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.

1. **1ST YEAR**
   - POLS 110/6.0
   - 24.0 units of electives

2. **2ND YEAR**
   - POLS 250/6.0
   - 12.0 units of POLS Options
   - 12.0 units of electives and/or minor

3. **3RD YEAR**
   - POLS 384/3.0
   - POLS 385/3.0
   - 12.0 units from POLS at the 400 level or above, POLS_Sub
   - 12.0 units of electives and/or minor

4. **4TH YEAR**
   - 18.0 units from POLS at the 400 level or above, POLS Options
   - 24.0 units of electives and/or minor

Note that degree requirements are revised regularly. The most current requirements, including course lists and options, are found in the Academic Calendar at: [QUartsci.com/academic-calendar](http://QUartsci.com/academic-calendar)
1ST YEAR

In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Political Studies along with some electives.

See the back page for specific courses to consider.

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 Model UN Team and the 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 CCDO or 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), Queen’s Model UN (QMUN) and Queen’s Model Court (QMC). 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.

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.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study.

Consider applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society. Write an article for publications related to politics such as Politicus or Inquire.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

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 Queen’s Media and Journalism Conference (QMJC).

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

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.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Careers in International Affairs. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

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 — for some ideas, see the back page.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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.

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

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

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

Attend talks in departmental speaker series. Help organize QMJ, QMUN, QMC or QMJC.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests like the LSAT or GRE and get help thinking about Grad School from Career Services.

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).

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Consider joining professional associations like Canadian Institute of International Affairs and Canadian Public Relations Society.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Politics.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Consider running for office in student government (DSC).

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

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

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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 OSG scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

What will I learn?

A degree in Political Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

• 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.