

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.

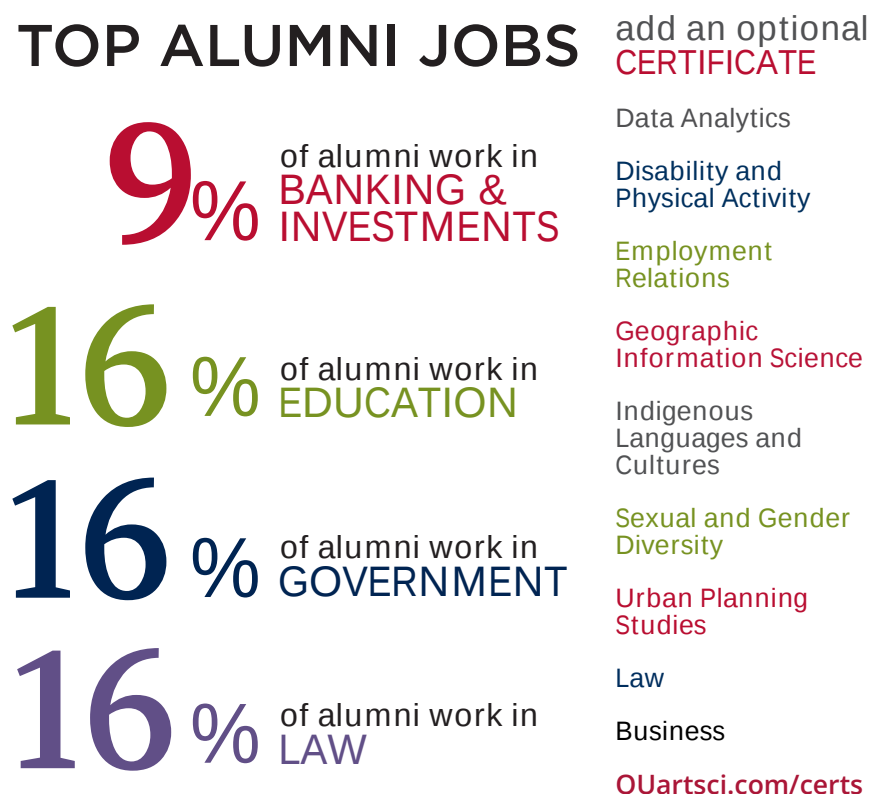
TOP 5 Reasons to Study POLITICS

- 1 Course topics examine facets of political theory as well as national and international politics
- 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



2026-27 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

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Check in with your department to learn more about what opportunities and resources are available for you!

Political Studies MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS: HONOURS DEGREE (SPECIALIZATION/MAJOR/MINOR) OR GENERAL DEGREE



CONSIDER A QUIP INTERNSHIP

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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Mackintosh-Corry Hall E208
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613-533-6230
queensu.ca/politics

QUIP

QUEEN'S UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

START DATES

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.

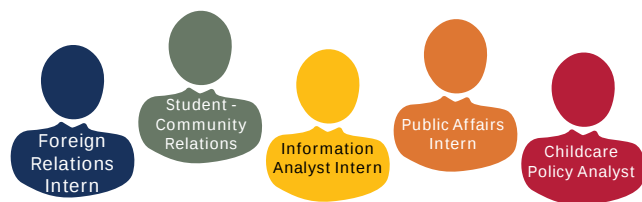
ELIGIBILITY

- Complete 1st year before you register
- Complete 2nd or 3rd year before your internship
- Minimum GPA of 1.9
- Return to Queen's after your internship to finish your degree

WHY QUIP?

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

Sample Past Internships



For more information, contact 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.

