

EUROPEAN YOUTH EXPERIENCE



by Giles Chichester MEP
with Natalie McCoy

EYE – A Conservative Guide

A look at studying, working and living abroad



When you leave school or university, the world should be your oyster to explore and find that elusive pearl.

My older son did a year's work experience with QinetiQ, the research organisation, after school. My daughter did the gap year travel experience around the world before university and I hope our younger son will want to do something too, because this transition from student to adult should be fun and educative at the same time.



This guide is meant to help you think about what to do, where to do it and how to get help and information. I have long believed it is better to regret doing something than to regret not having tried, so go to it and enjoy the experience.

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Being an under-18 student or a recent university graduate shouldn't limit your ability to pursue opportunities outside Great Britain. In fact, getting involved in International and European affairs at an early stage will prepare you for even greater opportunities as you pursue higher education. And it's easier than you may think!

There are a number of things to think about when considering international work or study opportunities. It could be as important a decision as choosing a university. This guide is designed to help you gain insight into what the European Union offers a young British person, and offer some tips as you begin to set your sights on the continent!

- **What do you want to do?**

It is best to first prioritise your goals and expectations before searching for a programme. As you begin your research you will find many appealing options for gap-year or study abroad, but be sure to stick with programmes that will help you achieve your long-term goals.

- **Where would you like to go?**

There are opportunities to work or volunteer all over the world, or even within your own country. Narrowing your search by location will make it easier to select a programme.

- **Are you looking for an opportunity to travel or work-related experience?**

No matter what programme you choose, it will be an incredible experience, but do not choose an intensive work programme and expect to have a lot of free time to travel to other places, and vice versa, do not choose a travel programme and expect to find many work opportunities.

- **How long do you want to be committed?**

These opportunities can range from as little as 3 weeks to a full year, so you'll want to calculate carefully how much time you have available.

- **How much can you afford?**

Some projects may be free or very inexpensive, but you must also remember to budget for travel expenses, meals, insurance, and general costs of living. What may seem like a relatively cheap programme can balloon into a major investment if these other costs are not first considered.

- **Will this programme help you build on your strengths and gain relevant experience?**

If you do not have a clear idea of what it is you would like to study at university or which career you would like to pursue, gap year projects can help you refine your long-term goals and present you with many new opportunities. However, if you have a



certain direction, be sure to check with a university counsellor to make sure that the programme you are keen on will fit into your degree plan. If you're in the midst of completing your

university degree, focus on study abroad destinations that will give you the opportunity to take relevant course work, language training, and a living situation that you are comfortable with.

This guide aims to provide an insight into the opportunities available to a young person in this ever-changing, expanding new Europe. Although it covers a wide range of topics, this book is intended to serve as a springboard for you as you explore the possibilities ahead of you. By way of background, we've also included a brief look at the European Union; its history, institutions and legislative process.



There are quite a few opportunities out there to begin or deepen your knowledge of and activity in Europe. If you have an itch to travel and try new things, want to learn more about your European neighbours or just feel that the world of European politics might be interesting, there are many options available, from gap years and volunteering to clubs and organisations active in European and international affairs. We'll take a look at work and study ideas in later sections.

What Next?

A good first stop for an overview of possibilities available to you in Europe is the European Youth Portal set up by the European Commission. This portal is a gateway to thousands of other websites from across 30 European countries about studying, working and volunteering in Europe, with country-specific information as well as a section on the rights of EU citizens. <http://europa.eu.int/youth>

For ideas and advice on everything from careers and student funding to moving away from home, you could visit Connexions Direct, a public service for young people aged 13-19 set up by the Department of Education and Skills (DFES). The Connexions website has information on all types of career and life options. You can get in touch with an advisor on the internet, by email, over the phone or via a local Connexions office in your region. <http://www.connexions-direct.com>

In the UK, the biggest UK government sponsored organisation which deals with education and culture opportunities for young people is the British Council. As part of its learning programme, it offers a wide range of options for international experience for young leaders, students and graduates, including advice on education, learning exchanges, work experience, vocational training and teaching English abroad. www.britishcouncil.org



Volunteering

Each year many young people volunteer for international service organisations during their school break. These programmes can vary from a few weeks to months in range of commitment, but can be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the world. Most exchanges are project-based, involving groups and organisations going abroad to work with other national organisations in lesser developed regions of the world.

An index of privately administered volunteer programmes is available at:

The Youth Action for Peace:

www.yap.org

Civil Service International:

www.sciint.org

Idealist:

www.idealists.org

Association of Voluntary Service

Organisations: www.avso.org

In addition, the **European Volunteer Service**, one of three mobility and informal education programmes run by the European Commission under its European Youth Programme, supports opportunities for young people through transnational voluntary service. For more information see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index_en.html.

The **European Youth Programme** is administered for the UK by Connect Youth International, British Council. General information is available at their website:

www.connectyouthinternational.com or can be requested by writing to:

Connect Youth International

British Council

10 Spring Gardens

London SW1A 2BN

You can also find volunteering information and ideas on the gap year websites listed in the GAP YEAR section below.

Youth Clubs and Organisations

Model UN

www.unimun.org

Model UN offers a unique opportunity to learn about the workings of the United Nations and international affairs. The format is centred on group debate and competition with other schools in a simulated United Nations environment. These programmes are run by your individual school or university. If your school does not offer a Model UN club, you can start one with the help of an academic advisor.

European Youth Parliament

www.eyp.org

The EYP promotes the European dimension in education and gives students aged 16-22 the opportunity to participate in a practical, positive learning experience through projects and the opportunity to take part in international sessions bringing together delegates from national EYP committees. To find out more and get involved, contact the UK's National Committee:



EYP UK

39 Woodcote Avenue
Nuneaton
Warwickshire, CV11 6DE
tel: +44 7779 595 390
email: marcuspollard@yahoo.com

Gap Year

Whether you have just left school or are still attending university, you might be considering taking a year off to gain first hand experience working in another part of the world. First speak with your school career advisor. He or she can provide information on different schemes, and should have the resources

to contact various organisations to help you narrow your search.

There are independent guides, such as “The Gap Year Guidebook” available at your local library, which also contain useful addresses and advice. Whether you plan to work, travel or volunteer during your gap year, the following websites are full of ideas and tips:

[*www.gapyear.com*](http://www.gapyear.com)

[*www.gap-year.com*](http://www.gap-year.com)

[*www.yearoutgroup.org*](http://www.yearoutgroup.org)

[*www.gap.org.uk*](http://www.gap.org.uk)



Ready to try Academia from a new angle? Been wondering what homework and exams are like in France? Germany? Portugal? The only way to find out is to jump the Channel and live it. There is a multitude of programmes, scholarships, schools waiting to be tapped. Options range from bilateral exchange agreements between universities/colleges to international degrees (undergraduate and post graduate) to EU sponsored scholarships and institutes.

Foreign Study Exchanges

Students can choose from a variety of exchange programmes all over the world, usually for three months to one year. Exchanges allow you as a student to improve language skills and learn more about another culture. Certain programmes have age requirements or are specifically directed towards language training or degree specialisation. University students can earn British qualifications while abroad, and school leavers can pursue additional vocational training through study abroad programmes. The openness of the European Union offers UK nationals a unique opportunity to study in Europe whilst avoiding the hassle that many other international students must manage to facilitate a long period of study in another country. Many of these exchanges are sponsored by the European Union's **Erasmus and Socrates programmes**, while others are private scholarship awards, both of which are discussed in the next section.

First, contact your tutor/careers school advisor to see what exchange programmes your academic institution is already involved in. These established programmes offer the dependability of your home institution while attending another abroad. However, the selection

may be limited. If you're interested in other destinations, you may need to investigate programmes independently. There is an expansive database available from the Council on International Exchange which offers reputable host institutions all over the world.

www.ciee.org

- ① The following publications are available to help you get a head start and may be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office on 0870 600 55 22.

Directory of Higher Education Institutions in the EC
(ISBN 9282627500)

Directory of Higher Education in the EFTA States
(ISBN 928266919x)

- ① To find out more about the various study and scholarship programmes offered by the European Union, including Erasmus, check out:

The Commission:
www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html

Socrates UK:
www.britishcouncil.org/socrates



EU Studies Graduate Programmes outside the UK

Pursuing a Graduate Degree in European Studies is a good way to specialise in international politics, law or economics and a good step towards employment in the EU and other international organisations. Below you will find three institutions sponsored directly by the European Union, although other universities have similar programmes as well and are worth looking into, depending on where and in what language you wish to study. Try visiting the British Council or European Youth Portal websites mentioned above, as well as the PLOTEUS portal explained below, for information on university options across Europe.

- **European University Institute in Florence, Italy**

Two degrees are available from the European University Institute (EUI), a three-year doctorate or a one-year Master's degree (LL.M) in Comparative, European and International Law. There are also four departments in which students can specialise: History and Civilisation, Economics, Law, and Political and Social Sciences.

British nationals should have at least an upper-second class honours degree and a working knowledge of at least two Community languages. Most seminars are conducted in English or French and the EUI offers intensive language courses throughout the academic year.

For information write to:

The Academic Service
European University Institute
Badia Fiesolana
Via dei Roccettini 9
San Domenico di Fiesole
I-50016 Italy
www.iue.it

- **The College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium**

This school offers a one-year Master's degree in European Studies, which is very popular among students looking to work within the institutions of the European Union. There are four departments at the College of Europe: Politics and Administration, Economics, Law, and Human Resources Development. Basic requirements include a university degree and a working knowledge of French and English. The competition is fierce as students are chosen by their national governments, not the school itself. Approximately 30 out of the 300 students each year are British nationals.

For information write to:

Admissions Office
College of Europe
Dijver 11
BE-8000
Bruges, Belgium.
www.coleurop.be

- **The European Institute of Public Administration**

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) offers a one-year Master's degree in European Public Affairs. The degree is structured



around six six-week modules, and takes a multi-disciplinary approach to all major contemporary European issues. All teaching is conducted in English and applicants are required to have a university degree.

For information write to:

O.L. Vrouweplein 22
P.O. Box 1229
6201 BE Maastricht
The Netherlands
www.eipa.nl

Other University subjects: options throughout Europe

If you are interested in obtaining a graduate degree in other subjects besides European Affairs, there are endless possibilities in Europe to do so. Your field of interest will have a significant impact on the location you choose, as it is necessary to try to find the best academic programme possible. The easiest way to begin your search is to contact a professor from your university and ask which institutions are reputable and worthwhile.

You can also find out about education and training possibilities in Europe at the European Commission's "**Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European Space,**" or **PLOTEUS** for short. The Ploteus website includes a search engine for universities, training courses and schools in all subject areas as well as explanations of the education and training systems in other countries. To have a look for yourself, visit:
www.europa.eu.int/ploteus

To learn more about and compare information on the education systems and policies in the EU, visit **EURYDICE**, the information network on education in Europe, at www.eurydice.org

① **British students at both the College of Europe and the EUI are eligible to receive grant aid to cover fees, maintenance, and other expenses. This information can be obtained from the Department for Education and Skills by writing to:**

**Department for Education
and Skills**
Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
Darlington
Co. Durham DL3 9BG



Living abroad, although worthwhile, can be expensive. Luckily, there are numerous sources of aid available to you from both the United Kingdom and the European Union. There are also hundreds of little-known scholarships and grants each year that go unnoticed or unused due to lack of interest or participants; be sure to research and tap into as many local, national and private sources as possible.

From the UK

First of all, be sure to take into consideration the lengthy application process involved in applying for financial aid. Many grants require your application to be in between six to nine months before your scheduled departure date.

- **The United Kingdom's Department for Education and Skills (DfES)** maintains an excellent website that is constantly updated with new opportunities for Higher Education students. Be sure to check it regularly at: www.dfes.gov.uk
- **The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE)** provides a placement service for UK nationals seeking to undertake course-related work placements or research opportunities. These programmes are available to students currently enrolled in their penultimate year at any university in the United Kingdom. IAESTE has arranged exchanges in over 50 countries worldwide based on the needs of its students. Although there is a £48 fee for the placement, all work programmes are paid. More information is available from their website: www.iaeste.org.uk

- **Peter Kirk Scholarships**

Scholarships under the name of Peter Kirk, the first leader of the British Conservatives in the European Parliament, are available for students engaging in study projects concerning modern Europe and European institutions. Awarded in late spring, these scholarships are available to finance six-week to three-month study abroad projects conducted in at least one other country. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 26, but the award is not limited to university students. School leavers and industrial and professional trainees are welcome to apply.

Contact Information:

Peter Kirk Memorial Fund
17 St. Paul's Rise
Addingham, Ilkley
West Yorkshire
LS29 0QD
www.kirkfund.org.uk



From the EU

Information concerning the following programmes is available at the Commission's website:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html

You can also find detailed descriptions of the programmes available for UK citizens at:

www.britishcouncil.org/socrates

- Under the SOCRATES programme, funding is available to students wishing to study in another European country. This project includes not only the twenty-five Member States of the European Union, but also Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey.

• ERASMUS

ERASMUS is the higher education scheme of SOCRATES II, and it allocates funding to students studying abroad for a minimum of three months to a maximum of one-year. The grants ERASMUS provides are known as Mobility Grants and cover the cost of living and transportation to the host country. ERASMUS is available in 2199 institutions across Europe (31 countries), and even provides a system called ECTS which manages the transfer of academic credit between the institutions.

Over 1.2 million students have participated in the ERASMUS programme since its creation in 1982. Interested students should contact their advisor for preliminary information and application packages.

• LEONARDO DA VINCI

LEONARDO, like ERASMUS, supports transnational education. It focuses on vocational training programmes. Candidates have the opportunity to spend one or two years of vocational training on completion of full-time compulsory education, which leads to a recognised qualification.

<http://www.leonardo.org.uk>

• YOUTH

For young persons between the ages of 15 and 25, the EU offers funding for short-term exchanges for both volunteering and academics. The current YOUTH programme has absorbed the former programmes Youth for Europe and European Voluntary Service. For those wishing to volunteer for a period of time no longer than three months, YOUTH will provide partial funding.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/index_en.html

***For all EU monies it is important to note that the application process is lengthy and specific. Apply well in advance to take full advantage of what the Community can offer.*

Private Sources

Private scholarships may be more selective, but can sometimes provide a substantial amount of aid. There is an excellent database of private sources of study abroad grants from the International Education Financial Aid website. This can provide you with a good starting point for your research:

www.iefaf.org



Another suggestion would be to go to your local library and consult a copy of the *Directory of Grant Making Trusts* ISBN 0904 757 994. This guide is an invaluable aid, listing contact information and application requirements for individual grants.

Case in Point

The Rotary Foundation offers fellowships for graduate students interested in completing their education abroad. They also provide aid to under-eighteen students and professionals. Their website is:

www.rotary.org



The Treaties of the EU guarantee freedom of movement and establishment for all citizens and working abroad has never been easier. As a UK citizen, you also have the advantage of being a native speaker of English, the highly coveted and universally used language for business, politics and entertainment. That being said, supplementary languages are an added asset and will often provide just the edge you need. In this section you'll find information on how to get started in your job search, internship and employment possibilities with the European Union institutions and other job ideas, such as teaching English as a second language.

Beginning the job search

First: Prepare your CV

A CV (or Curriculum Vitae) is an essential element in preparing to enter the working world. A well-made CV can make the difference between getting a job or losing it. Take advantage of your college or university's career guidance services for advice on how to write your CV and where to begin searching for employment.

You can also get CV examples and ideas online. CV builders can be found at:

www.cvservices.co.uk

www.cvservices.net/gamma

In addition, a common European format for CVs has been recommended by the European Commission, to simplify the presentation of an individual's qualifications. As CV customs and practices can differ significantly between Member States, a common CV format can make it easier for employers to compare job candidates. A number of organisations have already started to ask for this format for job applications. To download the CV, instructions and examples visit: www.europass.cedefop.eu.int.

Certifications

Currently there is EU legislation pending on a common system of qualification recognition amongst the EU Member States. Until then, it will still be necessary for you to ensure that your certifications will be recognised outside of the UK. To find out if your degree or qualifications are recognised in another country, visit www.enic-naric.net. For details about the UK qualifications scheme visit NARIC (the National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the UK): www.naric.org.uk.

European Union Institution Jobs

If you are looking for work within the Institutions of the EU there are a few things to keep in mind. Entry is by open competition based on tests. You cannot simply send in your CV. Application forms, details of eligibility and other essential information are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities which announces the competition. Job openings and application information are also posted on **EPSO (European Personnel Selection Office)** on the internet. EPSO organises the competitions for all of the EU's institutions and provides



information and updates of upcoming, current and past competitions.

For details visit:

<http://europa.eu.int/epso>

■ **The European Commission-EU civil service**

Commission competitions are usually advertised simultaneously in all Member States, and the response can be enormous. The early stages of the competition itself take place simultaneously throughout the European Union, and the organisational complexity of this, together with the number of candidates involved, means that a competition can take more than a year from beginning to end.

■ **The European Parliament-Working with MEPs**

One of the easiest ways to get a foot in the door of Europe is to work for an MEP (Member of the European Parliament) as an Assistant. University graduates in politics, law, economics, European studies, or history with competence in two or more Community languages are good candidates for these

positions. There is no organised method of application as employment is based on an agreement between the Assistant and MEP. If interested in such a position, you should send your CV to your MEP and request that they circulate it around the European Parliament in the event of any vacancies.

Test drive—Learn about the EU through Work Experience at a European Institution

A good way to prepare yourself for employment within the European Union or EU-related fields is to complete a traineeship (“stage” in Brussels lingo). These traineeships differ between the various institutions, but still offer you the opportunity to see how the EU works from the inside out.

■ **European Commission Traineeship**

The largest trainee scheme in the European Union is the stagiaire programme of the European Commission. These in-service training opportunities are available twice a year for periods of five-months and are

① The Commission is the largest employer of the EU institutions with 27,000 staff positions in its various departments. There is a five-tiered grading system for employment within the Commission. Category A staff are responsible for policy development and are required to have completed a university degree or the equivalent. LA status comprises the 6,000 interpreters and translators who work not only in the Commission, but in the Parliament and other institutions, also.

Category B staff work in every area of activity and support Category A staff through executive tasks. Candidates are required to have a General Certification of Education at an A-level (2 passes). Category C officials are responsible for secretarial and clerical work, and require a high level of competency in another Community language. Finally, Category D staff provide services that help the EU operate efficiently. These include the transport service, reception, and catering services, to name a few.



extended to young university graduates and public service employees. They involve work experience in one of the Commission's departments and run from 1 March and 1 October every year. They are by far one of the best ways to get involved in the EU after graduation.

Bureau des Stages
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/stages/index_en.htm

■ **European Parliament**

Paid and unpaid traineeships are awarded for a period of four to five months. For deserving university graduates there is an opportunity to qualify for a Robert Schuman Scholarship or the Ramon Cajal scientific scholarship.

Unofficial traineeships are also available through individual MEPs, either in their home office or in Brussels. These arrangements are left to your MEP to negotiate with you and are not considered part of the Parliament scheme. However, they do afford you the opportunity to learn what an MEP does on a daily basis and the general workings of the EU.

European Parliament
Bureau des stages
KAD 2 A007
L-2929 Luxembourg

www.europarl.eu.int/stages/default_en.htm

■ **Translation Option**

The European Union employs thousands of translators and interpreters as it is absolutely necessary to keep in step with the large amount of policy work that has to be translated into the twenty official languages of the EU. The Commission offers a traineeship for linguists involving experience working under senior staff as staff support. The requirements are the same as that of a traditional Commission trainee, but there is a different application to be completed.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/translation/workingwithus/traineeship/index_en.htm

■ **European Ombudsman**

The European Ombudsman offers a limited number of traineeships, usually for a duration of four months. Trainees are selected on an individual basis at the discretion of the European Ombudsman. The ideal candidate is a European citizen able to work in at least two of the official languages of the European Communities and at an advanced stage of professional training, or research, in Community law.

www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/trainee/en/default.htm

■ **Economic and Social Committee**

The Economic and Social Committee (ESC) offers traineeships in Brussels twice a year (in February and September), for a duration of five months to university graduates.

http://www.esc.eu.int/tg/trainees/index_en.asp



■ Other Offices/Committees/Agencies

You might also want to check the Eurodesk website for available work experience at everything from the Council on Refugees and Exiles to the World Bank to the AGIS programme on police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters, as well as more details on EU institution work experience at a wide range of agencies, committees and special offices.

www.eurodesk.org

Training Grants

All candidates are considered for a training grant. Currently there is EU legislation being proposed to allow all "stages" a salary. Disabled participants usually receive a supplement of 50% of this grant.

Admission Requirements

1. Age limit is thirty to forty five depending on institution.
2. You must be a university graduate or pursuing a university degree.
3. Applicants must have a thorough knowledge of one Community language and a satisfactory knowledge of another Community language.

Useful Resources for the Euro-Job Hunt

■ The European Personnel Office (EPSO)

As mentioned above, EPSO is responsible for organising the civil service competitions for the EU's institutions. It lists upcoming, ongoing and past competitions as well as providing interactive and sample tests and information on preparatory courses.

It also answers Frequently Asked Questions on the competition process and work in the institutions generally.

Info-Recruitment

European Personnel Selection Office
Office: C80 0/48

1049 Brussels, Belgium

<http://europa.eu.int/epso>

■ The European Fast Stream

Operated by the Cabinet Office, it is a division of the Civil Service Recruitment process. It offers British graduates and professionals the opportunity to train and increase their qualifications to perform better in the EU employment competitions. The EU institutions do not typically hire new graduates rather they seek candidates with work experience. However, under this scheme, the Fast Stream offers a programme of relevant work experience with the British government, including language training. Successful candidates will first have a job with the British Civil service while they await EU employment. They cannot guarantee success within the EU, but there will always be a post in the Civil Service open to candidates. The Fast Stream is open to anyone under the age of thirty-three and graduates in their final year who expect to gain a first or second class honours degree.

EU Staffing Branch

Room G.14

Admiralty Arch

The Mall

London

SW1A 2WH

www.euro-staff.gov.uk



■ EURES

EURES is a co-operation network which brings together the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of the countries belonging to the European Economic Area (EEA), along with other regional and national bodies concerned with employment issues, such as trade unions, employer organisations and local and regional authorities. Its purpose is to facilitate the mobility of workers within the EEA. The website at EURES allows you to select another EU country where you may be interested in working and details all the necessary qualifications for employment and other specifications unique to that country. There are also job vacancies listed for a variety of professions from hotel accommodations to legal support.
<http://europa.eu.int/eures/index.jsp>

■ Careers Europe

Careers Europe is the UK Resource Centre for International careers as well as the UK Euroguidance centre. It produces information on working and learning abroad. Careers Europe publishes a variety of infosheets, newsletters, and fact sheets aimed at careers guidance to the largest possible audience. They also co-ordinate a one week exchange training placement with several EU countries. You can receive regular info updates by email by signing on at their website.

Onward House
Baptist Place
BRADFORD
BD1 2PS

<http://www.careerseurope.co.uk>

Other Employment possibilities

■ Law firms, lobbyists, trade associations, non-governmental organisations and other EU Actors


If you are interested in the European Union's activities and want to be involved in affecting policy or representing the interests of a particular sector or issue, you might want to look into opportunities with law firms, public relations and policy companies or any number of firms or trade associations with offices in Brussels. To get an idea of the thousands of organisations that follow EU affairs closely, visit www.eurobrussels.com

■ Linguists

If you are interested in the field of interpretation and translation, you should contact your university language department to learn about any possible positions as a language assistant working with exchange programmes with other teachers and assistants. For further information write to the Assistants Department of the Central Bureau for international education and training, now a part of the British Council's Education department. For more information visit www.britishcouncil.org/learning-learning.htm. Application deadlines are December of the previous year, so apply early.

■ Teaching English

There is currently great demand for native speakers of English all around the world. Citizens of the United Kingdom will find it relatively easy to get well-paid positions throughout the European Union due to easy work



exchanges. But there are also many opportunities in Asia and Eastern Europe. Over all, you should feel free to select your dream location, but be prepared to spend some time getting language teaching qualifications and researching the working environment both for legal and linguistic restrictions.

Find out about all kinds of teaching programmes available to UK citizens around the world on the British Council's website:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-learning.htm>

There are two ways to teach English abroad:

1. Work for a school

There are several types of English schools, ranging from commercial schools that teach English to business people and professionals, to universities and secondary schools. Reputable schools will require some degree of certification. For most schools it is necessary to be TEFL certified (TEFL—*Teaching English as a Foreign Language*). In addition to TEFL, a university, or in some cases a post-graduate, degree may be required to qualify for employment. The greater your qualifications, the more benefits and the higher salary you are likely to receive. Most schools will provide insurance benefits and assistance with living accommodations. These institutions can also offer assistance with residence permits and legal restrictions that may be present within the country where you will be working.

2. Work for yourself

Although you may be able to earn more money, working as a private tutor does

have its disadvantages. You will have to find your own clients, fund your own marketing and advertising campaigns, and independently try to establish residency and obtain work permits. If you are looking to supplement your income while studying abroad or only planning on living in a country for a short while, teaching English individually may be a viable option. However, if you are looking for a permanent secure source of employment a school may be your best bet.

TEFL courses:

TEFL certification can be obtained in a variety of ways. There are distance-learning courses to advanced university degrees available at varying costs from hundreds to thousands of pounds. However, TEFL courses have gained much popularity recently and therefore it should not be difficult to find a course in your locality that fits your schedule and budget. The best place to begin looking for a TEFL course is at a nearby certified language centre. If you are a current university student there should be courses available to you while you pursue your degree. Note that there are other certifications that are very similar to TEFL such as CTEFLA (Certificate of...), DTEFLA (Diploma of...), and TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) which are also recognised as qualifications to teach English. It is important to remember that there are a variety of different courses that have different formats and class structures, even though they may all be labelled as TEFL. Do your research and compare programmes. The most reputable programmes follow the Cambridge model of instruction and are available all over the world.



Whether you are looking into a TEFL course or actually applying to a school it is a good idea to contact former participants and teachers to hear first hand about the programme and the schools that you are considering.

■ The Corporate Route

There are many employment opportunities available in multinational companies, who tend to establish their headquarters in major European cities and capitals. You should try to contact the British Chamber of Commerce in the country where you would like to live and ask for a listing of British companies with offices in that country. You can then send a covering letter to those you think might be interesting. Also, many companies with international branches maintain employment sections as well as online applications on their websites.

The following website, set up by the **Department of Work and Pensions**, offers advice on beginning your job hunt and allows you to search for jobs in all kinds of sectors across the UK and Europe: www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

■ The Non-Profit Option

If you're not interested in working for the private sector, there are lots of opportunities in the not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) field. International organisations such as Amnesty International, WWF, Human Rights Watch, Greenpeace and other NGO's are always looking for young people with varied skills – from lawyers to engineers to human resources people; anything is possible. Again, most of these organisations

will have websites with employment information and announcements.

Some Useful Search Engines

- Monster.com
- Stepstone.com
- Idealist.org Job-hunt.org/europe.html
- Jobpilot.co.uk
- Jobtrack.co.uk
- Jobsword.co.uk
- Jobs1.co.uk
- Jobserve.com
- Jobs.ac.uk
- Gojobsite.co.uk
- Jobsearch.co.uk
- reed.co.uk
- Crefac.com
- Cadronline.com
- Latpro.com
- Overseasjobs.com
- Anpe.fr
- Emailjob.com
- Expat.org
- Go.tm.fr
- Jobsesame.com
- leforem.be
- Jobscape.be
- Jobs-career.be
- manpower.co
- randstad.com
- adecco.com
- Net-temps.com
- Searchselection.com
- Cadremploi.tm.fr
- and
- National newspapers



Now is an interesting time to be travelling, working and studying in Europe. It is easier than ever to move between the Member States and seek opportunities without the hassle of strict border regulations. However, there are some finer points to be aware of even within such an open Community.

Travelling around Europe

If you are a UK citizen and are planning to travel on the continent, you will need to remember to bring along your passport, because the UK is not a so-called “Schengen” country. The “**Schengen Agreement**,” which was signed by 13 of the EU’s Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden), plus Norway and Iceland, ended internal border checkpoints and controls. In practice, it means that you can travel between the signatory countries without going through customs or getting your passport stamped or applying for visas. Flights, roads, trains are handled as domestic trips. To travel between Schengen countries and the UK or Ireland, however, you will need your passport.

Travellers under 26 should also be aware of the many discounts available to them. Not only can they get cheaper fares on train and flight tickets, but they can also save on hotels, restaurants, concerts, museums and shops. The **Euro <26** card is valid for one year and entitles holders to discounts in 35 European countries. For details on how and where to buy the card visit: www.euro26.org.

Another useful card is the **ISIC** –

International Student Identity Card.

As the name suggests, you have to be a full time student (between 12 and 31 years of age), but the card is reasonably priced and is recognised in 116 countries. For more information: www.isic.org .

If you’re planning to visit Europe by train, the **Interrail Pass** might come in handy. To find out more: www.raileurope.co.uk .

Living within the 25 Member States

■ **Right of Residence** - As a national of one of the twenty-five EU countries, you are entitled to stay in any EU country, whatever your profession or your economic circumstances. As a student, your right of residence is still valid provided you have sufficient financial resources and health insurance. If you are unemployed, you have the right to live in another country for a reasonable period of time to look for a job. For most Member States this is six months, however some are limited to 3 months. Family members may accompany you. However, as a student this right is only granted to your spouse and dependent children.

■ **Permits** - You qualify for a residence permit if you are planning on residing



in a country for more than three months. Apply for a residence permit to the competent administrative authorities in the country in which you will be living. All students must be registered with an approved educational establishment, prove that they have adequate sickness insurance and state in writing that they have sufficient financial resources.

- **Exceptions** - An EU country is entitled to refuse to issue or renew your residence permit, or to require you to leave its territory if your actions constitute a serious threat to public order or public security. Having a criminal record is not sufficient grounds for refusal of a residence application.

Formalities

Remember that there are a number of individual national laws that may obstruct the transport of property and there are also a variety of licensing issues, especially with regard to automobiles. Call the British Consulate in the country that you plan to live in and they can provide you with a list of information that will itemise any policies you must comply with.

- **Social Security** - If you live in a Member State where you are studying, you are entitled to all the sickness benefits in kind provided under the legislation of that Member State. You will need to complete Form E109. If you are only temporarily (up to 3 months) living in another Member State you will need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC - which replaced the old Form E111 from 1 September 2005). The EHIC can be obtained from www.dh.gov.uk/travellers (delivery within 7 days) or by telephone on 0845 606 2030 (delivery within 10 days). You can also pick up an application by post from the Post Office (delivery within 21 days).

- **Health Insurance** - If you are living or working abroad in another EU country you can take advantage of the reciprocal health insurance benefits. If you remain in a country for less than a year you remain covered by the UK, however if you reside for more than a year, you are covered by the insurance scheme in the country in which you work. Before leaving the UK, be sure to obtain your EHIC as explained above and take note of variations in individual national health insurance schemes. In some situations you may be asked to pay for health services while living abroad, but it is possible to secure a refund from the UK's National Health Service (NHS), although this can be a lengthy and sometimes frustrating process. You might want to contact the Department of Social Security Overseas Branch for more information about your rights and obligations: Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX, Tel: 0191 225 7520.

- **Elections/voting** - the Maastricht Treaty gives every citizen of the Union the right to vote and stand as a candidate in municipal and European elections in the country where he or she lives under the same conditions as nationals of that country. You do not give up your right to vote in your country of origin by voting in the municipal elections of your country of residence. Elections to the European Parliament, however, prohibit you from voting in more than one Member State.



■ **Driving licences** - As of 1996 you may retain your original licence as long as it is still valid. Your host country will apply its own national rules as regards the period of validity, tax rules, and endorsements.

■ **Taxes** -It is important to establish when you move to another EU nation if you become a ‘resident for tax purposes’ there. The definition of a ‘resident for tax purposes’ is not the same in every EU country. A person resident for tax purposes in one country must normally declare all his or her income there and may also be subject to other taxes such as inheritance tax. The UK Consulate in the Member State you are planning on living in can provide you with this information.

On the Europa website there is a section called **Your Europe**. This page allows you to search the countries within the EU and EFTA for information you could need to prepare yourself for residency and tips for working abroad.
www.europa.eu.int/citizens/index_en.html

Living Outside the EU

Although there are advantages to remaining within the EU Member States, there are many opportunities to study and work in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. When accepting a position as a student or professional outside of Europe, it is important to recognise that each country will have different requirements and will pose different challenges for you as an EU national. Some advice to make the transition easier:

1. Before you go....

- a. Go to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website and look up any travel advisories that may be in effect for your destination. UK travel advisory warnings are available at:
www.fco.gov.uk
- b. The CIA of the United States of America has a useful database of country profiles in its CIA factbook:
www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html
- c. Contact the consulate or embassy of the nation you will be living in while still in the UK. They will be able to give you information on applying for a visa and securing all the necessary documents you will need.
- d. Make sure you have a valid passport that will be valid for at least six months after your planned return date.
- e. Arrange for your personal finances to be managed by a family member or financial service before you leave.
- f. Make sure your credit cards will not expire while you are away.
- g. Photocopy your passport – this makes replacement much easier.

2. While you are abroad...

- a. Register with the local British Consulate. They can provide you with services such as passport replacement and assistance in the event of an emergency.
- b. It may also be necessary for you to register with the immigration authorities of your host country.
- c. Travel and have fun!



Now that we've covered some of the travel, work and study opportunities available in Europe, many of these thanks to the European Union's policies and programmes, it might be appropriate to explain what this 'European project' is, how it came about and what it does exactly.

A Brief History

It all started back in 1950, following on the heels of World War II, when Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman (both French) developed a plan to prevent wars between France and Germany from ever erupting again. This plan consisted of bringing the two countries together in a specific and mutually beneficial joint venture. **The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)** was thus created in 1951 to oblige the two states to work together in the management and trade of these, at that time, very important industries. The ECSC brought together six countries (France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg). Its success led to the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957 and the subsequent creation of **the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)** in 1958. These two communities built on the initial joint trade project of the ECSC; the first would remove barriers to trade and services between the Member States while the second would develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses. This "common market" was later dubbed the **European Community (EC)** and was based on 4 basic freedoms. The EC began the construction of a European single market which would tie together its Member States (MS) through

economic prosperity. Very soon, other European countries became interested in this unique project and in 1973 the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland joined. They were followed in 1981 by Greece, in 1986 by Portugal and Spain, in 1995 by Austria, Finland and Sweden and in 2004 by the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia – for a total of 25 MS. Although Norway has applied twice for membership, national referenda have voted against accession both times. Switzerland has also voted against joining, while Greenland voted to come out. Other waves of enlargement are at various stages, with Romania and Bulgaria joining in 2007, Turkey and Croatia negotiating their candidacy and other countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) possibly applying in future.

EU's 4 Freedoms:

- Free movement of goods
- Free movement of services
- Free movement of labour and
- Free movement of capital



EU Constitutional Treaty

The latest and largest of the reforms to the EU's treaties was finalised in June 2003 by the European Convention whose aim was to create a blueprint for an enlarged EU of 25 or more members. The Convention was composed of 94 representatives from the Member State and candidate country governments, and national parliaments as well as the European Parliament and Commission. The text – an EU Constitution – will have to be approved by each Member State before coming into effect, although the future of this Treaty remains uncertain as several countries have rejected the text in national referenda. The date of official ratification set for January 2006 has been postponed while EU leaders reflect on the next move.

http://europa.eu.int/constitution/index_en.htm

The EC grew in numbers and also in political scope. In 1986, **the Single European Act** marked the first major adaptation of the EC. The EC's bodies were reorganised and powers redistributed and the first real goal of an 'internal market' was laid down. **The Treaty of Maastricht** followed in 1992 and introduced new levels of 'integration' and 'supranationality', including giving the European Parliament tangible legislative powers. This treaty is also famous for changing the official name from European Community to European Union (EU) – testifying to its evolving aims and priorities. **The Treaty of Amsterdam**, in 1997, amended and renumbered the EU and EC Treaties, consolidating nearly 40 years of texts, amendments and additions. It also

increased the European Parliament's powers, extending its jurisdiction (or competence, in Euro-speak) to more policy areas under the co-decision procedure (see below). In 2001, the **Treaty of Nice** laid down the major institutional changes which would need to be instituted in view of the EU's future enlargements and a potential membership of 30 countries.

The EU's Institutions

The European Union is run by 5 institutions: The European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Auditors. These institutions are assisted by several other bodies, including the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee, the European Ombudsman, the European Investment Bank and the European Central Bank. Together they are responsible for developing, promoting, defending and enforcing the EU's central aims and principles: peace, democracy, justice, and rule of law and free trade. The EU's internet portal can be found at: www.europa.eu.int

■ **The European Commission**

As the guardian of the treaties and initiator of legislation, the European Commission is the hub of the European Union. It proposes legislation, administers and implements Community policies, enforces Community law and represents and negotiates international agreements for the European Union as a whole. The Commission's powers and areas of jurisdiction are laid down



in the treaties and include trade, environment, competition, management of the EU's budget, agriculture, fisheries and research.

The Commission itself is composed of 25 Commissioners (one per Member State) and an administrative staff of over 27 000 civil servants. Each Commissioner is nominated by his or her national government. Each Commissioner heads one or two "directorates general" (DG) which are similar to Departments and Ministries in national governments.

For more information visit:

www.europa.eu.int/comm

shares with the Council the power to adopt European laws (directives, regulations and decisions). It also shares budgetary authority with the Council and can influence EU spending in many policy areas (although not in agriculture!). The EU budget does not come into force until it has been signed by the President of the Parliament. The EP also fulfils the important role of checks and balances by exercising democratic supervision over the Commission. The EP must approve the nomination of Commissioners and has the right to censure the Commission and call for its resignation.

■ The European Parliament

The European Parliament (EP) represents the 456 million citizens of the EU and is composed of 732 Members of the European Parliament (MEP) from the 25 Member States. MEPs are elected in European elections every five years. Each MS conducts the elections according to its own system. In the UK, for example, the proportional voting system, whereby each party wins a share of the seats roughly matching the share of votes it obtained, was introduced in 1999, replacing the previous traditional single member constituency "first past the post" system. The UK has 78 MEPs, which is roughly based on its population (Luxembourg, for example, has 6 and Germany 99).

The EP's powers have grown considerably. At first merely a consultative assembly, the EP became directly elected from 1979 onwards and is now a legislative parliament. The EP


European Political Parties

Interestingly, MEPs do not align themselves along national lines in the EP, instead, they group themselves into European political parties.

The EP is currently home to 7 groups:

- the European People's Party and European Democrats (EPP-ED)
- the Party of the European Socialists (PES),
- the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)
- the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)
- the Confederation of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (EUL/NGL)
- the Union for a Europe of Nations (EUN),
- Independence/Democracy Group (ID)
- plus the Unattached or NI MEPs

www.europarl.eu.int/groups/default.htm



The Parliament's legislative work is divided amongst 20 parliamentary committees specialising in the EU's various areas of activity. Following scrutiny in the relevant committee, a given piece of legislation then proceeds to the Plenary session, where it is voted on by all 732 MEPs. Committee meetings are held in Brussels, whilst the Plenary sessions take place in Strasbourg (due to its increased powers and workload, a few extra plenaries are also held in Brussels).

You can find out more at:
www.europarl.eu.int

■ The Council of the European Union

Often referred to as the Council of Ministers, the "Council" is made up of government representatives from each MS and is based in Brussels. If the Commission defends the EU itself, impartially and with no preference to any one MS, and the Parliament represents the citizens of EU, along ideological and political lines; then the Council gathers and negotiates the national interests of Member States. Each government sends the relevant minister to discuss particular issues. For example, the 25 agriculture ministers (or their staff representatives) often meet to discuss and decide agriculture policy.

The Council is the EU's legislative body, although it shares this role in 'co-decision' (see below) with the European Parliament. These two bodies also share budgetary authority. The Council also co-ordinates the broad economic policies of the Member States and concludes, on

behalf of the EU, international agreements with one or more countries or international organisations. Several policy areas, including the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters, are co-ordinated by the Council – as they are fields over which the MS wish to retain total discretion and sovereignty. In these matters, unanimity voting is used to decide policy, whilst a special weighted majority vote is used to pass most EU legislation.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is rotated every six months between each of the Member State governments. Holding the presidency gives a Member State a significant amount of power to set the work agenda of the Council and the EU in general. For example, the United Kingdom holds the Presidency for the second half of 2005, followed by Austria and Finland for 2006 and Germany and Portugal for 2007. More information available at:
<http://ue.eu.int>

■ The European Court of Justice

Based in Luxembourg, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) adjudicates on all legal issues and disputes concerning EU law. It has jurisdiction in disputes involving MS, EU institutions, businesses and individuals. It also ensures that EU law is uniformly and properly interpreted and applied.

The ECJ is composed of 25 judges, one from each MS, so that the various national legal systems are represented.



The judges are assisted by 8 advocates-general, who present publicly and impartially reasoned opinions on the cases brought before the Court. Both the judges and the advocates-general are appointed by joint agreement between the governments of the MS for 6-year terms.

The ECJ acts in a variety of situations. Following a request by a national court, the ECJ often interprets the validity of an EU law involved in a national court case. The ECJ can also hold proceedings for ‘failure to fulfil an obligation,’ for an ‘annulment’ or for ‘failure to act.’ In the first instance, the Commission or an MS can initiate proceedings against an MS which has failed to comply with its obligations under EU law. In the second scenario, the MS, Council, Commission and EP can request the annulment of an EU provision, while individuals can request the annulment of legal acts which affect them directly. In these proceedings, the ECJ examines the legality of acts adopted by the EU’s institutions. The third type of proceeding, for ‘failure to act,’ is undertaken in cases where, contrary to the Treaties, the EP, Council or Commission fail to make a decision. In this case, MS, the other EU institutions and natural and/or legal persons can lodge a complaint with the ECJ.

A Court of First Instance was created in 1989 to assist the ECJ with its ever-increasing workload. This court’s primary aim is to strengthen the judicial safeguards available to

individuals by introducing a second tier of judicial authority, whilst enabling the ECJ to concentrate on interpreting EU law.

To learn more visit: www.curia.eu.int

■ The Court of Auditors

The Court of Auditors sits in Luxembourg and is composed of 25 members, appointed by the Council (after consulting the EP) for 6 year terms. This court’s main role is to monitor the correct implementation of the EU budget. It reports on the legality of the EU’s income and expenditures and is meant to oversee the sound management of the budget.


The Court of Auditors produces reports and performs audits independently, which it then presents to the public, the Member States and the EU’s other institutions. Its annual report details the implementation of the EU budget for the previous financial year. It can audit EU institutions, Member States and all third countries benefiting from EU aid.

To learn more or access the latest report on the EU budget visit:

www.eca.eu.int

■ Other Institutions

In addition to the five main institutions described above, the EU is composed of several other institutions, which help to complement the work of the EU. The Economic and Social Committee (ESC) is an advisory committee of 317 representatives from economic and social interest groups in the 25 MS chosen by the governments of each MS and appointed by the Council for four year terms. It



represents the interests of different parts of society and business and advises the Council, Commission and European Parliament with regard to specific issues or legislation.

The Committee of the Regions (COR) works much in the same way as the ESC. It too has 317 members with four-year terms, but these are municipal or regional politicians – often mayors, town councillors, regional presidents. Its role, as its name suggests, is to ensure that the views and concerns of local and regional authorities are represented and considered in the decision-making process of EU policy.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) funds projects that promote European integration, balanced development, economic and social cohesion and the development of an innovative knowledge-based economy.

The European Central Bank (ECB) is responsible for shaping and implementing European monetary policy. It defines and implements the monetary policy of the Eurozone (which presently comprises all MS except Denmark, Sweden and the UK, while new MS are working towards meeting the economic criteria before adopting the Euro), conducts foreign exchange operations, issues notes in the Euro zone and promotes the smooth operation of payment systems. The ECB's main objective is to maintain price stability, defined as inflation of less than 2%.

You can access these institutions, along with all of the EU's other bodies at: www.europa.eu.int

The Legislative Process

As mentioned earlier, legislation is proposed by the European Commission. Legislative proposals are then sent to the European Parliament and to the Council, who share the power of decision, for consideration according to one of four procedures, depending on the policy area concerned by the proposal.

- 1) Consultation:** in this situation, the EP's "opinion" is required before a proposal can be adopted. The opinion is intended to influence the Council, but it is not binding. Consultation is used, for example, in the review of agricultural prices or taxation policy.
- 2) Co-operation procedure:** In this case, the EP delivers an opinion, and if its views have not been sufficiently taken into account in the Council's text (known as its "common position"), the EP may reject the proposal at second reading. In order to overturn the EP's rejection, the Council needs a unanimous decision. Co-operation was the standard before the codecision procedure was introduced.
- 3) Co-decision procedure:** Codecision puts the EP and the Council on equal footing. The EP's final approval is required for a proposal to be passed. After the Commission presents a proposal, the EP submits its opinion – in the form of a report containing amendments to the proposal – to the



Council, which must consider the EP's views when preparing its common position. This is the first reading, if the Council accepts all of the EP's amendments, then the proposal is adopted. Usually, however, a second reading is required, because the Council will modify some of the EP's amendments in its common position. The EP then considers the common position on the proposal in a second reading – amending, rejecting or approving the Council's position through an absolute majority of the EP (314 votes). If the Council and the EP still disagree after this second reading, representatives from the EP and the Council come together in a “Conciliation meeting,” in order to reach a compromise – joint text – so that the proposal may be adopted by the EP as a whole, confirmed in a third and final reading vote.

- 4) Assent procedure:** the EP's “assent” or agreement is needed for certain decisions, such as the accession of new Member States, association agreements with third countries or the conclusion of international agreements.

Enlargement

Where does Europe end? This is one of the most hotly debated questions in Europe at the moment as more and more countries express an interest in becoming members of the European Union. Some have even speculated that a European heritage/history would suffice for countries such as Russia or even Israel to be able to join.

Ten countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia) joined in May 2004. Romania and Bulgaria completed negotiations for accession and are provisionally set to join in 2007. Croatia has already applied to start negotiations. Turkey, which first applied for membership in 1987, must first satisfy the EU's human rights obligations before the EU will consider opening accession negotiations. Others, including the West Balkan states, are being considered as potential candidates. To learn more visit:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index.htm>



Delivering for Britain

BRITISH CONSERVATIVES IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In 2004, the Conservatives scored a resounding victory at the European elections. We are the most represented UK party and the third largest national delegation in the European Parliament itself. Our motto, **In Europe, not run by Europe**, sums up our main aim: to promote an alternative, better vision of a decentralised, free-market Europe close to the people. We strive to minimise red tape and cumbersome, intrusive and superfluous legislation. Along with our allies, the European People's Party and European Democrats (EPP-ED), we seek to use the European Parliament's substantial and evolving legislative powers to make a difference.

Ultimately, we Conservatives want an EU that is flexible, open, less bureaucratic and more accountable. We defend British interests and campaign for a Conservative vision of Europe. In practical terms, and following our desire for a United Kingdom In Europe, not run by Europe, we work to deliver several pledges, including:

- For Europe to do less, and do it better, resisting moves towards the creation of a single European state and any further erosion of the British veto;
- To vote for the completion of the single market but against Euro-Socialist efforts to impose new burdens on business, European taxes, and new trade-union rights;
- To fight fraud and mal-administration in the EU institutions and for the size of the EU budget to be reduced, with spending priorities reformed;
- To promote competition and wider consumer choice at lower prices as well as effective action to make it easier for British citizens to trade, travel, study, work and live in Europe;
- For greater openness in EU decision-making and improved ministerial accountability at Westminster;

To learn more about us visit:
www.conservatives.com/meps/



This guide is meant only as a starting point and does not exhaust the multitude of possibilities and resources available to individuals interested in trying a new school, language, culture, job or climate. We hope, however, that it does prove useful to the extent that it sparks ideas and provides some great links and windows to further understanding.

If there is something specific you want to know that we haven't covered already or something you know about that you think we should include, please let me know for the next up-date and revision. You can reach me at one of the addresses listed below. We will do our best to answer your queries. If you would like to learn more about the work I do, why not visit www.gileschichestermep.org.uk.

Thanks go to my assistant Natalie McCoy and our work experience students for their help in compiling this guide.

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