

School of Law and Politics

Politics and International Relations

Undergraduate
Degree Programmes 2025



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

Reasons to join us

Our teaching

We're one of a small group of UK universities that offer a Parliamentary Studies module approved by Westminster which is delivered in partnership with the Houses of Parliament. What better way to learn how government works than by hearing from those who work there?

Our location

We're located on the edge of Cardiff's beautiful civic centre. Our neighbours are Welsh Government and the city's Crown Court with the Arts and Social Studies library just across the way. We're also only a 15-minute train ride from Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament in Cardiff Bay. So, if you want to be part of the political action, you know where you need to be!

Our experts

Our internationally renowned team are research leaders who work with and advise practitioners and policy makers around the world in governments, think tanks and NGOs including the International Panel on Climate Change, the UN, NATO, G7 and the African Union. Once you join us, you'll get used to seeing your lecturers pop up on TV and radio very regularly!

Engage and connect with the world around you

Nestled on the edge of Cardiff's historic civic centre sits a 1950's concrete monolith quite different to the Victorian houses that surround it. That's ok though because the ideas that we cultivate within its walls are quite different too.

Do you consider yourself a global citizen in the making? Are you engaged or enraged by what you see on daily news bulletins? Do you want to develop your knowledge and better understand how we organise our lives collectively in an increasingly interconnected world?

Join us to critically engage with and explore the ideas, institutions, and practices that shape people's lives across the globe.

Our programmes are led by renowned experts who interrogate the past and the present, at home and abroad, exploring the complex dynamics of local, regional, national, and global politics. We're a diverse learning community, drawn from around the world. This means we're working from a range of perspectives and backgrounds when looking at the global challenges that we face, from climate change and war to poverty and pandemics.

We work with key political institutions in Wales, the UK and beyond. We inform policy - whether it be with our neighbours Welsh Government, Westminster, the G7, or the United Nations. We're engaged with NATO, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, and a range of NGOs, policymakers, and journalists. These connections help us ground our academic work in the practical world and allow you to see the applications of your learning.

It's essential that you have real life and practical experiences to put on your CV, to help you stand out, so we give you those too. If you want to go on placement during your studies, you can! If you want to study abroad, you can! These opportunities combined with what you learn on your programme will arm you with all the skills you need to succeed.

Our students have excelled in sectors that include non-governmental organisations, global development, international business, diplomacy and intelligence in government, journalism, and policy research to name but a few.

We're a vibrant, diverse community that is committed to making a difference. Embrace the challenge and shape the future with us.



*All additional opportunities mentioned here are usually offered through a competitive process which means that you may need to apply to take part.



Beyond the seminar

Not all learning takes place during a seminar or in a lecture theatre, so we'll encourage you to take advantage of opportunities for new ideas, new adventures and new friendships.

Become a model citizen

If public speaking, advocacy, debating and travel are your things, become a model citizen by signing up to the Model United Nations. The Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations, that aims to educate about international law, cooperation, and multilateral diplomacy. Competing with other universities across the UK you'll take on the role of delegates representing states and participate in a session of an organisation or committee, which is part of the UN (such as the Human Rights Council or the Security Council). You'll research your country's position, debate, deliberate, consult, and eventually develop a new UN framework with solutions to major world problems.

Let's get political

Finding like-minded folk is really important when settling into a new place. The Students' Union offers a range of societies and clubs, including several politically focussed societies. The societies organise socials and networking events, bring political speakers to campus and have a range of sports teams. We have the Politics Society, Cardiff University Conservative and Unionist Association, Labour Students Society, Marxist Society and Plaid Cymru to name but a few.

Expand your horizons

Even though we want you to love Cardiff as much as we do (and we think you will), we know that seeing other parts of the world helps you grow personally and academically. All our undergraduate politics and international relations programmes have study abroad opportunities in Europe and beyond! You'll be taught through the medium of English at a partner institution where you'll develop independence, respond to intellectual challenges, and be exposed to new and exciting cultures.



I've recently been elected as President of the Politics netball club. I've absolutely loved being part of the netball club as it has allowed me to meet people on my course, and on my modules, but also meet new people at the uni.

We have members from lots of different degrees, so it has been an amazing way to make friends. When coming to Cardiff, I would definitely encourage looking at the Politics Society and their sports teams.

Emily Jakes, International Relations and Politics (BSc Econ)



Our degree **Programmes**

We are one of the largest providers of undergraduate programmes in politics and international relations in the UK and we've been offering teaching in these disciplines for over 125 years.

During that time we've learned that students like choice, so we offer you a range of varied modules which change term on term depending on what's going on in the world. Our modules are topical and relevant which keeps your learning current and meaningful.

Whichever programme you choose, study abroad, Welsh language and placement opportunities will be available to you plus you can choose to join one of the many student-run politics related societies which are managed via our Students' Union.



To fully explore what each programme offers, review their entry criteria, and dig deeper into the modules you will study, visit our website.



Politics BSc Econ

UCAS code: L200

Become an informed citizen who can critically analyse the decisions made by those in power.

Studying politics allows you to explore how parliaments and governments function whilst evaluating political ideas such as power, freedom, democracy, conflict, legitimacy and accountability.

This programme analyses major ongoing political events and forces, from the dismantling of the UK's political union and the consequences of Brexit, to the role of ideology and populism in shaping political choices and behaviours. It also examines how governance structures, policymaking, and citizenship are increasingly influenced by global forces, from cyber security and human rights, to terrorism, and climate change.

You'll begin by examining the foundations of Western political thought, modern political analysis, globalisation and international relations, and European integration. As the programme progresses you can deepen your understanding by focusing on areas that interest you via our range of optional modules that cover topics including sex, drugs and public policy, the diaries, memoirs and biographies of political figures, UK elections and political psychology.



Every lecturer I have had has been exceptionally kind and helpful in assisting me with my studies.

The quality of learning that I have received is unmatched and has definitely been the thing I enjoy most about my studies.

Nathan Mintz
Politics (BSc Econ)



Find out more
about this course.

International Relations BSc Econ

UCAS code: 305Q

Join us to become a true global citizen, engaged in the world around you.

The interconnected world of the 21st century means that we've never felt closer to our fellow humans, regardless of where they live on the planet. The world has become metaphorically smaller and issues and events that happen on the other side of the globe matter to us now more than ever. No political regime, government or perceived prejudice is free from discussion, leading to activism, global movements and polarisation. Everything is now seen, heard and picked apart.

We explore and analyse this modern-day phenomenon. We examine the role of states, international alliances, non-governmental organisations and multinational companies and how they operate within today's globalised society.

Be taught by our truly international team who excel in digital technologies, the Cold War, global environmental regimes, the role of gender, sex and race in global politics, populism, pandemics and global health amongst other things.



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 engage and study through Welsh.

Emily Pemberton
International Relations (BSc Econ)



Find out more
about this course.

Law and Politics LLB

UCAS code: ML12

The relationship between law and politics is an interdependent one.

Both subjects have a huge impact on our lives whatever our age, ethnicity and social background. So much so that we brought the 2 disciplines together, under the same roof in 2014, when the School of Law and Politics was created.

It is the political systems within a country that generally creates its laws. This means that the legal political dynamic is fundamental if you want to observe and explore society. You will study the foundational aspects of law to prepare you for life in the legal sector but alongside that, you can study modules that explore how parliaments and governments function and evaluate political ideas such as power, freedom, democracy, conflict, legitimacy and accountability.



The ability to explore the intersectionality between law and politics has been one of the most interesting and thought-provoking aspects of my course.

I have been able to combine knowledge across both disciplines to improve my skills in an academic sense, but also develop a well-rounded understanding of both subjects.

Aeden Rooney
Law and Politics (LLB)



Find out more
about this course.

International Relations and Politics BSc Econ

UCAS code: L290

This programme gives you a holistic insight of the world both from a UK and international perspective, and an understanding of the complex relationship between national and global politics.

Our truly international team will lead you through the key global issues that impact our daily lives, exploring the interaction of states, global alliances, NGOs, and multinational corporations. You'll analyse political systems, foreign policies, and international conflicts while gaining insight into how nations interact and the impact of these interactions on global stability and security.

Studying these topics will make you globally aware, opening you up to career opportunities in diplomacy, international organisations, government agencies, non-profits, and global enterprises.



I chose to study IR and Politics as I believe it will broaden my horizons and open a variety of doors when it comes to employment.

I chose Cardiff University to study as it's a Russell Group University in a beautiful city where the cost of living is affordable and has good connection with government bodies like Senedd Cymru and Westminster Parliament.

Masud Alom, International Relations and Politics (BSc Econ)



Find out more about this course.

Studying politics with complementary topics

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

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
- encourage time management
- give you access to a wider range of modules
- provide you with a host of transferable skills

Our joint honours programmes are currently:

- Journalism, Communications and Politics (BA)
- Modern History and Politics (BA)
- Politics and Philosophy (BA)
- Politics and Sociology (BSc Econ)
- Welsh and Politics (BA)



I chose to study Politics and Modern History because I've always been fascinated by the underlying factors that shape today's events.

Cardiff University stood out to me as it provides an exceptional range of modules to choose from where I can study near enough whatever areas interest me! This has helped maintain my passion for this subject throughout my time here.

**Joshua Franklin,
Politics and Modern History (BSc Econ*)**

*This programme is now a BA



Thinking about your future

Believe it or not, we're thinking about your future from the minute you join us.

That's why we have a dedicated Careers Advisor who can help you from day one. Helen McNally works for the Student Futures team and is responsible for a whole host of activities to get you ready for the world of work.



More information about our careers support can be found on our school website

96%

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





Our degrees in politics or international relations open doors to a range of exciting and varied careers. Our graduates work in NGOs, global development, international business, teaching, diplomacy and intelligence in government, journalism and policy research.

Get ahead, get a placement

When you're applying for jobs, you'll inevitably be asked about your experience. But how can you build up experience if you've just spent the last 3 years studying at uni?!

Placements are your answer! Our students tell us that the practical and professional work experience that we offer has helped them stand out from the crowd when they're looking for jobs.

Work in the seat of Welsh power

In your third year, you can apply to carry out a work placement at an organisation that plays a key role in Welsh governance. This placement provides you with a theoretically grounded, yet practical introduction to devolved governance in Wales where you'll develop highly transferable skills and forge long-term professional relationships.

Go your own way

If you have contacts at an organisation that you'd like to work at, and you can secure a placement there you can opt to apply for and transfer onto our Placement Year degree programme*.

The placement year allows you to apply the critical thinking gained during your studies to a professional workplace, enhancing your employability skills and experience. This is a self-sourced and self-funded opportunity, but we'll support you through the process.

*This opportunity is open to Politics, Law and Politics, International Relations and International Relations and Politics students only.



My placement was within the legal team at the Welsh Parliament, within the legislative body, for 10 weeks within term time.

I learned soft office skills, and how to conduct myself in that environment. Due to the people I was surrounded by, I developed professional etiquette. I graduated in July 2023 and recently started a job at the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales which is part of the Ministry of Justice.

Gurpal Sahota, International Relations and Politics (BSc Econ)



What makes Cardiff different?

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 you might come across if you join our school.
We asked them what they think makes Cardiff different.**



Thomas Leahy
Senior Lecturer in Politics

We have a truly global perspective when studying themes such as conflict, security and politics with cases from across different continents.

This approach is vital because it means our students have the broad concepts and knowledge of IR or Politics studies but they also crucially have various case studies at their fingertips with which to test these broad concepts and show differences/similarities in scenarios across the globe.



Jen Allan
**Senior Lecturer in
International Relations**

Cardiff stands out for its students – I've met incredibly passionate, engaged students keen to work for a better environment and society.

Wales is incredible. It's a country with a rich history for people on the front lines of environmental and economic transitions, including the rough (to put it mildly) transition from coal. We can learn a lot about that history to help understand the prospects for a just transition to a climate-safer world.



Haro Karkour
Lecturer in International Relations

Cardiff is a growing department in international relations, 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 respect has a post-colonial history in relation to England. This post-colonial history is reflected in my teaching of IR that is not focused solely on Western theory.



Amal Saad **Lecturer**

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.



Jonathan Kirkup **Senior Lecturer in Politics**

The department is large enough to be a vibrant learning environment but small enough that we're a close community of academics and students.

We're a Russell Group university, based in the capital of Wales which means we attract leading figures in the political world. Our academics have fostered links with politicians and officials at Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament and UK governments, which means we can support politicians with insight into policy and provide students with unique opportunities to see politics at work. We're literally across the road from where the decisions are made!



Maja Davidovic **Lecturer in International Relations**

For me, doing IR at Cardiff by and large means doing critical IR. We teach the canon, of course, but also stretch the boundaries of the discipline, showing what alternative, more inclusive, more useful studies of IR can look like.

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. 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.

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2025 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in July 2024. 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** 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 well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

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

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

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



Contact us

School of Law and Politics
Cardiff University
Law Building
Museum Avenue
Cardiff CF10 3AX

Email: law-pol@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: 029 2087 6705

Stay in touch



[cardiffpolitics](#)



[@cardiffpolitics](#)