

## Political Science and Sociology BA



The Political Science and Sociology 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.

A Joint Honours degree programme involves the study of two subjects to Honours degree level. If you study a subject as 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.

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.

Our students particularly enjoy the opportunities to hear from influential guest speakers about their lives in politics. Recent speakers have included Alistair Darling, David Miliband and John Bercow. Learn more about [your student experience \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx\)](#).

If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a ['Professional Development \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx\)'](#) module as part of your optional module choices.

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 \(/http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx\)](#)

### Course fact file

UCAS code: LL32

Duration: 3 years

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

Start date: September

### Related courses

[Political Science and Sociology with Year Abroad BA \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-science-sociology-year-abroad.aspx\)](#)

[Political Science BA \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/political-science.aspx\)](#)

[Sociology BA \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/sociology.aspx\)](#)

### Contact

#### Admissions Tutor

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[School of Government and Society \(/schools/government-society/index.aspx\)](#)

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

[Sociology at Birmingham \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/sociology/index.aspx\)](#)

### Details

Sociology seeks to understand how social relations and structures influence all aspects of our lives. Join us and explore the dynamic, unprecedented social changes

reshaping the world today.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching. Our staff are active researchers who want to share their enthusiasm for sociology and political science with you. We believe teaching and learning should be both rigorous and enjoyable, and seek to involve students in continually developing our activities. The Sociology and Political Science degree at Birmingham presents a balanced view of the subject. You will be given a broad grounding in the major approaches to both disciplines, with emphasis on the cultivation of research skills. Your degree will culminate in a dissertation on a topic of your choice.

This programme 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. This culminates in a final year dissertation where you research and write an extended piece on a topic of your own choice, with the support of an expert supervisor.



If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a **Professional Development** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx](#)) module as part of your optional module choices.

### Why study this course

The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) is one of the largest and best of its type in the UK. It consistently scores high in the National Student Survey and has consistently been viewed as one of the best departments in the country since the Guardian started publishing their League Tables in 2000.

Our expertise covers all areas of the discipline allowing you to learn from true specialists, with long-established strengths in the fields of political theory, European politics, international relations theory, security studies, diplomatic studies, political sociology, political economy, environmental politics, Pacific Asian 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

Students studying this joint honours programme will take the core modules from the **Political Science programme** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/political-science.aspx?OpenSection=Modules>) and the core modules from the **Sociology programme** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/sociology.aspx?OpenSection=Modules>). In addition to this, students will choose options from within Politics or Sociology and / or from other programmes, such as Social Policy, History, Philosophy, Education and Theology. Also please see a list of **available modules in POLSIS** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/index.aspx](#)).

If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a **Professional Development** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx](#)) module as part of your optional module choices.

### Modules in the first year

- 20 credits - Understanding Politics
- 20 credits - **Classical Political Thought** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/classical-political-thought.aspx](#))
- 20 credits - **Research Skills and literacy: Philosophy and Methods in Social Sciences** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/research-skills-literacy-philosophy-methods-social-sciences.aspx](#))
- 20 credits - **Social Divisions** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/social-divisions.aspx](#))
- 20 credits - **Social Worlds and Sociological Imagination** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/social-worlds-sociological-imagination.aspx](#))

20 credits from the following modules:

- 20 credits - **Introduction to International Relations Theory** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-international-relations-theory.aspx](#))
- 20 credits - **Introduction to Political Economy** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-political-economy.aspx](#))

### Modules in the second year

- 20 credits - **Political Analysis** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/political-analysis.aspx](#))
- 20 credits - **Global Societies** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/global-societies.aspx](#))
- 20 credits - **Modern Sociological Theory** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/modern-sociological-theory.aspx](#))

60 credits from the following:

- 20 credits - [Data Analysis and Research Design \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/data-analysis-research-design.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - Modern Political Thought
- 20 credits - Comparative European Politics
- 20 credits - [Institutions, Politics and Policies of the European Union \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/institutions-politics-policies-european-union.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [British Politics \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/british-politics.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [International Politics of East Asia \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-politics-east-asia.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Introduction to American Politics \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/introduction-american-politics.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Politics and Policy \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/politics-policy.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - Public Choice Theory
- 20 credits - [International Politics and Security in Russian and Eurasia \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-politics-security-russia-eurasia.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - Europeanisation
- 20 credits - [Cultural Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/cultural-politics-russia-eastern-europe.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Sociology of Race and Ethnicity: A Global Perspective \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/sociology-race-ethnicity-global-perspective.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Gender and Sexuality \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/gender-sexuality.aspx\)](#)

OR: Choose 20 credits from MOMD. Any module not listed above but available in the Department or as an MOMD would need approval from POLSIS/Sociology.

### Modules in the Final year

- 20 credits - [Contemporary Social Theory \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-social-theory.aspx\)](#)

Choose either:

- 40 credits - [Dissertation \(POLSIS\) \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/dissertation-polsis.aspx\)](#)
- 40 credits - [Dissertation \(Sociology\) \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/dissertation-sociology.aspx\)](#)

Choose 60 credits from the following:

- 20 credits - [Contemporary Political Theory \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-political-theory.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Power in Britain \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/power-britain.aspx\)](#) Not available 2013-4
- 20 credits - [Contemporary US foreign and security policy \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-us-foreign-security-policy.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [International Ethics \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/international-ethics.aspx\)](#) Not available 2013-4
- 20 credits - [Contemporary International Political Economy \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-international-political-economy.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Topics in British Politics \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/topics-british-politics.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Modern European Political Thought \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/modern-european-political-thought.aspx\)](#) Not available 2013-4
- 20 credits - [Controversies in Contemporary Democracies \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/controversies-contemporary-democracies-comparative-perspectives.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [European Security \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/european-security.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Democracy and Democratisation in Contemporary Europe \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/democracy-democratisation-contemporary-europe.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Global Governance \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/global-governance.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Critical Approaches to Security \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/critical-approaches-security.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Advanced Modern Asia \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-modern-asia.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Europe in a Globalised World \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/europe-globalised-world.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Left Parties and Protest Movements \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/left-parties-protest-movements.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [The Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/diplomacy-arab-israeli-conflict.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Gender in World Politics \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/gender-world-politics.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Issues in American Domestic Politics \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/issues-american-domestic-politics.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - The Russian Economy: From Plan to Market (REES 304)
- 20 credits - Advanced international Politics and Security in Russian and Eurasia (REES 306)
- 20 credits - [Advanced cultural politics of Russia and Eastern Europe \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-cultural-politics-russia-eastern-europe.aspx\)](#)
- 10 credits - [Political history of Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th Century \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/political-history-central-eastern-europe.aspx\)](#)
- 10 credits - ["Returning to Europe" Nation, state and Europe in post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/returning-to-europe.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Family Institution Relationship and Myth \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/family-institutions-relationship-myth.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Political Sociology \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/political-sociology.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Sociology of Success and Fame \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/sociology-success-fame.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Film Culture and Society \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/film-culture-society.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [The Public Domain \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/public-domain.aspx\)](#)
- 20 credits - [Ethnicity and Migration \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/ethnicity-migration.aspx\)](#) Not running 2013-14
- 20 credits - [Technology and Society \(/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/technology-society.aspx\)](#)

- 20 credits - Sociology of Health and Illness
- 20 credits - Body, Culture and Representation
- 20 credits - Global Capitalism, Migration and the changing face of Europe.
- 20 credits - Agency and Morality
- 20 credits - Cultural Psychology (offered as MOMD) in School of Education
- 20 credits - The Political Economy of Energy and Energy Security.
- 20 credits - Children as Citizens (offered as MOMD) in School of Education

OR: Choose 20 credits from MOMD. Any module not listed above but is available in the Department or as an MOMD will need approval from POLSIS/Sociology.

## Fees and funding

**Standard fees** ([/undergraduate/fees/fees.aspx](#)) apply

Learn more about **fees and funding** ([/undergraduate/fees/loans.aspx](#)).

### Scholarships

Learn more about our **scholarships and awards** ([/undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx](#)).

## Entry requirements

**Number of A levels required:** 3

**Typical offer:** ABB

**General Studies:** not accepted

Typical offer grades are for guidance only, and will depend on the subjects you are combining. Please read the entries for both subjects. Where there is a disparity between the typical offer for Subject A and the typical offer for Subject B, the higher offer should be taken as the usual offer for the combination of the two.

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

### International students:

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

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) (<http://www.ucas.com/>) using code: **LL32**.

Learn more about **applying** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply>).

University of Birmingham's UCAS code number is **B32**.

## 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.

The Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback.

[Get the latest Flash Player](#)

[Get the latest version of QuickTime](#)

## 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 \(http://unistats.direct.gov.uk\)](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 news and events

[Sociology - Speed Networking Event \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/03/sociology-careers-event.aspx\)](http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/03/sociology-careers-event.aspx)

## Learning and teaching

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. At Birmingham we advocate an enquiry based learning approach, from the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, qualities that are highly sought after by employers. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

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 (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

Our Academic Skills Centre also offers you support with your learning. The centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions with support with mathematics and statistics based problems provided by experienced mathematicians, to workshops on a range of topics including note taking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

### Learning settings

This degree is taught by our internationally renowned Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSI) which is located in Muirhead Tower on our 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 soleil) 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](mailto: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.

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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](mailto: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** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx>), 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** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx>) 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

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 **Careers Network** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/careers-network.aspx>) can help you achieve your goal.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team (in each of the five academic colleges) who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive **work experience opportunities** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/work-experience.aspx>) to help you stand out amongst the competition, with **mentoring** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/index.aspx>), **global internships** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/index.aspx>) 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)** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/psa.aspx>) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

We also offer voluntary work which complements your studies by helping you gain practical experiences in occupational settings while contributing back to society. This can bring new skills that will be useful throughout your future and can make a positive impact on your learning whilst at university. Volunteering enables you to develop skills such as communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, self-confidence and self-discipline all of which can be transferred into your studies.

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, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a **Professional Development** ([/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)) ' module as part of your optional module choices.

Additional accreditation

No



To see more details and compare with other courses

Visit

