Politics and International Relations

Debate it

Address it

nottingham.ac.uk/politics
Undergraduate guide 2020
I like that [Nottingham] is ranked very highly in league tables, yet you also feel at home here and meet people from such a wide range of backgrounds.”

Mary Delamare, BA Politics and Economics

Political science is currently in upheaval. With Brexit and Trump, 2016 was for political science what 2008 and the economic crisis was for economics: unexpected.

Anja Neundorf, Associate Professor

Get hands-on experience with work placements

Tailor your course to your interests through optional modules

Outstanding teaching from award-winning academic experts

Lord Dearing Awards 2013, 2015, 2018; Students’ Union Staff Oscars 2013 and 2016; Political Studies Association Awards 2013 and 2014.

Broaden your horizons and enhance your employability by spending up to a year studying abroad

Understand and debate issues

you are passionate about with like-minded fellow students and leading academics

93.6% of undergraduates from the School of Politics and International Relations secured work or further study within six months of graduation

Known destinations of full-time home undergraduates who were available for work 2016/17.
Studying politics and international relations at Nottingham

Rapid changes in domestic, regional and global politics have a daily impact on our lives, from traditional party politics to new forms of direct action in global settings.

Students, academics and researchers working in this field are driven by the need to understand and explain the burning issues of today’s world.

We offer one of the most dynamic environments for the study of politics and international relations on any British campus.

Our courses are taught by leading academic experts who are conducting influential research in their respective fields. We are proud of our teaching reputation, having won awards for innovation and excellence in this area.

As a tri-campus school, we provide opportunities for you to spend time studying at the University’s campuses in China or Malaysia, as well as at partner institutions in locations around the world.

Our graduates are highly sought-after in the global job market, while many choose to go on to postgraduate study.

Whatever your long-term plans, we are committed to providing you with a stimulating and supportive environment during your time with us.

Professor Mathew Humphrey
Head of the School of Politics and International Relations

At a glance
- Study abroad opportunities at the University’s campuses in China or Malaysia, or in locations such as Australia, Hong Kong and the USA
- Be taught by academic experts who are regularly quoted in the media, with The Independent, the LA Times and Le Monde asking for their comments on topical issues
- Understand and debate issues you are passionate about with like-minded fellow students and leading academics

Our courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>A levels</th>
<th>IB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single honours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Politics and International Relations</td>
<td>L290</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA International Relations and Asian Studies</td>
<td>LT24</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Liberal Arts^</td>
<td>Y002</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>36/32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint honours</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Politics and Economics</td>
<td>LL21</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Politics and American Studies^^</td>
<td>TL72</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA French and Politics^^</td>
<td>RL12</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA German and Politics^^</td>
<td>RL22</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA History and Politics^^</td>
<td>VL12</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics^^</td>
<td>VLL5</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>A’AA</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ You can study some politics and international relations modules as part of BA Liberal Arts. For information on this course, visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/liberalarts
^^ For information on this course, visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy

Foundation courses
International applicants who are not eligible for direct entry to undergraduate study may be able to apply for the Business, Law and Social Sciences Foundation Certificate. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/foundationcourses

English language requirements
IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element), except Y002, RL12, RL22 and VL12, which require IELTS 7.0 (no less than 6.0 in any element), plus VLL5, which requires IELTS 7.0 (no less than 7.0 in reading and writing, and 6.0 in speaking and listening). For details of other English language tests and qualifications we accept, please see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Academic English preparation
If you require additional support to take your language skills to the required level, you may be able to attend a presessional course at the Centre for English Language Education, which is accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK.

Students who successfully complete the presessional course to the required level can progress onto their chosen degree course without retaking IELTS or equivalent. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele
BA Politics and International Relations

This course explores the world of politics, from politicians and governments, war and peace, to elections and revolutions.

It focuses on three key subjects: comparative politics, political theory, and international relations.

A wide selection of optional modules allows you to specialise in different areas, such as British politics, the European Union, globalisation, government and politics of the USA, and terrorism and security.

Year one
In year one, you will typically take modules which are designed to introduce you to key concepts and theories. You will learn to compare political institutions and behaviour in western liberal democracies and elsewhere, gaining a thorough understanding of the history of political ideas.

Year two
Year two includes a range of options to choose from across the three core areas.

Year three
In year three, you will have the option to write a dissertation based on a topic of your choice, under the supervision of a member of staff. You may also choose from a wide range of modules which are related to our research areas. You have free choice in this year and can tailor the course to your interests and career aspirations.

Study abroad
You can apply to spend a semester or full year studying abroad at the University’s campuses in China or Malaysia, or at one of our partner institutions in locations such as Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/politics/study-abroad

You can take a specialised pathway to graduate with a BA Politics and International Relations (Quantitative Methods) degree. This pathway includes training in the quantitative analysis of a range of datasets through the Q-Step programme. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/q-step

The best part has been the range of modules I have covered, including selecting to follow the Q-Step pathway which has helped to develop both my academic skills and increase my employability when I look for graduate opportunities.

Megan Collins
BA Politics and International Relations

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/politics

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up-to-date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/politics
BA International Relations and Asian Studies

Focused on the politics and international relations of Asia, this course offers a different perspective on the region. It includes a year abroad at the University’s campuses in China or Malaysia.

Year one
In year one, you will typically take modules in international relations, political theory, comparative politics and contemporary Asia. You will learn to compare political institutions and behaviour in western liberal democracies, gaining a thorough understanding of the history of political ideas.

Year two
You will spend your second year studying abroad at the University’s campuses in China or Malaysia, where teaching will be in English.

Year three
In your final year, you can choose to complete a dissertation on a topic of your choice in international relations and Asian studies. You will be allocated a dedicated supervisor and will also select optional modules from a wide range including government and policy, economic development in China and Japan, international political economy, and media and communications.

In China, you will explore the country’s modern political history, economy, governance and society, developing research techniques. You can also choose to study the Mandarin language.

In Malaysia, you will look at global media and communication, examining Asia Pacific relations and developing an understanding of the Malay world. You can choose to delve further into the country’s culture, economy and security. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/politics/study-abroad

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/politics

Our courses

Typical modules

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<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Year two</th>
<th>Year three</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional: ■ British Political History Since 1945  ■ Introduction to Political Theory Plus some optional modules from outside the school, including languages</td>
<td>Malaysia: ■ Cultural Politics  ■ International Relations of the Asia Pacific  ■ Understanding the Malay World</td>
<td>Malaysia: ■ Comparative Politics  ■ Cross-Cultural Psychology  ■ Film and Television in Social and Cultural Context  ■ Global Political Economy and International Development  ■ International Security  ■ Introduction to Citizenship  ■ Malaysian Society and Economy  ■ Politics, Culture and Media in South East Asia</td>
</tr>
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BA Politics and Economics

Run jointly by the School of Politics and International Relations and the School of Economics, this course covers political thinking and behaviour alongside economic principles and practice.

You will graduate with a thorough knowledge of a wide range of concepts.

Year one
In year one, you will take modules in political theory, comparative politics and international relations. Comparing political institutions and behaviour in western liberal democracies, you will gain a thorough understanding of the history of political ideas.

In economics, you will benefit from a Writing Economics module and will be introduced to macroeconomics and microeconomics. You will have the opportunity to choose between two further fields of study for your remaining modules in the School of Economics and will also take a careers and employability module.

Year two
In politics you will choose one core module and will then have free choice of two additional modules so that you can begin to tailor your degree to your interests. In economics you will study macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Year three
In your final year, you will have the opportunity to undertake a politics dissertation with guidance and supervision from a member of our academic staff. You will also choose modules in politics and economics from the full range of options offered by both schools.

In politics, at least three of your modules should come from the international relations stream. You can specialise further by adding more of the same, or broaden your knowledge by taking modules from comparative politics and political theory.

Study abroad
You can apply to spend a semester or full year studying abroad at the University’s campuses in China or Malaysia, or at one of our partner institutions in locations such as Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/politics/study-abroad

The campus is absolutely beautiful and I immediately felt the friendly atmosphere. I could imagine myself living and studying here. There are so many opportunities that the faculty provide with, whether it’s the chance to study abroad, or all the different placement opportunities during the holidays - it was hard to find a fault.

Amirah Hussain, BA Politics and International Relations

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/politics

For information on modules provided by the School of Economics, see nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/economics

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up-to-date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/politics
Learn from academic experts

Discover your potential with guidance from some of the brightest minds in their fields.

Your learning will be shaped by the latest research, with classes taught by subject experts.

Dr Anja Neundorf

Associate Professor of Politics and Research Methods

Using advanced statistical methods, Anja analyses how individuals form and retain their political attitudes, identities and behaviour over time and in different political systems. She is currently exploring how past authoritarian regimes influence political attitudes today – a project which has received £200,000 of Economic and Social Research Council funding.

Dr Helen McCabe

Assistant Professor in Political Theory

Helen examines the political philosophy of John Stuart Mill and is particularly interested in his working relationship with co-author Harriet Taylor Mill. She is investigating the extent to which we should think of the work they produced as ‘his’, ‘her’ or ‘their’ and what this would mean for Taylor’s independent status as a political philosopher.

Using their theories and others, Helen is currently focusing on forced marriage as Director of the latest project of the University’s Rights Lab Beacon of Excellence, which is working to end modern slavery in its various forms by 2030.

Dr Hongyi Lai

Associate Professor

Hongyi’s research covers China’s domestic and international political economy, governance and foreign policy. He has published more than 10 books, over 20 refereed journal articles and 20 book chapters.

He regularly comments on current issues in influential media outlets, including the International Economy; Financial Times; China Daily; and South China Morning Post.

Professor Rory Cormac

Professor of International Relations; Co-Director of the Centre for Conflict, Security and Terrorism

Rory specialises in secret intelligence, covert action, and national security. His latest book, Disrupt and Deny, examines how Britain uses intelligence agencies and special forces to pursue foreign policy objectives discreetly.

Professor Katharine Adeney

Professor of Politics; Director of the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute

Katharine primarily focuses on the countries of South Asia, particularly India and Pakistan. She is interested in why these two countries, products of the same colonial regime, differ so much in terms of their democratic development but also in their attitude to accommodating the diversity within their borders.
Engaging study, incredible results

You will encounter a wide variety of teaching methods at university, probably more than you will have done at school or college.

Outstanding teaching
Our staff have international reputations for research excellence, publishing numerous books and articles every year.

Their teaching has been officially recognised, winning student-nominated awards as well as national accolades. This includes 13 National Teaching Awards from the Higher Education Academy, and three prizes for innovative teaching from the Political Studies Association.

As well as lectures and seminars, our staff employ a range of teaching techniques, including presentations, films and simulations. We also offer online resources, providing round-the-clock access to teaching and learning materials. Some modules include visits to places like the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum.

Tailored support
You will have a designated personal tutor who will take a close interest in your academic progress and act as your first contact for general enquiries and troubleshooting. University is a time of great personal development, and sensitive advice and encouragement from your tutor can help you make the best of your time at Nottingham.

Extracurricular opportunities
We encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities open to you at Nottingham. The student-run Politics Society provides a great way to get to know the people around you through trips, socials and sports teams.

The society organises visits from distinguished political figures and an annual summer ball, as well as trips to key locations in Europe, the USA and the UK, including Westminster.

How will I be assessed?
We use a variety of different challenges and types of assessment, including exams, essays, verbal presentations and projects. Each unit is assessed separately, so there are no daunting final exams.

You will be given a copy of our marking criteria which provides guidance on how your work is assessed. Your work will be marked in a timely manner and you will receive feedback on the tasks you are given.

Your final degree classification will be based on marks gained for your second and subsequent years of study.

Watch lecturers talk about some of the modules on offer in our virtual module fair at nottingham.ac.uk/politics/module-fair

nottingham.ac.uk/politics/teaching-learning
Outstanding careers support

Our courses prepare you for a wide range of careers. Many students take an active role in politics throughout their time in the school, and after.

Some of our graduates secure roles in politics and government, while others go into a wide variety of careers, including broadcasting, management, marketing, teaching and converting to law, as well as further study.

Politics is the ideal academic discipline if you are interested in a career in government and each year we run workshops on civil service careers.

93.6% of undergraduates from the School of Politics and International Relations secured work or further study within six months of graduation*

£21,000 was the average starting salary*

Develop through placements
You can arrange a placement with a local or national employer, or undertake an optional placement year as part of your degree programme. Our accredited Politics Placement module includes a guaranteed placement lasting up to 12 weeks and is an option in your second year. Non-accredited term-time and summer placements are also available. We offer support during your time on placement, and pre and post-placement workshops. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/politics/careers

Recent graduate destinations:
■ BBC
■ Citibank
■ House of Commons
■ Unison

“During my placement I got a real insight into the process behind the statistics that appear in our newspapers every day.”

Emma Levin, BA Politics and Economics student who interned with the Electoral Reform Society

Amplify your potential
Whether you already have a plan or need some inspiration, your Careers and Employability Service is here to help.

Academic excellence and employability go hand in hand at Nottingham. Your course, and the diverse student experiences we offer, will enable you to develop the skills and professional competencies required to thrive in the job market of the future.

We will help you explore your options, so you feel confident making choices about what you want to achieve. Our team will support you as you build your CV, search for jobs, prepare applications, practise your interview technique, and much more. If you would like to take a year out in industry, you can add an optional placement year to your course which will be included on your degree certificate.

Get the Advantage
The career-enhancing Nottingham Advantage Award recognises and rewards your extracurricular activities. With a choice of over 200 modules, you can hone the key skills employers are looking for.

From developing your leadership skills and learning a language to public speaking and volunteering, you will leave university with demonstrable experience that sets you apart from other graduates. For further information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

* Known destinations of full-time home undergraduates who were available for work 2016/17. Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.
How to apply

All applications for full-time undergraduate study at Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS.

You can apply online at ucas.com and will be notified of decisions through UCAS Track.

Your personal statement
This is the section of your UCAS form that tells us most about you, and you should make the best use of it. Be as specific and detailed as you can – we would like to see that you are a student who can work hard, be self-motivated and make the best possible use of the opportunities that our courses offer you. We would also like to hear about any skills you have gained through extracurricular activities.

Minimum entry requirements
Unless otherwise stated in individual course profiles, all UK applicants should have GCSE English grade 4 (C) as a minimum.

Alternative qualifications
In this brochure you will find our A level and International Baccalaureate entry requirements but we accept a much broader range of qualifications. For more details, visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Flexible admissions policy
In recognition of our applicants’ varied experience and educational pathways, we employ a flexible admissions policy. If we judge that your situation has adversely affected your achievement, then we will consider this when assessing your academic potential.

In 2020/21 the University will provide a generous bursary scheme to support lower-income students.* For details see nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport. *To eligible home fee status students.

Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature students, who are defined as 21 years old and over. You should apply through UCAS. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/mature

International applicants
The University provides a range of information and advice for international applicants. If you are unable to attend an open day, we can meet you in your country at one of our overseas events or arrange an individual visit to the University. For further information please visit nottingham.ac.uk/international

Deferred entry
Applicants who wish to defer their entry by a year will not be at a disadvantage. Please tell us something about your plans for your gap year in your UCAS personal statement.

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, socio-economic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

If you wish to declare a disability, please ensure that you have ticked the appropriate box on your UCAS application form. Disclosure of this information will not affect your application.

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Accommodation
to suit every budget and personal choice
nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Experience it

At least 15 minutes by tram or bus from the city for music, food and shopping
nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

Around
Student Service Centres on all UK campuses for support and advice
nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

Choose from
300+ clubs, societies and opportunities
su.nottingham.ac.uk

Live and study abroad as part of your degree
nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/studyabroad

300+

Join in with the vibrant musical life on campus and in the city
nottingham.ac.uk/music/performance

Sports University of the Year 2019*
with over 70 student sports clubs
nottingham.ac.uk/sport


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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/ugstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.