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.

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 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.

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

9% of alumni work in BANKING & INVESTMENTS
16% of alumni work in EDUCATION
16% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT
16% of alumni work in LAW

2023-24 Plan Thresholds

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Alumni Story

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For 175 years, 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.