Has there ever been a better time to study Politics? From the politics of energy to climate change, the politics of migration to globalisation, and democratic accountability to the politics of self-identity, questions of power, representation, and protest loom large. Traditional party politics creaks under the weight of social transformation, while longstanding left-right allegiances are challenged by the rise of populism, nationalist sentiment and multiculturalism. These modern challenges require political responses that address their here-and-now demands with policies, programmes and answers of immediate relevance to the concerns of today. The study of Politics here at Lancaster examines the contemporary political processes, arguments and compromises through which these challenges are met, denied or avoided.

The nuts and bolts of politics occurs at local, national and regional levels. Your studies at Lancaster will therefore include analysis and exploration of UK domestic party-politics and policy, as well as the politics of nations such as the USA, China and Russia and regional contexts such as Latin America and the EU. You’ll be equipped with the theories, concepts and approaches through which politics is academically engaged and understood, as well as gaining applied knowledge of how politics takes place on the ground.

No matter what your ultimate career goals, studying Politics at Lancaster will give you the skills necessary to analyse and confront the political complexities of the modern world. You’ll have the opportunity, via work-based learning on our Richardson Institute Internship Programme, or a placement year, to gain experience which will prepare you for your future career and to develop skills that will make you more employable. You’ll also have opportunities to travel abroad, visiting countries you could be studying as part of your degree, either for short-term visits or as year-long study abroad options.

Many of our students choose to combine the study of Politics with International Relations, and many with other subjects such as Philosophy, Economics, or History. We hope that this booklet provides useful material to inform your own choice, but if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

#7 for Politics
Times Good University Guide 2019

#3 for Politics graduate careers
Guardian University Guide 2020

Find your future career

You will be able to gain real work experience on our degrees through opportunities in all years of study.

Internships
We are home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. Each year the Institute offers over 60 internships to our students to undertake research projects for external organisations.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects with heritage or humanitarian organisations.

Placements
You can take a placement year with many of our degree programmes. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Work experience is integrated into the curriculum in elective modules. ‘Politics Employability and Engagement through Outreach’ involves working with sixth form students and alumni who work in NGOs, the media, politics and the civil service.

Graduate destinations
A Politics degree provides you with knowledge andtransferable skills relevant to a range of different future careers. We will help you determine your direction and support you in getting there. We do this by offering subject-specific support from academic tutors and specialist careers advisers. Our online module ‘Kick start your career’ is designed specifically for Politics and International Relations students.

Employers look for clear thinking, broad vision, independence, the capacity to locate and analyse problems and exercise judgement in their solution. It is also very useful to be able to present information lucidly and argue effectively for favoured courses of action. Our graduates find that their analytical and organisational skills, plus their ability to achieve insights into problems, are greatly valued by employers in many areas, including:

- Teaching
- Journalism
- Corporate planning
- Civil service
- International charities
- International business and finance

Careers service
We offer life-long careers support for our students. Our career advisers are available to support you with subject-specific careers guidance, as well as job application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extra-curricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/careers
Your degree
BA (Hons) Politics

Year 1
In your first year, you will be introduced to university-level study of Politics, exploring the discipline’s main subfields while developing your writing skills and analytic abilities. You will study three year-long modules that are equally weighted.

Core Module
Politics in the Modern World
You’ll be introduced to key themes in the study of modern politics, and gain critical insight into the nature and use of political power in the contemporary world. You will learn about: the foundations of the modern nation-state, and the ways in which our institutions can reflect or fail to meet the ideals of liberal democracy; the behaviour of individuals and groups in political contexts; the workings of national constitutions and international organisations; the interaction of global events and domestic agendas.

Areas of study will typically include:
+ Political Theory: the study of the scope, nature, and justification of state authority, and the history of political thought.
+ British Politics: the study of the theory, and political reality, of British governance in the twenty-first century.
+ Comparative Politics: the study of the various institutions of the nation-state, in a comparative context.
+ Ideologies: the study of political ideologies such as (neo-)liberalism, (neo-)conservatism, socialism, and fascism, their cohesiveness and social/political function.
+ Political Behaviour: the study of the ways in which agents and groups engage with politics in the age of mass and social-media.
+ Politics and Religion: the study of the relevance of religion to politics in contemporary society.
+ Politics in a Global World: the study of the influence of global movements and events on domestic and international politics.

Because of the increasing interdependence of the national and global, domestic politics and international relations can no longer be properly understood in isolation from one another. To ensure the best possible foundation for a degree in Politics, in first year, we strongly recommend you also take International Relations: Theory and Practice.

Recommended Module
International Relations: Theory and Practice
We will introduce you to central aspects of the discipline of international relations, providing a firm grounding in the major concepts and debates necessary to understand the modern world of international politics. You will learn about: the dominant features and power relations of the contemporary global system; the nature of sovereignty and security, their expression and limitations; the real-world problems confronting the international community today.

Areas of study will typically include:
+ International Relations Theory: the study of how relations between states can and should be viewed and theorised, Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Feminism.
+ Regional Studies: the study of key regions of the world, and the politics of their interactions.
+ International Institutions and Law: the international organisations, customs, and rules that govern inter-state relationships.
+ Global Politics and Belief: the study of how religious and ideological belief can shape international politics and the relation of states.
+ International Crises: the study of pressing issues confronting the international community, such as environmental collapse, technological advance, the rise of non-state actors, and terrorism.
+ International Relations and the Domestic: the study of how the domestic agendas can shape and influence international politics.

Optional module
Flexible subject option
You will select a module from a recommended list of options to complement your studies in Politics.

You may wish to complement some of the above with 15-credit International Relations modules:
+ Understanding Liberty: Theory and Practice
+ Power in British Politics: The Role of the Prime Minister
+ Government of the United States
+ European Union Politics
+ The Politics of Race
+ Russian (International) Politics
+ Public Policy

You can read module descriptions online at lancaster.ac.uk/study

Ben Crumpton
Year 3, BA (Hons) Politics and Philosophy

The Department has been a fascinating, welcoming and supportive environment from the beginning of first year to the end of final year. It is staffed by a diverse and friendly team that are always on hand to assist in matters, academic or general, whenever you need help.

Lancaster offers a wide and varied range of modules throughout the degree which are taught with up-to-date research and essential critical insight. During my time at Lancaster, I have had the opportunity to travel to New York and Boston with the department where I was fortunate enough to visit the UN Headquarters along with many other brilliant points of interest.

I have also participated in numerous extra-curricular departmental activities such as research internships and conference assistance. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time studying in the department and I would recommend it to any prospective student wholeheartedly.
Study abroad
Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. At Lancaster, you have the opportunity to study abroad for the whole of your second year, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Our current partner universities are located in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and the USA. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel
Discover a new world in the Easter and Summer vacation periods with our study trips to destinations around the globe. You will return with a CV that truly stands out from the crowd in the increasingly global world of work. During the summer, we typically run one-week trips to European countries, and three-week trips further afield, to destinations such as Malaysia, India and China. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as academic study and cultural discovery.

In the Easter vacation, we currently offer a ten-day trip to New York and Boston in which you join fellow students and lecturers from your faculty to take part in academic, cultural and personal development activities. For example, in 2019, we visited:
+ The Massachusetts State House, where we were given a tour around a major institution of state government.
+ The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, where we discussed U.S. civil rights and J.F.K.’s presidency.
+ The United Nations, where we met with a UN official to discuss their role.
+ The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, where we learnt about the workings of the Senate.
+ The 9/11 Memorial and Museum, where we gained perspective on the impact of 9/11 on the U.S.

Your global experience
Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and 144 partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your students’ union.

Study abroad
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Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Year 3
At third year level, we offer specialist modules on topics such as race, human rights, the media, and political violence, as well as in-depth study of the political contexts and systems of Britain, the US, and other regions.

You can choose eight modules, or combine six modules with a dissertation. Here are the 15-credit modules currently offered:
+ Britain in the World
+ Race and American Politics
+ Contemporary Issues in Human Rights
+ Politics Employability and Engagement Through Outreach
+ Politics of Cultural Diversity
+ Media, Religion and Politics
+ Counterculture and Protest Politics
+ Religion and Violence
+ Politics of Global Danger
+ Religion and Politics
+ Islamic Politics
+ Africa and Global Politics
+ International Political Economy of Globalization
+ Indian Politics, Society and Religion
+ Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
+ Complexity, Pragmatism and Policy

Dissertation
You will have the opportunity to undertake a 10,000-word dissertation; this is a sustained investigation on a politics subject that interests you. This develops your employability and research skills, as well as your ability to work independently, with input from an academic supervisor. We offer options to complete a dissertation with field studies (potentially incorporating an international study trip), or with external collaboration (for example, via our Richardson Institute internship programme) to enhance your ability to reflect on the impact of academic work.

We currently also offer the ‘PPR in India’ dissertation option where you join the three-week Global Experiences trip to India the summer vacation before Year 3. The programme includes daily excursions and cultural activities. On your return to Lancaster, you write a dissertation on an aspect of contemporary Indian life.

Joint major students
For joint and triple major students, you will study core and optional modules in your second and third subjects in approximately equal weightings through all years of study. Find out more online: lancaster.ac.uk/study

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered may therefore differ from that presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, following consultation with students and institutional approval, and in response to curricular developments and the emerging needs of the student body. Please check our website for the latest information.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience
## Degrees and entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Degree length</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>L200</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 years</td>
<td>L201</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<td>Politics with Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law with Politics</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
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<td>AAB</td>
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</table>

### Placement year and study abroad degrees

You can complete a placement year with many of our degree schemes. Joint degrees with French, German or Spanish Studies have a compulsory International Placement Year which can be spent working in a professional role, or studying at a partner university. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

You can apply for a study abroad year when you arrive at Lancaster. On our 3-year study abroad degrees you spend Year 2 studying at one of our international partner universities. If you apply for the Politics (Study Abroad) degree you will be guaranteed a study abroad year. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

### Get in touch

Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion (PPR)
Lancaster University
Lancaster, LA1 4YL
lancaster.ac.uk/politics
Speak to a student: lancaster.ac.uk/chat
E: ppr@lancaster.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)1524 594260
@PPRLancaster

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: lancaster.ac.uk/study

Gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2017

The University makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing (June 2019). Please see lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice for further information.