



University
of Glasgow

Politics

Undergraduate study



Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow has inspired thinkers from the father of economics, Adam Smith, to the pioneer of television, John Logie Baird.



Choose Glasgow

Introduction

The University of Glasgow is rated as one of the top 100 universities in the world (*Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings*).

All of our students study for degrees that are recognised and respected by employers throughout the world, but we can guarantee you will receive a lot more besides. Some of the key benefits of student life at Glasgow are

Satisfied students

Our students report high levels of satisfaction with their studies. According to the independent National Student Survey, an impressive 90% of the University's final-year students rated themselves as satisfied with their course in 2009, well above the national average of 81%.

Flexible course choices

We offer more than 900 degree programme combinations and our flexible system allows you to study a broad range of subjects during your time at university and, in many cases, makes it possible to delay choosing specialist subjects until the end of second year.

Teaching based on research

Glasgow is a research-led university, which means that you will be taught by academics at the forefront of knowledge in their subject areas.

A student experience worth having

You will take away more than a degree from Glasgow. Over the last 550 years our students have built up a fantastic array of initiatives to keep you engaged, entertained and energised. The result is a student experience to be proud of. We have

- four award-winning student media teams
- over 100 clubs and societies
- two undergraduate student unions
- sporting facilities for all levels of fitness
- a study abroad and exchange programme that offers opportunities to study across the world as part of your undergraduate degree.

The city of Glasgow is the main media centre for Scotland and the University has appointed documentary filmmaker and media entrepreneur Alan Clements as an honorary professor.

Our campus

The University's compact main campus combines grand historical buildings with up-to-the-minute facilities. It's centred on a neo-gothic building with a spire offering breathtaking views across the city.

Come and visit us

Open Day

www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday

In June and September we hold an Open Day to allow you, your family and teachers to visit us on campus and see a little of the city.

Open Day allows you to speak to academic staff, find out more about courses, tour the facilities, visit student accommodation and see for yourself what life would be like as a student at Glasgow. If you have a long way to travel you can also stay in one of our student residences.

Alternative visiting arrangements

Open Day is the best way for you to get a comprehensive picture of what being a student here would be like. However, if for any reason you can't make it on that date, then we will be able to make alternative arrangements.

To find out more visit:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits.

Applicants' Visit Day

At Glasgow we go the extra mile. If you receive an offer of a place at Glasgow, we will invite you to visit us before making your final decision. Applicants' Visit Day usually takes place in March. Details will be sent to you together with your offer of a place.

Where can I find out more?

You can find out more about studying politics on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/politics. If you have any questions, please contact Dr Paul Graham, email: p.graham@lbss.gla.ac.uk.



The subject of politics at Glasgow has been rated in the **top 5% for research in the UK.**

www.glasgow.ac.uk/politics

Politics

Degree: MA

Typical offer

Highers	AABB (first sitting) AAAB (two sittings)
A-levels	AAB (first sitting) AAA (two sittings)
IB	34 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

Politics is concerned with the study of power – how it is exercised and how its use may be justified. While studying the subject we focus on the relationship between the individual and the state, and also the relationship between states.

You will be posed ethical questions such as:

- what are the role and limits of state power?
- what is a 'good society'?
- what obligations does one nation have to another?

and you will also consider empirical questions such as:

- how do we explain differences in political institutions and culture?
- what is the nature of the international system as a whole?

At all levels of study, politics is a subject that is open to interpretation and debate. Our methods of teaching, therefore, are based largely on classroom discussion. You will attend lectures that identify themes and then explore these themes in depth during seminars. These seminars will encourage you to:

- develop and defend arguments in a rigorous and analytical manner
- challenge the views of others
- engage in constructive and thoughtful debate.

What can I expect in first year?

Level-1 is divided into two courses: Politics 1A: Introduction to liberal democracy, and Politics 1B: Comparative politics.

Politics 1A deals primarily with Britain, Scotland and the European Union.

Politics 1B compares three different political systems. You will consider key concepts in comparative politics and then apply them to three countries, for example, the United States, Russia and China.

What can I expect in second year?

Again, Level-2 is divided into two courses.

Politics 2A: History of political thought introduces you to the study of key texts in the history of political thought, including the works of:

- Aristotle
- Machiavelli
- Hobbes
- Locke
- Rousseau
- Burke
- Marx.

Politics 2B: International relations involves the study of key concepts, theories and issues. The themes can include:

- sovereignty
- power
- realism
- neo-realism
- neo-liberalism
- feminism
- globalisation
- human rights.

What happens next?

If you successfully complete the courses in first and second years you may progress to two further years of study for an Honours degree.

You can choose to take Politics on its own as a Single Honours degree, or in combination with another subject as a Joint Honours degree. The requirements for each differ.

Single Honours students are required to do a general paper and a dissertation, plus nine courses chosen from a range of options over two years. Joint Honours students do half that workload, with the other half in their other subject (there are minor variations for a couple of degree combinations).

Details of the core courses and modules can be found on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/politics.

What are my career prospects?

Through debate, written essays and projects, the study of politics will develop your analytical skills and writing abilities, equipping you for a wide variety of careers. Popular career destinations for our graduates include:

- the media
- teaching
- the civil service
- the charity sector
- the armed forces.

Joint Honours combinations

You may study Politics with another subject at Honours level. Subjects which may be taken in combination with Politics include:

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Archaeology | • German |
| • Business & Management | • Greek |
| • Business Economics | • History |
| • Central & East European Studies | • History of Art |
| • Classics (Classical Civilisation) | • Italian |
| • Computing Science | • Latin |
| • Economic & Social History | • Mathematics |
| • Economics | • Music |
| • English Language | • Philosophy |
| • English Literature | • Psychology |
| • Film & Television Studies | • Public Policy |
| • French | • Russian |
| • Gaelic | • Scottish History |
| • Geography | • Scottish Literature |
| | • Slavonic Studies |
| | • Sociology |
| | • Spanish |
| | • Theatre Studies |
| | • Theology & Religious Studies. |

Can I study abroad?

You can opt to take your third year abroad. We have Erasmus agreements with a number of universities in Germany, the Czech Republic, and Denmark (several programmes are taught in English), and with universities in the USA, Canada, and New Zealand. Courses you take overseas form an integral part of your degree without adding an extra year or semester. Information is available on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange.

‘Going abroad is self-affirming, self-developing, educating, satisfaction giving and exciting. Young people need all of the above.’

Paulina Kühn spent part of her degree in Politics and French studying at the University of Toronto, Canada.

‘Scotland at its artsy, riotous, high-octane, good-time best.’

Lonely Planet



City of Glasgow

What is it like living and studying in Glasgow?

Named as one of the world’s top ten cities by independent travel guide *Lonely Planet*, Glasgow attracts the largest student population in Scotland. The city’s reputation for friendliness means that wherever you come from, you’ll soon treat it as your second home.

Music and nightlife

In an average week Glasgow hosts 123 bands, 72 classical composers, 49 choirs, 38 orchestras and 21 jazz bands. Renowned for discovering acts from Franz Ferdinand to Primal Scream, the city has fantastic venues for live music including King Tut’s Wah Wah Hut – voted UK’s best live venue by listeners of Radio 1 three years in a row.

More than 700 bars, pubs and nightclubs mean no two nights in Glasgow are the same. Whether you’re after a record-breaking 100-foot long bar where everyone can be a barfly (the Horseshoe), or a pub with a log fire, stuffed stags’ heads and kilted staff that’s as appealing as it is unpronounceable (Uisge Beatha), Glasgow has a venue to suit. Dance until you drop at the Subclub, or travel back to 1920s America at the Vegas clubnight on the Renfrew Ferry, it’s up to you.

Festivals

At least one festival every month of the year shows Glasgow loves to celebrate. Some of our favourites include Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Celtic Connections folk music festival, Glasgay, Piping Live!, Glasgow Film Festival and Aye Write!, the city’s book festival.

Culture

The city of Glasgow owns one of the richest collections in Europe, displayed in 13 museums and art galleries – and admission is free. You are spoilt for choice, with the city’s famous Burrell collection vying for attention beside Scotland’s most visited attraction, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, located next door to the University.

Sport

The city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Across the world people know Glasgow as home of Celtic and Rangers football clubs, but with no fewer than 27 public fitness centres including swimming pools, running tracks, 11-a-side pitches and tennis courts, you’re guaranteed to find something to get involved with, whatever your level of fitness.

Campus culture

Are you craving cosy campus living or do you prefer big city excitement. Whichever is your style, you’ll be impressed by the University’s excellent location in the compact West End. Just two miles from the city centre, with great bus and underground links, the West End has a reputation as the bohemian, trendy and cosmopolitan quarter of Glasgow.

What our students say

‘Glasgow is such a diverse and vibrant city with lots to offer and a great social scene with a fantastic range of bars, clubs and music venues.’

Alexander Hutchison

‘I chose Glasgow because compared to the other cities I visited it just seemed like a much more lively place. I think the high student population makes it a very young city.’

Elizabeth Ritz

‘The campus at Glasgow is unbelievably beautiful. It’s hard to believe sometimes when walking down busy Byres Road and turning into University Avenue, that this Hogwarts is situated right in the heart of the West End.’

Beverley Simpson

‘Glasgow is very vibrant. The West End is like the village within the city.’

Sarah Gibson

