Political Science and International Studies at the University of Birmingham

Choose to study in the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) and take the opportunity to examine some of the most important political issues, both at the national and international level, that we as citizens face in the 21st century.

A knowledge of politics helps you to understand and explain what governments do. It also teaches you a great deal about human nature and our broader society. The study of politics does not necessarily only concern the practices of professional politicians and civil servants. Politics can be seen as an activity in which we all take part whether that is in the home, our communities, or in our interactions with government and the state. Increasingly it is necessary to study and evaluate politics and policies, not only at the national level, but also from the local to the international level, as the fortunes of citizens and countries become ever more intertwined.

The optional modules listed on the website or in literature for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University, while new members might join, and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

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Dear Student

Welcome to the brochure for undergraduate programmes in the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) at the University of Birmingham.

We are one of the largest and best politics departments in the UK and have a proven record of accomplishment in both teaching and research. We are based in the Muirhead Tower, which has benefited from a £45 million refurbishment and which now provides a truly excellent learning environment for our students with its dedicated teaching areas and up-to-the-minute IT facilities.

We have a balance of expertise that covers all areas of the discipline and have long-established strengths in the fields of political theory, British politics, European politics, international relations theory, security studies, diplomatic studies, political sociology, political economy, gender politics and Pacific Asian Politics. This means we are able to offer an extensive choice of modules for our students as part of our broad range of Single and Joint Honours degree programmes.

These programmes help you acquire important analytical and transferable skills as you learn to find your way among different arguments, rival theories and alternative explanations. The aim is to provide a solid foundation of key skills and knowledge upon which you can build your own perspectives on a number of important themes and issues which you are likely to encounter over the course of your chosen degree programme.

Our exciting degree programmes, broad research expertise, proven commitment to teaching and modern learning environment all mean that POLSIS is one of the most popular destinations for politics and international relations students in the UK.

On the following pages you will find information about studying politics and international relations, our Single and Joint Honours programmes and potential career paths after POLSIS. There is also more information about our department, as well as about the University of Birmingham and the city of which it is a part.

If you wish to find out more about POLSIS and our facilities at first hand, please join us on one of the University open days in June and September. Details of these are posted at www.birmingham.ac.uk/opendays

We hope you find this brochure helpful for choosing both your degree and university. If you do decide to come to POLSIS, then you will be assured of both a warm welcome and an exciting, challenging and rewarding programme of study.

Dr Tim Haughton
Head of POLSIS
The University of Birmingham

The University was founded through the initiative of local citizens, and received its Royal Charter in 1900, making it one of the first civic universities in the UK. It is now one of the largest in the UK, offering degrees across a wide range of disciplines from Business to Medicine and from Engineering to Law. It is a major centre of research and academic study with an established international reputation for excellence. The Guardian newspaper comments: 'The University of Birmingham is Britain’s quintessential ‘red-brick’ university, and a prestigious one at that.'

The University of Birmingham is a member of the Russell Group, an association of 20 major research-intensive universities of the United Kingdom. The University is also a member of the Universitas 21 group of leading universities around the world, confirming our status as a leading centre of teaching, research and scholarship with an established international reputation. The University of Birmingham ‘brand’ is one that is recognised and esteemed around the world.

The University is located in the leafy suburb of Edgbaston, only four kilometres from the city centre. Birmingham is a campus university, with practically all its academic buildings and its extensive academic and social facilities on a single parkland site. The campus is spacious and attractive with many trees, sweeping lawns and a lake. The University’s residential accommodation for undergraduate students is close to the campus and within easy walking distance of POLSIS. Many of the pictures in this brochure will give you an idea of just how beautiful the campus is; if you are near enough, why not visit and see for yourself?

The style of the buildings on campus is an attractive mix of ancient and modern. Built in the early days of the 20th century, grand traditional redbrick buildings preside over Chancellor’s Court at the heart of the University. Prominent are the domes of the Great Hall and the striking Joseph Chamberlain clock tower, named in memory of the University’s founder and first Chancellor. The clock tower is known affectionately to generations of students simply as ‘Old Joe’ – but superstition states that if you walk under it as the bell tolls you will fail your degree! Other buildings reflect the length of the University’s history and there has been much recent building to meet the needs of 21st century students, including the £45 million refurbishment of the iconic Muirhead Tower.

In addition to academic buildings, the campus contains a range of facilities to meet your day-to-day living needs: restaurants, travel agencies, banks, supermarkets, a bookshop and a hairdresser are all available without straying from the campus. If you’re looking for culture, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts is home to a concert hall and an internationally famous collection of paintings and other works of art by most of the major artists.

The University is home to an outstanding range of academic and recreational facilities. The University Library is one of the largest in the country and extensive data retrieval and computing facilities are available.

Sports facilities are excellent with the on-campus sports centre providing a swimming pool, gymnasium, indoor courts, sauna and fitness centre. There is an extensive range of outdoor pitches for a variety of sports and the University also has its own outdoor pursuits centre at Coniston in the Lake District.
The city of Birmingham

Birmingham is a big city. It's busy, it’s thriving and it’s exciting. Birmingham students quickly adopt ‘Brum’, as it is affectionately known, and make it their second home.

Birmingham has developed – in the past 150 years – from a small village to Britain’s second city. Traditionally, its fame and prosperity came from its manufacturing industry and, although there have been many changes to industry in the area, firms like Cadbury are still Birmingham-based. In addition to these large industries, the old craft skills of toolmaker, jeweller and silversmith still flourish. In the last two decades the city has seen traditional heavier industries replaced by the specialist manufacturing and service sectors and it is now home to the largest financial services and creative sectors outside London. This means that Birmingham offers you a wealth of opportunities when you join the job market and it is one of the many reasons why around 40% of Birmingham graduates choose to make their home here.

Moving on

Around £9 billion has been invested in the city centre over the past 20 years. The landscape of the area has changed and stylish apartments and offices have replaced factories and warehouses. One of the city’s recent additions is The Mailbox, a development which brings together designer fashion and lifestyle shops, luxury apartments, hotels and an array of restaurants and café bars. Often referred to as Birmingham’s answer to Bond Street, this exclusive new district features the largest collection of designer stores outside London. The Mailbox is also home to BBC Midlands television and radio.

Another famous development in Birmingham city centre that has been completed in the last few years is Bullring, one of Europe’s largest city centre shopping centres. Bullring opened in 2003 and in its first year it recorded 36.5 million visitors, making it the most visited shopping centre outside the West End of London. There are more than 150 shops inside the iconic £530 million complex.

A history of invention

Although Birmingham is facing the future, it is still proud to showcase its past. The city was the hub of the industrial revolution and areas such as the historic Jewellery Quarter, where jewellery makers and designers continue to trade from their workshops, keep traditions alive. The canals, which once ferried materials to and from local factories, are now fringed with bars and restaurants, and many visitors are excited by the city’s bustling nightlife.

There are more than 500 restaurants in Birmingham offering a vast range of international cuisine. After enjoying a meal with friends, you have a wide range of entertainment to choose from. Watch some of the best comedians on the circuit at the Glee Club, or if you prefer live music, Birmingham boasts venues for big name bands and local talent, including the O2 Academy and the National Indoor Arena. Birmingham is also home to one of Europe’s finest concert halls, Symphony Hall, where the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is based. Birmingham Hippodrome is home to Birmingham Royal Ballet and the city centre has three other theatres and a number of cinemas, including Star City, which has 30 screens and features the latest Asian and mainstream films under one roof.

Sport in Birmingham

Birmingham is home to Birmingham City and Aston Villa, two famous professional football clubs with a rich history. Birmingham was also the first city to be awarded National City of Sport status. In recent years it has staged more sporting championships than any other UK city. The Edgbaston Cricket Ground, close to the University in Edgbaston, regularly hosts test matches and international tournaments. The city also boasts many golf courses, including The Belfry, which has hosted the Ryder Cup four times.

There is something for everyone in Birmingham and you will get a warm welcome in one of the most culturally diverse cities in Britain. People from all over the world live, work and play here as part of a city-wide community which has been harmonious and tolerant over many years.

Some places to visit

Midlands Arts Centre (Mac)
Mac is the most visited arts centre in the Midlands. Situated in the green landscape of Cannon Hill Park, it attracts over 500,000 visitors each year, who enjoy theatre performances, music, comedy, literature and poetry events, education courses, films and free exhibitions. www.macarts.co.uk

Custard Factory
The former home of Bird’s Custard has been transformed into a dynamic and bohemian community of around 500 artists and small creative enterprises. Studio workshops are complemented by cafés, antique shops, meeting rooms, dance studios, holistic therapy rooms, art galleries, and the stylish live music and club venue The Medicine Bar. www.custardfactory.com

Thinktank
An outstanding museum devoted to science and discovery, Thinktank’s exhibits and activities explore the impact of science and technology on society, with particular attention to the region’s significant contribution to science. www.thinktank.ac
Politics and the exercise of power intrude into every aspect of our daily lives. It is virtually impossible to escape from politics and power in one form or another. Political institutions, both at home and abroad, shape most of the formal laws and rules by which we live our lives.

Political institutions have helped shape our historical development and the decisions made there help determine the state of our economy and the quality of other institutions such as our education and health services. However, political power may not only be confined to formal governmental institutions such as Parliaments. Other institutions and individuals may also wield power. For example, the media can have a strong influence over the way we think about issues, while even from an early age our parents, teachers and peers also have the potential to affect both our behaviour and our beliefs. Therefore, politics and power may also be seen to be present even in the personal relationships that we have with other people.

In short, politics and power are difficult concepts to pin down. They pervade our lives in many different forms. In addition, people we meet often have different views on politics to our own. This is also true for political scientists, who have developed a whole range of competing theoretical perspectives with which to study politics. If we take British politics as an example, some people view the British political system as an ideal model of democratic and representative government. Others argue that the British system is controlled by a political elite which is often unresponsive to the needs of the general public. As a result then, the study of politics has to be very broadly focused in order to deal with both the pervasive nature of politics and power and the full spectrum of political theories that have developed over the years.

In order to reflect this breadth, politics students at the University of Birmingham are offered the chance to study a wide range of themes and topics. As well as placing a strong emphasis upon both formal and informal political processes and public policies, we offer modules which look at classic and modern political philosophy and at contemporary theories of power and the state. Furthermore, many of our modules have a strong historical element, and much emphasis is often placed upon the international dimensions of power and politics. Overall, power is viewed as a multi-faceted concept that operates on a range of different levels from global politics down to the personal relationships that we have with others.

It is this broad and varied focus of a politics degree that makes the subject area both interesting and intellectually stimulating. It also helps to make politics graduates attractive to employers, since the average politics graduate enters the job market with a multidisciplinary expertise which encompasses a wide range of different themes and issues relating, not only to contemporary politics and public policy, but also economics, sociology, history and philosophy.
International Relations

Like the study of politics, International Studies offers students a wide variety of themes and topics, as well as an equally good start in the employment market. The main focus here is on the global dimensions of power, politics and culture and the relations between states.

As the world becomes increasingly globalised and the interests of states become ever more intertwined, an in-depth knowledge of international relations becomes ever more essential and an important and valuable resource to employers.

At the University of Birmingham, International Relations is defined broadly to include themes related to international relations theory, international history, international political economy and security studies. These incorporate topics in the study of international institutions such as the United Nations, NATO, the European Union, contemporary processes such as globalisation and regionalism, the changing balance of global military, political and economic relations and contemporary international security issues such as military threats, environmental problems, migration, diplomatic relations and economic differentials between states.

In POLSIS, the political dimensions of international life can either be studied on our Single Honours International Relations degree programme, or on our range of International Relations degree programmes in combination with either politics, economics or a language. Students who combine International Relations with either French, German or Spanish spend their third year abroad, studying on an equivalent university course in order to develop a more intimate knowledge of both the language and the culture of the country which they are studying.

Our interdisciplinary approach is strengthened by the close links POLSIS has with other research centres in the University such as the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security, the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, the European Research Institute, the Centre for West African Studies, the Centre for Asian Studies and the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics. POLSIS is also very lucky to house the Institute for German Studies (IGS), a centre of excellence for the study of contemporary Germany. It was set up at Birmingham in 1994 in partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), after similar centres had been established in the United States at Berkeley, Georgetown and Harvard. Today, the IGS is part of a global network of centres for the study of Germany and, in addition, plays a unique role in UK-German relations, taking a leading part in a number of the key institutions that cultivate good bilateral links between the two countries.

As with politics, strong emphasis is placed upon the theoretical and historical dimensions to International Relations. Thus, students are introduced to a wide range of contemporary and traditional international relations perspectives, including feminism and post-structuralism, and to issues relating to post-Cold War politics and diplomatic history. Therefore, the average International Relations graduate, when entering the job market, has a full range of sound expertise and analytical resources which makes them attractive to a host of employers including international institutions and businesses, as well as nationally based employers who have a European or global focus.
POLYSIS degree programmes

All our programmes provide you with the opportunity to develop a broad disciplinary knowledge base and a range of analytical and transferable skills, as well as allowing you to build up expertise in specific areas of political life in which you are most interested.

POLYSIS has a range of stimulating degree programmes to offer which last three years, or four years if they involve a language or a year abroad. The first two years of your degree programme will be made up of core and optional modules which, depending on your degree programme, might include subjects such as political theory, political economy, international relations theory, security studies, diplomacy studies, British, European and Asia-Pacific politics, methods, comparative politics and political analysis. In your final year, we offer more specialised modules which build upon your existing knowledge and interests. You will also undertake a dissertation which many students find the most enjoyable and rewarding aspect of their degree.

POLYSIS is home to a number of degree programmes:
- Political Science BA
- International Relations BA
- Political Economy BA
- Political Science and Sociology BA
- Political Science and Philosophy BA
- International Relations with Economics BA
- Political Science and International Relations BA
- International Relations with a Language (French, German or Spanish) BA

Political Studies and International Relations can also be studied on a number of other Joint Honours programmes housed within other departments. These programmes are:
- Russian Studies and International Relations BA
- African Studies and Political Science BA
- Anthropology and Political Science BA
- Economics and Political Science BSc
- History and Political Science BA
- Russian Studies and Political Science BA
- Social Policy and Political Science BA

It is also possible to study a number of our programmes with a Year Abroad option; these programmes are:
- International Relations with Year Abroad BA
- International Relations with Economics with Year Abroad BA
- Political Science and International Relations with Year Abroad BA
- Political Science with Year Abroad BA
- Political Science and Philosophy with Year Abroad BA
- Political Science and Social Policy with Year Abroad BA
- Political Science and Sociology with Year Abroad BA
- Political Economy with Year Abroad BA

For further information on our degree programmes, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/polis

All candidates must apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS). Visit www.ucas.ac.uk for more information.
Why POLSIS?

The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) is a large and friendly department and is widely regarded as one of the fastest growing, most dynamic and forward-looking departments in the country.

High-quality teaching
Here at POLSIS, we are committed to delivering inspiring and challenging programmes of study which allow you to develop fully your ideas and potential. Indeed, we are able to offer you a high level of ‘added value’ in terms of teaching quality. This means that, as a department, we are not only successful at attracting very good students, but also excel in helping them to achieve levels of performance higher than they might expect in other comparable institutions. This is reflected in the fact that our student achievement rates have consistently been above national averages over a number of years. Our excellent teaching has been recognised many times by awards from the University or the student community.

In the latest Guardian University Guide 2016, the University of Birmingham was ranked 13th out of 128 institutions surveyed.

The University of Birmingham achieved the highest award possible in its latest Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) review. The QAA is an independent agency which places all universities under detailed inspection in order to assess the quality of the teaching and the resources they have to offer. The full QAA report for the University of Birmingham can be found on their website: www.qaa.ac.uk.

Cutting-edge research
POLSIS is home to some of the most respected academics in the UK and beyond. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, Politics and International Studies at Birmingham was ranked the sixth best department in the country in terms of research power, highlighting the large number of staff in POLSIS producing world-leading and internationally excellent research. We have a wide range of research specialisms in the department, including Security Studies, British Politics, Political Theory, Gender Studies, Political Economy, European Politics, Sociology and Russian and East European Studies. Further information about our staff research interests can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/index.aspx.

‘Programme content at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels is notable for the very wide range of choice available to students in terms of the range of module subjects being offered. The programmes at undergraduate level consistently produce excellent student work combining theoretical and empirical understanding.

‘POLSIS programmes continue to demonstrate impressive teaching outcomes, with students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels producing very good work, sometimes of outstanding quality. The programmes in general are among the best offered in the UK in Politics and International Studies.’

PROFESSOR BARRY GILLS, Newcastle University

‘POLSIS sustains a very broad range of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes and modules that are taught in a professional way by staff who are not only often at the leading edges of scholarship but who take their teaching responsibilities seriously.

‘POLSIS is one of the best departments of politics in the UK, which deservedly enjoys an international reputation. During my time as external examiner I have never been less than impressed by the care and professionalism of both academics and the department’s support staff in dealing with the assessment of their students. In POLSIS, the University of Birmingham has a department in which it can be proud, in its teaching, scholarly activity and the pastoral care it gives its students.’

PROFESSOR ANDREW TAYLOR
University of Sheffield
Employability
Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our dedicated Careers Network can help you achieve your goal.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive work experience opportunities to help you stand out amongst the competition, with mentoring, global internships and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CV’s and job applications will help give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed award-winning Personal Skills Award (PSA) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, some of our courses include the opportunity to undertake a ‘Professional Development’ module as part of your optional module choices.

‘As well as thoroughly enjoying every second of my time at POLSIS, graduating from the department definitely opened career doors for me. It helped me secure a full academic scholarship for my journalism postgraduate course and ultimately led to my first job at the BBC.’

MEL BEZALEL, POLSIS Graduate and Student Feature Writer of the Year at the 2007 Student Journalism Awards sponsored by Reuters.

Career opportunities
Our graduates enter a variety of careers in international and non-governmental organisations, teaching, the media, the Civil Service and business, as well as pursuing further postgraduate study.

For further information on our Careers Network team, please visit: www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx
Enhancing your student experience

In POLSIS, we offer much more than a degree. As a student here, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, you have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events, with some or all of the costs paid for by the department. Some of these are targeted to help you build skills and experience for your CV, others are more open events designed to expose you to high-level speakers on current debates relevant to all POLSIS students.

High-profile speaker visits
POLSIS regularly attracts high-level speakers to talk directly to students, including from the UK government, MPs and members of the US Congress. Recent speakers have included David Miliband MP, The Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, and Alistair Darling, former Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As well as attending talks by high-profile speakers, you will also have the opportunity to be involved in the organisation of the events. Students from our departmental society, The Politics Society (POLSOC) organise regular events throughout each term; involvement in these activities can help to broaden your career horizons and help you to develop the key employability skills that employers are looking for.
EXTRA-CURRICULAR STUDY EVENTS

POLSIS also provides a series of extra-curricular study events. This includes an annual Graduate lecture, with past speakers including Gisela Stuart MP, and former US Congressmen George Nethercutt and David Skaggs.

The department has also run in previous years a trip to the London Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and a Graduate seminar series with invited speakers focusing on topics such as the Global Right to Protest.

These events are an excellent opportunity to supplement learning gained through formal study, with additional activities designed to provide students with insights into more concrete developments in the world of politics and international relations.

THE POLITICS SOCIETY (POLSOC)

The University of Birmingham Guild of Students Politics Society (POLSOC) is the student-run society for all those interested in politics at the University of Birmingham. The committee organises and hosts a wide variety of events over the academic year.

The society aims to help its members with their career prospects after graduation; POLSOC regularly host networking events with POLSIS alumni, which give our members opportunities to gain valuable career advice.

The Politics Society also supports its members academically by offering essay and exam workshops, where experienced students are invited to present and share advice with first-year students.

Social events are also organised, giving POLSOC members an opportunity to get to know each other better and to meet new people. POLSOC consistently delivers opportunities for its members to enhance their student experience during their time at University.

UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

This conference is designed for, and organised and run by undergraduate students from Government and Society. From choosing the speakers and organising the panels to designing the marketing and promotion strategy, this is a conference by students and for students, supported and guided by Government and Society staff. It provides an opportunity to build your CV by getting involved with organisation, or gaining experience of presenting papers and chairing sessions in an academic setting.

HARVARD NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS TRIP

Choose to study in POLSIS and you will have the opportunity to be part of a delegation from the University at the Harvard Model United Nations event. Each year, the School of Government and Society sends a delegation of eight MA and final-year undergraduate students to the Harvard National Model United Nations. This annual event, attended by 3,000 students from 35 different nations, gives delegates the chance to participate in a high-level simulation mirroring the operations of the UN and its committee system, organised by an expert team of Model UN veterans based at Harvard University.

This event allows students to develop a wide range of skills, learn something about operating within international institutions, network with staff and students from some of the best educational institutions in the world (and hopefully have a lot of fun too!). Birmingham’s delegates are recruited through a competitive application process within the School, and receive School funds to cover the cost of their registration at the event and their hotel accommodation.
Why choose to study at Birmingham?
The University of Birmingham has a great reputation for graduate employment, this is because of the excellent quality of teaching and the diverse range of opportunities available for students. From work experience, to societies, you are regularly informed about different opportunities that are there to increase your employability, develop and expand on your skills and to have fun and make new friends. During your time at the University you will be given the chance to explore different hobbies and interests and discover what you want to do in the future.

Studying in POLSIS
Studying International Relations brilliantly fuses elements of different disciplines such as economics, history, law and philosophy and highlights the complexity of international affairs. The Introduction to the European Union module in particularly has been very interesting, especially because of the upcoming referendum. I’m looking forward to learning more about European affairs and the course provides a number of very interesting modules for me to choose from.

Teaching in POLSIS
I really enjoy participating in seminars because they are a great opportunity to delve into what is discussed in your lectures. Discussions can end up anywhere! Every seminar opens your mind and deepens your understanding on the topic. In addition, we are led by tutors that ensure we participate and understand what’s going on; they treat us like equals in the classroom and empower us to get involved in discussions. The lecturers and seminar tutors also have working hours where you can discuss any concerns.

Advice to prospective students
Get stuck in! The University has a buzzing campus with so much going on for you to get involved in. The course opens so many doors, and you will have the opportunity to discover what you’re passionate about. Don’t be afraid to take part; University can be overwhelming but on Campus support is available to help you through the journey.
International Relations provides students with a thorough grounding in the main approaches, theories and debates in the discipline, as well as introducing many of the key historical and contemporary issues of international politics.

Key data
UCAS code: L250
Duration: 3 years

Entry requirements
Number of A levels required: 3
Typical offer: ABB
General Studies: Not accepted

Additional information
Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

International students
International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx

You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Programme structure

First Year

Required modules:
Introduction to International Relations;
Introduction to Political Economy;
Problems of World History/End of Empire; Research Methods

One module or equivalent from:
Classical Political Thought; 20th Century Russian Politics; Introduction to the European Union; Social Divisions; Sociology of Self and Everyday Life; Politics as a Vocation

Second Year

Required modules:
International Relations Theory;
Diplomatic History post-1945

Four modules or equivalent from:
Comparative Politics; International Political Economy; Institutions, Politics and Policies of the EU; Modern Political Thought; International Politics of East Asia; International Security; Data Analysis and Research Design; Europeanization; Introduction to American Politics; Politics and Policy; Public Choice Theory; Global Governance; Transatlantic Relations; Islam and Politics in Europe; Comparative Foreign Policy; America and the Middle East; Contemporary Russian and East European Politics

Third Year

Dissertation:
Student research project involving close guidance from a member of staff

Four modules or equivalent from:
Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy; Contemporary International Political Economy; Controversies in Contemporary Democracies; European Security; Democracy and Democratization in Contemporary Europe; War-Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South; Critical Approaches to Security; Advanced Modern Asia; Left Parties and Protest Movements; Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Gender in World Politics; European Union Foreign and Security Policy; Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models; The Geopolitics of the Caucasus and Beyond; Law, Politics and the International System; Intelligence Services and US Foreign Policy and New Media, Social Media and International Politics; Professional Development; The Russian Economy; Global Capitalism and Migration

To find more out about our modules, please click on the ‘Course structure’ tab on the BA International Relations web page www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/international-relations.aspx

The optional modules listed on the website or in literature for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

LEARN MORE
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International Relations with a Language BA

Languages include: French (four years); German (four years); and Spanish (four years). The programmes involve a year of study abroad at a European University. This allows students to develop their language skills, as well as their knowledge of the culture, politics and history of the country they are visiting.

Programmes available
International Relations with French BA
UCAS code: L2R1

International Relations with German BA
UCAS code: L2R2

International Relations with Spanish BA
UCAS code: L2R4

Duration: 4 years

Entry requirements
Number of A levels required: 3
Typical offer: ABB
Required subjects and grades: A level French grade B (L2R1); A level German grade B (L2R2); evidence of language ability at A level for L2R4
General Studies: Not accepted

Additional information
Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

International students
International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points including an appropriate language at Higher Level Grade 5

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx

You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Programme structure

First Year
Required modules:
Introduction to International Relations; Research Methods; Relevant Language Module

Optional Modules:
Understanding Politics; Problems of World History/End of Empire; Politics as a Vocation;

Second Year
Required modules:
International Relations Theory; Diplomatic History post-1945; Relevant Language Module

Two modules or equivalent from:
Comparative European Politics; International Political Economy; Institutions, Politics and Policies of the EU; Modern Political Thought; International Politics of East Asia; International Security; Data Analysis and Research Design; Europeanization; Introduction to American Politics; Politics and Policy; Public Choice Theory; Global Governance; Transatlantic Relations; Islam and Politics in Europe; Comparative Foreign Policy; America and the Middle East; Contemporary Russian and Eastern European Politics; British Politics;

Third Year
Year Abroad

Fourth Year
Dissertation:
Student research project involving close guidance from a member of staff

Required module:
Relevant Language Module

Three modules or equivalent from:
Power in Britain; Topics in British Politics; Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy; Contemporary International Political Economy; Controversies in Contemporary Democracies; European Security; Democracy and Democratization in Contemporary Europe; War-Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South; Critical Approaches to Security; Advanced Modern Asia; Left Parties and Protest Movements; Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Gender in World Politics; European Union Foreign and Security Policy; Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models; The Geopolitics of the Caucasus and Beyond; Law, Politics and the International System; Intelligence Services and US Foreign Policy and New Media, Social Media and International Politics; Professional Development; The Russian Economy; Global Capitalism and Migration; Europe in a Globalised World; Other Relevant Language Modules

To find more out about our modules, please click on the 'Course structure' tab on the BA International Relations with a language web page www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/international-relations-german.aspx

Please note that some modules may not be available every year.

LEARN MORE

Dr Mark Wenman
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 6520
Email: polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk
International Relations with Economics  BA

This programme caters for students who, while having an interest in international affairs, do not wish to study a language but would prefer instead an extended study of economics principles.

Key data
UCAS code: LL21
Duration: 3 years

Entry requirements
Number of A levels required: 3
Typical offer: ABB
Required subjects and grades:
GCSE Mathematics grade A
General Studies: Not accepted

Additional information
Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

International students
International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx
You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Programme Structure

First Year

Required modules:
Understanding Politics; Introduction to International Relations; Introduction to Political Economy; Research Methods; Principles of Economics

One module or equivalent from:
Quantitative Methods; Advanced Quantitative Economic Methods; Politics as a Vocation

Second Year

Required modules:
International Relations Theory; International Political Economy; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics

Two modules or equivalent from:
Comparative European Politics; International Political Economy; Institutions, Politics and Policies of the EU; Modern Political Thought; International Politics of East Asia; International Security; Data Analysis and Research Design; Europeanisation; Introduction to American Politics; Politics and Policy; Public Choice Theory; Global Governance; Transatlantic Relations; Islam and Politics in Europe; Comparative Foreign Policy; America and the Middle East; Contemporary Russian and East European Politics

Third Year

Dissertation:
Student research project involving close guidance from a member of staff

Two modules or equivalent from:
Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy; Contemporary International Political Economy; Controversies in Contemporary Democracies; European Security; Democracy and Democratization in Contemporary Europe; War-Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South; Critical Approaches to Security; Advanced Modern Asia; Left Parties and Protest Movements; Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Gender in World Politics; European Union Foreign and Security Policy; Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models; The Geopolitics of the Caucasus and Beyond; Law, Politics and the International System; Intelligence Services and US Foreign Policy and New Media, Social Media and International Politics; Professional Development; The Russian Economy; Global Capitalism and Migration

Economics of the European Community; Economics of Banking; Monetary Policy; Open Economy Macroeconomics; The Economics of Uncertainty and Information; General Equilibrium and Welfare; Game Theory; Applied Econometrics; Econometric Theory; Economics of Financial Markets; Economic Policy and Political Economy; The Russian Economy; From Plan to Market

To find more out about our modules, please click on the ‘Course structure’ tab on the BA International Relations with Economics web page www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-economics.aspx

Please note that some modules may not be available every year.

LEARN MORE

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The Political Science and International Relations degree combines the two major fields offered by POLSIS and is one of our most popular programmes. It allows students with an interest in other societies, cultures and states to combine this with the study of political theory and practice.

**Key data**
UCAS code: L256
Duration: 3 years

**Entry requirements**
Number of A levels required: 3
Typical offer: ABB
General Studies: Not accepted

**Additional information**
Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

**International students**
International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx

You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

**Programme structure**

**First Year**
**Required modules:**
Understanding Politics; Classical Political Thought; Introduction to International Relations; Introduction to Political Economy; Problems of World History/End of Empire; Research Methods

**Second Year**
**Required modules:**
Analysing Political Worlds; International Political Economy; International Relations Theory; Diplomatic History post-1945

**Two modules or equivalent from:**
Comparative European Politics; International Political Economy; Institutions, Politics and Policies of the EU; Modern Political Thought; International Politics of East Asia; International Security; Data Analysis and Research Design; Europeanization; Introduction to American Politics; Politics and Policy; Public Choice Theory; Global Governance; Transatlantic Relations; Islam and Politics in Europe; Comparative Foreign Policy; America and the Middle East; Contemporary Russian and East European Politics

**Third Year**

**Dissertation:**
Student research project involving close guidance from a member of staff

**Four modules or equivalent from:**
Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy; Contemporary International Political Economy; Controversies in Contemporary Democracies; European Security; Democracy and Democratization in Contemporary Europe; War-Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South; Critical Approaches to Security; Advanced Modern Asia; Left Parties and Protest Movements; Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Gender in World Politics; European Union Foreign and Security Policy; Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models; The Geopolitics of the Caucasus and Beyond; Law, Politics and the International System; Intelligence Services and US Foreign Policy and New Media, Social Media and International Politics; Professional Development; The Russian Economy; Global Capitalism and Migration; Topics in British Politics; The Political Economy of Energy and Energy Security

To find more out about our modules, please click on the 'Course structure' tab on the BA International Relations with Political Science web page www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/international-relations-politicalscience.aspx

Please note that some modules may not be available every year.

**LEARN MORE**

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Political Economy BA

Political Economy caters for students who wish to understand the political, philosophical and social underpinnings of modern economies, and who may feel uncomfortable with the highly mathematical component of most economic degree programmes. POLSIS is one of the very few departments in the country to offer such a programme.

Key data

UCAS code: L150
Duration: 3 years

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3
Typical offer: ABB
General Studies: Not accepted

Additional information

Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

International students

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx

You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Programme structure

First Year

Required modules:
- Introduction to Political Economy; Research Methods; Principles of Economics

One module or equivalent from:
- Classical Political Thought; 20th Century Russian Politics; Introduction to the European Union; Social Worlds and Sociological Imagination; Introduction to Media, Culture and Society; Politics as a Vocation; Understanding Politics; Introduction to International Relations; Problems of World History/End of Empire

Second Year

Required modules:
- Analysing Political Worlds; International Political Economy

Four modules or equivalent from:
- Institutions, Politics and Policies of the EU; Comparative European Politics; British Politics; Data Analysis and Research Design; Europeanisation; Introduction to American Politics; Politics and Policy; Public Choice Theory; Global Governance; Comparative Foreign Policy; Islam and Politics in Europe; Transatlantic Relations; Relevant Economics Modules

Third Year

Dissertation:
Student research project involving close guidance from a member of staff

Required module:
- Contemporary International Political Economy

Three modules or equivalent from:
- Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy; Contemporary International Political Economy; Controversies in Contemporary Democracies; European Security; Democracy and Democratization in Contemporary Europe; War-Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South; Critical Approaches to Security; Advanced Modern Asia; Left Parties and Protest Movements; Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Gender in World Politics; European Union Foreign and Security Policy; Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models; The Geopolitics of the Caucasus and Beyond; Law, Politics and the International System; Intelligence Services and US Foreign Policy and New Media, Social Media and International Politics; Professional Development; The Russian Economy; Global Capitalism and Migration; Topics in British Politics

To find more out about our modules, please click on the ‘Course structure’ tab on the BA Political Economy web page www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/political-economy.aspx

Please note that some modules may not be available every year.

LEARN MORE

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Political Science BA

This is one of our most popular degree programmes. It provides you with a thorough grounding in the main approaches, theories and debates in Political Science, as well as allowing you to develop more in-depth knowledge of substantive areas within the discipline that are of interest to you.

Key data
- UCAS code: L200
- Duration: 3 years

Entry requirements
- Number of A levels required: 3
- Typical offer: ABB
- General Studies: Not accepted

Additional information
Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

International students
International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx

You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Programme structure

First Year
- Required modules:
  - Understanding Politics; Classical Political Thought; Research Methods; Politics as a Vocation
  - One module or equivalent from:
    - 20th Century Russian Politics; Introduction to the European Union; Social Worlds and Sociological Imagination; Introduction to Media, Culture and Society; Introduction to International Relations; Introduction to Political Economy

Second Year
- Required modules:
  - Analysing Political Worlds; Modern Political Thought
  - Four modules or equivalent from:
    - British Politics; Comparative European Politics; International Political Economy; Diplomatic History post-1945; Institutions, Politics and Policies of the EU; Modern Political Thought; International Politics of East Asia; International Security; Contemporary Russian and East European Politics; Introduction to American Politics; Data Analysis and Research Design; Europeanization; International Political Economy; Politics and Policy; Public Choice Theory

Third Year
- Dissertation:
  - Student research project involving close guidance from a member of staff
  - Four modules or equivalent from:
    - Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy; Contemporary International Political Economy; Controversies in Contemporary Democracies; European Security; Democracy and Democratization in Contemporary Europe; War-Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South; Critical Approaches to Security; Advanced Modern Asia; Left Parties and Protest Movements; Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict; Gender in World Politics; European Union Foreign and Security Policy; Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models; The Geopolitics of the Caucasus and Beyond; Law, Politics and the International System; Intelligence Services and US Foreign Policy and New Media, Social Media and International Politics; Professional Development; The Russian Economy; Global Capitalism and Migration; Topics in British Politics; The Political Economy of Energy and Energy Security

To find more out about our modules, please click on the 'Course structure' tab on the BA Political Science web page www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/politicalscience.aspx

Please note that some modules may not be available every year.

LEARN MORE

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Joint Honours programmes available in POLSIS

In addition to a wide range of Single Honours programmes, the Department of Political Science and International Studies offers a number of Joint Honours programmes. Choose to study a Joint Honours programme and you will benefit from a much broader academic experience than with a Single Honours degree programme.

About the department
The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) is a large and friendly department and is widely regarded as one of the fastest growing, most dynamic and forward-looking departments in the country.

Choose to study in POLSIS and take the opportunity to examine some of the most important political issues, both at a national and international level, that we, as citizens, face in the 21st century.

What is a Joint Honours programme?
A Joint Honours degree programme involves the study of two subjects to Honours degree level. If you study a subject in a Joint Honours programme, you work at exactly the same level and to the same academic standard as students taking that subject in a Single Honours programme. Joint Honours students are simply required to choose fewer topics from the range of options available in each half of the programme.

We have now introduced greater flexibility for Joint Honours programmes, as a result of which students have the opportunity to vary the proportion of credits they take in each subject. For more information, contact the Director of Joint Honours and Combined Programmes, Dr Gezim Alpion (g.i.alpion@bham.ac.uk) and members of staff on Open Days.

Benefits of taking a Joint Honours programme
In an increasingly complicated world, interdisciplinarity offers exciting opportunities to identify, engage with and solve complex problems that no single discipline on its own can.

Professional Development
As part of an optional third year 20-credit Professional Development module that you can choose to take, our dedicated Placements Team will utilise extensive links with industry and third sector organisations to work with you to secure the right work-related role for you. This might be work experience with a commercial company or public sector organisation, summer internship, voluntary opportunities or as research support for one of our leading academics. This assessed module will not only secure valuable work experience, but also the support you need to identify your personal strengths – ensuring you are best prepared for life and employment after graduation. The aims for this module are to help you:
- Bridge the gap between your academic life at Birmingham and your future professional life after graduation
- Provide you with the opportunity to learn in a professional setting of your choice (subject to availability), related to your interests and/or degree programme
- Support your professional and personal skills development
- Consolidate your learning by reflecting on your experiences whilst at the placement

Year Abroad options
We also offer Joint Honours programmes with the opportunity to study abroad in your third year, returning to Birmingham to completed your studies in the fourth year:
- Political Science and Philosophy with Year Abroad BA (LV25)
- Political Science and Social Policy with Year Abroad BA (LL24)
- Political Science and Sociology with Year Abroad BA (LL23)

Fees
Standard fees apply. Please see www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/undergraduate/fees.aspx for further information.

Further information
For further information about our Joint Honours programmes, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/polsis

Joint Honours programmes available in POLSIS
In POLSIS, we offer the following Joint Honours programmes:
- Russian Studies and International Relations BA (RL72)
- African Studies and Political Science BA (TL52)
- Anthropology and Political Science BA (LL62)
- Economics and Political Science BSc (LL12)
- History and Political Science BA (LV21)
- Political Science and Sociology BA (LL32)
- Social Policy and Political Science BA (LL42)
- Political Science and Philosophy BA (VL52)
Russian Studies and International Relations BA
No prior knowledge of the Russian language is required to study this course. You will receive a thorough grounding in the study of international relations, with particular emphasis on the major approaches to the discipline and core issues such as conflict, war, peace, security, international and regional organisations, and international law. You will have the opportunity to study a number of Russian studies modules, and you will also spend the duration of your third year in a Russian location of your choice.

Key data
UCAS Code: RL72
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: AAB

Economics and Political Science BSc
This programme gives you the opportunity to study both disciplines of Political Science and Economics. You will receive a thorough grounding in Political Science whilst also taking Economics modules. Whether the subject is financial crises, the impact of climate change on the economy, trade agreements or income tax, we understand them all better with the insights of economics. This degree programme will give you a sound training – in theory and in practice – for tackling a wide range of relevant problems.

Key data
UCAS Code: LL12
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: AAB (GCSE Maths Grade A also required)

Political Science and Sociology BA
This degree provides the knowledge and skills to critically engage with key issues facing contemporary societies, including:

- Globalisation
- The changing nature of work and the family
- Gender roles and sexuality
- Multiculturalism
- The impact of the media and information technologies
- New forms of politics

Key data
UCAS Code: LL32
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: ABB

Social Policy and Political Science BA
This programme will give you both a grounding in Political Science, as well as an opportunity to specialise in Social Policy. Social Policy is an interdisciplinary subject which draws on fields such as sociology, politics, psychology, history, media studies, and philosophy.

Key data
UCAS Code: LL42
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: ABB

Political Science and Philosophy BA
A knowledge of politics helps you to understand and explain what governments do. It also teaches you a great deal about human nature. Our Political Science and Philosophy Joint Honours degree will help you acquire important analytical skills and you will learn to find your way and articulate different arguments, rival theories and alternative explanations. You will also learn about campaigns, elections, protest movements, policy issues and political ideals.

Key data
UCAS Code: VL52
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: ABB

The optional modules listed on the website and literature for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.
Year Abroad opportunities available in POLSIS

The University of Birmingham is committed to producing global citizens by providing students with as many opportunities as possible to internationalise their degree. Each year from with POLSIS, up to a quarter of our students have the opportunity to complete a year abroad as part of their degree programme; students who take this opportunity benefit from increased confidence, and also gain a different academic perspective from having studied a politics-based degree in a foreign country.

All programmes offered in the Department of Political Science and International Studies provide students with the opportunity to develop a broad disciplinary knowledge base and a range of analytical and transferable skills, as well as allowing them to build up expertise in specific areas of political life.

Benefits of Year Abroad programmes
On four-year Year Abroad programmes, students will undertake a year abroad between their second and fourth years at a partner HE institution. This will give the student opportunities to experience a different academic environment and way of teaching (and even different approaches to the subject).

The year abroad will also enhance employability prospects through a proven ability to succeed in a foreign setting, and will provide an additional opportunity to develop relevant, marketable skills in terms of organisation, communication, and intercultural awareness.

Year Abroad Programmes in POLSIS
We offer a number of Year Abroad programmes in POLSIS; for further details on these programmes, please see the page opposite.

How much does it cost?
You will be required to pay 15% of the full tuition fee during your year abroad. For 2016/17 this will be £1,350. You will not normally be required to pay any fees at the host institution.

Where can I go?
A lot of our European partner universities teach in the native language and so, if you wish to apply to one of them, it is usually a requirement that you have a good working knowledge of the respective language.

Outside of Europe, we have exchange partners in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, the USA, Uruguay, and the West Indies.

For more specific details on the names and locations of our partner universities, please visit consult the study abroad website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/index.aspx

Who is eligible?
All students are able to apply directly to the year abroad programme, or to transfer to the four year programme during their second year at Birmingham. Please note however, students must achieve a 2:1 (60%) in their first year at the University of Birmingham to be eligible for the Year Abroad, though students who achieve close to this average will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Further Information
For further information, please visit http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx or contact:

Dr Huw Macartney
h.macartney@bham.ac.uk

The optional modules listed on the website and literature for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

'I think that my year abroad has given me confidence and taught me how to be fully independent, two things that will prove invaluable after graduation.'

LAUREN BOON, International Relations with French, with a year in France

Read more about our students’ experiences at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx
Typical offer: ABB
Duration: 4 years
UCAS Code: LL23

International Relations with Year Abroad BA
Sometimes referred to as international studies, you do not have to look too far to find examples of how international relations impact our everyday lives. From international conventions on human rights; how environmental issues shape domestic legislation; or why the prospect of local military interventions can have an adverse impact on a global economy, employers — with research methods training in each year.

Unlike a distinct academic discipline, this course will enable you to gain an appreciation of how politics, history, geography, economics and law all require international co-operation if we are to resolve and effectively manage a wide range of problems on a global scale.

Key data
UCAS Code: L25A
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB

Political Science and Sociology with Year Abroad BA
The Sociology and Political Science Joint Honours degree at Birmingham provides an excellent opportunity to explore the social changes reshaping the world today.

This degree provides the knowledge and skills to critically engage with key issues facing contemporary societies including globalisation; the changing nature of work and the family; gender roles and sexuality; multiculturalism; the impact of the media and information technologies; and new forms of politics. In addition to these ‘big picture’ social theories we place a strong emphasis on developing social science research skills — so valued by employers — with research methods training in each year.

Key data
UCAS Code: LL23
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB

Political Economy with Year Abroad BA
The Political Economy degree at Birmingham provides you with a specialist social science understanding of such developments, while preparing you for life outside university. You will benefit from the international reputation of our academic staff for research in the area of political economy, and our commitment to facilitating the highest quality learning environments.

Key data
UCAS Code: L15A
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB

International Relations with Economics with Year Abroad BA
The International Relations with Economics degree at Birmingham combines an interdisciplinary approach to the study of international affairs with a specialised knowledge of economics (with a particular emphasis on international economics). You will also study international and comparative politics; the theory and practice of international relations; and diplomatic history.

Key data
UCAS Code: LL2B
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB

Political Science and International Relations with Year Abroad BA
The fortunes of one country are now so closely intertwined with those of other nations that it is increasingly necessary to study and evaluate politics and policies at an international level. The Political Science and International Relations course at Birmingham allows you to combine your interest in international relations with the study of political theory and the national politics of a variety of countries.

Key data
UCAS Code: L257
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB

Political Science and Philosophy with Year Abroad BA
Our Political Science and Philosophy Joint honours degree will help you acquire important analytical skills. You will learn to find your way and articulate different arguments, rival theories and alternative explanations. You will also learn about campaigns, elections, protest movements, policy issues and political ideals.

Key data
UCAS Code: LV25
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB

Political Science and Social Policy with Year Abroad BA
Our Political Science and Social Policy with Year Abroad degree programme enables students to study two complementary subjects alongside each other to Honours degree level. Joint Honours students work to the same academic standard as students taking each subject through our Single Honours programmes. Joint Honours students take core modules from each subject area, and choose options from the range of modules available in each half of the programme.

Key data
UCAS Code: LL24
Duration: 4 years
Typical Offer: ABB

Political Science with Year Abroad BA
The study of politics works on two fascinating levels. First, it helps you to understand and explain what governments do. Second, it teaches you a huge amount about human nature. As you progress through this degree you will learn about campaigns, elections, protest movements, policy issues and political ideals. You’ll also explore different arguments, rival theories and alternative explanations, as well as building up the analytical skills that are so important in the jobs market.

Key data
UCAS Code: L20A
Duration: 4 years
Typical offer: ABB
This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.