

# Study politics in the UK

## Where can I study politics in the UK?

You can study political science at a wide range of universities across the UK, including three of the ten best in the world – University of Oxford (second), London School of Economics and Political Science (fifth) and University of Cambridge (seventh).<sup>1</sup> With a long history of political innovation, it's an excellent place to begin your political studies, with a long tradition of academic and civic leadership.

## How long does it take to graduate?

The modular structure of UK degrees generally makes them a lot more compact than many other countries, so you can enter the workforce more quickly. Typically, an undergraduate political science degree (usually BA or BSc) will take three years, while postgraduate degrees are usually one or two.

## What is the course structure?

UK politics degrees are typically structured around core and optional modules. Undergraduate degrees usually begin with foundational topics before offering more specialised pathways in later years. Postgraduate programmes allow you to specialise, and courses often include independent research, group discussions, and assessment through essays, exams, and a final dissertation.

## What will I study?

Your studies may include political theory, comparative politics, public policy, international relations, and political philosophy. Many programmes also offer options in media and politics, human rights, environmental governance, or political economy. You'll examine current global issues while developing research and argumentation skills, supported by seminars, lectures, and case study analysis.

## Why is the UK a good choice to study politics?

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<sup>1</sup> [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

The UK is home to the world's first elected parliament, and our political history has helped to inform approaches to democracy and government around the globe. It's also helped to enshrine an exceptional culture of political teaching right across the country.

No matter what has been happening in the UK politically, the world has always paid close attention and it's ensured that UK politics graduates are highly valued for their analytical skills and global outlook.

## Are there any scholarships for studying politics?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study politics in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding) and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

## What are my work options after I graduate?

A UK politics degree prepares you for diverse roles in government, NGOs, think tanks, consultancy, media, and international organisations. Graduates also go into policy research, public affairs, and journalism.

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate, master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

Find out more about studying politics in the UK and search for a course, visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org)