

School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy

Political Science – Undergraduate Degree Programmes



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

www.tcd.ie/political_science

Department of Political Science

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and is ranked 11th in Europe and 46th in the world and for politics and international studies (2014 QS World University Rankings by Subject). Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a lively and cosmopolitan community of students from around the globe. Its bustling 47-acre campus is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

Political science has been an important part of the curriculum since 1855 and Trinity College has developed an international reputation for its research work on the European Union, comparative politics, comparative public opinion, international relations as well as democracy and development. It is a vibrant, outward-looking department that combines intensive research activity with the strongest commitment to high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Our students benefit from a research-led education which exposes them to leading academics, the latest knowledge and ideas, and to an education that emphasizes analytical skills and creative thinking.

Why Study Political Science?

Politics affects us all in our daily lives. It's easy to think of issues that we all have opinions about. Should the government tax the rich to try to achieve greater equality? Should it introduce 'green taxes' in order to protect the environment? How high a priority should development aid be? Questions such as these, along with analysis of political systems, political behaviour and how democracy works, are at the heart of the study of political science.

Political science will appeal to students who are excited about exploring the background to current events, the nature and use of power and how decisions are made that impact on wider society. If you are interested becoming more engaged in public affairs and in understanding activities and ideas that will shape the future then political science is the degree choice for you.

Undergraduate Programmes



PPES - Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology (TR015)

Brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the social and human world, developing skills relevant to a wide range of future careers and activities. There is a gradual specialisation over the course of the degree with students ultimately having the option to just study political science or to combine with philosophy, economics or sociology.

BESS - Business, Economic and Social Studies (TR081)

Provides a broad education in business and the social sciences combined with the opportunity to specialise solely in political science or to jointly study with business, economics or sociology. It is a uniquely flexible programme where, after a common first year, students can adjust their course options to reflect their academic strengths, interests and emerging career aspirations.

History and Political Science (TR012)*

Provides students with an understanding of how contemporary political issues are informed by historical events. Students learn how to interrogate history and contemporary political questions using analytical skills from both disciplines and thus are equipped for a range of career options.

Law and Political Science (TR020)*

Provides the opportunity to learn about two deeply connected subjects and their relationship to each other. It will be of particular interest to students whose intellectual or career interests in politics and public service would be strengthened by knowledge of the law or who are interested in pursuing a legal career and want a wider political understanding.

Political Science and Geography (TR029)*

In a rapidly changing international economic, political, security and environmental context the tools of political science and geography are becoming increasingly important to analyse global problems and provide policy solutions. This course will appeal to students who hope to develop a critical understanding of the relationship between the Earth's natural and human phenomena and its political institutions and systems.

*During the first three years students take both subjects on an equal basis and then choose whether to continue studying both (joint honors) or to concentrate on either political science or the alternative subject (single honors).

“ With one of the country’s best resourced libraries, a vast online academic infrastructure and a department staffed by world leading academics, the university really helped develop my capabilities as a political scientist.”

Éamonn Fahey,
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE 2014
SINGLE HONORS POLITICAL SCIENCE

“ In Contemporary Political Issues students make presentations on political issues they are passionate about helping them to develop strong communication skills. Having politics as part of my degree has equipped me with analytical and problem solving skills that are very attractive to employers.”

Rebecca Kilbane,
PPES GRADUATE 2012
JOINT HONORS POLITICAL
SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

“ I took a variety of theoretical and applied classes which helped me hone not only my writing and analytical skills, but also my public speaking and teamwork abilities. I now work at the World Bank where I rely on the skills I acquired at Trinity every day.”

James Walsh,
BESS GRADUATE 2011
JOINT HONORS POLITICAL
SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

Career and Postgraduate Opportunities

Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide and from a career perspective political science is an extremely flexible and practical subject. Many graduates have gone on to postgraduate study both at Trinity College Dublin and at other leading universities around the world such as Harvard, Princeton, the London School Economics, the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

Political science students develop exceptional communication, writing and critical thinking skills which are highly sought after by employers. Opportunities for graduates are wide-ranging from working in international affairs, public policy and public service to business, public relations and journalism. The following are just a few examples of the diverse organisations where political science graduates work:



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for a political science degree programme please visit: www.tcd.ie/study

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