

School of **Law and Politics**

Politics and International Relations

Undergraduate Degree Programmes



www.cardiff.ac.uk/law-politics

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Our **internationally renowned team** offer expertise in political theory, comparative politics and public policy, cyber security, feminism, cold war history, environmental politics, security, intelligence studies and postcolonial politics.

In the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF), we achieved the **highest possible score** for impact in the Politics and International Studies Unit of Assessment (UOA). Over **80% of our submission was considered world-leading** or internationally excellent.

94% of our graduates were in employment and/or further study, due to start a new job or course, or doing other activities such as travelling, 15 months after the end of their course.*

We have links with Welsh Government, Westminster, G7, the United Nations and NATO, NGOs, policymakers and journalists.

Choose Cardiff

Starting your university career is an exciting time. You have so many things to think about and consider but why should you choose to join us, here in Cardiff, in our politics and international relations department?

Our vibrant and bustling school is set in the dynamic, capital city of Wales. We are primely located in the city's civic centre, a stone's throw from Welsh Government and very close to Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament which is situated in the beautiful location of Cardiff Bay.

Studying here combines the benefits of Welsh life and culture, with a worldwide outlook.

We welcome a host of students through our doors each year. Some have travelled just a few miles from other parts of Wales and the UK while many others have travelled overseas, specifically to benefit from what we and Cardiff has to offer.

Whatever path you chose to study with us, you'll benefit from the unrivalled access colleagues in the school have to the devolved Welsh Government, to Welsh and UK policymakers, and to the world at large.

You can expect to be taught by academic staff who are at the very forefront of their respective fields of research and expertise, united by a vision to create and use knowledge to change people's lives for the better, both today and for future generations. This is evident in the real-world impact of our research activities, which saw politics and international studies awarded a perfect score (4.0) for impact, one of only 3 UK universities to achieve this award.

I joined the school in 2022 and was delighted to learn that my colleagues share a passion for teaching and bringing out the best in our student community. We want our graduates to make meaningful and positive change in the world around them. This is supported by excellent, dedicated career support, a personal tutor system and a range of extra-curricular activities which include societies and events.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to the school and, with our incredible community, helping you reach your goals and realise your ambitions.



Professor Warren Barr PFHEA
Head of the School of Law and Politics

*Higher Education Statistics Agency, Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019/20, published by HESA in June 2022

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Studying politics and international relations

Politics and international relations are about the evolving forces that shape our societies, communities and the world.

Studying politics and international relations means learning about, and critically engaging with, the wide range of ideas, institutions, and practices, that shape people's lives across the globe. Students of politics and international relations develop deep knowledge and understanding of how we organise our lives collectively in an increasingly interconnected world. In gaining such insights, they learn how we might use that knowledge to meet today's global challenges, from climate change and war to poverty and pandemics.

If you join us, we'll introduce you to the key ideas that drive political movements, parties, institutions, and geopolitical struggles. It will enable you to understand the political and social consequences of forces such as conflict, colonialism, and globalisation. You'll gain a strong grounding in the theories that help us to make sense of how the world is and of how we want it to be, from moral and ethical philosophy to feminist and postcolonial theory. As a learning community, we explore why and how diverse practices - from

intelligence, nuclear politics, genocide, and transnational justice, to public, foreign, constitutional, and intergovernmental policy - continue to shape our world.

We are proud of our links with key political institutions and actors. We work closely with Welsh Government, Westminster, the G7, the United Nations, NATO, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, and a range of NGOs, policymakers, and journalists. These connections help us to ground our academic work in the practical world, and they help you to examine the practical applications of your learning.

Degrees in politics and international relations provide a foundation for a wide range of careers.

These include roles in non-governmental organisations, global development, international business, diplomacy and intelligence in government, journalism, and policy research. Our programmes also prepare you for more specialist study at the postgraduate level. We provide the vital knowledge and skills you need for such

careers and for further study, from policy and case study analysis, and qualitative and quantitative methods, to critical and independent thinking. Our programmes, which are global in scope, offer critical insight into our complex and ever-changing world.



Professor Victoria M Basham
Head of Politics and International Relations



Meet our experts

Our academics and their expertise are the foundation of our department. Not only do they drive our research agenda they also engage our students in critical thinking and ask the pertinent questions that need answers in 21st century academia and beyond.

Here are just a few of the faces and specialisms you might come across if you join our school.

Dr Amal Saad

Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

What do you love about Cardiff?

I was drawn to Cardiff University because it's situated in a cosmopolitan capital city which has its own unique heritage and identity. I feel very at home here - Cardiff Bay reminds me a lot of Beirut's coastline, and the people here are incredibly warm and welcoming like Lebanese people. I was attracted to the department's diverse academic specialisations and research interests. My exceptional students make my job even more rewarding, especially when we have seminar discussions where they engage critically with complex regional issues.



Dr Jonathan Kirkup

Senior Lecturer in Politics

What first attracted you to study politics?

I love the fact that British politics is always changing - perhaps too fast in recent years! It means that there is always something new to debate and from the perspective of an academic, things to compare with the past or with other countries. I also really enjoy the fact



that my research into public policy can inform government, and in turn I can pass on these experiences to my students.

Dr Maja Davidovic

Lecturer in International Relations

What makes international relations at Cardiff University different?

For me, doing international relations at Cardiff University by and large means doing critical international relations. We teach the canon, of course, but also continue to stretch the epistemological, ontological, and methodological boundaries of the discipline. Much of our teaching is rooted in practice as many of us academics have held (or still hold) different non-academic posts or consultancies in governmental and non-governmental sectors. Throughout their studies, our students have numerous opportunities to work on various practice-oriented assessments that replicate real-life scenarios and situations and, in doing so, advance their academic as well as transferrable skills.



Dr Thomas Leahy

Lecturer in Politics

What is your biggest achievement to date?

Outside of my book achievements or other achievements (such as winning a battle of the bands when I was younger) I have to say dealing with my Multiple Sclerosis (MS) diagnosis, treatment and getting well again. I have mentioned this as an example for potential students with MS or other ongoing health factors because our department here is full of supportive lecturers and students who help make this an inclusive and caring place to work and study, for everyone.



Dr Jennifer Allan

Senior Lecturer in International Relations

Tell us about your teaching?

I teach 2 modules – one is on the politics of sustainable development, and the other is on activism. Both fields have changed so much. I remember teaching about climate change 10 years ago, and I had to start with “yes, it’s real and it’s us.” The activism module is great – there’s always new examples to talk about! Just in the last few years, there have been COVID-related protests across the world and new laws proposed in the UK to avoid disruptive protests, such as those held by Insulate Britain and Extinction Rebellion. In Canada, where I’m from, there was a Trucker Convoy last year. We had a weekly check in on what was happening and how it related to the course content.



Dr Haro Karkour

Lecturer in International Relations

What makes Cardiff University different?

We are a growing department with scholars from many nationalities and backgrounds, all committed in various ways to a pluralist place for work and study. Cardiff is also a unique place to study and teach post-colonial theory, in the sense that it is situated in the Global North and yet in some respects has a post-colonial history in relation to England. This post-colonial history is reflected in my teaching of international relations that is not focused solely on Western theory, but also alternative theories that emphasise the hybridity of post-colonial identity formation due to cross cultural encounter and exchange.



Our degree programmes

Politics (BScEcon)

UCAS Code: L200

Politics is a subject that has an undeniable impact on our lives.

The field of politics allows you to explore how parliaments and governments function, and to evaluate political ideas such as power, freedom, democracy, conflict, legitimacy and accountability.

This innovative degree programme explores the interaction of states, international alliances, non-governmental organisations and multinational companies. You'll study major political issues such as the changing face of British politics in a devolved setting, the consequences of Brexit, the politics of international and cyber security, the role of human rights, terrorism and global climate change.

During the first year of the course, compulsory modules examine the foundations of Western political thought, modern political analysis, globalisation and international relations, and European integration.

The second and final years allow you to deepen your understanding of politics, political theory and ideas, to sharpen your insight into what motivates individuals, parties and organisations within the political sphere. This programme will provide you with an excellent understanding of politics and government, while also equipping you with associated intellectual and communications skills that will be of value whether you work in government or in the private or third sector. Studying in one of the UK's leading centres for teaching and research in politics, you'll learn how to assess the challenges we face in an increasingly globalised world.

International Relations (BScEcon)

UCAS Code: 305Q

International relations is a multifaceted field which addresses a wide range of questions that are critical to our contemporary world.

It examines the role of states, international alliances, non-governmental organisations and multinational companies in an increasingly globalised world.

This programme provides you with the opportunity to study this exciting and important subject in its depth and breadth, and covers both traditional and new areas of thinking in a manner informed by scholarly debates and global political concerns and developments.

You'll gain a solid grounding in core international relations theories and perspectives, and the historical development of the international system. This will provide you with a theoretical and historical foundation for more advanced study of a rich range of topics in the second and final years.

Our objective is to challenge the preconceptions that you'll bring to the subject and to actively encourage a critical attitude to the nature of the political and the international. The ideas and practices studied as part of this programme are in constant evolution. Our aim is for you to become an active and critical citizen with a developed consciousness of the values of internationalisation.



I've really enjoyed studying themes of inequality in politics, and looking at this through the lens of gender, race, and refugee status. I've also enjoyed studying the politics of health, environment, and drugs and how they are all linked.

Tamzin Covell, Politics and International Relations (BScEcon)



Being a politics student, I joined the University's Politics Society which runs a variety of brilliant social and sporting events. I've also been to some great presentations including one on the Northern Irish Peace Process and talks from a practising and former King's Counsel and even the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford.

Jake Williams
Politics (BScEcon)

Law and Politics (LLB)

UCAS Code: ML12

Unquestionably, the relationship between law and politics is an interdependent one.

Both subjects have a huge impact on all our lives regardless of age, ethnicity and social background. This programme allows you to combine these fascinating topics within the interdisciplinary environment of our school.

You'll gain a comprehensive grounding in law, spaced out across the 3 years of your programme. Alongside your law modules you'll study political modules that explore how parliaments and governments function, and evaluate political ideas such as power, freedom, democracy, conflict, legitimacy and accountability.

We have excellent academic links with Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament and long-established relationships with national and international organisations such as the Westminster parliament, European Union and NATO, giving you the opportunity to supplement your learning by engaging with political decision makers.

International Relations and Politics (BScEcon)

UCAS Code: L290

Study international relations and politics to investigate the key global issues that impact our daily lives.

If you seek a deeper understanding of how the political world works, why and how decisions are made by governments and non-governmental organisations, and how the consequences of these actions affect all of us, the study of politics and international relations is for you.

This innovative degree programme explores the interaction of states, international alliances, non-governmental organisations and multinational companies. You'll study major political issues such as the politics of international and cyber security, the role of human rights, terrorism, gender and military affairs and global climate change. This degree will provide you with an excellent understanding of politics and international relations while also equipping you with associated intellectual and communications skills.

You'll have a broad choice of modules which allows you to tailor your degree to reflect your specific interests and career goals.

Studying politics alongside complementary topics

Politics is a topic which permeates every element of our lives. This makes it an excellent subject to learn alongside other complementary topics.

If you'd like to study politics but are also interested in other topics of study, a joint honours programme (or an integrated degree as they're sometimes called) could be exactly what you're looking for. By studying 2 subjects you automatically gain a different and varied perspective on the world.

Our joint honours options:

- allow you to concentrate on more than one subject area
- give you access to a wider range of modules
- encourage effective time management
- provide you with a host of transferable skills

School of English, Communication and Philosophy

- Politics and Philosophy (BA)

School of History, Archaeology and Religion

- Modern History and Politics (BA)

School of Journalism, Media and Culture

- Journalism, Communications and Politics (BA)

School of Modern Languages

- French and Politics (BA)
- German and Politics (BA)
- Italian and Politics (BA)
- Spanish and Politics (BA)

School of Social Sciences

- Politics and Sociology (BScEcon)

School of Welsh

- Welsh and Politics (BA)



I chose Cardiff as it's a Russell Group university with great opportunities to develop and learn. I chose law and politics as it is a topic that affects us as individuals on a day-to-day basis and society as whole. It offers an insight into how institutions and power works.

Nirushan Sudarsan
Law and Politics (LLB)



Studying bilingually

Did you know you can opt to study your modules through the medium of Welsh? The way you do it is up to you but we'll provide the opportunity or should we say, y cyfle!

Our aim is to provide you with the necessary skills and knowledge to live and work bilingually in a modern Wales.

Devolution, legal developments and the Welsh Language Measure 2011 have led to a significant increase in the demand for bilingual graduates in both the public and private sector. If you want to live and work in Wales, living and working in Welsh is a no brainer.

Studying bilingually means undertaking the same modules and courses as other students but with in-built opportunities to advance your skills through the medium of English and Welsh. Students who study bilingually can choose whether to submit assessments in Welsh or English.

We encourage Welsh speakers to consider studying bilingually because the ability to engage in 2 languages improves your communication skills and provides additional employability opportunities. There are also formal qualifications and recognition available through Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's Welsh Skills Certificate.

Whatever your confidence in using Welsh, there are opportunities for you to take advantage of our Welsh-medium provision.

Scholarships

If you opt to study bilingually you may be eligible to apply for financial support. Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol works with further education colleges, universities, organisations that offer apprenticeships, and employers to create opportunities to train and study in Welsh. Coleg Cymraeg offers a range of scholarships that might be right for you, so take a look at its website to find out more.



The thing I enjoyed the most about my studies, without a shadow of a doubt, was the ability to do some modules through the medium of Welsh. I'm a fluent Welsh speaker and I enjoyed making the most of every opportunity offered to me to engage and study through Welsh.

Emily Pemberton
International Relations
(BScEcon 2020)

Beginning your career

Our degrees in politics or international relations can open doors to a multitude of exciting and varied career options.

Graduates are now working in diverse fields that include NGOs, global development, international business, teaching, diplomacy and intelligence in government, journalism, and policy research.

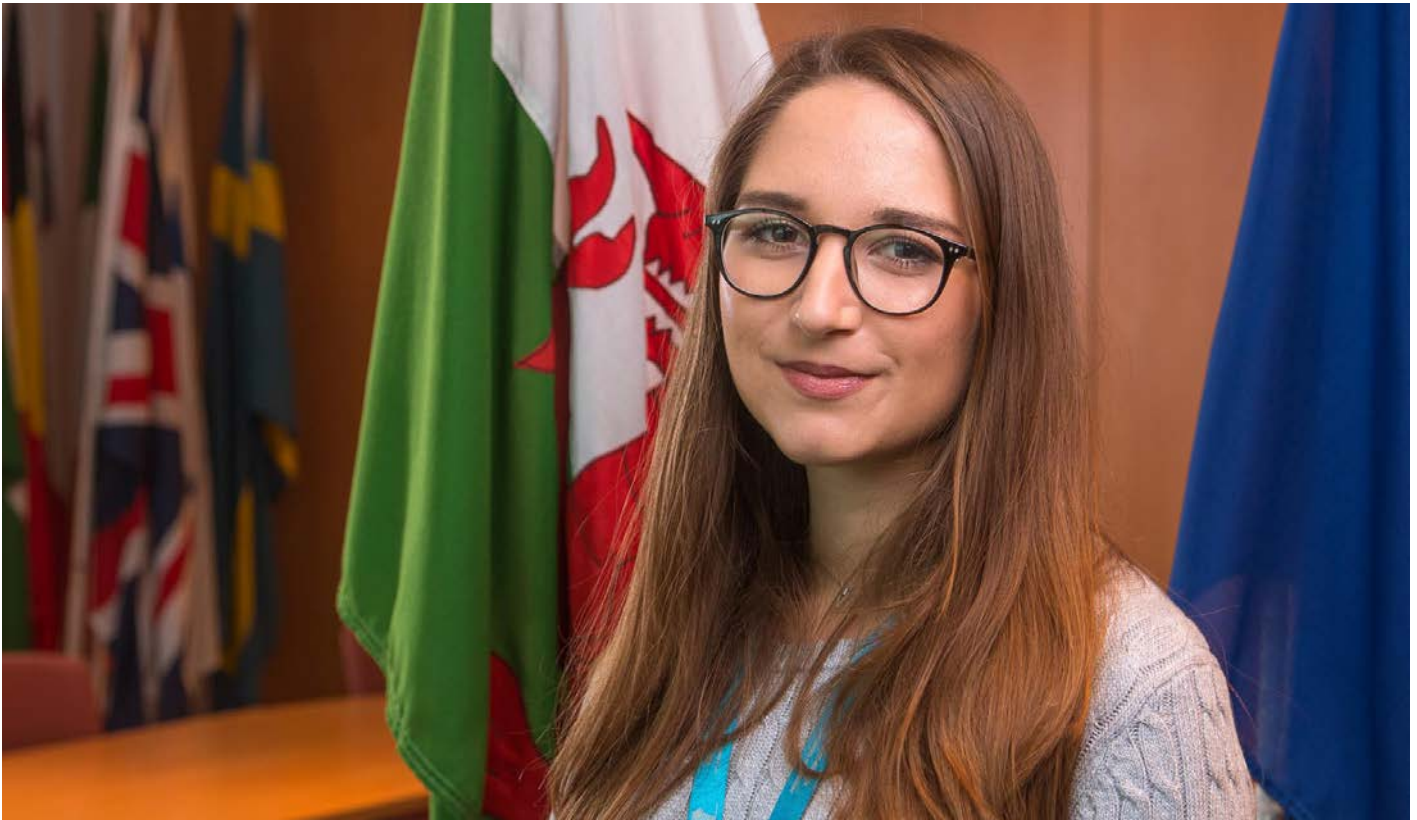
94% of our graduates were in employment and/or further study, due to start a new job or course, or doing other activities such as travelling, 15 months after the end of their course

(HESA, Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019/20)*

When you join us, you can gain support from Student Futures (the University's careers service) which includes:

- one-to-one sessions by appointment
- workshops on topics such as CV writing and interview preparation
- access to careers fairs throughout the year
- professional networking events and employer presentations
- mock interviews
- information on internships and graduate training programmes
- up-to-date careers information and links to additional graduate careers resources
- access to the online learning module, 'Your Career Journey', via the Student Intranet
- enterprise and entrepreneurial activities and support with starting a business
- information and advice on opportunities to study, work and volunteer abroad (via Global Opportunities)
- the opportunity to complete an employability award (Cardiff Award)
- work experience and placement opportunities
- specialist support from the Career Confident Team (for eligible students)





Beyond the classroom

Apply your theory in a political setting

You'll have the opportunity to take a module in your third year which allows you to carry out a work placement at an organisation that plays a key role in Welsh governance. This placement aims to provide you with a theoretically grounded yet practice-oriented introduction to devolved governance in Wales. By participating in a series of lecture seminars delivered by leading practitioners and academic experts in the fields of public law and politics, you'll experience the workings of public administration in Wales at first hand. You'll broaden your empirical knowledge and understanding of the legal and political dimensions of governance in Wales, develop highly valuable transferable skills that will be key to your employability and career development, and forge long-term professional relationships within relevant sectors.

Go your own way

All politics and international relations students have the opportunity to apply for transfer onto our placement year degree programme. The placement year allows you to gain extended experience of a professional work environment during your degree and will provide you with an opportunity to apply the knowledge gained during the first 2 years of study in a practical context. Spending time in a professional workplace will enhance your employability skills and experience. This is a self-sourced and self-funded opportunity: you'll source your own placements within a framework of overall support provided by the school.



I took part in the work placement module and spent approximately 10 weeks at youth work charity, Youth Cymru. During this time, I wrote a research paper for the organisation on the disparities of youth work funding between England and Wales which is, of course, an extremely relevant and important topic. This opportunity allowed me to gain experience in the youth work sector and enforced professional report writing, meetings and research skills.

Charlotte Towison
Modern History and Politics
(BScEcon)*

*This programme is now a BA



Our graduate stories

We're incredibly proud of the hundreds of students who leave our school each year to progress and excel in a variety of interesting and diverse sectors. We asked a handful of our former students to talk about what they're doing now.

Daniella Graham Stoller

**Senior Strategist, Hanover
Modern History and Politics
(BScEcon* 2010)**

Following university, I interned at Metro.co.uk, and progressed to Night Site Editor followed by Entertainment Editor. I then made the switch to PR, working as a strategist at a consumer agency working on brands from Vodafone to LEGO. After moving to the strategic communications team at Public Health England, I now work as a Senior Strategist at Hanover, a communications agency. I work on research insights projects and develop strategies for a huge mix of clients, from not-for-profit organisations to multinational corporations. The best thing about working in an agency is that I get to work on a variety of projects, from running workshops with cancer patients to better understand how their treatment experiences might be improved, to developing research to understand how business owners view climate change impacts, or developing a strategic approach for how a not-for-profit organisation should approach its communications. It's busy, but never dull!

*This programme is now a BA rather than a BScEcon



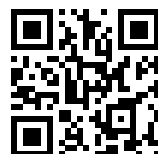
Aimen Chouchane

**Head of Content, SonaPolitics
(BScEcon 2009)**

I started in political consultancy and corporate communications and then transferred those skills to startup marketing. I'm currently Head of Content for a venture capital-backed startup called Sona. We help frontline industries such as social care, hospitality, and the voluntary sector digitise their HR and people management processes to improve their efficiency and increase employee engagement and happiness. I can honestly say that no 2 days are the same, which is why I love it. But since content is at the core of my job title and role, most days I am either writing or creating multimedia content that helps us reach and engage with potential customers.

Meet Matthew

Matthew Congreve graduated from our International Relations and Politics (BScEcon) programme in 2018 and now works in Inter-Parliamentary Relations. Find out more about his career journey via this QR code.



Georgia Pickles

**Employer Brand Manager, Cleo AI
International Relations and Politics
(BScEcon 2018)**




I'm an Employer Brand Manager at Cleo AI, a fintech app. We're HQ'd in London but I work remotely. My role is to make Cleo a recognisable brand to as many bright prospective employees as possible. We're hiring heavily into our tech and data teams, with a particular focus on improving gender diversity across the board, which is a mission I love! The role is extremely varied! I work with leaders from across the company to amplify the important messages that we want to be known for. I lead our Diversity and Inclusion working group to ensure that we're creating an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. We have various initiatives in place to try and improve access to the tech industry. This involves partnering with various charitable and non-profit organisations. I love this aspect of my role as I get to collaborate with people from outside of Cleo.





How to find us

Key

-  School of Law and Politics
-  University and NHS buildings
-  Student residences

How to find the school

We are located in the Law Building, which sits at the heart of the Cathays Park Campus, a short walk from the city centre. The building is very close to Cathays railway station and is easily accessible from university halls of residence.

Entry Requirements

These typical requirements are for guidance. Please check our website for the latest information.

A-level

Politics/ International Relations/
International Relations and Politics/
Politics and Philosophy/ Modern History
and Politics: ABB-BBB

Welsh Baccalaureate

The Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills
Challenge Certificate will be accepted in
lieu of one A-level (at the grades listed
above), excluding any specified subjects.

IB

Politics/ International Relations/
International Relations and Politics/
Politics and Philosophy/ Modern History
and Politics: 31 to 32 points or 665 in
Higher Level subjects.

BTEC

Politics/ International Relations/
International Relations and Politics/
Politics and Philosophy/ Politics and
Modern History: DDM

All degrees GCSE requirements (or
equivalent): English Language at grade B
or grade 6. Please note, General Studies,
Citizenship Studies and Critical Thinking
will not be accepted. Extended Project
Qualification: Applicants with grade A in
the EPQ will typically receive an offer one
grade lower than the standard A-level
offer. Please note that any subject specific
requirement must still be met.

Equality and diversity

We are committed to supporting,
developing and promoting equality and
diversity in all our practices and activities.
We aim to establish an inclusive culture
free from discrimination and based upon
the values of dignity, courtesy and respect.
We recognise the right of every person
to be treated in accordance with these
values. We are committed to advancing
equality on the grounds of age, disability,
gender reassignment, marriage and civil
partnership, pregnancy and maternity,
race, religion and belief (including lack of
belief), sex and sexual orientation and to
fostering good relations between different
groups.

For further information, please visit:
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/
equality-and-diversity](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity).

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to
the Entry 2024 admissions cycle and are
correct at the time of going to press in June
2023. However, there is a lengthy period
of time between printing this brochure and
applications being made to, and processed
by us, so please check our website at:
[www. cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk) before making an
application in case there are any changes to
the course you are interested in or to other
facilities and services described here. Where
there is a difference between the contents of
this brochure and our website, the contents of
the website take precedence and represent
the basis on which we intend to deliver our
services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff
University study for a Cardiff University
degree.



This brochure is printed
on paper obtained from
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using vegetable-based inks.
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The printers are also accredited to ISO14001,
the internationally recognised environmental
standard.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity,
no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made
available in alternative formats,
including large print (text), Braille
and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format
please contact Laura Roberts:

Tel: **029 2087 4455**

Email: **RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk**

To find out more about the School of Law and Politics please visit our website:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/law-politics

Contact us

Tel: **029 2087 6705**

Email:

law-pol@cardiff.ac.uk

School of Law and Politics

Cardiff University
Law Building
Museum Avenue
Cardiff CF10 3AX
UK

Stay in touch



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Student life

Got questions about student life?
Get them answered at:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/
studentbloggers](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/studentbloggers)

Want to know more about life at Cardiff University? Our student bloggers are recording their experiences and are happy to answer your questions.

Our student bloggers are real students studying on a range of courses. They are here to answer any questions you have about life at Cardiff University. What's a typical day like? What clubs and societies are there? Is Cardiff's music scene any good? It can be almost anything.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

POLIR/0623