



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

School of

Law and Politics

Undergraduate
degree programmes

cardiff.ac.uk/law-politics



To educate,
create and
use knowledge
to change
people's lives for
the better today
and for future
generations.

Better futures for all – through learning and practice



On the edge of Cardiff's historic civic centre sits a concrete monolith, quite different to the Victorian facades and legal chambers that surround it.

The ideas we cultivate inside are as different and as bold as our home building.

Beside us is our neighbour, Welsh Government and the city's Crown Court is just across the way. We've been here for a long time; the building has been here since the 1950s but law has been taught at Cardiff University since 1970 and politics even longer, since 1899. Over the years we've cultivated a wealth of experience and when you join us, you'll become part of that legacy of learning and evolution.

We know that the law profession has changed during the last few decades. In the past, high earning careers and sealing deals were often what was thought of. However, when we talk about the law sector today, we know that altruism, activism and reform are also important to you. Our ideas and programmes have developed and progressed over those years and now, our mission is to make meaningful and positive change in the world.

Our students are global citizens in the making. Often our politics and international relations students are engaged and enraged by what they see on daily news broadcasts and come to us to develop their knowledge and gain a better understanding of how we organise our lives collectively in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our internationally renowned team are leaders in their fields with many racking up years of experience in their sectors. As a result, they're regularly asked to advise practitioners and policy makers in governments, think tanks and NGOs including the International Panel on Climate Change, Home Affairs Select Committees, the UN, NATO and G7. Once you join us, you'll get used to seeing your lecturers pop up on TV and radio very regularly.

Whatever discipline you choose to study with us, together we can critically engage with and explore the laws, ideas, institutions, and practices that shape people's lives across the globe.

Experience is everything

We know that theory and academic knowledge isn't all you need to succeed after university.



It's essential that you have real life and practical experience to put on your CV to help you stand out from your peers.

To give you a head start, we offer a range of opportunities that will help you gain practical experience and expose you to people and places that might help you in your future careers.

Law opportunities

Pro Bono

A term you'll hear time and time again in the law sector is pro bono. If you've never heard it before, it's a Latin term which means professional work undertaken voluntarily and without payment.

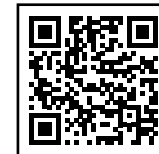
Helping our community while giving you the chance to gain new skills is important to us. This is why we have a range of pro bono schemes on offer, which will allow you to develop your skills in client care, legal research, writing and public speaking. These varied schemes can change each year depending on demand and teaching staff but they have included the Cardiff

University Innocence Project (which is the only university Innocence Project in the UK to have overturned a case at the Court of Appeal to date, and we have overturned 2!), our Law Clinic based at the Civil Justice Centre, Asylum Justice Fresh Claims Project, and our NHS Continuing Healthcare scheme.

Mooting and negotiation

Mooting is an essential element of legal training where you take part in simulated court scenarios to hone your speaking, persuasion, research and analytical skills. We run mooting competitions which are sponsored by local barristers' chambers. The stakes are high with the winners being awarded

a period of work experience (known as a mini pupillage) as their prize. Negotiation is part of our everyday lives, and key skills can be learned, which are useful for any future career. We run a training programme for a national negotiation competition each year, which our students often excel in. Maybe it'll be you next time!



We have a range of pro bono schemes to suit your interests and career plans so scan the QR code to find out more.

Politics and International Relations opportunities

Become a model citizen

If public speaking, advocacy, debating and travel interest you, 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.

Working with Westminster

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. Co-taught by our tutors and officials from UK Parliament, the module is currently available in the third year of our politics degrees (single and joint honours) and examines how parliaments and legislatures operate. If you choose this module, you'll explore how laws are made, how MPs hold governments to account, how the House of Lords could be reformed, and what being an MP entails.

Expand your horizons



Even though we know you'll love Cardiff as much as we do, we also know that seeing other parts of the world will help you grow personally and academically.

This is why we offer 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. You'll be well supported with a range of staff on hand for advice and guidance before and during your time away.

Other opportunities for study, work or volunteering abroad are available through the University's Global Opportunities team.

Discover other cultures, learn a new language and forge friendships to last a lifetime!

Meet your people

Although you're coming here to study, a big part of your Cardiff experience will be the people you meet. Those lasting connections are often shaped in societies that put you in contact with like-minded people.

Our Students' Union manage the Politics and Law societies which both have hundreds of members but if you're looking for more specialisms, they'll be able to cater for you too. There are more than 200 to choose from! The societies organise socials and networking events, bring speakers to campus and have a range of sports teams.

“Being the President of the Law Society has been one of the most intense and rewarding experiences I've ever had. I've learned how to lead a team with different personalities, manage deadlines, oversee budgets, and act as the main point of contact between students, law firms, and the University. Whether it was helping first-years find their footing, supporting students through mooting competitions, or watching friendships form at our socials, it's given me a deep sense of purpose outside the lecture hall. It reminded me



that university is not just about the degree, but also about the connections you make, the risks you take, and the people you lift up along the way.”

Kamile, Law LLB

Thinking about your future?

Place yourself on a placement

94%

of our graduates were in employment and/or further study or doing other activities such as travelling, 15 months after their course ended.

Graduate Outcomes survey 2022/23.

Based on UK-domiciled, full-time graduates who were studying for their first degree. Source: Graduate Outcomes 2022/23 survey results published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Copyright Jisc 2026. Jisc cannot accept responsibility for any inferences or conclusions derived by third parties from its data.



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 few 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.

Paralegal practice

If you join us to study law, during the second year of your degree, you'll have the opportunity to apply for a work placement* via a competitive process which will be carried out in your third year. The placement helps you gain crucial experience in the law sector and can be undertaken with one of our provider partners based in and around Cardiff, or self-sourced. The paralegal placement will be paid and you will develop key skills including case management, legal research and legal writing, time management, team working and commercial awareness.

* If you successfully apply for the paralegal placement year, it will take place during your third year meaning that your programme will be 4 years instead of 3.

Politics Placement Year

A year embedded in a job properly immerses you in the world of work. This is why we offer our Politics and IR students the chance to take a year out of studying to work, full time at a public, private or third sector

organisation. We'll provide you with support and assistance to source a placement at a suitable organisation. This may include:

- National and local government
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Charities
- Political parties
- Politicians' offices
- Pressure groups
- Think-tanks
- Arts organisations
- Educational bodies
- Media bodies.

If you choose to take the placement year, your programme will become 4 years long instead of 3. Therefore, you take the placement in your third year and then return to university to complete your degree, in your final year.

The placement year is credit bearing, and contributes 10% towards your final degree classification.

Politics in Practice

If lengthening your degree isn't an option, our Politics in Practice module could be for you. This is a 20-credit optional module taken during the autumn term of your final year. Students are selected

by an academic lead following a competitive application process and are matched with an organisation that plays a key role in Welsh governance. The placement (which is 70 hours) will give you a theoretically grounded, yet practical introduction to devolved governance in Wales where you'll develop highly transferable skills and forge long-term professional relationships.

Dedicated careers support

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. They're responsible for a whole host of activities to get you ready for the world of work.

“I was originally apprehensive as I was uncertain if I would thrive or be successful in an office environment and practising law as the academic side of law had seemed more appealing. I

was surprised to find I really liked the working environment and grew to understand more of what a solicitor does day-to-day. It was a nurturing and encouraging environment where I felt comfortable to ask questions and challenge myself to try unfamiliar tasks.”

Margot, Law with a Professional Placement Year LLB



Our degree programmes

Law

If you think about it, law runs through the fibre of everything we do.

The receipt in your pocket, the speed you drive at, your contract of employment. So much on the news talks about new laws being debated or rulings coming from the courts. And how many of us are obsessed with true crime podcasts and miscarriages of justice?

Law is a constant in our lives and our undergraduate programmes reflect what's going on in the world around us. Of course we teach the fundamentals, the foundations of what law is but we also go beyond this. Optional modules are topical, meaningful, and extensive. Depending on your interests, you could be studying money laundering and financial crime one day, human rights and homelessness, environmental regulations and healthcare ethics, the next.

Law LLB

UCAS code: **M100**

Our flagship law programme explores the rules and principles that govern people and how they affect the ways in which we interact with each other and society.

You'll gain an understanding of laws, regulations, how courts work, the roles of legal practitioners, and how laws are made and enforced. We'll make sure you develop a thorough understanding of the English and Welsh legal systems by studying foundational modules of Contract, Criminal, Legal Foundations, Public, Tort and Land Law together with a wide selection of exciting optional modules.

This could include Environmental Law, Human Rights Law, Commercial Law, Media Law and Family Law to mention just a few. Many of our law team are former practitioners from outside academia who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise.



Visit our Law course pages to **find out more.**



“My motivation for studying law stems from witnessing the consequences countries face due to lack of independence in judicial decisions and laws that unfairly control citizens while neglecting their human rights. With a keen interest in world politics and current affairs, I wanted a programme that would provide me with a strong foundation in legal principles while allowing me to explore international perspectives.”

Dinethra, Law LLB

Law with Politics and International Relations LLB

UCAS code: **ML14**

The relationship between law, politics and international relations is an interdependent one.

Our Law with Politics and International Relations (LLB) programme has been designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of how legal systems are located within a changing political and international relations context and how the law is shaped by this often-volatile environment.

These subjects have a huge impact on our lives regardless of age, ethnicity and social background. It is the political systems within a country that generally creates its laws. This means that the legalpolitical dynamic is fundamental if you want to observe and explore society.

You'll 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.



Visit our Law with Politics and International Relations course pages to **find out more.**



“Following my degree, I’m joining ScoutsCymru as their Policy and Engagement Officer, researching the impact of Welsh and UK Government policies on youth activity organisations like the Scouts. Following this, I hope to continue with charity and third-sector policy work, particularly with organisations surrounding social mobility, improving access to opportunities and social issues as I feel passionately about improving.”

Megan, Law and Politics LLB

Law with Welsh LLB

UCAS code: **MQ15**

Since 1999, Wales has had secondary legislative powers in a variety of areas including agriculture, education and housing.

This means that knowledge of our specific legal context in Wales and the ability to work through the medium of Welsh are sought after skills in 21st century Wales. This programme gives you a comprehensive grounding in the English and Welsh legal systems. You'll also develop a high level of written and spoken

Welsh, a thorough academic understanding of the language and our country's literature and culture.



Visit our Law with Welsh course pages to **find out more.**



“Studying law in Welsh, in Wales is majorly beneficial for career prospects as it is very appealing to lawyers not only that you can speak the language, but you have the skills to apply the language to the law.”

Maddison, Law (LLB 2024)

Law with Criminology LLB

UCAS code: **M190**

Whereas law examines a system of rules, criminology focuses on what happens when those rules are broken, criminalisation, victimisation, and social responses to crime and disorder.

The programme is taught in collaboration with colleagues from the social sciences and provides you with the opportunity for in-depth study in both fascinating areas. As with all our law programmes, you'll gain a comprehensive grounding in English and Welsh law, but in addition, you'll examine how to approach problems of crime,

justice and control as a social scientist before applying your new research-driven skills to real world issues and debates.



Visit our Law with Criminology course pages to **find out more.**



“Cardiff is a fantastic city and University, and there's nowhere else I'd rather be. The School is full of experts, who really know their stuff, the city is huge, but not overwhelming, and there are plenty of green spaces too. The Students' Union is also brilliant, consistently ranked as one of the best in the UK, and there truly is a society or a club for everyone. Cardiff really has it all and I cannot recommend it enough.”

Dominic, Law LLB



Politics and International Relations

We're one of the largest providers of undergraduate programmes in politics and international relations in the UK.

We interrogate the past and the present, at home and abroad, exploring the complex dynamics of local, regional, national, and global politics. We're an expert and 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.

Politics BA

UCAS code: **L210**

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, comparative government and modern political analysis, as well

as international relations and global politics. 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 justice and economic inequality, public policy, the diaries, memoirs and biographies of political figures, UK elections and political psychology.



Visit our Politics course pages to **find out more.**



“I massively enjoyed learning about globalisation as it allowed me to dive into issues and topics of great importance. Learning about European integration was also great as it gave me a huge amount of knowledge which, I believe, really enables us to look at the relations within Europe (both the union and the continent) with a more analytical lens.”

Ruaidhri, Politics and International Relations

International Relations BA

UCAS code: **310Q**

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. You'll explore and analyse this modern-day phenomenon.

You'll examine the role of states, international alliances, non-governmental organisations and multinational companies and how they operate within today's

globalised society. You will 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.



Visit our International Relations course pages to **find out more.**



“I have thoroughly enjoyed looking at topics in depth with peers during seminar sessions as part of my course. These sessions allowed for greater understanding of topics and to also take on varied viewpoints to diversify my own thinking.”

Lily, International Relations

Politics and International Relations BA

UCAS code: **L280**

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.



Visit our Politics course pages to **find out more.**



I chose to study politics and international relations because I have always been deeply curious about global affairs, the functioning of societies, and the ways in which countries work to improve democracy and ensure efficient governance.

As young people, we have witnessed historic events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, making it fascinating to analyse how nations respond to crises and challenges.”

Jana, Politics and International Relations



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.

We currently offer:

- Journalism, Politics and International Relations (BA) J323
- Modern History, Politics and International Relations (BA) LV22
- Philosophy, Politics and International Relations (BA) LV28
- Politics, International Relations and a Modern Language (BA) R758
- Politics, International Relations and Sociology (BA) LL32
- Welsh, Politics and International Relations (BA) QL54

Applications

To be considered for entry onto any of the undergraduate courses we offer, you should apply through UCAS: www.ucas.com

Entry requirements

We accept a combination of A-levels and other qualifications, as well as equivalent international qualifications subject to entry requirements.

Typical A-level requirements for Law programmes: AAA-ABB

Typical A-level requirements for Politics and International Relations programmes: ABB-BBC

Joint honours programmes with Politics and International Relations range from AAA to BBC.

For the latest information and full entry criteria across all programmes, please visit our website.

International applicants

We welcome applications from international students. Your qualifications must be comparable to UK qualifications. Please contact the admissions tutor for details.

More information is also available on our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/international



Visit our undergraduate course page to **find out more.**



How to find the School

The School of Law and Politics is located on Park Place, on our Cathays Park Campus.

Key

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

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2027 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in June 2026. 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.

When you have finished with this brochure it can be recycled, but please consider passing on to a friend or leaving it in your careers library for others to use.

Thank you.

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**

Email: lawpladmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4455

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

Stay in touch



@culawandpolitics

LAWPL/0626/250

