Welcome

Dear student,

Welcome to the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) at the University of Birmingham. We are delighted to be welcoming you to our beautiful campus today and hope that you enjoy your time with us.

On the following pages, you will find information about the programme for today, studying politics and international relations, our Single and Joint Honours programmes and potential career paths after POLSIS.

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 provides an excellent learning environment for our students with its dedicated teaching areas and 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, populism, political economy, gender politics and US 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 that 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. We have an average of 400 students in each of the three undergraduate years, each of whom are considered an integral part of our department.

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

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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 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 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 a state-of-the-art library and a world-class sports centre.

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 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.
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 that 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.

The University of Birmingham achieved the highest award possible in its latest Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) review. The QAA is an independent agency that 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

‘I think the Department should be congratulated… Students are offered a wide choice of modules and topics, and they are taught by active researchers (at both UG and PGT level), and I was impressed by the quality of the modules, which also challenged students. I think it must be a good place to be a student.’

DR LASSE THOMASSEN, Queen Mary University of London

‘The teaching team is to be commended for offering a high quality and academically rigorous programme for students.’

DR THOMAS MOORE, University of Westminster
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 CVs and job applications will help give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed award-winning Personal Skills Award (PSA) recognises your extracurricular 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.

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: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx

Get Involved!
‘Join a society and get involved in your department; going on the ski trip and volunteering as a POLSIS research assistant added to my CV and allowed me to discuss something more than just academia at job interviews.’

LOUISA MCMURDO, Future Trainee, Solicitor at Howes, Percival LLP, BA Political Economy, 2014
More than a degree: Professional Development Module

As part of your studies in POLSIS, you will have the opportunity to undertake a job placement with our Professional Development Module.

The University of Birmingham is dedicated to bridging the gap between our students’ academic study and their future professional life after graduation. Committed to developing relationships with employers from the Private, Public and Charitable Sectors, this award-winning module is seen by many employers as a positive step to nurturing the key skills needed in the work environment.

To ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to gain work experience as part of their degree, we offer this innovative module to students where there is no opportunity to undertake in-work-based learning on their programme, ensuring that all of our students have the opportunity to gain work experience whilst studying here at Birmingham.

**Benefits**

As part of your final-year module choices, you will have the option to choose this 20-credit module, which formally recognises the importance of gaining work experience. This module gives students the opportunity to enhance their employability prospects by undertaking a placement for a minimum of 40 hours.

Along with strong academic results, employers value work experience and expect graduates to manage their own career development. This module will help you identify your personal and professional skills and strengths, and reflect on the skills you have developed during your placement.

**Where can I do my placement?**

The module has a dedicated Placements Team that generates a diverse range of placements across the country. Past placement providers include Santander, West Midlands Police and Christian Aid, all of which have offered projects which have had a real impact on our students’ professional development. You can use work experience that you have organised yourself but this needs to be approved by the Module Coordinator to ensure that the placement meets the module objectives.

Can I do my placement abroad?

Yes, many of our students have completed summer internships outside of the UK including Grant Thornton in India, The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York and United Nations Information Centre in Jakarta. Placements abroad need to be approved by the Module Coordinator and be consistent with travel advice from the Foreign Office at the time of travel.

**‘Work experience is essential in the modern recruitment environment, with employers increasingly seeking real-life experience in order to assess applicants. In addition, softer skills play a larger and larger part of your career as it progresses, so being able to effectively communicate for example, or at least understand what will be required from you, from as early stage as possible will pay dividend in the end.’**

**AARON BAKER,**
Investment Manager for the Business Growth Fund

**‘Professional development is just so important and I think it never stops in your career. So it’s one of those things where you’re thinking about what makes me more effective, what makes me better? So it’s just hugely important and something that should be at the foundation of everybody’s career. I think this module is a step forward and a real innovation in terms of what universities are doing.’**

**KATIE TEASDALE,**
Director of Policy for The Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

**LEARN MORE**

For further information, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/govsoc-professional-development

Or contact: placements@contacts.bham.ac.uk
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 Preet Gill, MP for Birmingham Edgbaston; Jacqueline Minor, Head of the European Commission Representation in the UK, and General Sir Mike Jackson, former Head of the British Army.

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.
EXTRACURRICULAR STUDY EVENTS

POLSIS also provides a series of extracurricular study events. This includes an annual Graduate Lecture, with recent speakers including Preet Gill MP for Birmingham Edgbaston 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.

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 and 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.

STUDENT ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

We aim to develop the School of Government and Society’s academic community by working closely with students and lecturers to host events, activities and talks. We are currently in the process of launching the staff-student enhancement committee. This group will arrange a variety of events including the Christmas social, internship schemes with academics and regular alumni events.
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, 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 following page.

How much does it cost?
You will be required to pay 15% of the full tuition fee during your year abroad. For 2019/20 this will be £1,350. You will not normally be required to pay any fees at the host institution.

Where can I go?
Our partner institutions in France, Germany and Spain teach in the native language, so you would need to be proficient to study at these universities. We do, however, have partner institutions in Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden that are taught in English.

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 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

LEARN MORE
For further information, please visit
www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx or contact:
Dr Huw Macartney
h.macartney@bham.ac.uk

Or contact:
placements@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Read more about our students’ experiences at:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx
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. 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: AAB

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: AAB

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: AAB

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 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: LV25
Duration: 4 years
Typical Offer: AAB

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH ECONOMICS 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: AAB

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: AAB
Selected staff profiles

Study with POLSIS and you’ll have the opportunity to be taught by a wide range of academics, many of whom are world-renowned and experts in their respective fields. We have included short profiles of some of our staff members below; please visit our website for full details of all our staff and their research interests:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/index.aspx

**DR NICOLA SMITH**

is a political economist whose work is broadly concerned with debates about globalisation and social justice. Nicki studied at the University of Birmingham as both an undergraduate and postgraduate student, and she achieved her PhD on Ireland’s experience of globalisation in 2003. Following her ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, in 2005–06 Nicola was the Principal Investigator of an ESRC-funded project on ‘Discourses of globalisation and European integration in the UK and Ireland’. Nicki’s current research is concerned with issues surrounding globalisation and social justice with respect to uneven gendered and sexualised power relations, including a recent Leverhulme-funded research project on the political economy of male and transgender sex work in the UK and the Netherlands.

**DR EMMA FOSTER**

is a lecturer in international politics and gender. Emma’s research interests include Queer Theory, international sustainable development policy and development studies more broadly. She is currently researching the dynamics of constructions of gender in international environmental policy in relation to the economic crisis. Emma received her PhD on the Construction and Control of Gendered Bodies within Environmental Theory and Practice, from the University of Birmingham in 2008. From 2008 until 2012 she worked as a teaching fellow in the Departments of Sociology (2008–10) and Political Science and International Studies (2010–12). In 2012, Emma was appointed as a Lecturer in International Politics and Gender in the Department of Political Science and International Studies. During her career at Birmingham, Emma has been involved in student enhancement and is currently the Head of Academic Innovations for the School of Government and Society.

**DR JULIE GILSON**

has been a member of POLSIS since 2003. Her main interests at present focus on interpreting ‘civil society’ in Asia, with a particular focus on transnational advocacy groups. Previously she has written work on East Asian regionalism, Asia-Europe inter-regional relations and Japanese foreign policy. As well as her research Julie has taken on the role of Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience.

**PROFESSOR STEFAN WOLFF**

is Professor of International Security in POLSIS. A political scientist by background, he specialises in the management of contemporary security challenges, especially in the prevention and settlement of ethnic conflicts and civil wars, and in post-conflict reconstruction, peace-building and state-building in deeply divided and war-torn societies. He has extensive expertise in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union, and has also worked on a wide range of other conflicts elsewhere, including the Middle East, Africa, and Central, South and Southeast Asia. Bridging the divide between academia and policy-making, he has been, and is, involved in various phases of conflict settlement processes, including in Iraq, Sudan, Moldova, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Kosovo.

**DR GEORGE KRYRIS**

is a Lecturer in International and European Politics. George’s main research interests are international conflict, especially with reference to unrecognised states, separatism and international organisations, the European Union, and debates on sovereignty. From a regional point of view his research has focused a lot on the European Union, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. In 2016, George was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (2017–20) for a project that focuses on international organisations and international conflict.
**International Relations BA**

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:** AAB  
**General Studies:** Not accepted

**Additional information**

Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements)

**International students**

**International Baccalaureate Diploma:** 32 overall with 6, 6, 5 at Higher level

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx](http://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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country)

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**Programme structure**

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<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required modules:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Introduction to International Relations</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Introduction to Political Economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Problems of World History</td>
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<td>□ Research Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Widening Horizons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Optional modules:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ One First-Year optional module from the list on page 20</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required modules:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ International Relations Theory</td>
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<td>One of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Diplomatic History Post-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ International Security</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Optional modules:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Four Second-Year optional modules from the list on page 20</td>
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**Pathway one**

**Required modules:**

| □ Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)  |

**Optional modules:**

| □ Five Final-Year optional modules from page 20  |

**Pathway two**

**Required modules:**

| □ Dissertation  |

**Optional modules:**

| □ Four Final-Year optional modules from the list on page 20  |

The modules taught on our Undergraduate Political Science and International Relations programme(s) are in the process of being revised for the 2019 academic year. The modules listed above provide an indication of the new modules available, but are still subject to change. A definitive list of modules will be available on our website from September 2018.

If you have a concern about a particular module/modules being taught, please contact our Undergraduate Office via +44 (0)121 415 8627 or +44 (0)121 414 7563 or polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk who will provide further information.

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**LEARN MORE**

Email: polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/international-relations.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/international-relations.aspx)
### 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations with French BA</td>
<td>L2R1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations with German BA</td>
<td>L2R2</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations with Spanish BA</td>
<td>L2R4</td>
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**Duration:** 4 years

**Entry requirements**

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of A levels required: 3</td>
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<td>Typical offer: AAB</td>
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<td>Required subjects and grades:</td>
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<tr>
<td>French grade B (L2R1); A level German grade B (L2R2); A Level Spanish grade B (L2R4)</td>
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**International students**

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate Diploma:</td>
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<td>32 overall with 6, 6, 5 at Higher level</td>
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**Optional modules:**

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French grade B (L2R1); A level German grade B (L2R2); A Level Spanish grade B (L2R4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Studies:** Not accepted

**Additional information**

Other qualifications are considered. For full details, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements)

### Programme structures:

#### International Relations with French BA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Required modules</th>
<th>Optional modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>Three First Year optional modules from the list on page 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>International Relations Theory</td>
<td>One of the following: Diplomatic History Post-1945, International Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Year</td>
<td>Three relevant language modules</td>
<td>Optional modules: Two Second Year optional modules from the list on page 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Year</td>
<td>Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)</td>
<td>Four optional modules (open choice from departments)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional information

If you have a concern about a particular module/modules being taught, please contact our Undergraduate Office via +44 (0)121 415 8627 or +44 (0)121 414 7563 or polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk who will provide further information.

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The modules taught on our Undergraduate Political Science and International Relations programme(s) are in the process of being revised for the 2019 academic year. The modules listed above provide an indication of the new modules available, but are still subject to change. A definitive list of modules will be available on our website from September 2018.

You can also find information about qualifications from your country or region at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country)

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### International Relations with German BA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td>Study Abroad Year</td>
<td>Pathway one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>□ International Relations Theory</td>
<td></td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Research Skills</td>
<td>□ Relevant language module</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Relevant Language module</td>
<td>One of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Relevant Language module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
<td>□ Diplomatic History Post-1945</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three First-Year optional modules from the list on page 20</td>
<td>□ International Security</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four optional modules (open choice from departments)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pathway two |
| Required modules: |
| □ POLSIS Dissertation |
| □ Relevant Language module |
| Optional modules: |
| Three Final Year optional modules from the list on page 20 |

### International Relations with Spanish BA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td>Study Abroad Year</td>
<td>Pathway one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>□ International Relations Theory</td>
<td></td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Research Skills</td>
<td>□ Relevant language module</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
<td>One of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Relevant Language module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four optional modules (open choice from departments)</td>
<td>□ Diplomatic History Post-1945</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ International Security</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four Final Year optional modules from the list on page 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pathway two |
| Required modules: |
| □ POLSIS Dissertation |
| □ Relevant Language module |
| Optional modules: |
| Three Final Year optional modules from the list on page 20 |
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: AAB
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: 32 overall with 6, 6, 5 at Higher level

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
- Principles of Economics
- Research Skills

One of the following dependent on whether you have A Level Mathematics:
- Introduction to Mathematics for Economics
- Mathematics for Economics

Optional modules:
- Two First-Year optional modules from the list on page 20

Second Year
Required modules:
- International Political Economy
- International Relations Theory
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics

Optional modules:
- Two First-Year optional modules from the list on page 20

Final Year
Pathway one
Required modules:
- Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)

Optional modules:
- Three Final-Year optional modules from page 20
- Two optional modules from Economics

Pathway two
Required modules:
- Dissertation

Optional modules:
- Two Final-Year optional modules from the list on page 20
- Two optional modules from Economics

The modules taught on our Undergraduate Political Science and International Relations programme(s) are in the process of being revised for the 2019 academic year. The modules listed above provide an indication of the new modules available, but are still subject to change. A definitive list of modules will be available on our website from September 2018.

If you have a concern about a particular module/modules being taught, please contact our Undergraduate Office via +44 (0)121 415 8627 or +44 (0)121 414 7563 or polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk who will provide further information.

LEARN MORE
Email: polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations_economics.aspx
Political Science and International Relations BA

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: AAB
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: 32 overall with 6, 6, 5 at Higher level

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

The modules taught on our Undergraduate Political Science and International Relations programme(s) are in the process of being revised for the 2019 academic year. The modules listed above provide an indication of the new modules available, but are still subject to change. A definitive list of modules will be available on our website from September 2018.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Understanding Politics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Classical Political Thought</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Introduction to Political Economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Research Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Widening Horizons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are no required modules in the second year of this degree. Instead you will choose six Second-Year optional modules from page 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pathway one
Required modules: |
- Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)

Optional modules: |
- Five Final-Year optional modules from page 20

Pathway two
Required modules: |
- Dissertation

Optional modules: |
- Four Final-Year optional modules from the list on page 20

LEARN MORE
Email: polis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/international_relations-politicalscience.aspx
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: AAB
- 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: 32 overall with 6, 6, 5 at Higher level
  - 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

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
<td>Pathway one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Introduction to Political Economy</td>
<td>□ International Political Economy</td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Understanding Politics</td>
<td>□ Principles of Economics</td>
<td>□ Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Principles of Economics</td>
<td>□ Research Skills</td>
<td>□ Contemporary International Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Widening Horizons</td>
<td>□ Wideening Horizons</td>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One First-Year optional module from the list on page 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Optional modules:**
- One First-Year optional module from the list on page 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
<td>Pathway two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Problems in World Politics (Independent Study)</td>
<td>□ Contemporary International Political Economy</td>
<td>Required modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Dissertion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Contemporary International Political Economy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional modules:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Three Final-Year optional modules from the list on page 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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LEARN MORE
Email: polsis.admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/govsoc/political-economy.aspx
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: AAB
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: 32 overall with 6, 6, 5 at Higher level

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

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First Year
Required modules:
- Understanding Politics
- Classical Political Thought
- Politics as a Vocation
- Research Skills
- Widening Horizons

Optional modules:
- One First-Year optional module from the list on page 20

Second Year
Required modules:
- Comparative Politics OR, Analysing Political Worlds
- and one of the following: Feminist Political Ideas OR, Modern Political Thought

Optional modules:
- Four Second-Year optional modules from the list on page 20

Final Year
Pathway one
Required modules:
- Problems in World Politics
  (Independent Study)

Optional modules:
- Five Final-Year optional modules from page 20

Pathway two
Required modules:
- Dissertation

Optional modules:
- Four Final-Year optional modules from the list on page 20
Optional modules

In POLSIS, we are proud of the extensive range of modules that are available to our students; allowing you to tailor your course and study topics that interest you the most.

The modules taught on our Undergraduate Political Science and International Relations programme(s) are in the process of being revised for the 2019 academic year. The modules listed above provide an indication of the new modules available, but are still subject to change. A definitive list of modules will be available on our website from September 2018.

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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
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 course?
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 Gëzim Alpion (g.i.alpion@bham.ac.uk) and members of staff on Open Days.

Benefits of taking a Joint Honours course
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:

- 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

Joint Honours courses available in POLSIS
In POLSIS, we offer the following Joint Honours programmes:
- Russian Studies and International Relations BA (RL72)
- 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)

Year Abroad options
We also offer Joint Honours programmes with the opportunity to study abroad in your third year, returning to Birmingham to complete 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

The optional modules listed on the website and literature for this programme may 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.
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

ANTHROPOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE BA

This programme gives you access to modules in both these subjects and enables you to build a degree programme that suits your interests. In this programme, you will learn about human nature and be encouraged to take part in debates and to research different theories.

Key data
UCAS Code: LL62
Duration: 3 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)

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE BA

A knowledge of politics helps you to understand what governments do, shedding light on how some of history’s pivotal events were motivated by the political leaders of the day. This programme concentrates on medieval and modern History with scope to range beyond European boundaries. You have the chance to investigate unfamiliar territory and to question some of the prevailing myths, preconceptions and prejudices that surround history from the Middle Ages to the present day.

In Political Science, you will learn to find your way through different arguments, rival theories and alternative explanations, as well as learning about campaigns, elections, protest movements, policy issues and political ideals.

Key data
UCAS Code: LV21
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: AAB (including an A in History)

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: AAB

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL POLICY 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: AAB

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: AAB
STUDENT PROFILE
THIVYA JEYASHANKER
CURRENT POLSIS STUDENT

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 particular has been very interesting, especially in light of the 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.
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.