

# 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 Studies is also concerned with the institutions created to govern communities, as well as with political practices such as voting habits or protests, and how rules, behaviours, and cultures are created in societies. Since power in society is often dependent upon material resources, political scientists also study the distribution of wealth, both within and between nations.

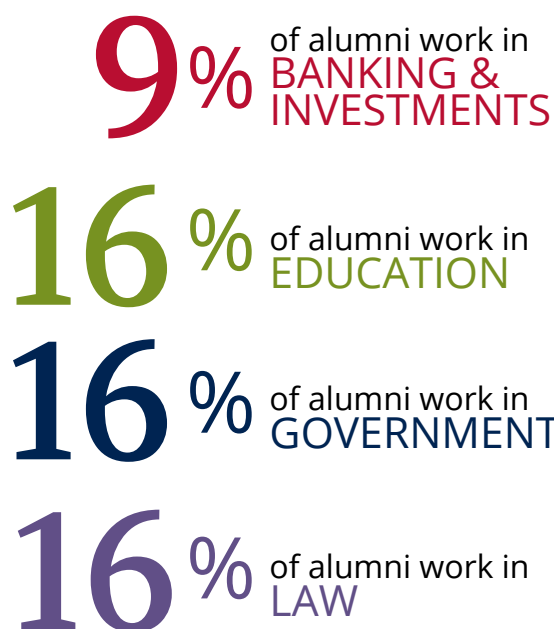
## TOP 5 REASONS to study POLITICS

- 1 Course topics examine facets of political theory as well as national and international
- 2 Learn to think critically about the distribution of power and resources.
- 3 Diverse group of faculty and teaching fellows who are leading experts in their respective fields.
- 4 Learn how ideological and physical distributions inform systems of governance, political behaviour, and public policies.
- 5 Students are encouraged to consider taking part in an exchange program in their third year.

### Alumni Story

Erin Tolley earned her PhD from Queen's in 2013. She is currently working on a book which examines how race affects the media's portrayal of candidates in Canadian politics. Her article, "Do Women 'Do Better' in Municipal Politics? Representation Across Three Levels of Government" appeared in the Canadian Journal of Political Science.

## TOP ALUMNI JOBS



add a **CERTIFICATE**

- Data Analytics
- Disability and Physical Activity
- Geographic Information Science
- Indigenous Languages and Cultures
- International Studies
- Sexual and Gender Diversity
- Urban Planning Studies

## 2024-25 Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit [quartsci.com/planselection](https://quartsci.com/planselection)

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Learn what opportunities and resources are available for you on the [Experiential Learning website](https://quartsci.com/experiential-learning). You can also reach out to the team directly at [asc.el@queensu.ca](mailto:asc.el@queensu.ca).

[QUartsci.com/certs](https://quartsci.com/certs)

## Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global.

That is a degree from Queen's.

[queensu.ca/politics](https://queensu.ca/politics)

# Political Studies MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

## 1ST YEAR

## 2ND YEAR

## 3RD YEAR

## 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

### GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

In first year, you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Political Studies along with some electives.  
Attend [Majors Night](#) in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.  
Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take [ASCX 150](#) and develop future-ready skills!

Start going deeper into the discipline of Political Studies, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as [Global Action and Engagement](#). Learn more about [Certificates](#) and [Internship](#) options.  
Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit [SASS \(Student Academic Support Services\)](#) and the Writing Centre for some help.

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Political Studies. Meet with an [Academic Advisor](#) to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to [Graduate School](#) or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

### GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as the [Queen's Pre-Law Society](#) and [Queen's Debating Union \(QDU\)](#). Consider joining an on-campus political party.  
Apply to be a [1<sup>st</sup> year intern](#) with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#) for more ideas.

Look into [summer jobs](#) by talking to the department or Career Services about work through [SWEP](#) or [Work-Study](#).  
Consider applying to positions in student services or the [Alma Mater Society](#). Write an article for publications related to politics such as [Politicus](#) or [Inquire](#).

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; or a [one semester unpaid internship](#), for credit, with one of the department's internship partners.  
Consider running for office in student government (ASUS, AMS).

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.

### GET ENGAGED 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 \(QMP\)](#) and [Queen's Model UN \(QMUN\)](#). Volunteer with [The Journal](#), Queen's student-run newspaper.

Get involved with the Political Studies Department Student Council (DSC).  
Continue volunteering at clubs and extracurriculars. Consider contributing to University affairs by applying to serve on Arts and Science Faculty and University Senate Committees. Attend the annual [Women in International Security](#) conference.

Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group [Queen's Connects](#). Check out Career Services [networking workshops](#). Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.  
Attend talks in departmental speaker series. Help organize QMP, QMUN, or related conferences.

Consider joining professional associations like [Canadian Institute of Global Affairs](#) and [Canadian Public Relations Society](#).  
Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Politics.

### GET ENGAGED GLOBALLY

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.

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to [study abroad](#). Apply in January for a third year exchange through [the International Programs Office](#).  
Consider taking a language course as an elective.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills with [QUIC](#).

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an [International Student Advisor](#).

### GET CAREER READY

Grappling with program decisions? Go to [Majors Night](#) or get some help [wondering about career options](#) from Career Services.

Explore different careers of interest in the Career Services [Information Area](#). For more information check out [Career Cruising](#) or by finding and connecting with alumni on [LinkedIn](#).

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GRE) and get [help thinking about Grad School](#) from Career Services.

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with [job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications](#), or other decisions.  
Apply in the fall for [SSHRC](#) and [OGS](#) scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

CONSIDER A 12 MONTH QCA:K APPRENTICESHIP

### Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A degree in Political Studies can equip you with:

- 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 to reveal multiple dimensions of an issue
- Resource and time management to manage multiple long-term projects
- Logical reasoning to analyze concepts and assess arguments in law and policy

### Career Possibilities

A degree in Political Studies can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master's. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Campaign management
- Diplomatic service
- Foreign affairs
- Human resources
- International trade
- Public relations
- Research
- Social work

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

### 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.

# Political Studies



Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers 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. Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the [Student Affairs website](#) for available resources.



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[queensu.ca/politics](http://queensu.ca/politics)

# QUIP QUEEN'S UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**START DATES**  
in May, September,  
or January

**POSITIONS**  
are paid and  
full-time

**WORK TERMS**  
are 12-16 months  
long

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Graduate with a "Professional Internship" degree
- Learn about current advances, practices and technologies in business and industry.
- Test drive a career, earn a competitive salary, and get real world experience.

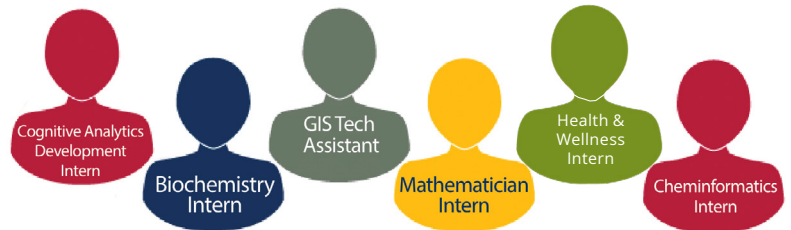
## ELIGIBILITY

- 2nd or 3rd Year Students
- Minimum GPA of 1.9

## WHY QUIP?

- Gain a year of career-related work experience.
- Build network connections.
- Receive support from Queen's staff in job search and during internship.

## SAMPLE PAST INTERNSHIPS



For more information, contact [quip@queensu.ca](mailto:quip@queensu.ca) or visit the [Program Website](#).

## Why study in Kingston?

Since 1841, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen's has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen's has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen's – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.

*We're closer than you think.*

