

Politics (& IR) @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Oxford **	AAA	11 Lancaster	ABB
2 Cambridge ***	A*AA	12 Edinburgh	A*AA
3 LSE	AAA	13 York	AAB
4 UCL ****	AAA	14 Loughborough	ABB
5 Warwick	AAA	15 Strathclyde ****	ABB/AAA
6 St Andrews ****	AAA	16 Bristol ****	AAA
7 Sheffield	AAB	17 Glasgow	AAB
8 Exeter	AAA	18 Birmingham	AAB
9 Durham	AAA	19 Manchester ****	AAB
10 Bath ****	AAA/A*AB	20 Nottingham ****	AAB

* Complete University Guide April 2020

** PPE *** HSPS **** with/or international relations

Must haves

Universities do not usually specify any particular subjects at A Level/Pre U. However, for PPE at Oxford, maths A Level is recommended and history A Level would be helpful. Essay subjects are favoured by many universities and Bristol and Glasgow require at least one A Level in an essay-based humanities subject.

Other degrees to consider

History, international relations, English, philosophy, economics, sociology or combine one of these in a joint honours degree with politics. Or consider a liberal arts degree.

Example course modules

Politics is about power, conflict, people, institutions and the nature of the just society. It encompasses a broad spectrum of activities relating to public affairs and political issues, from elections and bureaucracies to wars and terrorisms. Modules could include comparative politics, rational choice theory, political economy, public administration & public policy, political theory, and ideas such as justice, democracy, liberty, sovereignty and rights. Politics is often studied alongside international relations which brings a global perspective, and modules will focus on how countries relate to each other in terms of maintaining peace and developing trade.

Contact hours per week: Between 8 and 13, average 10. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Most politics (or IR) graduates don't actually go into politics, although some do, often as researchers, activities or fundraisers. Rather than pursuing a career as a politician, politics & IR graduates work in journalism, local government, civil service or the law. Other popular career paths include marketing, PR, management consultancy and the finance industry. About 1 in 6 politics graduates goes on to further study and academic research. Your ability to communicate well, refine an argument and assess others' views and opinions will be well sought after by potential employers.

Average starting salary: £20,000