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.

Alumni Story
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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

2022-23 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

That is a degree from Queen’s.
queensu.ca/politics
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.

**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 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.

**MAJOR MAP**

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

**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.

**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 3-4 year intern with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the 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) and Queen's Model UN (QMUN). Volunteer with The Journal/Queen's student-run newspaper.

**GET THINKING 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.

**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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**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 Majors Night in the Fall term to learn more about certificates and internship options.
- Want to make sure your academic career is 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.

- Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through WiSE or Work-Study.
- Consider applying to positions in student services or the King's Matter Society. Write an article for publications related to politics such as Politicus or Inquire.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

- In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Grad 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).

- 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 Canadian Institute of Global Affairs and Canadian Public Relations Society.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Politics.

- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

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Why study in Kingston?

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.