

## **Enya Braun (Ireland)**

### **Why did you choose POL?**

I chose to study the Master's in European Political and Administrative Studies for three main reasons. Firstly, the College of Europe is known as the best place to study European politics. While a reputation is not everything, it does attract influential names to Bruges. Secondly, the Master's programme is bilingual. As French and English are the two most widespread working languages in the European institutions, it makes sense to start using them interchangeably while studying. Finally, I appreciated the possibility of specialising in the branch of European politics I was most interested in during the second semester.

### **How do you think your experiences in the Department will help you in the future?**

The Politics department has the added value that it allows you to put the knowledge you laboriously accumulate into practice. It is one thing to learn about policy processes, it is quite another to re-enact the ordinary legislative procedure during a month-long "simulation game" course. The various optional compact seminars also took us out of the textbooks and onto the field - from visiting the European Commission to listening to lobbyists detailing their role in the democratic process. The Politics department enables you to network with professionals in the "Euro-bubble", as well as with some of the best students in European politics.

### **What advice would you give to prospective students?**

I would warmly recommend the Politics department of the College of Europe. You will not simply be attending a prestigious establishment; you will also learn a considerable amount both academically and personally. The pressure is high, the atmosphere can be competitive, but you will be part of a close-knit community. Ultimately, the chance to study in such a diverse European environment is priceless.