July 2013 – Introducing European and Eurasian Studies (EES)

Effective summer 2013, the European Studies Program and Russian Eurasian Studies Program have merged into a new regional studies program called European and Eurasian Studies (EES). This new combined program will allow students to concentrate their study on modern Europe or Russia and Eurasia, but it will also allow program concentrators to benefit from the many opportunities to be found across Europe and Eurasia taken as a whole.

Students may begin the EES program in either Bologna or Washington DC. The program differs from other concentrations at SAIS because it does not have any required coursework. Students work with their program advisor and members of the senior faculty to design a course of study to prepare for three comprehensive exams that must be completed to meet the degree requirements. At the end of the two years, EES concentrators have a ‘capstone’ oral examination with members of the senior faculty.

The EES program is designed to ensure that concentrators have sufficient depth of knowledge in European and Eurasian Studies. Two of the comprehensive exams cover much the same material found in the SAIS Core examinations on ‘Evolution of the International System’ and ‘Comparative National Systems’. Hence, by passing the comprehensive examinations, EES concentrators meet the SAIS core requirement.

The EES program is also designed to enhance cross-cultural communication. All students must demonstrate proficiency in a modern European language. Once students achieve proficiency in one language, they are encouraged to deepen their knowledge through post-proficiency study or to broaden their exposure by taking up another language.

Finally, the EES program encourages specialization. This can take place on an individual basis through participation in the European Research Seminar. It can also take place on a sub-regional basis by focusing attention on different parts of Europe. Within this framework, it is possible to follow a Russian and Eurasian Studies “track” and have this noted on one's transcript. Students who choose this track will need to demonstrate proficiency in Russian.

The EES team is comprised of Director Erik Jones, Associate Director Kathryn Knowles and Program Coordinator Lindsey Ohmit. The EES team also benefits from a strong senior faculty. Professor David P. Calleo, former director of the European Studies Program, and Professor Bruce Parrott, former director of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Program, provide the core of the Washington DC-based faculty. During the fall semester, they are
joined by Professor Dana Allin of the IISS in London, who will be in residence in DC from September through December. In Bologna, Professors John L. Harper and Mark Gilbert are involved in studying and teaching on questions related to Europe. They are joined by a dozen adjunct faculty, both academics and practitioners, who teach in the program on both campuses.

The EES program is very active and focuses on complimenting the academic coursework with additional opportunities such as thematic lecture series, current event discussion groups with faculty, study trips and, most notably, summer internships in the region. In 2012/13 the program created 24 new summer internships in 13 cities including Brussels, Copenhagen, Istanbul, Moscow, Paris, Singapore, Zagreb and more. Preference for applications is given to concentrators in EES.

Courses offered in the program are listed as “EES” and start with the number 710. These included courses formerly listed as 700 (EUR) and 880 (RES). Students who would like to discuss how the program merger affects their course of study are invited to contact EES Associate Director Kathryn Knowles at kknowles@jhu.edu.