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.

Political Studies

Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global. That is a degree from Queen’s.
Political Studies MAJOR MAP *

1ST YEAR
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.

2ND YEAR
Start going deeper into the discipline of Political Studies, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Global Action and Engagement. Attend Degree + in the Fall term to 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.

3RD YEAR
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.

4TH OR FINAL 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).

What will I learn?
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 (qualitative and quantitative) 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 used in debates about law and policy

Where can I go?
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 in careers such as:
- 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.

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

© Career Services, Queen's University, 2021-2022

The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2021-2022. Please check directly with the host of any activities on the map for the latest information.

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Major Map using our online My Major Map tool.
Why study in Kingston?
For over 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.