**Political Studies**

**MAJOR MAP**

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like career or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

**Succeed in the workplace**

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

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

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying POLITICAL STUDIES?

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

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city ‘the happiest place on the planet.’ Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America, your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily.’

**Get to know POLITICAL STUDIES**

Politics is about power – who has it, how it is exercised by nation-states, individuals, groups, classes, or political parties, and how different interests are reconciled in and between communities. Political Studies 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 beyond the classroom.

Degree PLANS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Major/Media/Minor in Political Studies / Major in PPE Internship option available

**Queen’s ADMISSION**

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUA (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary 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. Visit queensu.ca/admission for additional information regarding requirements and admission to Queen’s.

**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.

That is a degree from Queen’s.

**Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global.**

That is a degree from Queen’s.

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

**A Year to CHOOSE**

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.

**Queens University**

Faculty of Arts and Science
Mackintosh-Corry Hall C321
68 University Avenue
613-533-6220
queensu.ca/politics
**Political Studies MAJOR MAP**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, MEDIAL, MINOR**

*If you’re interested in the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Specialization, please see the Major Map for that program.*

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### 1ST YEAR

- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - In first year take POLS 110.
  - Build your transferable skills in time management, problem solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success 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.
  - Apply to be a 1st year intern with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the CDOD 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 (QUN) and Queen’s Model Court (QMC). Volunteer with The Journal, Queen’s student-run newspaper.

- **GET THINKING GLOBALY**
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
  - Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

- **GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
  - Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

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### 2ND YEAR

- In second year take POLS 250 and 200-level POLS option courses. If planning to go on exchange in third year, consider taking POLS 394 or 385 this year. Review prerequisites for taking 300 and 400-level courses. Consult the Political Studies homepage for other required POLS courses.
- Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

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### 3RD YEAR

- In third year take POLS 384 and 385 and 300-level POLS option courses.
- Consider writing an Honours Undergraduate Thesis next year. In May, submit preferences for 400-level courses for next year.
- Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

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### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- Take your 4th year seminars and/or Honours Thesis. Complete POLS 384 and 385 if you have not, in your final year, done so already.
- By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.
- Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and Canadian Public Relations Society.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Politics.

- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
- International students interested in staying in Canada after graduation should apply to graduate in SOLUS.
- Consider planning for the year after graduation. Some careers may require additional training.

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### 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

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*This map is intended to provide suggestions for potential activities and career paths, but everyone’s abilities, experience, and constraints are different. Build your own map using our online My Major Map tool.*

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!