

# Politics



## Essentials

### Taught programmes

#### MA degree

European Politics

#### MSc degree

Social Research Methods (for details, refer to page 14)

### Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Politics

### Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

#### MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in politics or a related discipline such as economics, philosophy, history, European studies or international relations

#### MSc

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social sciences subject, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests and state how studying for the MSc will help develop those interests, possibly for further research

#### MPhil

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests

#### PhD

A Masters degree in political science, international relations, economics, history or sociology. Applicants should submit an outline research proposal indicating the nature, ambitions and primary questions of the research project

### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

### Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

### Further information

#### Taught programmes

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#### Research programmes

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- Rated joint 2nd in the UK for 'European Studies' and 'Politics and International Studies' research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 90 per cent of our research was rated as internationally recognised or higher, and 60 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- Sussex is ranked among the top 20 universities in the UK for politics in *The Complete University Guide 2011-12* and *The Times Good University Guide 2012*.
- The politics faculty at Sussex offer teaching and research expertise that covers the spectrum of UK, European and international issues, encompassing political theory, as well as comparative and party politics.
- We offer teaching excellence, with four winners of national teaching awards among our faculty.
- The Department offers particular research expertise in European integration, comparative politics, party politics, British politics and citizenship, ethnicity and migration.
- The Department includes the Sussex European Institute (SEI) – a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for the study of European Integration.

## Taught programmes

### MA in European Politics

#### 1 year full time/2 years part time

Associated with the internationally renowned Sussex European Institute (SEI), this programme offers the opportunity to examine systematically the recent dramatic changes in the political systems of western and eastern Europe. It combines theoretical and analytical questions with subjects of direct relevance to contemporary government in Europe.

### Career opportunities

This MA will appeal to students who intend to pursue a research degree; those who prefer to seek employment in government service at the supranational, national or subnational levels; those pursuing occupations such as journalism or teaching; and the growing numbers employed in the private sector who have to deal with the European context. It is also appropriate to the needs of students from other European countries wishing to pursue postgraduate study abroad.

Our graduates have gone on to careers in a wide variety of fields, which in recent years have included work in think tanks and foundations, government, journalism, NGOs and voluntary associations, and in international organisations.

### Programme structure

Autumn term: Politics and Public Policy

- The Making of Contemporary Europe.

Spring term: you choose two options from Energy and Environmental Security in Europe

- European Political Integration
- Government and Politics of France
- Political Analysis and Research Methods
- Political Economy of EU Enlargement and Accession
- Political Economy of EU Integration
- Political Parties and Party Systems in Comparative Perspective
- The Comparative Politics of Western Europe
- The Domestic Politics of European Integration
- The Idea of Europe
- The International Relations of the EU
- The Politics of Citizenship and Immigration
- The Politics of Eastern Europe in Transition.

Note: availability of options will differ according to student demand and faculty availability.

Summer term: you research and write a dissertation. This will be closely supervised by a member of staff. The research and writing process takes place mainly in the summer, before the presentation and examination at the end of the programme.

For more detailed information about individual courses, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/polces](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/polces)

### Assessment

Courses are assessed by a variety of methods, including unseen examination papers, term papers and literature reviews. You also write a 20,000-word dissertation.

### MSc in Social Research Methods 1 year full time/2 years part time

Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14 for more information about this programme, including structure and assessment.

#### Research programmes

We supervise students in all areas in which our faculty specialise (refer to Faculty research interests, below and right).

##### Recent thesis titles

*Explaining the emergence of Eurosceptic protest movement formation in contemporary Europe: a comparative approach*

*Organisational change in Western European communist parties since 1989*

*Parties and the state in post-1989 Poland*

*Paths to populism: the ideologies of populist parties in Europe*

*Regionalist parties in Western Europe: a comparative study*

*The predominance of Prime Ministers: a comparative study of Britain and Australia*

*Young citizens' political participation*

##### Career opportunities

A number of our graduates have gone on to careers in education such as teaching and tutoring.

#### Faculty research interests

The Department has one of the largest concentrations of scholars working on party politics in the UK, based around the Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy in Europe. This and other research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/polces](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/polces)

**Sabina Avdagic** Refer to the Contemporary European studies subject entry on page 68.



An ESRC-funded research project at Sussex is examining the politics and public-policy aspects of financial services governance in the European Union

**Professor Tim Bale** British politics; comparative politics; social democracy; centre right in Europe; party politics.

**Sue Collard** Politics in western Europe; modern French politics; European integration.

**James Hampshire** The politics of race, ethnicity and citizenship; modern political theory; public policy.

**Daniel Hough** German politics; party politics; post-communism in Europe; political corruption.

**Zdenek Kavan** Refer to the International relations subject entry on page 110.

**Francis McGowan** Policy making in the European Union; European government/ industry relations.

**Lucia Quaglia** Refer to the Contemporary European studies subject entry on page 68.

**Professor Shamit Saggar** The politics of race, ethnicity and citizenship; public policy; electoral politics.

**Professor Aleks Szczerbiak** Refer to the Contemporary European studies subject entry on page 68.

**Professor Paul Taggart** Euroscepticism; populism; party politics.

**Adrian Treacher** International relations of the EU; European security; French foreign policy.

**Professor Paul Webb** Parties and elections – UK and comparative; empirical democratic theory.

