



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Politics and international relations postgraduate study



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Welcome to the school

We are a large and diverse school that covers many of the subject areas in contemporary politics, and we are present and active on all three of Nottingham's campuses – in the UK, China and Malaysia.

Our academics have international reputations and publish their research in the very best journals and with top publishers. Their expertise ranges across international relations, British politics, comparative politics and political theory.

Our staff have won an impressive range of national and University-wide teaching awards, including the UK Political Studies Association's 'Innovation in Teaching' Award.

We organise our research around centres and institutes, all of which undertake work that has a real impact on the wider world. We also integrate research and teaching at every level, offering you cutting edge training that will equip you for success in a variety of fields after graduation.

Dr Caitlin Milazzo
Head of School and Associate Professor of Politics

95.2%
of politics postgraduates

secured work or further study within six months of graduation

Ranked as a world top 100 university

QS World University Rankings 2019



96%
of our research is of international standard

Research Excellence Framework 2014



University of Nottingham

At the University of Nottingham, we deliver exceptional teaching, led by research that solves global challenges.

We are International and Sports University of the Year, according to *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019*, and consistently ranked among the world's top 100 universities by QS.

Research at Nottingham generates discoveries, many of which have profound social, economic and cultural benefits. The latest Research Excellence Framework ranked us 8th in the UK for research power. Our cutting-edge facilities, leading academics and industry connections offer opportunities to develop your potential.

As a postgraduate student, you will be supported academically and personally. Our experienced staff can advise you on issues ranging from your course to finances, wellbeing and career planning.

Once you have completed your studies, you will become part of a global network of 280,000 alumni. You will be invited to exclusive events and will also benefit from lifetime access to our Careers and Employability Service.

Award-winning staff who are recognised internationally



Find your future at Nottingham

Inspirational location

The School of Politics and International Relations is situated in the idyllic surroundings of the beautiful 300-acre University Park Campus – the hub of student life and the perfect location for studying and accessing first-class facilities.

Academic excellence

Taught by academic experts within their respective fields, our postgraduate programmes attract graduates from all around the world, contributing to the vibrant research and learning culture that makes Nottingham a truly unique place to study. Each programme is highly specialised and strongly linked to the school's research interests.

A support network built around you

Students are at the heart of everything we do and the school is committed to ensuring you are fully supported.

The University of Nottingham provides a wide range of support services for postgraduate students. As a postgraduate, you will have access to the University's Graduate School – a dedicated facility which will provide you with support and guidance. The Graduate School offers induction events, training opportunities, funding, careers support and social and sporting events. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/graduateschool

The School of Politics and International Relations is based on the beautiful University Park Campus – take a virtual tour at nottingham.ac.uk/virtualnottingham

Outstanding support

International research

In the latest Research Excellence Framework, 96% of our research was rated as of 'international standard'. We engage with the most fundamental political questions of our time. Our research projects have led to the regular production of high-quality publications by staff, awards and prizes, and frequent hosting of seminars and conferences.

Our research activity is organised around several research centres and institutes:

- Asia Research Institute
- Centre for British Politics
- Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice
- Centre for Conflict, Security and Terrorism
- Nottingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Economic and Political Research
- Centre for Normative Political Theory
- Methods and Data Institute
- Centre for the Study of Political Ideologies
- Politics Centre for Teaching Development
- Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy

You will be encouraged to play an active role in the school's research centres and institutes, and the school as a whole.

High-quality teaching

We have an ongoing commitment to promoting excellence in teaching, which is embodied in the Politics Centre for Teaching Development. The centre holds events to share ideas and practices, and learn from experts in the field.

Our research philosophy underpins our interactions with students, producing graduates who are capable of independent thinking and have a critical approach to their work and the world around them.

One-to-one expert supervision

All masters students receive one-to-one supervision for their dissertation. Your supervisor will be a research-active member of the academic staff who can provide genuinely expert guidance. Meanwhile, PhD students are allocated two expert supervisors who are chosen to provide complementary skills and guidance.

Masters students are also allocated a designated personal tutor for their time at Nottingham. Personal tutors can offer advice and guidance on academic matters and provide personal written references.

Excellent employment prospects

The acquisition of a postgraduate degree demonstrates a high level of knowledge in a specific field. Our postgraduates have developed careers as management consultants, researchers, statisticians and university lecturers. Companies and organisations our graduates have gone on to work for include the BBC, Channel 4, the European Union, GCHQ, Reuters and the Thailand National Police Department.

Our international research underpins our curriculum, so you can be sure that you will graduate with a masters degree that is relevant to contemporary issues and aligns with the needs of employers around the world. If you wish to continue with your studies after completing an MA programme, our staff offer research degree supervision in most of the major sub-areas of the discipline.

95.2% of our postgraduates who were available for employment secured work or further study within six months of graduation. £25,000 was the average starting salary, with the highest being £42,000.*

* Known destinations of full-time home postgraduates 2016/17. Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.

National and international placements

We offer a range of local, national and international placement opportunities, which may be paid or voluntary, part-time alongside your studies or longer placements during University vacations. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/politics/placements



Masters courses

MA Asian and International Studies

Unique to Nottingham, this course will enhance your understanding of the culture and politics in Asia. You'll spend a semester in China or Malaysia - an ideal foundation for a career in the region.

This course draws upon the research and teaching expertise of staff members in the UK, China and Malaysia campuses of the University of Nottingham, who are experts on Asian politics, economics, history and international relations. It is the first programme of its kind in postgraduate education and works closely with our Asia Research Institute – a research platform which engages with practitioners and partners in the region.

Our wide range of optional modules will allow you to tailor the course to your specific interests. The Global Asia module will introduce you to pan-Asian themes such as nationalism, globalisation, environmental challenges, resource politics and gender relations. It challenges the prevailing conception of 'Asia Rising' as a new phenomenon and will also allow you to specialise in a specific country or regional studies.

You will immerse yourself in the culture of these countries and take language options if desired. Accommodation will be organised by the University, although it is not covered by the course fees.

Course details

You will spend the spring semester at either our China or Malaysia Campus, before either returning to the UK or choosing to remain in the region to complete your 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation, on a subject related to Asia.

Career and professional development

This course is ideal if you would like to begin a professional career in Asia, or are mid-career and wish to change direction. You will be able to tailor the course to your interests and career aspirations with modules such as War, Peace and Terror, Government and Politics of China, and Covert Action and Unacknowledged Interventions.

The semester you spend in China or Malaysia will make you particularly attractive to employers which are seeking graduates with cultural and political experience.

This course will develop your skills for a career in a range of fields, such as academia, civil service, international cultural exchange, international organisations, journalism, ministerial advising, non-governmental organisations and policy research.

MA Diplomacy

Through exploring the latest research in the law of armed conflict, crisis management and contemporary international history, this course will give you knowledge and skills ideal for a career in international representation and negotiation.

Diplomacy plays a critical role in international relations and has an impact on the lives of all of us. It will, for example, set the terms of any Brexit agreement, have a significant impact on the fates of migrants around the world, and play a key part in determining the outcome of pivotal international treaties such as those on climate change.

You will develop a broad understanding of diplomacy and negotiation, including traditional approaches that view it as a specialist form of statecraft, and modern conceptions that embrace areas such as the media and cultural diplomacy.

Reflecting the multi-disciplinary nature of the practice of diplomacy, this course combines research and teaching expertise from across politics and international relations, law, and history.

Course details

Across the autumn and spring semesters, you will take 60 credits of core modules and 60 credits of optional modules.

You will complete your studies by researching and writing a 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation, on a subject related to diplomacy.

Career and professional development

This course is particularly suitable if you would like to pursue a career in international representation and negotiation, or in a field that is informed by diplomacy, mediation and negotiation. It is ideal for trainee or in-service diplomats, as well as those who are mid-career and wish to change direction.

It will develop your skills for a career in a range of fields, such as civil service, commercial negotiation, defence liaison, foreign trade departments, international cultural exchange, international financial regulation, international and non-governmental organisations, journalism, ministerial advising, public information and telecommunications consultancy.

MA Governance and Political Development

Introducing you to a variety of political systems and development across the world, this course equips you to contribute to the work of NGOs, think-tanks and political institutions.

You can choose to study the course over one year full-time, based entirely at Nottingham. If you opt to study over two years, you can take advantage of our unique tri-campus identity, and spend a semester of your second year studying either at our campus in China or Malaysia, or with one of our European partners in Aarhus, Cologne, Gothenburg, or the Central European University in Budapest.

Teaching draws on the depth of expertise in comparative politics and development studies, in particular Asian and Chinese politics, and is connected with some of our leading research centres:

- Asia Research Institute
- Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy
- Nottingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Economic and Political Research
- Methods and Data Institute

Course details

On the one-year course, you will be based entirely at Nottingham and will complete 120 credits of taught modules, plus a 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation over the summer.

On the two-year course, you will take 120 credits of taught modules at Nottingham over your first year. You will begin your second year by completing 60 credits of taught modules over your first semester in Europe, China or Malaysia, returning to Nottingham for your second semester to complete your 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation.

Career and professional development

This course will give you an understanding of current political situations around the rise of populism, Brexit, and democratic crises. This knowledge, combined with the development of skills in research, presenting, public speaking and critical evaluation will equip you for an international career in a range of sectors.

MA International Relations

This course explores both the philosophical and practical aspects of international political analysis, enabling you to contribute to tackling some of the biggest global issues being faced today.

We all have to live with the consequences of state actions, for example whether countries are receptive or hostile to refugees fleeing war and oppression, and whether there is an adequate response to climate change. International relations form the backdrop to such decisions, and impact our ability as a society to address global problems such as environmental crisis, war, organised crime, and slavery.

This course analyses the relations between states and through our research-led teaching, builds an understanding of issues including global justice, the causes of war, intelligence and national security and international human rights.

You can tailor this course to your interests and career aspirations through the wide range of optional modules.

Course details

This course is made up of a 20-credit core module, 20-credit methodology module and 80 credits of optional modules, plus a 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation.

Career and professional development

Studying this course at Nottingham will prepare you for a career in a wide range of fields such as national government, international organisations, international trade and NGOs. Recent graduate destinations include the United Nations, Channel 4, GCHQ and Reuters.



MA International Security and Terrorism

This innovative course provides you with a framework for detailed investigation of security and terrorism on a global scale, enhancing your career opportunities in this complex field.

You will explore the concerns about security and insecurity that pervade our everyday lives, such as war and terrorism, their impact on migrant flows and the knock-on effect on European and American politics, and whether resource wars due to climate change pose a growing threat.

As one of the key research areas in the school, you will be taught by experts at the forefront of areas such as hybrid warfare, proxy war, secret intelligence, the rise of Russia, the war in Iraq, and the war in Afghanistan. Our academics have advised governments, spoken at the Pentagon, made appearances on television and radio, and have experience working in Afghanistan which will be a real asset to your learning and development on the course.

You will explore key issues and theoretical underpinnings of international security, such as international intervention, conventional and nuclear deterrence, insurgency and counter-insurgency, peacemaking, and peacekeeping. You will analyse terrorism as a political strategy and explore its contemporary significance and relative success. The course will also develop your understanding of counter-terrorist techniques and provide you with an in-depth study of security issues in particular regions of the world.

We offer a placement scheme which gives you vital real-world experience. Students from the school recently worked at a NATO agency in Turkey.

Course details

This course is made up of a 40 credits of core modules, 80 credits of optional modules, plus a 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation.

Career and professional development

With the skills and knowledge you acquire on the course, you could go on to work for organisations such as the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence, think tanks, and NGOs in roles such as policy analysis, research or communications.

MA Politics and Contemporary History

Ideal for those seeking a global career in the media, government or international organisations, this course explores the historical context to the events that shape our everyday lives.

The course allows you to engage with topics including labour and urban history, women's history, religion and conflict in the Middle East, film history, and contemporary British history. You can tailor your studies to your interests and career aspirations through the wide range of optional modules.

Nottingham has one of the largest number of academics focused on contemporary history in the UK. Staff in the School of Politics and International Relations are actively engaged in this research and are joined by experts in the School of American and Canadian Studies, Department of History, and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

Areas of special interest include:

- 20th-century Chinese history
- Anglo-American relations
- Cold War history
- communism and fascism
- intelligence and national security
- modern German history, including the Holocaust
- modern Russia, especially its foreign policy
- religion and conflict in the Middle East

The school regularly holds workshops and conferences with guest speakers from international institutions, some of which include Edward Garnier – former Conservative Party politician, Professor Michael Clarke – specialist in defence studies, and Faiza Shaheen – Director of the Centre for Labour and Social Studies and prospective parliamentary candidate for the Labour party.

Course details

At least 60 credits will be taken with the School of Politics and International Relations, plus a 60-credit, 15,000-word dissertation. The remaining 60 credits may be studied with other schools/ departments across the University, subject to approval, with certain modules being especially recommended.

Career and professional development

The specialist knowledge you will gain, together with enhanced skills of critical analysis will equip you for a range of careers across the global public and private sectors.

MA Social Science Research (Political Science and International Relations)

Providing broad-based training in social science research, this course will equip you with the skills to manage a successful research career and contribute to society in a number of ways.

You will develop a variety of skills and the ability to apply them to a wide range of practical research contexts.

Primarily aimed at students following an ESRC-funded pathway onto a PhD, this course may also be suitable if you are intending to apply for +3 ESRC funding (that is, to cover a PhD) or are interested in developing a wide range of social science research skills.

Course details

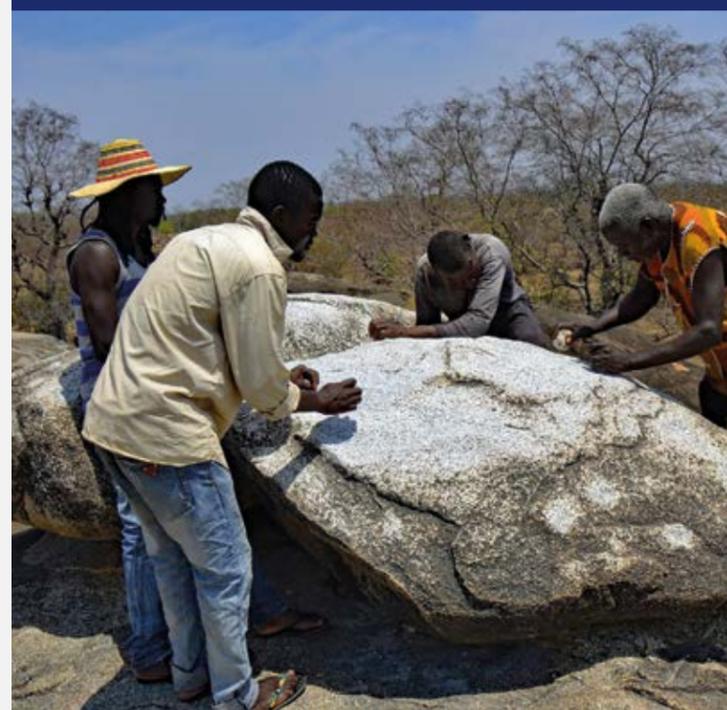
You will complete 80 credits of core research methods modules, plus 40 credits of either advanced research methods or politics-specific training, and a 60-credit dissertation.

Career and professional development

This course is particularly suitable if you are interested in pursuing PhD study in the social sciences. It may also be useful if you are looking to pursue a career in a statistical or quantitative discipline, such as analysis or planning roles.

“There are more slaves alive today than at any point in history. Around the world, nearly 41 million people are forced to work against their will for no pay. Together, we can work to change this.”

Professor Kevin Bales



Distance learning

MA/PGDip/PGCert Slavery and Liberation

This course is the first of its kind in the world and gives you skills and knowledge that enable you to contribute to ending modern day slavery.

This internationally recognised distance learning course will provide you with an academic grounding in the study of modern slavery, and how best to achieve the liberation and reintegration of people enslaved around the world.

It is taught by experts from our Rights Lab who work directly with enslaved people and communities, and whose aim is to produce research that will contribute to ending slavery by the year 2030. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/world/beacons/rights-lab

You will gain a thorough understanding of key concepts and challenges in slavery, liberation, anti-slavery and human rights, and will benefit from:

- an in-depth academic exploration of an important and growing area of human rights work
- specialist practical training to plan and carry out anti-slavery and anti-trafficking activities including liberation, rehabilitation, reintegration and changing policies and practices
- training in how to undertake independent human rights research

Course details

As this is a distance learning course, the majority of content will be taught online, allowing you to access the learning resources from anywhere in the world.

All versions of this course include four 20-credit core modules which are taught online. MA and PGDip students also take two 20-credit modules taught back-to-back over two weeks of intensive face-to-face seminars in Nottingham (in the spring semester for full-time students and in the spring semester of year two for part-time students).

Career and professional development

This course will prepare you for a career in a wide range of fields relating to human rights, such as national government, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Graduating from Nottingham means that you have opened the door to an opportunity for an interesting and well paid career. Our students are highly regarded by employers because of the strong academic foundation and transferable skills that they gain during their degree course.

Leading research

Our postgraduate research community is lively and supportive, and students play an active role in the various research centres and in the activities of the school as a whole, including its governance.

Reflecting the convergence of staff research agendas, the school has a variety of research centres and institutes and has the expertise to offer MRes and PhD supervision in an extensive array of research topics, including:

- Asia studies
- British politics
- China's governance and politics
- Comparative politics
- Conflict, security and terrorism
- International relations
- Political ideologies
- Political theory
- Social and global justice
- Social science research methodology

Facilities and support

Our research students are offered excellent facilities and support, including:

- two supervisors and additional support through membership of one of the school's research centres
- dedicated workspace, equipped with a networked computer
- generous photocopying and printing allowance
- opportunity to apply for funding to attend workshops and conferences

Teaching experience

PhD students are encouraged to undertake some undergraduate teaching, normally during their second and third years. The Graduate School supports them in this by providing training in teaching skills.

Research training

As part of the postgraduate research programme students are required to undergo methodological training. This takes the form of a Professional Development module, together with modules offered by the Midlands Graduate School ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership, or the school's own methods modules, and courses offered by the Graduate School.

Doctoral funding

We are part of the Midlands Graduate School ESRC and Midlands4Cities AHRC doctoral training partnerships, which offer funding opportunities for postgraduate students each year. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/phd-funding

MRes Politics and International Relations

Providing general research training, this course is ideal if you would like to pursue a PhD or a career that requires research skills.

You will submit a dissertation and undertake taught and generic research training modules. The programme is designed to be flexible, enabling to you conduct a 25,000 word research-based dissertation on a subject of your choice and choose 60 credits of postgraduate level modules in areas related to your research topic.

You can combine this work with specialist training from a wide range of options within the school and across the University, such as international relations, diplomacy, security studies, Asia-Pacific studies, British politics, European integration, comparative politics, political theory and generic research methods training.

PhD Politics | International Relations | Social Sciences Research Methodology

Offering supervision in most subject areas, the School of Politics and International Relations is a thriving and dynamic centre for PhD study.

A PhD is the most advanced form of postgraduate study. It is awarded on the successful completion of supervised research, verbal examination and final thesis.

The school runs a weekly colloquium for postgraduate research students, giving you the opportunity to present your work in front of other research students and staff with similar research interests.

PhD Social Sciences Research Methodology students will normally need to take four intensive clinics with the Method and Data Institute in their first two years, which teach the theory and practice of a particular research method.

Students without sufficient background in research methods may also be required to take additional taught modules in their first year. These will typically cover research design, philosophy of social sciences, qualitative methods and quantitative methods.

Methods and data research areas include:

- Methodological research
- Comparative social research
- Political and social attitudes and behaviour
- Systematic analysis of text

How to apply

Tuition fees

Tuition fees are listed on our online course pages and at nottingham.ac.uk/fees

Entry requirements

Taught courses

2:1 (or international equivalent). For MA Social Science Research (Political Science and International Relations), this should be in a relevant arts, humanities or social science discipline.

Research opportunities

MRes applicants typically require a 2:1 (or international equivalent), while PhD candidates should have a masters (or international equivalent) in a relevant discipline, with an average of 60% or above.

For full entry requirements, please see individual course listings at nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

EU and international applicants

At Nottingham, our global community is made up of staff and students from more than 150 countries. Staff regularly travel to meet prospective students, hosting events in China, Ghana, India, Malaysia and more. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/countryevents

If you need a visa to study, the University can provide all the information and advice you need. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/student-visa

For country-specific information including entry requirements, contact details and representatives, see nottingham.ac.uk/go/yourcountry

English language requirements

For applicants whose first language is not English, we require IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element), except for MA Social Sciences Research (Political Science and International Relations), and our PhDs, which require IELTS 7.0 (no less than 6.0 in any element).

For more information and a list of the alternative English language requirements we accept, see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Academic English preparation and support

Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK, the University's Centre for English Language Education provides high-quality preparation and support.

Our pre-sessional courses take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to postgraduate study without retaking IELTS or equivalent. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

Home from home

We guarantee all new postgraduate students University-arranged, single-occupancy accommodation for one year to help make your move to Nottingham as simple and stress-free as possible. To qualify for the guarantee, you must accept a place on one of our postgraduate courses and apply for accommodation by the date specified on our website. Find out more about our accommodation, including details of our guarantee at nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Equal opportunities policy

The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socioeconomic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

Funding your studies

Current funding opportunities are listed on the school website at nottingham.ac.uk/politics and can also be found on the Graduate School website at nottingham.ac.uk/graduateschool

A wide range of international scholarships are available for specific countries and regions. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/international-scholarships





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**For postgraduate enquiries contact:
Student Recruitment Support Hub**

 +44 (0)115 951 5559

 nottingham.ac.uk/contact

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This publication is available in
alternative formats:

+44 (0)115 951 5559

This brochure has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check our website for any updates before you apply for the course by following nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.

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