



Politics
Undergraduate Degrees
2025

Politics at Lancaster



Has there ever been a better time to study Politics? From the politics of energy to climate change, the politics of migration to global pandemics, and democratic accountability to the politics of self-identity, questions of power, representation, and protest loom large. Traditional party politics creaks under the weight of social transformation, while longstanding left/right allegiances are challenged by the rise of populism, nationalist sentiment and multiculturalism.

These modern challenges require political responses that address their here-and-now demands with policies, programmes and answers of immediate relevance to the concerns of today. The study of Politics here at Lancaster examines the contemporary political processes, arguments and compromises through which these challenges are met, denied or avoided.

The nuts and bolts of politics occurs at local, national and regional levels. Your studies at Lancaster will therefore include analysis and exploration of UK domestic party-politics and policy, as well as the politics of nations such as the USA, China and Russia and regional contexts such as Latin America and the EU. You'll be equipped with the theories, concepts and approaches through which politics is academically engaged and understood, as well as gaining applied knowledge of how politics takes place on the ground.

No matter what your ultimate career goals, studying Politics at Lancaster will give you the skills necessary to analyse and confront the political complexities of the modern world. You'll have the opportunity, via work-based learning on our Richardson Institute Internship Programme, or a placement year, to gain experience which will prepare you for your future career and to develop skills that will make you more employable. You may also have opportunities to travel abroad, visiting countries you could be studying as part of your degree, either for short-term visits or as year-long study abroad options.

Many of our students choose to combine the study of Politics with International Relations, and many with other subjects such as Philosophy, Economics, or History. We hope that this booklet provides useful material to inform your own choice, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

in the UK for Research Power
Research Excellence Framework (2021)



Your degree

BA (Hons) Politics

Year 1

In your first year, you will be introduced to university-level Politics, exploring the discipline's main subfields while developing your writing skills and analytic abilities. You will study three, year-long modules that are equally weighted.

Core Module

Politics in the Modern World

You'll be introduced to key themes in the study of modern politics, and gain critical insight into the nature and use of political power in the contemporary world. You will learn about: the foundations of the modern nation-state, and the ways in which our institutions can reflect or fail to meet the ideals of liberal democracy; the behaviour of individuals and groups in political contexts; the workings of national constitutions and international organisations; the interaction of global events and domestic agendas.

Areas of study will typically include:

- + **Political Theory:** the study of the scope, nature, and justification of state authority, and the history of political thought.
- + **Comparative Politics:** the study of the various institutions of the nation-state, in a comparative context.
- + **Ideologies:** the study of political ideologies such as (neo-)liberalism, (neo-)conservatism, socialism, and fascism, their cohesiveness and social/political function.
- + **Political Behaviour:** the study of the ways in which agents and groups engage with politics in the age of mass and social-media.
- + **Politics and Religion:** the study of the relevance of religion to politics in contemporary society.
- + **Politics in a Global World:** the influence of global movements and events on domestic and international politics.

Because of the increasing interdependence of the national and global, domestic politics and international relations can no longer be properly understood in isolation from one another. To ensure the best possible foundation for a degree in Politics, in first year, we strongly recommend you also take International Relations: Theory and Practice.

Recommended Module

International Relations: Theory and Practice

We will introduce you to central aspects of the discipline of international relations, providing a firm grounding in the major concepts and debates necessary to understand the modern world of international politics. You will learn about: the dominant features and power relations of the contemporary global system; the nature of sovereignty and security, their expression and limitations; the real-world problems confronting the international community today.

Areas of study will typically include:

- + **International Relations Theory:** the study of how relations between states can and should be viewed and theorised.
- + **International Institutions and Law:** the international organisations, customs, and rules that govern inter-state relationships.
- + **Global Politics and Belief:** the study of how religious and ideological belief can shape international politics and the relation of states.
- + **International Crises:** the study of pressing issues confronting the international community, such as environmental collapse, technological advance and terrorism.
- + **International Relations and the Domestic:** the study of how the domestic agendas can shape and influence international politics.

Minor Module

You will select a third module to complement your studies in Politics, potentially from among the following subjects: Criminology, History, Sociology and Philosophy. The choice available will be subject to any timetabling restrictions or entry prerequisites.

Year 2

In your second year, you will build upon the theoretical understanding of the state developed in the first year and begin to develop expertise in the political systems of those regions which interest you the most.

You will select optional Politics modules, such as:

- + Asian Political Culture
- + Comparative Politics of the Gulf
- + Environmental Politics
- + European Union Politics
- + International Political Economy
- + Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
- + Modern Political Thought: Equality and Community
- + Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics
- + Politics and History of the Middle East
- + Politics of Development
- + Politics of Ireland
- + Politics of Race
- + Public Policy
- + Research Methods in Politics
- + Russian (Inter)national Politics
- + State and Economy
- + The Ethics of Politics and Knowledge
- + The Government and Politics of the United States
- + The Politics and Philosophy of Higher Education
- + The Power of the Past: Religion and Politics in South Asia

You may wish to complement Politics modules with optional International Relations modules, such as:

- + Exploring Global Religions
- + China's International Relations
- + International Political Economy
- + International Relations and Politics of the Asia Pacific
- + International Relations, Security and Sustainability
- + Peace Studies in Action
- + Peace Studies in the Middle East
- + Politics and History of the Middle East
- + State and Economy
- + The Politics of Development
- + War and Geopolitics

You can read module descriptions online at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Meet Emmanuel



Studying at Lancaster University has been a blessing and the structure of my degree has greatly improved my development. Having never learnt Politics at school, the first year gave me a strong grounding in the discipline, and freedom of choice has followed over the next two years.

My time at Lancaster has offered diverse module content, allowing me to further my passion for decolonisation through academia. From the politics of race to global politics in Africa, I have been able to use my degree as a way to understand and tackle problems in my immediate reality. The personal has been political in more ways than one.

Office hours, seminars and working on behalf of the department as a Student Ambassador have given me time to get to know members of staff. Their zeal has stoked my own fire, inspiring me to maximise my academic endeavours at university.

Emmanuel Adeyemi-Abere
BA (Hons) Politics and History

Final Year

In final year, we offer specialist modules on topics such as race, human rights, the media, and political violence, as well as in-depth study of the political contexts and systems of Britain, the US, and other regions.

You can select a range of optional modules, such as:

- + Africa and Global Politics
- + Art and Society
- + Complexity, Ethics, Values and Policy
- + Conspiracy Theories in Politics and Society
- + Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
- + Decolonisation: Race and Empire
- + Indian Politics, Society and Religion
- + Moral, Legal and Political Philosophy
- + Political Economy of the Global South
- + Political Ideas
- + Politics of Cultural Diversity
- + Politics of Gender in Islam
- + Politics of Global Danger
- + Society and Politics in Latin America
- + State and Religion
- + The Ethics and Politics of Communication
- + The Governance of Global Capitalism
- + Wild Asian Goddesses: Power and Transgression in South and South East Asia

You will have the opportunity to undertake a dissertation; this is a sustained investigation on a politics subject that interests you. This develops your employability and research skills, as well as your ability to work independently, with input from an academic supervisor. We offer the option to complete a dissertation with external collaboration (for example, via our Richardson Institute internship programme) to enhance your ability to reflect on the impact of academic work.

Placement Year and Study Abroad Degrees

Placement year and study abroad students spend year 3 away from campus. In your final year, you will return to Lancaster to study and will select optional modules such as those listed above.

Joint degree students

For joint and triple major students, you will study core and optional modules in your second and third subjects in approximately equal weightings through your second and final years.

Find out more online:
www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Your global experience

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your College or your Students' Union.

Study abroad

Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. At Lancaster, we offer 4-year study abroad degrees where you spend your third year studying at one of our international partner universities. Potential destinations currently include Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, and the USA. These destinations are given as a guide only as the availability of places may vary year to year. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefits both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel

Alternatively, we run short trips during the summer vacation to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

You may also be able to attend a summer school at one of our many overseas partner universities.

Find out more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience



Your future career

Our specialist internship schemes and placement year options support you in developing careers-focused skills and relevant work experience, so you can graduate with a strong CV and clear ambition.

Internships

We are home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. Typically, the Institute offers over 60 internships per year to our students to undertake research projects for external organisations.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Roles range from marketing and communications to research and policy work at national and local SMEs, a range of departments at Lancaster University and third sector organisations.

Placements

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees. With specialist support, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement to carry out in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Graduate destinations

A Politics degree provides you with knowledge and transferable skills relevant to a range of different future careers. We will help you determine your direction and support you in getting there. We do this by offering subject-specific support from academic tutors and specialist careers advisers.

Employers look for clear thinking, broad vision, independence, the capacity to locate and analyse problems and exercise judgement in their solution. It is also very useful to be able to present information lucidly and argue effectively for favoured courses of action. Our graduates find that their analytical and organisational skills, plus their ability to achieve insights into problems, are greatly valued by employers in many areas, including:

- + Civil and Diplomatic Services
- + Politics and Government
- + International Charities and Non-Government Organisations
- + Teaching and Education
- + International Finance and Banking
- + Journalism and Media
- + Business, Management and Consultancy

Careers service

We offer life-long careers support for our students. Our career advisers are available to support you with subject-specific careers guidance, as well as application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extra-curricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers



Degrees and entry requirements

Politics	 	BA Hons	3 years	L200	ABB
Politics and International Relations	 	BA Hons	3 years	L250	ABB
Politics and Sociology	 	BA Hons	3 years	LL23	ABB
Chinese Studies and Politics		BA Hons	4 years	T1L2	ABB
Economics, Politics and International Relations		BA Hons	3 years	LL22	AAB
English Literature and Politics	 	BA Hons	3 years	QL32	AAB
French Studies and Politics		BA Hons	4 years	RL12	ABB
German Studies and Politics		BA Hons	4 years	RL22	ABB
Global Religions and Politics	 	BA Hons	3 years	LV01	ABB
History and Politics	 	BA Hons	3 years	LV21	AAB
History, Philosophy and Politics	 	BA Hons	3 years	V0L0	AAB
Law with Politics		LLB Hons	3 years	M1L2	AAB
Philosophy and Politics	 	BA Hons	3 years	VL52	ABB
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	 	BA Hons	3 years	LOV0	AAB
Politics, International Relations and Management		BSc Hons	3 years	LN30	ABB
Spanish Studies and Politics		BA Hons	4 years	RL42	ABB

 Study abroad available  Placement year available  Includes international placement year

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements (such as BTECs).

www.lancaster.ac.uk

Get in touch

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Philosophy and Religion (PPR)
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 @PPRLancaster



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Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2025–26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

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