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Faculty member awarded prestigious European Union grant

Edmonton – Dr. Andrea Wagner, assistant professor, political science, MacEwan University, has been awarded the Jean Monnet Chair through the European Union's Erasmus+ program.

The designation comes with up to €50,000 per year for three years to advance coursework and research on the European Union. Wagner's proposal focused on research and teaching on the future of the European Union post-Brexit.

"The timing was good because right now, studying the European Union is sexy," says Wagner.

"Everybody's interested because things are happening – Brexit, and the rise of populism. Receiving the grant was a particularly meaningful achievement since it's not just for me an individual, but also my students."

"The Jean Monnet Chair demonstrates the international focus of Dr. Wagner's teaching and research," said Dr. Craig Monk, provost and vice-president, Academic. "This acknowledgement of her work marks her notable achievement in the early years of her faculty appointment."

The grant will allow Wagner to update and expand two courses – one on European Union politics and one on European Union economics – and bring guest lecturers and speakers to further her students' understanding of the complex subject matter.

Some of the grant will also be allocated towards two upcoming book projects that Wagner is currently researching, one on anti-corruption agencies in the European Union, and one on the Catalan crisis.

"It was a lot of pressure, but it also meant I had a lot of support from across the university during the application process," says Wagner. "The Office of Research Services, MacEwan International, the provost – they all played a role in supporting my application."

About the Erasmus+ programme and the Jean Monnet programme

The European Union's Erasmus+ programme is a funding body that supports activities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The European Commission is responsible for Erasmus+ policies and oversees the overall programme implementation.

The Jean Monnet programme is a European Union initiative to encourage teaching, research and reflection in the field of European integration studies. The European Commission also funds the Jean Monnet Chairs.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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