Get to know

POLITICAL STUDIES

Politics is about power – who has it and how it is exercised by nation-states, individuals, groups, classes, or political parties, and how different interests are reconciled in and between communities. Political science is also concerned with institutions created to govern communities, as well as practices such as voting habits or protests, and how rules, behaviour and culture are created in societies. And since power in society is often dependent upon material resources, political scientists study the distribution of wealth, both within and between nations.

Students sharpen their debating skills at the Queen’s Model Parliament; they discuss international issues at the Queen’s Model UN or with the Queen’s International Affairs Association. Politics at Queen’s extends past the classroom.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

There are courses that focus on national politics such as Canadian Government, Mass Media and Politics in Canada, First Nations Politics and Politics in Quebec. And there are courses that look at politics in a global context such as International Politics, Middle East Politics, American Government, The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, and The United Nations. Then there are courses that focus on the process such as Comparative Politics: Democracy and Democratization, Law and the Governmental Process, Citizenship and Non-Citizenship, Elections, Public Opinion, and International Relations: Questions & Challenges.

“Queen’s Political Studies is widely recognized as one of the premier political studies departments in Canada.”

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Arts (General)

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Secondyear School prerequisites include Six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exporation, and while you settle into university life, you have the chance to work with our advisors and faculty to uncover where your real interests and opportunities for success are. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year will be a great experience at Queen’s.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
Political Studies MAJOR MAP

1ST YEAR
- Take POLS 110.
- For details on plan requirements or thresholds, see the Arts and Science website. Speak with an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help.

2ND YEAR
- Take POLS 250. If planning to go on exchange in third year, consider taking POLS 384 or 385 this year. Review prerequisites for taking 300 and 400-level courses. Consult the Political Studies home page for other required POLS courses.
- Find more information on plan requirements see the Arts and Science website.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
- If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.
- Consider running for office in student government (AJUS, AMS). If interested, apply to positions in local and provincial government.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
- Take your 4th year seminars and/or Honours Thesis. Complete POLS 384 and 385 if you have not yet done so already.
- Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
- Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen's Model UN Team and the Queen's Debating Union (QDU). Consider joining an on-campus political party (Conservative, Liberal, NDP, Green).
- Apply to be a 1st year intern with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the CCOD or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations, such as the Queen's International Affairs Association (QIAA).
- Participate in events such as Queen's Model Parliament (QMP), Queen's Model UN (QMUN) and Queen's Model Court (QMOC). Volunteer with The Journal, Queen's student-run newspaper.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
- The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
- Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Careers in International Affairs. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

Where could I go after graduation?
- Advertising
- Broadcasting
- Business administration and management
- Campaign management
- Communications
- Consumer services
- Diplomatic service
- Editing
- Education
- Environmental management
- Events management
- Foreign affairs
- Fundraising
- Government
- Human resources
- Intelligence analysis
- International development
- International trade
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing and communications
- Media – electronic and print
- Media analysis
- Public affairs
- Public health
- Public policy, administration and service
- Public relations
- Research
- Social work
- Speech writing
- Urban and regional planning

Caution: *This map is meant as a guide to provide suggestions throughout your university career. The activities, resources, and careers mentioned are possibilities – you are not restricted to them and you don't have to follow this exact timeline. Every person (including you!) will find their own unique path through their degree at Queen's and beyond.

For details on plan requirements or thresholds, see the Arts and Science website. Speak with an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormap.html for the online version with links!
How to use this map

- Got questions about careers and classes?
- Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
- Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen’s.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

**WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?**

In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

**HOW DO I GET THE SKILLS I NEED?**

It is important to develop a balanced skill set – many of which you will develop during your studies. To stand out, take advantage of experiential learning through the multitude of clubs and activities in and around Queen’s. Check out the Get Relevant Experience section of this map.

**WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING POLITICAL STUDIES AT QUEEN’S?**

- Knowledge - identify patterns in current affairs based on understanding of different political systems and cultures
- Oral and written communication - write clear, succinct briefing notes and reports, and give engaging, effective presentations
- Research - use knowledge of different research domains in politics to find reliable sources of information and to organize the investigation of a problem
- Problem solving – apply different theoretical perspectives (qualitative and quantitative) to reveal multiple dimensions of an issue
- Resource and time management – manage multiple long-term projects
- Logical reasoning – analyze concepts and assess arguments used in debates about law and policy

**WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?**

No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.