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.

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

2020-21 major thresholds

- 2.5 cGPA AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE min B in POLS110
- 1.9 cGPA PENDING LIST

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

Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global. That is a degree from Queen’s.
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 THE COURSES YOU NEED

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 1st year intern with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the CCOD or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

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 THINKING GLOBALLY

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.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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.

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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.

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GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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

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.

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship 3rd year 4th or final year
If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship when your third and fourth year.

Consider running for office in student government (US, AMS). If interested, apply to positions in local or provincial government.

Targeted networking with alumni working in areas of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects. Check out Career Services working workshops. Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

End talks in departmental speaker series. Help anize QMP, QMUN, or related conferences.

Id your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or proving your language skills with QUIC.

Con sider a 12-16 month QUIP internship
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.

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.

* 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.