

Politics

Essentials

What politics degrees are there?

Politics

Politics and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)

Politics and Contemporary European Studies

Politics and International Relations

Politics and Philosophy

Politics and Sociology

American Studies and Politics (p30)

Economics and Politics (p62)

History and Politics (p79)

What degree can I take with politics as a minor?

Law with Politics (p91)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer: AAB

For Politics and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B

Typical IB diploma offer: 36 points

For Politics and a Language, 36 points normally including your chosen language at Higher Level with a final grade of 5

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:

E ug.admissions@polces.sussex.ac.uk

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F +44 (0)1273 873162

Politics, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9SP, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/polces

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why politics?

- Because politics is about 'who gets what, when and how', it is, as a famous statesman once put it, 'too serious a matter to be left to the politicians'.
- Politics is not simply about institutions, ideas and individuals. It's also about identity – about who we are and what we want to be.
- Studying politics encourages you to ask the big questions. But it also helps you to appreciate the deals and the processes that stop ideological and resource conflicts spilling over into violence.
- A politics degree can take you all around the world, both while you're doing it and once you've graduated.

Why politics at Sussex?

- Rated joint 2nd in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 90 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 60 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- Ranked among the top universities in Europe for politics in the Centre for Higher Education Development's CHE Excellence Ranking (2009), and also ranked in the top 20 in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*.
- An impressive track record of internationally recognised research with a clear and ongoing commitment to great teaching.
- Teaching delivered by experts – we are proud to count four winners of national prizes for teaching excellence in our Department – with a healthy staff-student ratio.
- Excellent external assessments and great student feedback, based both on regular surveys and focus groups.
- Individual courses that don't just cover the basics but encourage you to range wider and probe deeper.
- If you're interested in international relations as well as politics, Sussex lets you pursue both interests via our joint degree.
- The chance to study abroad on our exchange programme with City University of Hong Kong, China.
- A diverse, dynamic but balanced mix of students from the UK, Europe and overseas: lots of people just like you but also the kind of people you might not have met before.
- Eligibility for a final-year internship working for Members of Parliament.

What sort of career could I have?

- parliamentary researcher or even an MP
- researcher or representative for a think-tank
- campaigns officer for a pressure group or a non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- lobbyist in the private sector
- manager in the public or charitable sector
- print or broadcast journalist
- professional in the legal, educational or financial sector.

“ Louise's career perspective

'No two Politics degrees are alike at Sussex. An abundance of well-established faculty members provides a wide range of course options, and it was the opportunity to shape my studies to reflect my future goals that drew me to Sussex. During my time there I gained valuable knowledge about governance and different institutions all over the world, as well as developing key research and analytical skills.'

'Within a month of finishing my degree, I started work as a Political Assistant to an MP at the House of Commons. The skills and knowledge I gained at Sussex undoubtedly helped me adjust to my working environment and produce the results needed. The substantial understanding of the British political system and how policies are made that I got from my degree has been essential, while seminars and debates have given me the confidence and ability to successfully argue a point – a key skill for any job in politics! Even now, the encouragement and indispensable guidance of my tutors at Sussex is something I value and continue to use in my day-to-day working life.'

Louise Thomas
Junior Parliamentary Assistant



G20 protest in London, April 2009



Core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

British Political History

• Explanatory Concepts in Political Science • Foundations of Politics • Research Skills and Methods in Political Science

Year 2

Contemporary Public Policy

• European Politics • Modern Political Thought

Politics of Governance options

(eg Eastern Europe • EU • France • Germany • International Institutions and Issues • USA)

Year 3

Political Change options (eg Race and Ethnicity • Latin America

• Eastern Europe in Transition

• The Thatcher Years • EU as a

Global Actor • Modern Germany)

Special topics (eg Conservatives and Conservatism • Contemporary

Political Theory • France: The

Mitterand Years • Independent

Study • Parties and Voters in the

UK Political Corruption • Political

Parties and Party Systems

• Populism and Politics)

Alastair's perspective

'I chose Politics at Sussex for two reasons. First was the diversity of interests that the programme provides for. The first year of the programme forms a backbone of theory and methods courses, which allows you to build the vital foundations for academic political study. However, after that, what you choose to study is really up to you. My favourite courses were on contemporary debates in political theory.

'My second reason for choosing Sussex was its rich critical background within the field of politics. The seminars in particular have been consistently challenging, and I've been exposed to a variety of opposing views, constantly leading me to examine my own beliefs.

'In addition to my academic pursuits, studying politics at Sussex has also greatly improved my career prospects; the faculty offers many opportunities to undertake internships in central government, as well as within NGOs and think-tanks.'

Alastair Hill
Politics graduate



How will I learn?

- combination of lectures and small-group work in seminars
- carefully directed independent study
- one-to-one supervision for final-year dissertation.

What will I achieve?

- a deeper and disciplined understanding of the political process
- mastery of different research skills and methods
- familiarity with a range of global political cultures
- the capacity to absorb, organise and cut through a mass of sometimes conflicting sources of information and arguments
- the confidence to construct and present logical and persuasive arguments
- the ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- the knack of working in groups to achieve the best collective and individual outcomes.

Degrees

Politics

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L200

Studying for this degree will enable you to develop a heightened awareness of the importance of politics in shaping today's world. You will acquire an understanding of both normative and empirical approaches to the analysis of politics and learn to analyse ideas, institutions and political developments. The aim is to encourage self-development through exposure to the main tenets and traditions of the discipline.

In Years 1 and 2, alongside your core courses in politics, you also choose courses from related subjects such as anthropology, international relations, philosophy, sociology, contemporary European studies, cultural studies, international development and gender studies. These courses give you greater depth in your studies. In the third year you study four politics options.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for more details.

Politics and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)

BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: LR2Y

This degree allows you to study politics and become proficient in another European language.

The programme places the study of politics in a broad European cultural and historical context. Many of the politics courses have a distinct European focus, adding depth and breadth to the context in which language proficiency is acquired.

In the first two years of the programme, you study the core politics courses along with your chosen language. You spend the third year studying at a university in mainland Europe, and in the final year you pursue an in-depth study of specialised options, as well as continuing with your language studies.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of politics courses; refer to the languages subject entry on page 85 for more information on these courses.

Politics and Contemporary European Studies

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LLG9

This degree explores the intellectual overlap between the two fields of study, centred on the issues of power, change, ideology, culture and conflict. You will be able to place contemporary European studies within an intellectual framework characteristic of the social sciences. The field of contemporary European studies also provides important empirical issues for the application of political analysis. Critically, it provides an arena for an appreciation of the challenge to state power, as well as the broader political developments that emerge from interacting economic, cultural and social forces.

This degree gives you a good choice of focused and interlinked course options: European Politics; The Politics of Governance – The EU; Political Change – Modern Germany (options within politics); and The Making of Modern Europe and The Transformation of Contemporary Europe (core courses within contemporary European studies).

During the first two years, you combine the core politics and contemporary European studies courses, while in the final year you pursue an in-depth study of specialised options drawn from both areas.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of politics courses; refer to the contemporary European studies subject entry on page 52 for more information on these courses.

Politics and International Relations

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L290

The Politics and International Relations degree programme illustrates both the diverse range of the two disciplines and their complementary characters. The interrelated interests of the two subjects allow you to examine aspects of each discipline from the perspective of the other.

In the first two years of your degree, you combine the core politics and international relations courses. In your final year, you take one option from each of the politics courses, and one from each of the international relations specialist and dissertation options.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of politics courses; refer to the international relations entry on page 82 for more information on these courses.

Politics and Philosophy

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LVF5

Combining politics and philosophy develops an in-depth appreciation of the ideas that attempt to explain political stability or encourage change. The analysis of what is meant by power has been as much a concern for philosophers as it has been for political scientists. While the two components of the degree have a common interest in theory, you are also able to link analysis of contemporary political issues with philosophical discourse. Furthermore, the interrelated interests and contrasting approaches to understanding the world allow you to examine aspects of each discipline from the perspective of the other.

During the first two years, you combine the core politics courses with introductory courses in politics and philosophy options, while in the final year you specialise, studying options in both subjects.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of politics courses; refer to the philosophy subject entry on page 105 for more information on these courses.

Politics and Sociology

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL23

Combining politics and sociology develops your appreciation of the nature of social order. Changing social structures will generate political pressures while, conversely, the political system will attempt to direct the process of social change. Consequently, the two components of this degree are linked by common interests in theory, research methods/skills, and comparative analysis. The extent of the interaction is most obviously illustrated by the widespread interest in 'political sociology', which is a popular option for students studying sociology. These related interests will allow you to examine aspects of each discipline from the perspective of the other.

During the first two years, you combine the core politics and sociology courses, while in the final year you pursue in-depth study options drawn from both areas of study. In politics you take one option from each area of study. In sociology, two courses are drawn from the sociology options, and you also complete an individual project.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of politics courses; refer to the sociology subject entry on page 120 for more information on these courses.

