

**Kingston
University**
London

Politics & International Relations BA(Hons)

single honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/intpoliticsrelations

UNLEASH YOUR
POTENTIAL

Politics & International Relations

BA(Hons)

single honours

Our programme

Politics at Kingston offers a radical and critical questioning of the assumptions upon which political beliefs are based, whether they are about the ideal society, the best way to live or the correct way in which to think about political reality. Politics is about who gets what, when, how, why and where and raises related questions of power, justice, human rights, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, decision-making and governance.

International relations emphasises very similar concerns, but is centred on regional and global arenas. It examines global political organisations, the conflicting and co-operative interaction between states, intergovernmental organisations and non-state actors (such as transnational civil society groups or transnational corporations).

Studying politics and international relations together helps us to understand the interaction of people, ideas and institutions from the local to the global, providing the skills, knowledge and insights to succeed in our globalised world. This degree provides the flexibility to study a combination of political science, international relations and human rights modules, broadening your understanding of power, government, conflict and justice from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives. You will consider the answers to questions, such as:

- Why did 9/11 happen?
- What were the causes of the current global economic crisis?
- What do we mean by power? Who has it?
- Do elections really change anything?
- How important is nationalism and what is its future in a globalised world?
- Is the European Union going to replace the nation state?
- Has the United Nations been a success and what is its future?
- What is happening today in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East?
- Why do genocide and mass murder continue to happen 50 years or more since the Genocide Convention was passed?
- What is the future of democracy in Europe and beyond?

These are just a few of the complex and controversial questions you will encounter while studying Politics & International Relations. Our aim is to help you build up the skills and knowledge to develop your own answers and responses to these big questions.

Teaching, assessment and student support

The course is taught through a mixture of lectures, seminars and workshops, and there is a strong emphasis on debate and discussion throughout. You will be assessed in a number of ways, including portfolios of reflections on your work, presentations, essays and examinations. By the end of the degree you will have a sound knowledge and understanding of the subject, and be fully equipped with a range of analytical skills.

Politics is a discursive subject and we want you to gain confidence and understanding in developing and articulating your own opinions and views on political life. To do this well, we recommend that you regularly read around the subject to help provide a solid foundation for these ideas. As politics and international relations are often fast moving, with events unfolding on a day-to-day basis, there is an expectation that students bring an awareness of current events to the classroom.

A degree is a major commitment, and we work hard to provide you with the help you will need to succeed. Compared with other universities, we provide high levels of contact with academic staff in terms of class contact time and in our office hours – we will be introducing a personal tutor system in 2012–2013 to provide a consistent source and advice throughout your university career.

From our induction programme in your first year, to support with dissertations and choosing your future direction in your final period at University, you will have access to learning support and guidance to ensure that, whatever your educational background, you achieve your full potential.

Careers

The Politics & International Relations course at Kingston will enable you to develop your writing, oral and presentation skills, all key skills that are in demand in the modern job market. There is no one specific career to which our graduates progress and by the time you have successfully completed your degree here you will be equipped to seek careers in a diverse array of professions. Past students have followed careers in law, politics, the civil service, teaching, finance, journalism and television research. Kingston University also offers taught masters degrees in International Relations, International Conflict and Human Rights.



Why study Politics & International Relations at Kingston University? What makes us different?

- Our academic staff are all active researchers and experts in their field, and regularly participate in major international conferences and publish their research in a variety of arenas. Our focus on research-informed teaching ensures that new insights gained from our recent research are integrated into our teaching, providing you with a truly cutting-edge learning experience.
- You will receive high levels of support and guidance and enjoy direct contact from our internationally diverse and relatively young team, all of whom are passionate about teaching and improving the student experience, with a particular focus on innovative approaches to teaching.
- Lectures and seminars are regularly supplemented with visiting guest speakers – MPs, MEPS, local government representatives, think-tank policy specialists, campaigners and activists. Visiting speakers provide an excellent opportunity to learn about the ‘real world’ of politics and make contacts for future careers.
- Kingston’s location on the outskirts of London and its excellent transport links into the city means that you can study in the safe, pleasant and less hectic surroundings of Kingston and Surbiton but can travel into Central London – the centre of political life in the UK – in just 25 minutes by train. There is a wide variety of lectures, workshops, talks and political events held in London throughout the year, and students are encouraged to participate in these and learn beyond the classroom.
- With graduate employment increasingly challenging, our Work Placement module offers you the opportunity to gain real-world work experience for credit. The module provides the framework and support necessary for expanding your skills and improving your employability.
- Our Study Abroad programme gives you the option of studying abroad in your second year. This popular programme enables students to study at a university in Continental Europe, Australia or the United States for either a half or a full academic year.
- This joint honours subject enables you to combine your study of politics with a complementary subject, expanding your intellectual horizons and boosting your employability (see overleaf).

What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study Journalism as a full-field (single honours) or as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The precise module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

This year provides a foundation of knowledge and skills for your subsequent years of study. There is a strong focus on the development of the study skills necessary for success in your degree and for supporting you in your transition into higher education. Modules in the first year provide you with a detailed introduction to the core themes of the Politics and International Relations course.

Politics modules

You will receive an introduction into the study of politics, with a focus on the ideologies and theories that shape our understanding of power in society. This is complemented later in the year with teaching on British politics.

- Studying Politics
- UK Government and Politics
- The Rise of Global Capitalism

International relations modules

You will be introduced to the study of international politics on two levels. The first looks at some of the core concepts and themes of international relations – co-operation, conflict, the state and global governance amongst others. This is followed by a closer examination of specific real-life issues in international political life.

- Introduction to International Relations
- Issues in International Politics

Human rights modules

A unique element of this degree is the strong focus on human rights. The first year introduces you to the broad themes and history of human rights, followed by a detailed exploration of the key actors and organisations within the global human rights movement.

- Heroes and Villains
- The Human Rights Movement: Players and Processes

Year 2

In the second year, alongside a more-detailed look at some of the key course themes, you can begin to specialise in areas that particularly interest you. Many students also take the opportunity to study abroad in their second year.

International relations modules

The second year introduces the major theories that shape our understanding of international politics and the major international organisations that help to regulate international political life.

- International Relations Theory
- International Organisations

Political theory

Continuing with the exploration of political ideology from the first year, you will explore the theories that help to shape our understandings of power and justice, alongside broader questions of how we understand politics.

- Theories of Justice

Area studies modules

Kingston has a strong area studies research focus, offering you the opportunity to learn about the politics and society of one or more specific regions.

- Comparative European Politics
- Contemporary Balkan Politics
- Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics
- Introduction to Contemporary African Politics
- Introduction to Latin American Countries

Specialist modules

A number of specialist modules is also available.

- Apocalypse Now: International Politics goes to the Movies
- Work Placement module
- Nationalism
- The Politics of War
- Terrorism in the Modern World
- The Holocaust

Year 3

Year 3 allows for greater levels of specialisation, and builds on the themes encountered in Years 1 and 2. You will carry out a dissertation on a topic of your choice, supervised by a member of the course team with associated research interests. You will also receive research skills training to introduce you to the key research methods and help support the design of your dissertation project.

Key themes include:

- Research Skills
- Contemporary Russian Politics
- Themes in Latin American Politics
- Politics of Nationalism in the Contemporary Middle East
- Politics of Conflict
- Crimes of the Powerful
- Fascism & the Post-War Extreme Right
- Gender & Politics
- A Change Is Gonna Come: Politics and Popular Music
- Party Politics in European States
- Marxist Political Thought
- Contemporary European Protest Movements
- Issues in Political Philosophy

Languages, Work Placements and Studying Abroad

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS), providing a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree. If your first language is not English, we offer an English Language module in Year 1, which is designed to assist you with language difficulties.

Work placement

Kingston Politics students have the opportunity to take a work placement module for credit in Year 2. This allows students to gain valuable work experience and improve their graduate employment prospects while still completing their degree in three years. Students are supported by a member of staff to help ensure that they optimise their experience and skills development.

Studying abroad

You can also strengthen your language expertise by studying abroad during Year 2. We have links with universities in France, Spain, Hungary and Germany; and Politics and International Relations students regularly spend either one semester or their full second year in one of these partner institutions. Should you wish to study in America or Australia, we also have exchange arrangements with universities in these countries.



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
intpoliticsrelations](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/intpoliticsrelations)

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the Centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

Politics & International Relations staff

Our teaching team includes staff from a variety of disciplines within the School of Social Sciences.

Dr Orna Almog specialises in international relations of the Middle East, the history and politics of the Arab–Israeli conflict, Israeli foreign policy, conflict resolution, and international mediation in the Middle East.

Dr Simon Choat specialises in political theory; in particular, modern European philosophy. He is especially interested in Marx and Marxism, and French philosophy since 1960, including Althusser, Foucault and Derrida.

Dr Radu Cinpoes specialises in the politics of nationalism and identity. His teaching and research interests include ethnicity and conflict, European politics, transition from communism, human rights and migration.

Dr Paul Dixon specialises in researching conflict. In particular, he specialises on the Northern Ireland conflict, theories of conflict management and counterinsurgency strategy.

Dr Elizabeth Evans specialises in feminist theory, UK politics and political parties, with particular reference to theories of representation and democracy.

Dr Jonathan Gilmore specialises in international relations and security studies. His recent research investigated the links between human rights and violent conflict, with specific reference to the question of whether military force can or should be used to protect human rights.

Dr Andrew Higginbottom specialises in Latin America.

Professor François Nectoux's research interests include the French economy, French politics, French sociocultural studies, European social policies, European media and cultural policies, international relations, and international aspects of the environment.

Dr Hannah Miller lectures in human rights, international relations and politics. Her research examines the meaning and protection of human rights, with a focus on forms of human rights activism.

Dr Robin Pettitt is an expert on political parties and political marketing.

Dr Sam Raphael specialises in international security and human rights. His research expertise covers US foreign policy, terrorism, energy security, counterinsurgency, the arms trade, and extraordinary rendition.

Mike Roberts specialises in social movements, and popular music and political films. His research interests include black music/black nationalism and the politics of Bob Dylan.

Dr Robin Redhead researches human rights in world politics. She is interested in how indigenous people contest their rights against colonial powers, and how human rights activists campaign on behalf of the oppressed.

Supportive community

Our working relationship with our students has always been strong. Kingston's politics students are part of a close knit and supportive community. They are a diverse group, bringing different perspectives, experiences and ideas to the study of politics and international relations.

Cover image: UN Headquarters, NYC

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 260 UCAS points
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels
- Key skills: points not accepted in tariff
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English Language and Literature (grade A-C preferred)

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on the course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

UCAS codes

BA(Hons) Politics & International Relations – L245

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Kingston University
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2EE
T: +44 (0)20 8417 2378/2361
F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292
E: fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk

Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829
E: accommodation@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560
www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding

Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411
www.kingston.ac.uk/international



Burning oil wells in Kuwait after the 1990–1991 Gulf War