Enhancing your Student Experience

In the School of Government and Society we offer much more than a degree. As a student here, whether **undergraduate (/schools/government-society/courses/undergraduate.aspx)** or **postgraduate (/schools/government-society/courses/masters.aspx)**, you have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events, with some or all of the costs paid for by the School.

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 G&S students.

Student funding opportunities

- **Government and Society student enhancement fund (/schools/government-society/funding/student-enhancement-fund.aspx)**
- **Student funding opportunities (/schools/government-society/funding/student-funding-opportunities.aspx)**

Departmental Activities

- **International Development Department (IDD) (/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/teaching/student-experience.aspx)**
- **Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)**

Recent enhancement activities:

Students get a first-hand view of working for the UN (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/postgraduate/polsis/model-un-boston.aspx)

MA students Alice Vogliotti, Satish Gurung and Pui Thanaporn Wiboonpote travelled to Boston and New York for the Model UN conference and to visit UN Headquarters. When they returned to Birmingham they Skyped with an alumnus about the realities of working in the UN. This is a report of their experiences.
Tuesday 17th March 2015

Study Trips, Simulations and Outside Expertise Enhance the Teaching in POLSIS (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/03/polsis-student-enhancement.aspx)

Visits to Brussels, Participation at Model UN and NATO events and Classes Taught by Practitioners Enhance the Student Experience in POLSIS.
Tuesday 17th March 2015

Students gain experience through conflict simulation (/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/news/2015/03/students-gain-experience-through-conflict-simulation.aspx)

In March 2015, IDD, in collaboration with Responding to Conflict – a Birmingham-based NGO working on conflict resolution – ran a full day conflict simulation for the students of the module Conflict, Humanitarian Aid and Social Reconstruction.
Monday 16th March 2015

Model United Nations: Boston, United States, February 2015 (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/03/model-united-nations-boston.aspx)

The University of Birmingham sent a delegation of nine students to Boston as delegates at the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN).
Thursday 12th March 2015

Outside Experts Enhance Teaching at Birmingham (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/03/outside-experts-enhance-teaching-birmingham.aspx)

A former UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, a recently retired MEP and a current leading official from the European Parliament contribute to the teaching of students in POLSIS.
Thursday 12th March 2015

POLSIS MA Study tour visit Brussels, January 2015 (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/02/brussels.aspx)

Every year all MA students based within POLSIS have the opportunity to take part in an study trip to Brussels. This year, Dr Derek Averre led a party of 30 master's students on the Brussels study tour to visit EU institutions and NATO on 18-21 January 2015.
Friday 6th March 2015

Recent and future events thoughout the School include:

High-profile speaker visits (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/high-profile-speaker-visits-polsis.aspx)

Study with POLSIS and you'll have the opportunity to hear from high profile speakers on current affairs and issues.

Model NATO (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/international-model-nato.aspx)

POLSIS as part of an initiative of the School of Government and Society, also sends a student delegation each February to participate in a role play exercise of decision making in NATO. This is held in Washington D.C.. Students in previous years have represented France, Turkey and the United States.

Model United Nations: Boston, United States, February 2012 (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/model-united-nations.aspx)

In February 2012 the School sent a delegation of students to the Harvard National Model United Nations conference in Boston, USA. It is hoped that this can be a recurring event in years to come.

Undergraduate Conference (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/undergraduate-conference.aspx)

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 G&S staff.

CREES Annual Conference (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/crees-annual-conference.aspx)

The conference provides ample opportunities for discussing existing new developments in and around REES, CREES postgraduate students, whether Master's or PhD, are strongly encouraged to attend and many deliver highly successful presentations to a friendly and very well informed audience.

Briefings by UK Parliamentary Outreach Teams (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/briefings-uk-parliamentary-outreach-teams.aspx)

Have you ever wondered how you can become more involved in UK politics, or how you can influence your members of parliament? The UK Parliamentary Outreach Teams provide briefings to groups of students of all ages on the work of the House of Commons.

Trips to the UK House of Commons (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/house-commons.aspx)

This is an opportunity to travel with a member of Government and Society staff with expertise in UK politics to the House of Commons and tour the home of the British Government.

Postgraduate Study trip to Delhi (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/postgraduate-study-trip-delhi.aspx)

Study for a Masters within the School of Government and Society and you will have the opportunity to participate in an intensive international module in Delhi, India.

Postgraduate Study trip to Kazakhstan (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/postgraduate-study-trip-kazakhstan.aspx)

Study for a Masters in the Centre for Russian and East European Studies and you will have the opportunity to participate in a study trip to Almaty, Kazakhstan. The visit to Kazakhstan is part of the studies on the Caucasus and Central Asia Pathway within the MSc Programme in Contemporary Russian and East European Studies.

Model United Nations on Campus (/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/model-united-nations-campus.aspx)

This on-campus event is open to undergraduates, providing students with the opportunity to identify a potential threat to international peace and security, and to role play UN Security Council members as their chosen crisis unfolds.

© University of Birmingham 2015