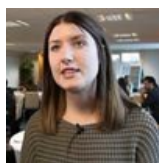


Alumni profiles

Alumni profiles in the Department of Political Science and International Studies.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. [Get the latest Flash Player](#) [Get the latest version of QuickTime](#)

Latest alumni profiles



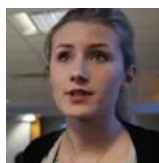
[Ana Speed, Sociology BA \(2009\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/ana-speed.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/ana-speed.aspx)

I have always had a keen interest in social structures and interactions and studying social sciences at the University of Birmingham provided me opportunity to critically engage with key political, social and economic issues facing contemporary societies.



[Nadine Baldwick, BA Sociology and Philosophy \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/baldwick-nadine.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/baldwick-nadine.aspx)

My advice to anyone considering studying at Birmingham would be to make the most of your time at university by supplementing your degree with other activities.



[Olga Fraczek, Sociology graduate \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/fraczek-olga.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/fraczek-olga.aspx)

Account Executive, Harvard Public Relations.



[Ursula Houston, Sociology BA \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/houston-ursula.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/houston-ursula.aspx)

Since graduating with a first class degree in Sociology, I have been lucky enough to secure two different internships in the public sector. Both internships were advertised by the careers service solely for University of Birmingham students.



[Veronika Fafienski, BA Sociology \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/fafienski-veronika.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/fafienski-veronika.aspx)

Studying at The University of Birmingham has been such an exciting and rewarding experience. When I first arrived, I was instantly captivated by the campus atmosphere. All the things you need as a freshly baked student – department, the library, student union and all the friends you made along the way – were in one place. Of course everyone is unique but for my part I can say that at Birmingham I have been able to set the foundations for both career and personal development.



[Laurin Weissinger, BA Sociology \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/weissinger-laurin.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2013-14/weissinger-laurin.aspx)

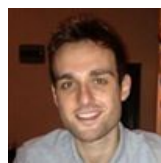
Currently, I am staying in Oxford and preparing my PhD research that I hope to start this year. Before coming to Oxford, I worked for a while, both at an executive recruitment consultancy in London and full-time in IT.

[studies/alumni/profiles/postgraduate/2013-14/elio-di-muccio.aspx](#))

I am an aspiring PhD student in the social sciences with intellectual interests in documentary and archival research on the British state, the sociology of technology, and contemporary networked social and political movements.

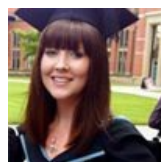
[Simon Hedlin Larsson, BSc Economics and Political Science \(2011\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/simon-hedlin-larsson.aspx\)](#)

I've recently started to study a graduate degree in Economics and Statistics at Columbia University. Up to that point I had been working for two years as a Political Adviser for Economic and Foreign Policy at the Prime Minister's Office in Sweden.



[Sean Finch, BA International Relations with Political Science \(2012\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/finch-sean.aspx\)](#)

I would advise those looking to study in POLSIS to make the most of the broadness of the subject as it gives you so many options and avenues to pursue your interests. Make the most of the specialisms of staff members and don't be apprehensive about asking them for help. The department is really supportive and can help you achieve your degree goal.



[Riona Mulherin, BA International Relations with Political Science \(2012\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/mulherin-riana.aspx\)](#)

Studying International Relations with Political Science gives a brilliant insight into how the world works; it shows you how politics, history, geography, economics, ethics and law are all interconnected at an international level, and the course allows you to look in close detail at all of these topics. I personally really enjoyed modules relating to economics and international development, and the great thing about this course is that you are encouraged to follow these interests.



[Nancy Gray, BA Political Science \(2012\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/gray-nancy.aspx\)](#)

To those looking to study Political Science, I would definitely recommend attending all the different career events held by both the department and the Politics Society; they are worth heading along to. Also, read the emails circulated, it is how I found this internship!

[Video: Erik Fredrikson, MA International Relations \(Terrorism and Political Violence\) \(2012\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/postgraduate/2012-13/fredrikson-erik.aspx\)](#)

Erik Fredrikson describes his experience of studying an MA International Relations (Terrorism and Political Violence) at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham during his recent graduation.

[Video: Andrew Reid, MA Social and Political Theory \(2012\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/postgraduate/2012-13/reid-andrew.aspx\)](#)

Andrew Reid describes his experience of studying an MA Social and political Theory at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham during his recent graduation.

[Video: Ingrid Doude van Troostwijk, MA Politics and Religion \(2012\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/postgraduate/2013-14/ingrid-doude-van-troostwijk.aspx\)](#)

Ingrid Doude van Troostwijk describes her experience of studying an MA in Politics and Religion at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham during her recent graduation.

[Video: Kate Barry, BA Law with Politics \(2001\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2011-12/barry-kate.aspx\)](#)

Just remember how much you've been given and how much you know and remember how difficult it was at the beginning for you to understand all those weird concepts and the theories and political views and ideas and how you've managed to translate them and how that will help you in being a voice and an advocate for other people because it's invaluable having people who can speak for other people because not everyone can do that.

[Video: Adrian Bradley, BA Political Science \(2003\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2011-12/bradley-adrian.aspx\)](#)

My main piece of advice is make the most of your time. What you get out of being at university, the degree is the hygiene factor that will make sure your application is read but no more than that. What you get out of the university is all these experiences that you can have while you're here and the CV you can build...

[Video: Derek Lowe, BA Political Science \(1976\) and MA Social Science \(1980\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2011-12/lowe-derek.aspx\)](#)

Get the most out of it when you're here and get the most out of it in terms of your course, make sure you engage with the teaching staff and get the most out of your tutors and your friends, enjoy the social side of things but really focus on where you want your degree to lead to...

[Video: Chris Richardson Wright, BA International Relations \(2011\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2011-12/richardson-wright-chris.aspx\)](#)

The best thing for me was the opportunities that I got in my extra-curricular activities. I made full use of the opportunities available in the students union and I really enjoyed all of the work I did in charity fundraising, volunteering and events management as well.

[Raam Thakrar, BSocSci International Studies with Politics \(1998\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2011-12/thakrar-raam.aspx\)](#)

Really think through what you want to do – and where career choice overlaps with intellectual interest and skills. And importantly the amount of money you

want to earn.

[Elena Lynch, BA Sociology \(2011\) with International Study Year \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/lynch-elena.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/lynch-elena.aspx)

What I found most beneficial about taking the course was the ability to study a wide range of issues that have, and arguably still do, affected our daily lives. For example, I found the study of multiculturalism particularly interesting especially whilst living in as culturally diverse a city as Birmingham.

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