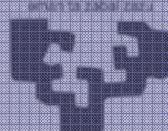


# Postgraduate Course

## International Election Observation & Electoral Assistance



Universidad  
del País Vasco

Euskal Herriko  
Unibertsitatea

**University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)**

**Department of Political Science**

Coordination: Arantxa Elizondo, David Carracedo

Election observation and electoral assistance have increasingly become accepted tools around the world, playing an important role in promoting democracy by providing accurate assessment about the nature of electoral processes.

Election observation primarily assesses the conduct of an election process on the basis of national legislation and international standards. It looks at the entire electoral process over a longer period of time, rather than at election-day proceedings only.

Electoral assistance encompasses the legal, technical and logistic support provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.

### **KEY facts**

#### **e-learning**

Dates: **Classes start November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and end June 2014**

Language: **English**

**Tuition fee: 1,350 Euros.** Payment in instalments available upon request.

Registration of interest **1<sup>st</sup> dead line: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.** Afterwards if there are any vacancies left, registration of interest will be accepted until enrolment ends  
**Enrolment: October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

Academic Credits: **30 ECTS** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

Degree Awarded: **University Postgraduate Specialist in International Election Observation and Electoral Assistance**

### **What is it?**

The course in International Election Observation and Electoral Assistance is an English one-year online university post-graduate programme that provides advanced learning in electoral systems and electoral campaign processes, especially for those occurring in contexts of developing democracies or post-conflict situations.

### **In cooperation with:**



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International Foundation  
for Electoral Systems



Organization of  
American States

1



## What will be learnt?

Students will learn about the world context situation, geopolitics, typologies of conflict, international relations, political institutions, political actors as well as international standards and human right treaties.

Students will use the Election Cycle perspective and will study a set of concrete topics, relevant to democratization processes, both on election observation and electoral assistance practise. Participants will focus on the duties of observers, the structure and reporting mechanisms of EOMs and how to enhance observers' performance once deployed in the field by studying both the specific requirements of Core Team members from observers as well as the areas of expertise of each Core Team position.

## How it will be learnt?

## Methodology

This online course methodology is based on forum interactions between participants and lecturers, and includes video conferences, readings, webinars, streaming materials, practical exercises and online working groups. This course is founded on a dynamic, participatory, active learning approach. Forum participation will be based on critical and analytical peer-to-peer learning perspective. Participants will be encouraged to establish working groups with other students and to search and share complementary academic materials.

Every week a unit will start, which will last for two weeks. Every unit has its own lecturer. Every unit and every module have their own discussion forums. Unlike most online courses, there will be an extra teacher in charge of facilitating the forum discussions, which will enhance the coherence and continuity of the curriculum. Each participant will also have a personal tutor. Students' performance will be assessed: by module, by an overall course participation appraisal and by final assignment evaluation. The maximum number of class participants is 40. Classes will start November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and will end in June 2014. The course is equivalent to 30 ETCS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). They are divided into 24 Class ECTS and 6 research ECTS.

The course board is seeking commitments with several organizations to allow students to participate in an Electoral Observation Mission or an Electoral Assistance Project, which would amount to 6 research ECTS.

A University Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

## **Who should apply?**

The course is intended for observers interested in enhancing their skills and knowledge in the area, for NGO members interested in supporting their local partners' attempts to develop Domestic Election Observation Missions, as well as for members of international organisations and national agencies who want to develop understanding and skills regarding electoral assistance and election observation. Individuals interested in the topic, such as professors, students or journalists who want to deepen their knowledge of electoral standards, electoral campaigns, election cycle and the functioning of EOMs and EA projects are also encouraged to apply as well.

Candidates must meet the following selection criteria:

- Have a three year university degree or equivalent, issued by a university institution or equivalent. The board will exceptionally consider applications from undergraduate candidates. All university degrees will be accepted.
- Have a good written command of English and proficiency using computers and the Internet.

## **Who will be teaching?**

The teaching staff is a selection of experienced Core Team observers, observer training instructors (e.g. EODS program), university scholars and experts working for international agencies and organizations related to the field such as The Carter Center, Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS), International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Organization of American States (OEA) or the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIRH).

Lecturers and speakers will include Ana Afonso, David Carracedo, Staffan Darnolf, Kerstin Dokter, Susanne Giendl, Anne Grandvoinnet Serafini, Richard Klein, Isabel Menchón, Béatrice Muñoz, Leandro Nagore, Elizabeth Plachta, Holly Ruthrauff, Victor Pérez Sanudo, Jonathan Stonestreet and Georgios Tsitsopoulos.

University professors such as Asier Blas, Heriberto Cairo, Noe Cornago, Arantxa Elizondo, Irantzu Mendiola, Alberto de la Peña, Karlos Pérez de Armiño and Alfredo Retortillo will also participate.

## **The course and its goals.**

This post-graduate online one-year course, launched by the Basque Country University with the collaboration of several international organizations in the field, is one of the first in its kind worldwide. It will provide an academic and practitioner approach for those individuals seeking careers as electoral professionals, especially for those looking for assignments as election observers. The course aims to establish a source of professional education to fill the expanding labour market in election observation & electoral assistance.

The course academic board is committed to keep a gender balance both among students and teachers.

## **Registration of interest:**

Pre-inscription in the course is now open. The first stage of the registration process will end on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Afterwards if there are any vacancies left, registration of interest will be accepted until enrolment ends (October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup>).

The pre-inscription application form is available at the University Site (only Spanish or Basque language [http://www.ikasketak.ehu.es/p266-shensect/es/contenidos/informacion/titproprios\\_preinscripcion/es\\_preinscr/preinscripcion.html](http://www.ikasketak.ehu.es/p266-shensect/es/contenidos/informacion/titproprios_preinscripcion/es_preinscr/preinscripcion.html)

If you are not familiar with those languages, please send us an email in English with the required pre-inscription data. We will process it and register your application. We will send you back the registration code. We would need the following data (to be kept as confidential):

Passport number:

Name:

Last name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Email:

Contact phone:

University undergraduate degree: university qualification obtained (e.g. sociologist, political science), university of origin, date and final grade.

Other university degrees or postgraduate studies.

All applicants should send:

A short CV (no more than 6 pages).

A letter of motivation / statement of purpose (optional).

Applicants might be interviewed by Skype.

### **Tuition fee: 1,350 Euros.**

Payment in instalments available upon request (October and February payments)

To this date, the course board has not been able to obtain funds to grant scholarships.

### **Contact:**

Email [postgrado.electionobservation@ehu.es](mailto:postgrado.electionobservation@ehu.es)

FaceBook Election Observation & Electoral Assistance university course [goo.gl/7RLaiP](http://goo.gl/7RLaiP)

Twitter @EoEaUP

[www.electionobservation.org](http://www.electionobservation.org)

# program description (modules and units).

## Module 1. Introduction. Geopolitics and International Relations.

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**Unit 1.** Introduction: History, role, goals and structure of International Election Observation Missions.

**Unit 2.** International Relations. New multilateralism and the global politics of democracy promotion: introducing critical issues.

**Unit 3.** Geopolitics, world-systems and globalization. Actors of the globalization process and its social impact.

**Unit 4.** Election observation: Using a human rights-based approach to observe election processes

**Unit 5.** Security, conflict and development. Typology of armed conflicts. Evolution of the security concept: classic security, multidimensional security and human security.

## Module 2. Political institutions and political actors.

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**Unit 1.** Political institutions: Democratic models, political cultures and elections.

**Unit 2.** Political actors and Civic Society.

**Unit 3.** New forms of political participation: Global Spring movements and online social networks.

## Module 3. Election processes and electoral assistance.

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**Unit 1.** Introduction to Electoral Assistance: history, role and development. The Election Cycle.

**Unit 2.** Election Management Bodies; composition, structure and legal capabilities. Typologies.

**Unit 3.** Voter registration: purpose, problems and solutions in emerging and established democracies.

**Unit 4.** Strengthening the Capacity of Political Parties (Party Agents) and Civic Organizations (Domestic Observers) to Observe the Electoral Process.

**Unit 5.** Electoral Systems and Typologies. Boundaries of the electoral campaigns.

**Unit 6.** Monitoring election campaign finance.

## **Module 4. The role of election observers within International Election Observation Missions. Short Term and Long Term observers.**

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- Unit 1.** Tasks and duties of Short Term Observers (STO); E-day observation questionnaires and reporting.
- Unit 2.** The benefits and challenges of working in a Team; Working with local staff; How to conduct Interviews.
- Unit 3.** Tasks and duties of Long Term Observers (LTO). Following instructions from LTO Coordinator and Core Team.
- Unit 4.** Reporting during the pre-election period, on election day and the post-election period; How to write reports.

## **Module 5. Role, tasks and requirements of Core Team members within International Election Observation Mission.**

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- Unit 1.** International electoral standards/commitments and their sources. The role(s) of the Legal Expert and what she/he requires from LTOs.
- Unit 2.** Comprehensive approach towards Security and Logistics in Electoral Observation Missions. The role of security and logistics Experts and what they require from LTOs.
- Unit 3.** Monitoring women's participation in politics and elections. Gender relations in productive/reproductive work. The role(s) of the Gender Expert.
- Unit 4.** How to do Political Analysis. Monitoring electoral campaigns. Assessing the use of public resources in electoral campaigns. Tracking the use of political violence. The role(s) of the Political Expert and what she/he requires from LTOs.
- Unit 5.** New Voting Technologies system typologies. NVT observation and assistance. The impact of Social Networks upon the electoral campaign and observation tasks.
- Unit 6.** Open unit. Content to be decided by students during the course.

## **Module 6. Research / Practise credits**

**[6 ECTS]**

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