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.
GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

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.

2ND YEAR
- Start going deeper into the discipline of Political Studies, while considering a minor or certificate such as Global Action and Engagement.
- Attend Degree Day 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 — for some ideas, see the back page.

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

- 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 12-month intern with the AMS or ASUS. Look in the CCOE or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- 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 CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Get involved with the Political Studies Department Student Council (DSC).
- Consider 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).
- 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 QMP, QMUN, QMC or QMJC.

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.
- Is there 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

- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 achieve your goals. We can help you prepare for a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.