Political Economy BA

Course details: Details (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=CourseDetailsTab) | Why study this course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=WhyStudyThisCourse) | Modules (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=Modules) | Fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding) | Entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements) | How to apply (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply) .

The Political Economy degree at Birmingham provides you with a specialist social science understanding of political economy (i.e. the economic dimension of everyday life and how we construct our political identities, from the decisions that we make as consumers to our need to adapt to changing and ever more flexible patterns of work.

You'll 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.

Students applying for this degree will join the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS), a department that scores high in the National Student Survey (NSS) and is consistently viewed as one of the best departments in the country.

Course fact file

UCAS code: L150

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 215 across the department

Applications in 2013: 1060

Typical Offer: ABB (More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details (?OpenSection=EntryRequirements))

Start date: September

Contact

Admissions Tutor

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School of Government and Society (/schools/government-society/index.aspx)

Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/index.aspx)

Details

Course details: Why study this course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=WhyStudyThisCourse) | Modules (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=Modules) | Fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding) | Entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements) | How to apply (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply) .

The Political Economy degree at Birmingham provides you with a specialist social science understanding of political economy (i.e. the economic dimension of everyday life and how we construct our political identities, from the decisions that we make as consumers to our need to adapt to changing and ever more flexible patterns of work.

You may also be interested in:

- Political Economy with Year Abroad BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-economy-year-abroad.aspx)

Why study this course

Students applying for this degree will join the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS), a department that scores high in the National Student Survey (NSS) and is consistently viewed as one of the best departments in the country.

The Department also has an excellent record in the Guardian League Table for Politics. We are consistently viewed as one of the best departments in the country since the Guardian started publishing their League Tables in 2000.

The Department has a balance of expertise that covers all areas of the discipline and has long-established strengths in the fields of political theory, European politics, international relations theory, security studies, diplomatic studies, political sociology, political economy, Pacific Asian politics, environmental politics and British politics.

As well as benefiting from our world-leading expertise, you'll also get the chance to take part in a range of in-house activities that vary by year and are designed to complement your curriculum and enrich your time at Birmingham. These have included:

- Annual Student Conference
- Research Assistance Scheme, where students are paired with a member of staff to help them in specific research tasks
- Simulation exercises using real case examples
- Simulation events and research visits to local and national places of interest

Learn more about our **student experience activities (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)** and the work of the Department.

Modules

Modules in the first year

The first year consists of introductory modules designed to place the discipline of political economy within the broader context of the social sciences. You learn about the varied foundations of political economy from the perspectives of political science, international relations, economics and the history of economic thought.

Compulsory core modules

- 20 credits - **Understanding Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/understanding-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to International Relations Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-international-relations-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Research Skills and literacy: Philosophy and Method in Social Sciences (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/research-skills-literacy-philosophy-method-social-sciences.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-political-economy.aspx)**

Choose a module from the following:

- 20 credits - **Introduction to Economics for Non-Specialists (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/introduction-economics-non-specialists.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Principles of Economics (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/principles-economics-ab.aspx)**

Optional modules

Choose one of the following 20 credit from the lists of modules

- 20 credits - **Classical Political Thought (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/classical-political-thought.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Twentieth Century Russian Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/twentieth-century-russian-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to the European Union (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-european-union-history-politics-institutions.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Social Worlds and the Sociological Imagination (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/social-worlds-sociological-imagination.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Politics as a Vocation (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/politics-vocation.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Sociology of the Self and Everyday Life (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/sociology-self-everyday-life.aspx)**

Modules in the second year

In the second year you build upon these foundations in the second year, and you have the opportunity to specialise in areas that complement your particular concerns. Our staff teach modules that relate to, and build upon, their own research interests. Outstanding features of this degree include the wide range of options available and the interdisciplinary nature of the teaching.

Compulsory core modules

- 20 credits - **International Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-political-economy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Institutions, Politics and Policies of the European Union (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/institutions-policies-european-union.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Analysing Political Worlds (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/analysing-political-worlds.aspx)**

Optional modules

Choose 60 credits from the following modules (where linked, both elements must be chosen), or choose 40 credits plus 20 credits of MOMDs.

- 20 credits - **Comparative European Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/comparative-european-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **British Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/british-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Modern Political Thought (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/modern-political-thought.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Europeanization (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/europeanization.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Data Analysis and Research Design (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/data-analysis-research-design.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Politics and Policy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/politics-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Public Choice Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/public-choice-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Economic Development (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/economic-development.aspx)**

- 10 credits - Development Theory and Institutions

Modules in the final year

Third year In addition to choosing modules from a wide range of options, students undertake an independent research project on a topic of their own choosing.

Compulsory core modules

- 40 credits - **Dissertation (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/dissertation-polsis.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary International Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-international-political-economy.aspx)**

Optional modules

Choose 60 credits from the following (where linked, both elements must be taken), or choose 40 credits from the following plus 20 credits of MOMDs

- 20 credits - **Advanced Modern Asia (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-modern-asia.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-us-foreign-security-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary Political Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-political-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Controversies in Contemporary Democracies (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/controversies-contemporary-democracies.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Critical Approaches to Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/critical-approaches-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Democracy and Democratisation in Contemporary Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/democracy-democratisation-contemporary-europe.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/diplomacy-arab-israeli-conflict.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **European Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/european-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Europe in a Globalised World (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/european-union-foreign-security-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Gender in World Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/gender-world-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Global Capitalism and Migration (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/global-capitalism-migration.aspx)**
- 20 credits - History of Economic Thought (Economics)
- 20 credits - Issues in American Domestic Politics
- 20 credits - **Left Parties and Protest Movements (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/left-parties-protest-movements.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Power in Britain (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/power-britain.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Professional Development Module (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Russian Economy: From Plan to Market (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/russian-economy-plan-market.aspx)**

The optional modules listed on the website 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.

Fees and funding

Standard fees (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/fees.aspx) apply.
Learn more about **fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/index.aspx)** .

Home/EU students

Fee Band	Full-time	Part-time
Undergraduate (*registered during or after 2012-13 AY*)	£9,000	£4,500
Undergraduate (*registered before 2012-13 AY*)	£3,465	£1,725

Overseas students entering in 2015-16

Fee Band (Undergraduate)	Full-time
Band D (Classroom)	£13,195
Birmingham Foundation Academy	£13,500

Scholarships

At Birmingham we ensure that fears about finance do not constrain prospective students from considering university and that excellence is rewarded.

The University offers a range of additional financial support for students studying at Birmingham in the form of bursaries, grants and scholarships.

Learn more about our **scholarships and awards. (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx)**

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3

Typical offer: ABB

General Studies: not accepted

Additional information:

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about **entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements)**

International students:

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 6,5,5 at Higher Level with a minimum of 32 points overall.

Standard English language requirements apply
Learn more about **international entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements/international)**

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx)** .

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at **www.ucas.com (http://www.ucas.com/)** using code: **L150**.
Learn more about **applying (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply)** .

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is a UK organisation responsible for managing applications to university and college.

UK, EU and international students applying for most undergraduate degree courses in the UK will need to apply through UCAS.

You submit an application via the **UCAS website (http://www.ucas.co.uk/)** with a list of up to five courses. All choices are confidential during the application process so universities and colleges considering an application cannot see your other choices. Applications must be completed by mid-January of the year that you wish to start university.

You can monitor the progress of your application using the **UCAS Apply (http://www.ucas.com/students/apply)** system.

Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website (http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)** you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

Related links

Political Economy BA flyer (/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/polsis/degrees/ba-political-economy.pdf)

POLSIS Undergraduate brochure (PDF 2MB) (/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/polsis/degrees/undergraduate-brochure.pdf)

Learning and teaching

How will I be taught?

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Teaching and learning in the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) is based around three principles: student-centred, responding to individual needs, developing transferable skills and encouraging preparation for future careers; research-led, ensuring students are taught by experts in their field and prioritising 'learning by doing' to foster critical thinking and active enquiry; committed to social justice, concerned with issues of equality, inclusion, responsibility and reflexive awareness, and committed to an ideal of democratic decision-making – consulting all students about their learning experience.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we'll enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a formal transition review during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

More about **student experience at POLSIS (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)** .

Personal Tutor

From the outset, you will be assigned your own Personal Tutor who will get to know you as you progress through your studies, providing academic and welfare advice, encouraging you and offering assistance in any areas you may feel you need extra support to make the most of your potential and your time here at Birmingham.

Contact hours

As well as time with your lecturers and personal tutor, academic and professional services staff (like our dedicated Careers Network team) will be avialable to offer individual and group support throughout your time here at Birmingham.

Learning settings

This degree is taught by our internationally renowned Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) which is located in Muirhead Tower on own main Edgbaston campus.

Departments from across the School of Government and Society are all based within the recently refurbished Muirhead Tower. Following a £50million refurbishment, Muirhead Tower offers state-of-the-art teaching and research study facilities including free wifi throughout the building and dedicated study areas for postgraduate research students.

Muirhead Tower comprises 12,000sq.m of floor space between two towers. The tower includes a number of sustainable features including solar shading (known in the trade as brise soliel) to control temperatures, as well as low energy fans; timed lighting to reduce energy waste; natural ventilation systems and a heat source taken from the University's combined heat and power generator.

If you can see this message rather than a virtual tour then please click here to install the adobe flash player.
If you are still unable to view the virtual tour then you may need to enable javascript in your browser (click here for instructions).
If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at support@revolutionviewing.com

The space has been designed to create modern, attractive spaces for teaching and research accommodating 150 academic offices, 230 "hubs" for post graduate research students, teaching rooms for up to 100 people and a 200 seat lecture theatre.

Your lectures and teaching will take place in a variety of versatile lecture theatres and breakout rooms which have moved on a lot since the traditional whiteboard and pen. Our rooms are all equipped with wireless connection and constantly updated technology including all the audio-visual equipment that you would expect from one of the UK's premier insitutions.

If you can see this message rather than a virtual tour then please click here to install the adobe flash player.
If you are still unable to view the virtual tour then you may need to enable javascript in your browser (click here for instructions).
If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at support@revolutionviewing.com

Small-group tutorials/personal tutorials run alongside our lectures, addressing any individual problems you may have and allowing you to consolidate lecture material, as well as test your understanding through problem-solving exercises.

Self study is an essential part of the programme and requires self motivation and enthusiasm for your subject. It also allows you to pursue your own lines of enquiry and become an independent thinker.

Assessment methods

Studying at degree-level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of learning and teaching. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this transition to a new style of learning, and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.

You'll be assessed in a variety of ways, and these may be different with each module that you take. You will be assessed through coursework which may take the form of essays, group and individual presentations, laboratory-based work (depending on your chosen degree) and formal exams.

During your first year you will undergo a formal 'transition' review to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in your school or department and can help with any academic issues you encounter.

At the beginning of each module, you'll be given information on how and when you'll be assessed for that particular programme of study. You'll receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done. You'll be given feedback on any exams that you take; if you should fail an

exam we will ensure that particularly detailed feedback is made available to enable you to learn for the future.

Employability

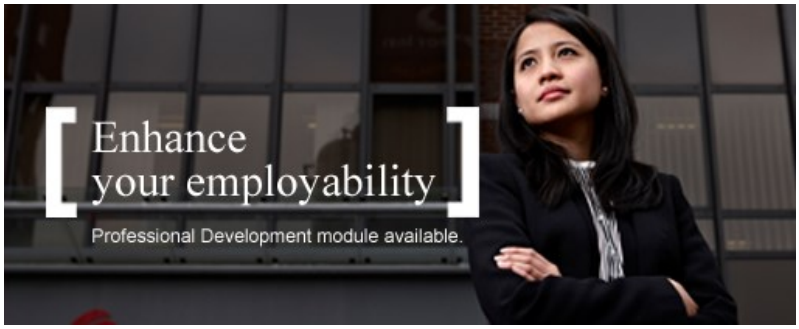
Throughout your time on the Political Economy BA course, employability is a key area of focus. We help to make sure that you are employable through a range of department led and university wide initiatives which include:

Input from Professional Careers Advisers in your Curriculum

During the first year of your studies Careers Advisers from the University Careers Network team attend lectures in your course to support you with career planning from an early stage. The lectures will cover career planning, researching career and internship opportunities, developing the skills that graduate employers are looking for, and presenting yourself with impact to a potential employer.

Professional development module

You will have the unique opportunity to take advantage of a work placement as part of your final year by undertaking the **Professional Development Module (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)** as part of your optional module choices.



(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)

Careers Network

Careers Network (/undergraduate/careers/careers-network.aspx) is the University's award winning careers service. The service has been shortlisted for a 2014 Times Higher Education Award for offering 'outstanding support for students' and has already been recognised by 'Ratemyplacement.co.uk' for being the best university careers service. A dedicated careers team for the College of Social Sciences will be able to support you with making career decisions and planning your career, while you are studying. They can provide you with guidance on writing application forms and CVs, and can arrange mock interviews and assessment centres.

An Employer Relations and Work Experience team leads on coordinating four major careers fairs each year, bringing a wide range of national and international graduate employers on to campus each year to meet with students. This team also manages a database of internships and graduate vacancies including **Global Challenge (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/opportunities/globalchallenge/index.aspx)**; a unique scheme to give ambitious students once-in-a-lifetime opportunities as interns in top global companies.

Visit the University of Birmingham Careers pages for further information on how we are '**Investing in your future (/undergraduate/careers/index.aspx)**'.

Your Birmingham degree

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.

Alumni profiles

The School of Government and Society is proud of all of its students and alumni. Via the University's Development and Alumni Office, we hope to keep in touch with all of our alumni post-graduation, to learn of their many successes and to continue to share our research successes and campus developments.

Lisa Morris
BA Political Science and Sociology (2008) (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/lisa-morris.aspx)
I now manage a Non-Governmental Organisation in rural Cambodia focusing on education, agriculture and nutrition in a community-led way, spending my days amongst rice fields and coconut palms overseeing the different programs which we run.

Riona Mulherin
BA International Relations with Political Science (2012) (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/alumni/profiles/undergraduate/2012-13/mulherin-riona.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.

View our **undergraduate alumni profiles (/schools/government-society/alumni/profiles/undergraduate.aspx)** throughout the School and Government and Society.

93% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things
BA (Hons) Political Economy
Full time
To see more details and compare with other courses
Visit UNISTATS
Official data collected by HEFCE

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