

EU-China Relations

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This optional course will introduce students to the study of EU-China relations and develop insights into the nature of this bilateral relationship. It will focus on the following questions: when and why diplomatic relations were established; how they have evolved over the years; what both sides' shared interests and the major differences are; and how the partnership will further develop in the future. The course will start with a general introduction to EU-China relations, followed by an analysis of the framework of bilateral cooperation, and a comparison of policy papers from both the EU and China. It will then study the shared European and Chinese strategic interests in international affairs, with a focus on the triangular relations with the United States, and on EU-China cooperation in Africa. In addition, students will learn about bilateral political and economic relations and the growing importance of human rights issues. In order to better understand both sides, the course will also have a look at the European perceptions of China and the Chinese perceptions of the EU. The last session of the course will concentrate on the ongoing bilateral negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which will help to define the future development of the relationship. The approach to the course is multidisciplinary; understanding EU-China relations requires insights from history, politics, economics and law.