Now is an exciting time to be studying Politics. We face a range of complex issues such as a shifting balance of international power, the challenges of human rights and global development, environmental sustainability, struggles for democracy, security and the threat of terrorism, and the changing balance of government and society. A Politics degree at the University of York places you at the heart of current political thinking, research and debate.

Our thought-provoking, diverse and challenging degree courses cover the spectrum of politics from the history of political thought to the resolution of conflict in war-torn societies, and from the politics of international security to financial regulation in Europe.

By choosing to study Politics with us, you will join a prestigious, lively and international community of students and staff. You will be taught by academics at the forefront of research in the major political areas of conflict and development, international politics, political theory and public policy. As international experts in their field, our staff advise governments and international organisations on a wide range of issues, and regularly contribute to the news media and current affairs programmes throughout the world. Our expertise and experience feed directly into our teaching programmes.

We are dedicated to outstanding teaching and to developing the potential of all our students in a friendly and open department that provides a sense of community to all its members.

We look forward to welcoming you here.

Professor Matthew Festenstein Head of Department
WHY STUDY POLITICS AT YORK?

● We are a welcoming, diverse department with an international outlook: our staff apply their expertise to real-world problems, working with governments and organisations around the globe

● 91% of our students are satisfied with our teaching (National Student Survey 2011)

● We provide a supportive and friendly environment, including a supervisor, to oversee your academic progress and personal welfare

● Undergraduates choose from a wide range of modules across the discipline, including International Politics; Conflict, Rights and Development; Public Policy and Political Theory

● Our expertise encompasses British and European politics, and the politics of Latin America, South Africa, the Middle East and Central and South Asia

● We host regular, high profile lectures and events with eminent speakers from across the political spectrum

● There are numerous opportunities to study abroad with partner universities in the USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and Norway, among others

● You’ll acquire a broad set of academic and transferable skills which will be valuable to future employers or for further study

● You can enhance your learning and get to know staff and fellow students through a host of extra-curricular activities, organised by the Department and by the flourishing student-run Politics Society

● Our graduates go on to a range of successful careers in diverse areas including local and national government, the creative industries and public administration.

“Looking back at my three years at York, I really couldn’t imagine being anywhere else! My degree has allowed me to study a broad range of fantastically interesting subjects that I wouldn’t have otherwise been exposed to, from classic British politics and the politics of development, to South African and Indian politics.”

Oliver, Politics, 3rd year
WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND INSECURITY?

HOW CAN, OR SHOULD, WE RESPOND TO CONFLICT?

ARE HUMAN RIGHTS EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING GLOBAL JUSTICE?

CAN GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY CHANGE THE WORLD?

CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT
HOW WE TEACH

We teach our undergraduates through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and individual one-to-one supervision.

Seminars and workshops enable you to engage in challenging and stimulating discussions with your tutors and to collaborate with your peers on researching and presenting topics.

We also offer study skills workshops and special support for students with particular learning needs.

Your personal supervisor provides continuing support and guidance through your time with us.

Our Department offers a particularly personal approach to teaching and learning, with much of our teaching conducted in small groups. We are very approachable; our doors are always open to students who want to discuss a particular issue with a member of staff.

The assessment of Politics modules in the first year involves a combination of essays, examinations and online exercises. Second year modules are assessed through a combination of essays and examinations. Third year option modules are typically assessed by an essay or an examination and usually include a research dissertation, developed in one-to-one supervisory sessions with one of our experts.

“I am fortunate to teach students every day at York who have the intelligence, imagination and will to look beyond their own dominant feelings, ideas, beliefs and prejudices; to think for themselves about all that human beings, themselves included, can do and be, and the ambition to go on to become all that they can be.”

Dr Tim Stanton, Lecturer
FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE — OUR DEGREES

Choice and flexibility are at the heart of what we offer in the Department of Politics. The range of modules on offer, along with the chance to study Politics alongside other subjects, mean that every student graduates with a degree tailored to his or her own interests and passions.

In addition to the single subject BA Politics degree and the BA in Politics with International Relations, we offer combined honours degrees with English and History.

The Department of Politics also offers combined degrees with Economics and Philosophy through the School of Politics, Economics and Philosophy (PEP) and an interdisciplinary degree with Sociology and Social Policy (SPS).

Go to www.york.ac.uk/pep and www.york.ac.uk/sps for more information on these combined degree courses.

To find out about all of our degree programmes go to www.york.ac.uk/politics/prospective/undergraduates.

Choosing York was an easy decision. The depth and breadth of the module options set it apart from others and allow me to choose areas of the discipline that most intrigue me, and weight my course towards my chosen field.

Sophie, History and Politics, 1st year
What moral responsibilities do we have for our fellow citizens?

Is toleration always a good thing?

Can there ever be equality in political life?

Why aren’t there more revolutions?
**The first year**

You will study four modules in your first year which will equip you with an understanding of the key concepts, theories and approaches in each major area of politics:

- Politics, Power and Society
- Introduction to Democratic Politics
- Introduction to Political Theory
- Introduction to International Politics.

If you are studying the single subject Politics or Politics with International Relations, you will take all four of the module options above. Combined degree students take Politics, Power and Society and choose one other module.

**The second year**

Second year Politics modules cover diverse approaches to a particular field in the discipline and hone the academic skills necessary to analyse political texts, political systems and processes, and international politics. We offer a large variety of module options with precise requirements according to the programme you choose to study. Below are just some examples of the modules which you can choose from:

**Single subject Politics**
- Political Enquiry and
- Three options from a range that includes:
  - Contemporary Political Philosophy
  - History of Political Thought
  - State, Economy and Society
  - War and Peace
  - Politics of Development
  - Human Rights and Wrongs
  - Politics in the United Kingdom
  - Environmental Policy.

**Politics with International Relations**
- Political Enquiry
- Theories and Perspectives on International Relations
- A free choice of two further Politics modules or an approved module from another Department.

**Combined degree**
- A Political Texts module (see Single Subject choices)
- A Political Process module (see Single Subject choices).
The third year

Your third year modules offer you an opportunity to specialise your studies according to your own interests and are based on the wide range of our lecturers’ research expertise.

You’ll choose from a range of modules across the breadth of Politics and International Relations. You’ll also write a dissertation based on your own research with one-to-one guidance from a supervisor. The research, analysis and presentation skills that you’ll develop while doing this will be invaluable for your future career or if you decide to go on to further study.

**Single subject Politics:** students take a Politics dissertation along with four option modules.

**Politics with International Relations:** students write a dissertation with an International Relations focus, along with four module options in Politics and International Relations.

**Combined degree:** students write a Politics dissertation or a dissertation in the other department or a bridging essay, along with two Politics option modules.

You can choose from a wide range of option modules including:

- Ethnicity and Conflict
- Green Politics
- Gender and Development
- US Power and International Security
- Philosophy of Criminal Law
- Governing the Global Economy
- Violence and International Politics
- Politics of Latin America
- Democracy in the Middle East
- Karl Marx
- Governance of Security.

“Politics with International Relations is a dynamic and wide-ranging course taught in a challenging and probing way, where students from across the globe come together with academics to study, collaborate and exchange ideas. It has a broad, pan-European and international appeal which offers a truly global perspective.”

Itai, *Politics with International Relations, 2nd year*

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Modules listed may change so please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information: www.york.ac.uk/politics.
CAREER PROSPECTS

Our Department is recognised by employers worldwide for its academic rigour. The York Politics degree equips you with a portfolio of academic and transferable skills to allow you to pursue stimulating and rewarding careers in the public and private sectors, as well as further study.

You’ll learn how to conduct independent research, analyse complex information, and communicate and present your ideas. You’ll also gain key skills in debating, team-working, critical thinking and problem-solving while developing a deep understanding of complex social and political issues.

Many of our graduates go on to successful careers in a wide range of areas including:
- Public administration
- Local and national government
- Industry
- The ‘not-for-profit’/non-governmental (NGO) sector (including international work)
- The creative, media and broadcasting industries
- Marketing
- Financial management
- Law
- Social welfare
- Education.

Among our highly successful alumni are former BBC Director General and current University Chancellor, Greg Dyke, and current Shadow Secretary for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Harriet Harman. Several York Politics graduates are sitting members of the House of Commons, and our Professor Emerita, Baroness Haleh Afshar OBE, sits as a life peer in the House of Lords.

Our alumni are highly committed to supporting our current students. They regularly return to give advice which will help develop our students’ CVs and provide networking opportunities across a wide range of public and private sector careers. There are regular alumni events where you have the opportunity to meet our highly successful alumni. Most recently we hosted Steve Richards (Chief Political Correspondent, The Independent) and Denise O’Donoghue (Managing Director, ITV Studios) who spoke with current students and offered careers advice.

In the Department of Politics your personal supervisor will give you guidance on how to develop your employability and your skills from the outset of your time with us.

The University’s Careers Service provides expert guidance and support on future careers and further study to our students while at York and beyond. We are committed to enhancing your employability during your time at York.

"The Department of Politics offers extra-curricular events ranging from an interview with David Miliband, to a film series on global politics, allowing you to expand your knowledge and skills in specific areas. It is clear that any student choosing to study Politics at York will leave the University as a well-rounded graduate – very attractive to future employers."

Sarah, Politics, 1st year
Tom Youldon
Politics, 2003
Chief of Staff at Monitor, National Health Service

Following a career break from HM Treasury, I now work as Chief of Staff at Monitor, the Health Sector regulator.

My time at the University of York remains a source of real inspiration. It has shaped my values through the public service ethos of the Department of Politics, the music and drama available on campus and the many different perspectives of the students. The academic emphasis on rigorous analysis and clear argumentation helped me build transferable skills and provided excellent preparation for the world of work. I particularly enjoyed the York Award, which gave me some useful examples to discuss in my Fast Stream interview.

I loved York. I think the University is grounded, fun and intellectually stimulating – all without over-pressurising its students.

Kate Rushworth
Politics, 2005
YouTube Audience Development Strategist

Having worked as a documentary researcher and for BBC Worldwide’s YouTube channels, I now work for Google, in the YouTube Audience Development team.

The body of knowledge I gained at the University of York proved essential for my work in documentaries – particularly when working on the Channel 4 series ‘The Rise and Fall of Tony Blair’. People tend to assume I studied Media at university, so reading Politics has helped me to stand out.

I would not be in the position I am today without the extracurricular activities that exist at York. I was Head of News at YSTV (University of York Student Television), where I oversaw the production of the news output and the coverage of the Student Union elections. I would advise current students to get involved in as much as possible while at university. If you feel there’s no society that really speaks to you – create your own!

For more from our graduates, go to www.york.ac.uk/politics.
We conduct world-leading research across the discipline of politics which informs our undergraduate degree programmes. With strong links to national and global policy-makers, you will be exposed to ideas at the cutting edge of the discipline.

We have a number of large and flourishing research teams working on projects including:

- **Conflict and development**, with current projects on war and political violence; peace processes; the politics of Europe; the Middle East; Russia and the former Soviet Union; and Asia and Africa
- **International politics**, with projects including international security and nuclear proliferation; and global financial and political institutions
- **Public policy and governance**, with current work on UK politics; environmental governance; EU politics; and data surveillance and the politics of private security
- **Political theory and philosophy**, with areas of focus including the history of political ideas; democracy in a multicultural society; financial justice; and the justification of punishment.

The global financial crisis has brought into the spotlight the importance of economic and financial governance not only for policymakers but also for ordinary citizens. I am very keen to convey this message to my students and to get them interested in these topics.

**Professor Lucia Quaglia**

We host three internationally recognised centres. Students benefit from these partnerships through access to expertise in lectures, workshops and seminars, as well as to a wide range of guest speakers and policy-makers.

- **The Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit**, an international centre of excellence for the study of post-conflict societies
- **The Morrell Centre for Toleration**, the longest established global centre for the study of toleration
- **The Centre for Applied Human Rights**, shared with the York Law School, runs a pioneering programme bringing defenders of human rights to York from all over the world. It also carries out research on refugees, climate change and transitions to democracy.
1. Why don't more people vote in national elections?
2. How does nationalism shape politics?
3. What is the best way to protect the environment?
4. Does the state still matter in a globalised world?

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Our Department is distinctly global, reflected in the international focus of our research areas and the make-up of our students and staff. We recruit students from over 50 countries and the University offers a range of international student clubs and societies, as well as support from the International Office. This creates a vibrant and diverse teaching and learning environment.

We also have a flourishing network of alumni from across the globe.

Study abroad

Numerous opportunities to study abroad are offered for up to a year at a number of prestigious universities including the University of California; Columbia University; Rutgers University; the University of Sydney; York University, Ontario; the National University of Singapore and the University of Hong Kong.

Our students can also take part in an EU Erasmus exchange programme, currently at the University of Bergen in Norway. Both study abroad schemes allow the transfer of course credits to York, meaning that you would graduate no later than those admitted in the same year in York.

We also offer free tuition to all first year students in a foreign language – a valuable skill that will significantly enhance your CV and career prospects.

“Being surrounded by students from all around the world has been so enlightening and allows for great friendships to be developed while also encouraging insight and depth into alternative perspectives on different topics. I wouldn’t want to do my degree anywhere else.”

Genevieve, Politics with International Relations, 1st year
Is violence inevitable in international politics?

When is war justified?

Why do global financial crises happen?

Do international security strategies make us safer?
HOW TO APPLY

We welcome all enquiries from prospective undergraduates. We are happy to answer any queries that you may have about our courses so please get in contact with us. Full contact information for the Department of Politics is provided on the back of this brochure.

Mature students are strongly encouraged to apply and applications are considered individually. We also welcome overseas students and, indeed, our Department comprises a large number of international students.

If you are offered a place following your UCAS application, you will be invited during the Spring Term for a post-offer Visit Day. Visit Days are a great opportunity for you to meet staff and current students in the Department and to learn more about your degree programme.

The University of York is committed to ensuring that no one who has the potential to study here is deterred from applying by financial costs. Information about fees and financial support is available on our website at www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding.

Our website provides up-to-date contact details for our admissions tutor and details on current entry requirements: www.york.ac.uk/politics.

“We are given a wide scope to express ourselves in seminars and there’s so much choice in terms of modules; something that makes the degree course at York really stand out.”

Abdul, Politics with International Relations, 1st year
STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The University is based at Heslington on the edge of the historic city of York, where our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. It is compact, easy to get around, and is a safe, friendly environment in which to study and socialise. The campus also offers excellent sports facilities, including the new £9 million York Sport Village.

You’ll join a strong network of peers within the Department and the University’s close collegiate environment, with its emphasis on support and pastoral care, means you’ll make friends and settle in quickly.

We have a vibrant and active Politics Society run by students in the Department which organises a programme of events, high profile speakers and debates. You can also join one or more of the many clubs and societies, run through the Students’ Union including the International Development Society, the Debating Society, the United Nations Association, faith groups, and societies representing each of the major UK political parties.

We regularly host well-known speakers from political parties, the media, think tanks and NGOs.

To find out more about our latest events go to www.york.ac.uk/politics.

“...The United Nations Association gives you the opportunity to debate world affairs on a weekly basis and take part in model United Nations conferences. These conferences have been fantastic experiences for me – meeting people from around the world and working with them to solve complex and sensitive global issues. It also epitomises the ‘work hard, play hard’ balance of life. Long and rigorous debating sessions were always followed by some fun – something I’m sure real UN diplomats experience! ”

Basim, Politics with International Relations, 3rd Year
A SUPERB LOCATION

Life in York is varied, colourful and lively. A diverse range of shops, galleries, clubs, cafés, museums, music groups and sports clubs means that the city really does offer something for everyone.

With a population of 190,000, York is big enough to feel cosmopolitan but small enough not to be overwhelming. It is a friendly place you can settle into quickly, but which still feels fresh and exciting once you get to know it well.

York was recently voted Britain’s favourite small city in the Rough Guide poll, and its historic streets bustle with visitors from all around the world. There is plenty to impress, from the famously soaring Gothic Minster and winding medieval streets, to a packed calendar of cultural activities including festivals, concerts and sporting events.

York is also one of Britain’s best connected cities, offering great transport links to other major cities including London, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester, as well as the wealth of beautiful countryside and coastline offered in Yorkshire and beyond.

For more information on student life in York, visit the website at www.york.ac.uk/study/student-life.
For full details on all the courses and information about the Department, please see our website at www.york.ac.uk/politics or the Undergraduate Prospectus at www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/prospectus

Contact details: Departmental Admissions Administrator Tel: +44 (0)1904 323542 Email: poli-ug-admissions@york.ac.uk

Photographs by John Houlihan, Ian Martindale and Jim Poyner