

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](http://www.tcd.ie/political_science)

# Department of Political Science

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and as one of the top universities in the world. 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.

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## Why Study Political Science?

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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



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

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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 study political science alone or to combine it with philosophy, economics or sociology.

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## **BESS - Business, Economic and Social Studies (TR081)**

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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.

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## **Joint Honours Political Science**

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Allows students to study two subjects to degree level with advanced specialisation in one or both subjects depending on their course choices. The Joint Honors programme offers a choice of four subjects which complement the study of Political Science including Geography, History, Law, & Social Policy.

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“ 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**  
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**  
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 rely on the skills I acquired at Trinity every day.”

**James Walsh,**  
**BESS GRADUATE**  
JOINT HONORS POLITICAL  
SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

## 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 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 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](http://www.tcd.ie/study)

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