

Blended Intensive Programme, Universidade da Beira Interior, June, 2026

“Security, Defence and Democracy in the European Union: The Road Ahead in the Age of Polycrisis”

BIP General Information	
Dates for presential activities:	June 8th to 12th, 2026
Proposed period for virtual component:	June 1st, 2026
Location of presential activities:	Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã.
Target audience / Participant profile:	The programme is aimed at both undergraduate and postgraduate students in the fields of International Relations, Political Science, Sociology, Communication, History, Law and related social sciences. Ideally, students who apply for the course will have a deep-seated interest in EU-related themes. Priority will also be given to students from UNITA alliance universities , though applications from other institutions are welcome.
No. of ECTS issued:	3 ECTS
Language of instruction and requirements:	English. Level B1 required.
Organizing board:	<p>Receiving/Host University: Universidade da Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal (Coordination: João Terrenas; joao.terrenas@ubi.pt)</p> <p>Sending/Partner universities: Université Savoie Mont Blanc – Emma Bell (emmasbell69@gmail.com) West University of Timisoara Uniwersytet Wrocławski Transilvania University of Braşov Università di Torino</p>
Program	
Title:	Security, Defence and Democracy in the European Union: The Road Ahead in the Age of Polycrisis
Short description:	This Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) will explore the major security and political challenges facing the European Union in era characterized by a series of profound and interconnected crises and a rapid transformation of the liberal international order. Against the erosion of the international rules-based order, the rise of geoeconomic and geopolitical tensions, as well as increasing populism and polarization, it asks students to think about how the

European Union can protect democracy and fostering internal and external security. Through a series of lectures and seminars, this intensive course will examine the core issues facing the European Union both at the domestic and international level, bringing perspectives from International Relations and Political Science.

Proposed schedule:

Virtual Component:

- Day 0 - June 1st – Introduction and Online Welcome Session to the participants (6pm-8pm)

Physical Component:

- Day 1 – June 8th – Lectures (2pm-6pm) and Coffee Break
- Day 2 – June 9th – Workshop (9am-12pm) / Lecture (2pm-5pm)
- Day 3 – June 10th – Field Trip and Group Dinner
- Day 4 – June 11th - Workshop (9am-12pm) / Lecture (2pm-5pm)
- Day 5 – June 12th – Students Presentations

Guests/speakers/experts (if any):

Organized by João Terrenas (UBI), the program will have the participation of UBI professors and guest speakers/professors/experts from other Portuguese universities and international partners.

Host University:

- Liliana Reis (UBI)
- Tomé Ribeiro Gomes (UBI)
- Jorge Tavares da Silva (UBI)
- Bruno Ferreira Costa (UBI)
- Diogo Vieira Ferreira (UBI)

Partner Universities:

- Emma Bell (USVMB) - emmasbell69@gmail.com – “Brexit and the Strategic Autonomy of the European Union”
- TBD
- TBD
- TBD
- TBD

Application procedure

Requirements:

In order to apply for the programme, candidates should be:

- currently enrolled as a bachelor's, master's or PhD student (at one of the partner Universities) in one of the abovementioned areas of study.
- available to attend the entire course, including the online session that will take place in June 1st and the face-to-face sessions that will last from June 8th to June 12th and will take place in Covilhã, Portugal.

How to apply:

- To apply, candidates must contact the International/Erasmus Office of each partner University.
- Each University will establish the procedures and rules for selecting the candidates.
- Candidates must be selected **until March 30th, 2026**.
- Each partner university can select **up to 4 students** to participate.