

Lancaster
University



Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Undergraduate Degrees 2027



Welcome

BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) explores the events and ideas that make up our world today.

Our personal lives, our societies and our political institutions are shaped by economic forces. Politics structures economic activity, while trade crosses international borders. And both our political and economic structures also raise a host of deeper philosophical questions – about fairness and freedom, power and knowledge, sustainability and progress and, ultimately, about the values which we want to see instantiated in our societies. This degree gives you the opportunity to work on these deeply connected areas, considering the questions that connect them, and the real-world implications of answers to these questions.



Each of the subjects offers the chance to develop both new knowledge and new, highly sought-after, skills:

- Through studying economics, you will learn how to interpret data, understand (and quantify) the decisions made by individuals, organisations, and governments regarding the production, distribution and allocation of resources, and evaluate economic policies.
- Through studying politics, you will gain insight into and critically explore the impacts of political institutions in modern societies, public policy, inequality within and between states, governmental interference and power, and domestic and international politics.
- Through studying philosophy, you will develop skills in critical engagement, analysis and argumentation while exploring fundamental questions regarding truth, knowledge and our individual and collective obligations towards others.

Throughout your degree you will learn from experts who are shaping the contemporary landscape of academic discourse and public policy across a broad range of areas of studies.

In politics our staff regularly collaborate with government bodies such as the UK Parliament on important issues such as racial injustice, voter rights, and migration. In philosophy our academics have given evidence and directly impacted policy on media ethics and regulation, education, reproductive rights, and organ donation. Our economics team includes experts in the critical sub-fields of environmental economics, behavioural economics, macroeconomics, econometrics, public policy and game theory.

Studying PPE at Lancaster, you'll develop a deeper understanding of how governing institutions and markets work, and how to confront the pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century. As you progress through your studies, you will develop the skills to feel confident in increasingly independent study and work, exploring the ways in which you may use your own emerging expertise and insights from each discipline to help shape the future of the social and political structures we all live within.



Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Philosophy, Politics and Economics		BA Hons	L0V0	3	AAB
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Placement Year)		BA Hons	L0V1	4	AAB
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Study Abroad)		BA Hons	L0V2	4	AAB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements lancaster.ac.uk

Economics modules will be taught by Lancaster University Management School, one of just a handful of triple crown business schools that hold accreditation with AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA, the most influential business school accreditation bodies.





Made for *learning*

Our approach throughout your degree is to support you to develop the skills, tools and knowledge required to navigate and shape an increasingly complex and challenging world.

In this course, you'll explore philosophical arguments, analyse political structures, and engage with economic models. You'll gain a better understanding of our world, as well as developing your critical and reasoning skills and abilities to communicate clearly and articulately.

The broad scope of this programme means you can study ethics and society, political institutions and financial markets.

We use a range of teaching methods and learning activities that are appropriate for the wide variety of subject-knowledge and skills that you will develop throughout your degree:

- Lectures provide structured overviews of the core theories, concepts and debates across politics, philosophy, and economics. They will introduce you to core ideas and help you to understand how different disciplines approach complex questions and demonstrate philosophical reasoning, economic analysis and political critique in action.
- Discussion seminars and workshops provide you with the opportunity to explore topics in greater depth and develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. You will actively engage with materials alongside your peers and subject experts in a supportive and collaborative environment.
- One-to-one meetings with your academic advisor, small group tutorials and various forms of assessment as you progress through your studies provide you with the opportunity to develop key skills, build confidence and clarify your understanding.
- Dedicated online programme and module pages for your degree provide all core learning materials, and a wide variety of additional written, AV, and interactive resources tailored to the topics and skills you are engaged with.
- Regular feedback and assessment provide you with the opportunity to both showcase and develop your interdisciplinary and subject-based skills throughout your degree. These include both traditional essay and exam-based assessments alongside innovative and creative assessment methods which seek to reflect the diverse ways in which individuals learn and apply knowledge in their everyday lives.



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*I'm passionate
about the
international
political
economy.*

”



James, third year

**BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and
Economics**

I'm a third year Lancaster University student studying philosophy, politics, and economics. I've enjoyed my degree course and time at university here largely because of the options and flexibility that have been provided to me. On my course I was provided with loads of elective modules which had a huge variety for me to branch out into.

In terms of social life there are loads of events, challenges, and societies to get stuck into. Because of the modules I got to pick in my second year I've found I'm passionate about the international political economy and the economics of underdevelopment. I would say for me, my favourite part about Lancaster is the campus and the surrounding nature (especially in summer!)





Your global *experience*

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

Vacation travel

You can also discover the world during your vacations. Our Global Experiences team run vacation travel trips to Malaysia which include a mix of academic study and cultural discovery. These trips range from cultural exchanges to studying sustainable practices with world leading experts.

Overseas summer schools

During summer vacation, you can apply to attend a summer school at one of our international partner universities all around the world. Destinations are varied – from Singapore to Italy, Hong Kong to Canada. Explore where you could go: lancaster.ac.uk/overseas-summer-schools

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

Follow us on Instagram [@GlobalLancaster](https://www.instagram.com/GlobalLancaster)



“
*The
opportunity
to study
politics in
the U.S.
has been
invaluable.*
”



Harriet, recent graduate

BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Studying abroad in St. Louis gave me a huge confidence boost. While I've always been a people person and enjoyed solo travel, living in a new country challenged me in ways I hadn't expected. Figuring out a place to live and all the problems that arise with renting, transportation, healthcare, and balancing education with exploration have made me much more self-assured.

Academically, the opportunity to study politics in the U.S. has been invaluable. Being based in St. Louis allowed me to explore how structural racism, rooted in historical segregation, continues to shape contemporary society. Through both coursework and an internship aimed at reducing racial literacy disparities, I gained insight that deeply influenced my academic focus and inspired the topic for my dissertation. It has also helped shape the direction of my future career in social policy and advocacy. I was mostly expecting a long holiday with a little bit of work but ended up thriving academically because I loved my subjects.

Perhaps most unexpectedly, I developed a deeper appreciation for place. Missouri is often overlooked as a 'flyover state' but is actually so rich in culture, from blues music and cosy cafés to beautiful parks and the quirky City Museum. I learned that adventure isn't limited to tourist hotspots and that community can be found anywhere, instilling openness to people, places, and purpose.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

BA (Hons)

People, ideas and finances shape our lives and societies. We'll help you understand how that happens, digging into theoretical analysis, and unpicking the complexities and multiple perspectives behind today's political, social, economic and policy challenges.

On this degree, you'll learn how to interpret data, evaluate evidence, present well-structured arguments and critiques, communicate clearly and with confidence, and understand and influence the decisions individuals make. You'll develop a deeper understanding of how governing institutions and markets work, and how to confront the pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century.

Putting this knowledge and skillset into practice, you will be supported in developing your ideas and presenting your work across a range of mediums. After your first year of study, you will have the opportunity to continue with a balanced programme of teaching across the three subjects of the degree, or to focus in on one of your subjects in greater depth (while still studying your other two subjects alongside this).

Depending on the pathway you choose, you will learn through interactive and collaborative sessions such as policy labs, and simulations including mock select committees, mock citizens assembly and mock Prime Minister's Questions. You will work independently and in small groups to critically evaluate philosophical and political ideas, and to develop your own positions. And, to present your work, you could be creating a policy brief, podcast, reflective diary, blog, research portfolio, or policy memo and evaluation, in addition to essays, presentations and more.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Knowledge and Reality in a Complex World

Develop philosophical tools for reasoning and arguing (critical thinking and logic) and discover fundamental philosophical questions about knowledge (epistemology) and the nature of reality (metaphysics).

Political Philosophy: How Should we Live Together?

Explore key questions regarding politics, power, and the arrangement of our collective lives, engaging with critical debates faced by both historical and contemporary communities: what are the boundaries, rights and duties of the state? What do the concepts of justice, freedom, equality, sovereignty, rights and power mean?

Political Theory in a Troubled World

Explore how the history of political thought can help us make sense of contemporary crises such as political instability, economic crises, deepening inequalities, environmental degradation and technological disruptions.

Parties, Populism and Protest

Learn how to analyse highly contemporary political events and trends, and develop the vital critical skills required to be able to put them into context.

Foundations of Microeconomics

A thorough introduction to microeconomics, which is the analysis of economics at the level of the individual or firm. Topics include the theory of demand and supply, costs and pricing, and welfare economics.

Foundations of Macroeconomics

An introduction to the analysis of economics at the aggregate level. Topics covered include national income analysis, monetary theory, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, and the great macroeconomic debates.

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

Your third year is spent in a graduate-level work placement and assessed via assignments reflecting on your experiences.

Year 2

Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and Economics

Explore the philosophical challenges raised by our political and economic systems. What sort of 'things' are concepts like democracy or autocracy, taxation or national debt, power or economic growth? How can we know or measure them? Is it possible to study them without making assumptions about moral values? How do these large-scale political and economic phenomena relate to individual people and their activities?

Depending on the subject pathway you pursue, you will study additional core and optional modules from:

- Philosophy Guided Project
- Applied Philosophy: Decisions that Change the World
- Language, Communication and Knowledge
- Mind, World and Science
- Democracy, Dictatorship and Everything in Between
- Global Superpowers
- Politics of the Global South
- Who Governs Britain? Policy, Politics and Political Change
- Understanding Political Research
- Intermediate Microeconomics
- Intermediate Macroeconomics
- International Business Environment
- Economic Inequality
- Environmental Economics and Climate Change
- Foundations of Econometrics with Professional Development
- Games and Strategic Behaviour

Final Year

Depending on the subject pathway you pursue, you will study additional core and optional modules from:

- Philosophy Independent Project
- Philosophy and Popular Culture
- Textual Explorations in Philosophy
- Questions at the Frontiers of Philosophy
- Philosophy For Times of Global Crisis
- Comparative Political Philosophy
- The Politics of Borders and Migration
- Critical Political Theory
- Democracy Under Pressure
- Europe and America
- Parliamentary Studies
- Politics and International Relations Dissertation
- The Politics of Crises and the Future of Governance
- Behavioural Economics
- Current Issues in Economics
- Econometrics and Data Science in Economics
- Growth and Development
- International Trade and Business
- Labour and Health Economics
- Public Policy Analysis
- Global Macroeconomics and Policy

Careers and *employability*

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance provided via a series of preparatory workshops and 1:1 appointments with our Placements Team.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities in areas such as public affairs, marketing, business development and events. The scheme offers you an opportunity to gain access to direct work experience while you study.



Richardson Institute internships

Our School is home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. Research themes include transnational repression, human rights, conflict resolution, and identity and belonging. The Institute runs an internship programme where you can gain research experience working alongside leading policy and research organisations such as NGOs, think tanks, charities and faith-based organisations. You'll develop analytical skills and put your academic learning into practice in real-world contexts.

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.



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Being in the same room as high-profile international stakeholders was inspirational.

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Jack, recent graduate

School of Global Affairs student

I undertook an internship as a Project Assistant for The International Network Against Accusations of Witchcraft and Associated Harmful Practices (TINAAWAHP) Conference.

Working with Lancaster University researchers on this project, I learnt a lot about the ongoing fight for human rights globally and the legal challenges faced in certain hotspots of witchcraft-related harm. Many stories heard were harrowing, but it was reassuring to hear - and meet - those who are dedicated to changing things.

I gained skills in administration and using MS Word and Excel in professional contexts. I was tasked with emailing all delegates to chase up outstanding information for the conference. Keeping a check as to which information I had received from who, as well as sending formal emails, was a great professional experience to gain.

This was also one of the first times that I had communicated with high-profile individuals. Changing communication techniques (such as addressing everyone with their full title, for instance) soon became the norm when contacting or speaking to the conference delegates. My communications skills have developed a lot!

The conference itself was an eye-opening day. Being in the same room as high-profile international stakeholders on this issue (such as UN delegates, barristers and human rights advocates from around the globe) was inspirational.



lancaster.ac.uk/ppe

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.