Political Studies

Get to know POLITICAL STUDIES

Politics is about power – who has it, how it is exercised by nation-states, individuals, groups, classes, or political parties, and how different interests are reconciled in and between communities. Political Studies is also concerned with institutions created to govern communities, as well as practices such as voting habits or protests, and how rules, behaviour and culture are created in societies. And since power in society is often dependent upon material resources, political scientists study the distribution of wealth, both within and between nations.

Students sharpen their debating skills at the Queen’s Model Parliament; they discuss international issues at the Queen’s Model UN or with the Queen’s International Affairs Association. Politics at Queen’s extends beyond the classroom.

Degree PLANS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Political Studies /
Major in PPE
Internship option available

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements. Visit queensu.ca/admission for additional information regarding requirements and admission to Queen’s.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

There are courses that focus on national politics such as Canadian Government, Mass Media and Politics in Canada, First Nations Politics and Politics in Quebec. And there are courses that look at politics in a global context such as International Politics, Middle East Politics, American Government, The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, and The United Nations. Then there are courses that focus on the process such as Comparative Politics: Democracy and Democratization, Law and the Governmental Process, Citizenship and Non-Citizenship, Elections, Public Opinion, and International Relations: Questions & Challenges.

Queen’s Political Studies is widely recognized as one of the premier political studies departments in Canada.

A Year to CHOOSE

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.

That is a degree from Queen’s.  QUartsci.com
The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Major Map for Political Studies is structured into four years:

**1ST YEAR**
- **Get the Courses You Need**: In first year, take POLS 110. Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.
- **Get Relevant Experience**: Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen's Model UN Team and the Queen's Debating Union (QDU). Consider joining an on-campus political party. Apply to be a 1st-year intern with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the CCOD or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- **Get Connected With the Community**: Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations, such as the Queen's International Affairs Association (QIAA). Participate in events such as Queen's Model Parliament (QMP), Queen's Model UN (QMUN), and Queen's Model Court (QMC). Volunteer with The Journal, Queen's student-run newspaper.
- **Get Thinking Globally**: Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations. Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.
- **Get Ready for Life After Graduation**: Grapple with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

**2ND YEAR**
- **Get the Courses You Need**: In second year, take POLS 250 and 200-level POLS option courses. If planning to go on exchange in third year, consider taking POLS 384 or 385 this year. Review prerequisites for taking 300 and 400-level courses. Consult the Political Studies homepage for other required POLS courses. Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.
- **Get Relevant Experience**: Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Studies. Consider applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society. Write an article for publications related to politics such as Politicus or Inquire.
- **Get Connected With the Community**: Get involved with the Political Studies Department Student Council (DSC). Continue volunteering at clubs and extracurriculars. Consider contributing to University affairs by applying to serve on Arts and Science Faculty and University Senate Committees. Attend the Queen's Media and Journalism Conference (QJMCC).
- **Get Thinking Globally**: Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3-year exchange through the International Programs Office. Consider taking a language course as an elective.
- **Get Ready for Life After Graduation**: Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Careers in International Affairs. For more information, check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

**3RD YEAR**
- **Get the Courses You Need**: In third year, take POLS 384 and 385 and 300-level POLS option courses. Consider writing an Honours Undergraduate Thesis next year. In May, submit preferences for 400-level courses for next year. Need help mapping all of your core, option, and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.
- **Get Relevant Experience**: If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year. Consider running for office in student government (ASUS, AMS). If interested, apply to positions in local and provincial government.
- **Get Connected With the Community**: Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen's Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops. Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC. Attend talks in departmental speaker series. Help organize QMP, QMUN, QMC, or QMJC.
- **Get Thinking Globally**: Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.
- **Get Ready for Life After Graduation**: Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests like the LSAT or GRE and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
- **Get the Courses You Need**: Take your 4th year seminars and/or Honours Thesis. Complete POLS 384 and 385 if you have not, in your final year, done so already. By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and/or certificate(s) as well. Apply to graduate in SOLUS.
- **Get Relevant Experience**: Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.
- **Get Connected With the Community**: Consider joining professional associations like Canadian Institute of International Affairs and Canadian Public Relations Society. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Politics.
- **Get Thinking Globally**: Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations. International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.
- **Get Ready for Life After Graduation**: Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions. Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

Where could I go after graduation?
- Advertising
- Broadcasting
- Business administration and management
- Campaign management
- Communications
- Consumer services
- Diplomatic service
- Editing
- Education
- Environmental management
- Events management
- Foreign affairs
- Fundraising
- Government
- Human resources
- Intelligence analysis
- International development
- International trade
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing and communications
- Media – electronic and print
- Media analysis
- Public affairs
- Public health
- Public policy, administration and service
- Public relations
- Research
- Social work
- Speech writing
- Urban and regional planning

Want to enhance your degree? Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship.

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for potential activities and career paths, but everyone’s abilities, experience, and constraints are different. Build your own map using our online My Major Map tool.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying POLITICAL STUDIES?

- Knowledge to identify patterns in current affairs based on understanding of different political systems and cultures
- Oral and written communication to write clear, succinct briefing notes and reports, and give engaging, effective presentations
- Research knowledge of various domains in politics to find reliable sources of information and to organize the investigation of a problem
- Problem solving to apply different theoretical perspectives (qualitative and quantitative) to reveal multiple dimensions of an issue
- Resource and time management to manage multiple long-term projects
- Logical reasoning to analyze concepts and assess arguments used in debates about law and policy

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city ‘the happiest place on the planet’. Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily’.