15 | Arrival

15:15 – 17:00 | Procession of the first-generation students

Welcome by:

- Prof. Mireille van Poppel, Vice Rector for Internationalisation and Equal Opportunities, University of Graz
- Prof. Florian Bieber, Director of Graz School of Interdisciplinary Transnational Studies/Centre for Southeast European Studies
- Prof. Artūras Vasiliauskas, Pro-Rector for Partnerships, Vilnius University
- Prof. Ana María García-Campaña, Vice-Rector for Postgraduate Studies, University of Granada

Welcome Message of Prof. Matthias Middell, Vice-Rector for Campus Development: Cooperation and Internationalisation, Leipzig University

Key note: *The Arqus Joint Masters: From Ambitious Plan to Living Reality* by Prof. Dorothy Kelly, Coordinator of the Arqus European University Alliance

Presentation of first-generation students (Video)

Message from the programme's academic coordinators

- Dr. Steffi Marung, Leipzig University
- Dr. Ieva Giedraitytė, Vilnius University
- Prof. Amelia Díaz Pérez de Madrid, University of Granada
- Assoc.-Prof. Emma Lantschner, University of Graz

Music: Anthem of Europe – Ode to Joy

Graduation Ceremony

Message from graduates:

Águeda Abad Romero & Alba María Bolívar Moreno

Special award to the best student of the first-generation students

Closing

Gaudeamus Igitur

End-of-ceremony exit: students and academic coordinators

17:00 – 19:30 | Reception

Gaudeamus igitur

G C D D⁷

I. Gau - de - a - mus i - gi - tur, ju - ve - nes dum

G D

su - - - mus; post jo - cun - - dam

G D D

ju - ven - tu - tem, post mo - le - - stam

G C

se - nec - tu - tem nos ha - be - bit

D Em G C Am E C⁶ G D⁷ G

hu - mus. nos ha - be - bit hu - - mus.

1. Gaudeamus igitur,
juvenes dum sumus;
post jocundam juventutem,
post molestam senectutem
nos habebit humus,
nos habebit humus.

2. Ubi sunt, qui ante nos
in mundo fuere?
Vadite ad superos,
transite ad inferos,
ubi jam fuere.

3. Vita nostra brevis est,
brevi finietur,
venit mors velociter,
rapit nos atrociter,
nemini parceret.

4. Vivat academia,
vivant professores,
vivat membrum quodlibet,
vivant membra quaelibet,
semper sint in flore!