



## **2018 Grimshaw Trip Series**

## **Welcome to the Grimshaw Trips Brochure for 2018!**

After a thoroughly turbulent year in international affairs throughout 2017, our excellent trip leaders have worked incredibly hard to offer you the opportunity to get up close to some of the most interesting locations in world politics today.

This year, the trips will be running to:

- **Havana, Cuba**
- **Tbilisi, Georgia**
- **Brussels, Belgium**
- **Barcelona, Catalonia**
- **Kiev, Ukraine**

Do have a look at all of the options, and think carefully before making your application. As ever, the Grimshaw Trips function as a student delegation and applicants will be interviewed by the respective trip leaders in order to ensure that the society sends students who have a genuine interest in a particular region, and will gain a great deal from participating. Should you choose to do so, you will be able to select a second preference trip.

In the event that you are not selected for the delegation of your first preference, your second set of answers will be considered by the trip leaders of your second preference if places for the trip are still available after first choice applications have been processed. Trip leaders will receive no information about students during the application process other than their degree level, gender, nationality and answers to the application questions. This is in order to ensure a meritocratic process and a good diversity of individuals on the trips.

Please also note that prices may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Except in the case of Cuba, prices are estimates of flight and accommodation costs only, and do not include other prices such as spending money and domestic transport. The meetings listed are provisional and are subject to change. If you require a visa it is your responsibility to apply with enough time to accommodate processing delays, and to cover the relevant costs (this includes the Cuba trip also).

Thanks for your interest in the Grimshaw Club, and good luck!

Rhydian Jones  
Grimshaw Trips Officer 2017-18



## Havana, Cuba

Dates: 28/03/2018 – 04/03/2018

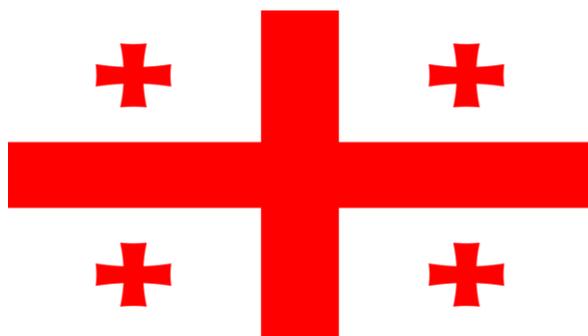
This trip provides the opportunity to visit Havana, Cuba during an unprecedented time in the country's history. We will be visiting just one month after Raul Castro is scheduled to step down as head of state, marking the first time in a half-century that someone with the last name "Castro" will not be at the helm of the state. The changing relationship between Cuba and the U.S. will also be explored during the trip, as the process of normalization started under President Obama is now immensely strained under the Trump administration. Not to be overlooked, the cultural richness of Havana will provide trip participants with insight into the vibrancy of the arts scene in the capital city.

Provisional engagements:

- Visit to the US Embassy in Havana
- Discussion with the University of Havana's Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy about economic reforms
- Meeting with Cuban "cuentapropistas," entrepreneurs that run bed and breakfasts, privately-owned restaurants, and event planning businesses
- Visit to the Museum of Cuban Art
- Tour of Alamar, a Soviet-style housing project and visit to a local farmers' market and ration store
- Tour of Old Havana's Historic Center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Meeting with the Cuban Ministries of Foreign Relations (MINREX) and Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX)
- Discussion with journalist Cristina Escobar, national television news reporter, about official media
- Discussion with Marc Frank, the longest-serving foreign correspondent in Cuba, who reports for Reuters, the Financial Times, and the Economist
- Discussion with foreign businesses operating on the Island

Estimated cost: £1,000\*

\*Includes roundtrip flight, accommodation, on-the-ground transportation, most meals, and activity-related costs



## Tbilisi, Georgia

Dates: 23/03/18 – 01/04/18

Georgia faces many challenges, from an International Relations perspective, that will make a trip there of the utmost importance to students interested in the Caucasus. Foremost among these, are the challenges that Georgia will face in joining the EU. Pressures from Russia to the North, and the involvement Russia has had in the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, make for interesting case studies – and this is an issue faced by many ex-Soviet countries that are EU-facing.

In recent years Georgia has achieved remarkable improvements in fighting corruption, creating business friendly environment and governance. We will have chance to investigate the process of economic development of Georgia.

Georgia is well known for good wine, stunning countryside, and some of the most hospitable people in the world. Therefore, we plan to allocate some time to explore Georgian hospitality and touristic sights.

Provisional engagements:

- Tour of Georgian Parliament
- British embassy in Georgia
- European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia
- The EU Delegation
- NATO Liaison office
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Ministry for Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP)
- Ministry of Reconciliation and Reintegration
- ABL near South Ossetia region and the IDP village in Tserovani
- Wine regions of Georgia and experience nightlife in Tbilisi
- Rugby game and spend some time in the resort town of Batumi
- Trip to Caucasus mountains

Estimated cost: £450



## Brussels, Belgium

Dates: 25/03/2018 – 01/04/2018

This trip offers the unique opportunity to explore the hub of global politics and international relations in Europe. If nothing else, you probably know this is the city where lies the headquarters of the European Union. Containing the focal point in which all EU decision-makers congregate to negotiate and devise policies that shape the Union, Brussels could arguably be considered the heart of Europe. Recent key events, such as the Eurozone crisis and Brexit among many others, have shaken the grounds on which this supranational entity has structured itself - and to some extent, thrived - ever since its founding in 1993. Right now is as good a time as any to engage with the political, economic and social implications of these events for Europe's future, particularly as they relate to the EU and its authority over member states. The Brexit talks taking place at the Commission's headquarters will prove especially enlightening in the discussion of EU impact as an international institution. Provisional engagements:

- Head of Cabinet of the European Commission President
- Deputy Director-General of the European Council
- President of European Parliament
- Director-General of Research & Innovation in the European Commission
- Staff member of Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party
- Members of European Parliament
- Dinner with International Relations students at KU Leuven
- European Council visit
- European Commission visit
- European Economic and Social Committee visit
- Sightseeing activities in Brussels like Grand-Place (an UNESCO site), Town Hall and the Atomium

Estimated cost: £300



## Barcelona, Catalonia

Dates: 09/04/2018 – 12/04/2018

One of the main touristic destinations of Europe, Barcelona is also the capital city of Catalonia. This year, all eyes have been turned towards this region as an independence referendum was held there on September 1st, following which Spain was plunged into its worst political crisis since the end of Franco's dictatorship. Formally won by the pro-independence camp, the referendum was nevertheless rejected by the central state as it was held against Spanish law. The ensuing crisis was punctuated by the dissolution of the Catalan parliament, the imprisonment of Catalan government members and the announcement by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of regional elections that will be held on December 21st. During this trip, Grimshaw members will have the chance to meet leaders from all parties, as well as civil society leaders. Barcelona being a splendid and culturally vibrant city with a rich history, we will also leave plenty of time for cultural excursions. Additionally to walking the streets where Gaudí and Miró once roamed, participants will get a first-hand account of the tension between the right to self-determination and territorial integrity in the 21st century.

Note: Due to the current uncertain political situation, we will only be able to confirm meetings with political leaders after the December elections.

Provisional engagements:

- German Consulate in Barcelona
- Institut de Seguretat Publica de Catalunya (Catalan Institute for Public Security)
- Meetings with officials from main Catalan political parties
- European Commission representative in Barcelona
- Representatives from a civil society organization (ANC or Òmnium)
- Experience Catalan cuisine
- Sagrada Família
- Park Güell
- Opera at the Gran Teatre del Liceu
- Catalan Parliament and Palau de la Generalitat

Estimated cost: £200



## Kiev, Ukraine

Dates: 26/03/2018 - 01/04/2018

Four years on from its Euromaidan revolution, Ukraine is fighting two separate battles. Externally, it must fend off Russia and deal with the consequences of military conflict; so far, the country has not succumbed to Russian aggression, despite grievous loss of life and territory. Internally, Ukraine has to modernize and reform its governance, fight corruption and deliver economic growth to its citizens.

As of September 2017, Ukraine has sealed a landmark Association Agreement with the EU, opening up economic opportunities and making it clear that it sees itself as a fundamentally European country rather than a Russian satellite or tributary. Poroshenko recently announced his intention to hold a referendum on joining NATO and the EU.

This trip offers an inside glimpse at an unprecedented time in Ukraine's history as the country grapples with geopolitical considerations and security in the context of its conflict with Russia, European integration and engagement with NATO, economic reform, press freedom, and efforts to combat corruption.

Provisional engagements:

- British and American Embassies in Kyiv
- Advisor to President Petro Poroshenko
- Members of Parliament from Poroshenko's ruling coalition Bloc "Solidarity"
- Head of NATO Representation
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson and Deputy MFA for European integration
- Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (Crimea and Donbas Restoration)
- Founder-editors of 'Ukrainskaya Pravda', Sevgil Musayeva-Borovyk and Olena Prytula (whose prominent journalist husband Pavel Sheremet was assassinated last year)
- Lunch with students and academics at Tara Shevchenko National University of Kyiv's Institute of International Relations
- Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square), site of the 'Orange Revolution'

Estimated cost: £300