



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Politics

UCAS code L210

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration
A level: ABB	Full-time	3 years

Apply by: **14 January 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Studying Politics develops an in-depth and critical understanding of government and society at local, national and international levels. You will learn to ask questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, governance and decision-making

Introduction

This flexible and broad programme explores the different approaches to political science in a range of national and international settings. It draws on the expertise of world leading scholars in the field and their cutting edge research to create an engaging, research led course.

You will explore political ideas, systems and processes and you will learn how to collect data, develop knowledge, construct arguments and communicate your findings in different ways.

In your first year you will be introduced to the building blocks of political studies, meaning that no prior specialist knowledge is required. Then in your second and third year you will have the freedom to explore the areas of political study that interest you the most. With a wide range of modules to choose from you can focus your degree in one or two areas or cover a whole variety of topics from British Politics, gender analysis, International Relations, political theory, comparative politics and much more.

There are also options to get involved in a number of different placement schemes including the opportunity for year three students studying Politics at Single Honours to apply to take part in the Parliamentary Placement Scheme.

What you'll learn

- Key features of local, national and international politics
- Conceptual and theoretical dimensions of key aspects and issues of politics
- Critical evaluation of political events, ideas and institutions using a variety of methodologies and approaches
- Principles of academic writing and speaking
- Opportunity to undertake a work placement
- Application of the academic study of politics to questions of public concern and the ability to communicate with both specialist and non-specialist audiences

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

In your first year you will be introduced to the building blocks of political studies, meaning that no prior specialist knowledge is required.

All modules in year one are required.

Students take 60 credits of required modules in each semester.

POLI105 is a year-long module, representing 15 credits per semester.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>BRITISH POLITICS I (POLI101)</u>	15
<u>STUDYING POLITICS SUCCESSFULLY: SKILLS AND METHODS (POLI103)</u>	15
<u>FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS (POLI109)</u>	15
<u>BRITISH POLITICS II (POLI102)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS (POLI107)</u>	15
<u>FOUNDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI104)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY (POLI105)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

In year two you move on to more specialist modules to develop your path of study based on your own interest. You have completely free choice in your modules in your second year and the opportunity to design the degree that most interests you. You also have a number of different opportunities to study abroad and to widen your knowledge and experience through that scheme.

Students take 60 credits of optional modules in each semester.

POLI200 is subject to an appropriate placement being sourced. Students cannot register directly for this module.

Registration onto **HLAC220** is only for students planning to undertake a Work Placement Year.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (POLI225)</u>	15
<u>SECURITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD (POLI231)</u>	15
<u>UK GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS SINCE 1945 (POLI204)</u>	15
<u>AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY (POLI205)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (POLI215)</u>	15
<u>THINKING ABOUT POLITICS (POLI218)</u>	15
<u>DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL CHANGE (POLI235)</u>	15
<u>BRITISH PARTY POLITICS (POLI239)</u>	15
<u>SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION (POLI244)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING (POLI252)</u>	15
<u>GENDER AND FEMINIST POLITICS: CORE CONCEPTS AND THEORIES (POLI257)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI259)</u>	15
<u>ROME IN THE LATE REPUBLIC (CLAH268)</u>	15
<u>GLOBAL NEWS, MEDIA AND WAR (COMM213)</u>	15
<u>"DOES THE NATION MATTER?" THE BASQUES' WILL TO PERSIST IN THE GLOBAL CULTURE (HISP218)</u>	15
<u>PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS IN ACTION (POLI200)</u>	15
<u>CRITICAL APPROACHES TO TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY (POLI203)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI209)</u>	15
<u>POPULISM (POLI223)</u>	15
<u>FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS AND INTERNATIONAL CRISES (POLI236)</u>	15
<u>BRITISH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (POLI237)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (POLI247)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI251)</u>	15
<u>PUBLIC ETHICS (POLI260)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY (POLI263)</u>	15
<u>THE POLITICS OF 'RACE' AND MARGINALISATION (POLI265)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY SEXUAL POLITICS (POLI270)</u>	15
<u>POLITICAL ECONOMIES OF GLOBALISATION (ENVS264)</u>	15
<u>THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: POLITICS, CULTURE, MEMORY (GRMN220)</u>	15
<u>ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN: DECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES (ITAL225)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year three

In your third year you may select the Dissertation module and complete a sustained, original piece of work on a topic of your own choice.

Students take 60 credits of optional modules in each semester.

POLI342, **POLI343** and **POLI354** are subject to a suitable placement being sourced. Students cannot register directly onto these modules.

There is an application process for **POLI342** and **POLI343**. Students accepted onto **POLI342** module take **POLI401** (Dissertation).

Students cannot take both **POLI342** and **POLI343**.

POLI401 is a year-long module and represents 15 credits in each semester.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>CONTEMPORARY PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES (POLI304)</u>	15
<u>SOLIDARITY, ACTIVISM AND BORDERS IN THE EU (POLI308)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR (POLI322)</u>	15
<u>FROM THE IRA TO THE FAR RIGHT: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324)</u>	15
<u>EU AS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTOR (POLI328)</u>	15
<u>LOCAL PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI343)</u>	45
<u>POLITICS AND THE BRAIN (POLI346)</u>	15
<u>STRATEGIC STUDIES IN CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM (POLI347)</u>	15
<u>THE PUZZLE OF CIVIL WAR (POLI353)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC SPACE (POLI354)</u>	15
<u>CONFLICT AND POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (POLI815)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325)</u>	15
<u>POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES (ENVS334)</u>	15
<u>BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS (LATI307)</u>	15
<u>IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE (POLI302)</u>	15
<u>HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES (POLI306)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (POLI314)</u>	15
<u>THEORIES OF POVERTY AND WEALTH (POLI316)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321)</u>	15
<u>THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RHETORIC IN BRITISH POLITICS (POLI323)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY POLITICS OF NATIONALISM (POLI332)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES (POLI336)</u>	15
<u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UK (POLI337)</u>	15
<u>PARLIAMENTARY PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI342)</u>	45
<u>GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)</u>	15
<u>RELIGION, FREEDOM AND EQUALITY (POLI350)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS (COMM317)</u>	15
<u>POLITICAL BROADCASTING (RADIO) (POLI339)</u>	30
<u>DISSERTATION (POLI401)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Combined degree

Choosing this subject as a combined degree

If studying Politics at 50%, in year one you will take 'Foundations in Politics' and 'Foundations in International Politics'. You will also choose to study either 'British Politics I' or 'Studying Politics Successfully: skills and methods', and either 'British Politics II' or 'Comparative Politics'. In years two and three there are a wide choice of optional modules, including the option of a dissertation in year three, giving you the chance to complete a sustained, original piece of work on a topic of your choice.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Research-connected teaching is initiated in the first year with introductions to quantitative, qualitative, theoretical, and critical methodologies, which are then embedded in second- and third-year modules so that students can evaluate and apply the methodologies to construct their own analyses. Though our lectures are interactive, our seminars, workshops, computer lab sessions, dissertations, and placements form the core of our active learning approach.

How you're assessed

We use a rich variety of assessment methods to develop students' various skills. Essays, exams, and presentations enable to students to practice core academic writing and speaking skills, while innovative assessments such as blog posts, reflective logs, group projects, podcasts, radio broadcasts and speeches expand our authentic assessment, enabling students to deploy transferable skills in various formats. Digital fluency is also developed in different ways, including sourcing relevant material, using online learning platforms and tools, producing audio and visual materials, word processing and statistical analysis.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency

- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

A Politics degree can open doors to a range of careers, including political work, social and political research, journalism, PR and marketing.

Previous employers include:

- Dell
- Pricewaterhouse Coopers
- The National Trust
- The British Council
- The Independent.

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Year abroad fee – £12,050 (applies to year in China)

Fees are for academic year 2025/26.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

ABB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

Applications encouraged. BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits.

International Baccalaureate

32 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

ABB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus AB at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma with 45 Level 3 credits with 33 at Distinction and 12 at Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes

- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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