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Year of Graduation: 2008



As a Ukrainian student about to obtain a BA in Law degree with a specialisation in international and European law, I was looking for a study programme that would allow me to learn more about the politics side of things. MA in European Studies with an IR focus was exactly that. The fact that the programme was in English and supported through scholarships for non-EU nationals also played a role in my choice.

Looking back, it has been a decision crucial for my professional formation: through my studies in Maastricht, I was reassured of my motivation and ambition to work in an interdisciplinary way and in an international environment. A year after graduating, I started my PhD in International Relations at the University of Kent (UK), working on the EU rule of law promotion policy in Ukraine. Having completed my PhD, I started working as a post-doctoral assistant at the Centre for EU Studies, Ghent University (Belgium), where I continued with my research and contributed to teaching in UGent’s Master in European Studies programme. And just this summer I have been awarded an FWO post-doctoral fellowship to realise another interdisciplinary project: on culture in EU external relations.

Almost 10 years “after Maastricht”, I am still in touch with many of my then teachers and fellow-students, as friends, or colleagues, or both.
