

TRINITY JOINT HONOURS
ORIENTATION MEETING

Political Science

Joint Honours | 2026/27

Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin
September 2026

How each year's 60 ECTS are divided

	YEAR 1 · JF Junior Fresh	YEAR 2 · SF Senior Fresh	YEAR 3 · JS Junior Sophister	YEAR 4 · SS Senior Sophister
Joint Honours	30 30	20 20 20	30 30	20 20 20
Major with Minor A	30 30	40 20	40 20	20 20 20
Major with Minor B	30 30	40 20	30 30	40 20
Single Honours	30 30	40 20	50 10	40 20

pathway chosen at end of Year 1 award confirmed before Year 3

Political Science (major)
 Second subject (minor)
 Open modules & Trinity Electives
 Capstone, 20 ECTS

Your Year 2 pathway determines which awards stay open to you. Full rules and the pathway tool: tcd.ie/tjh → Pathways.

Junior Fresh (JF): thirty ECTS, all core

- 30 ECTS in Political Science and 30 ECTS in your second subject. The same on every pathway.
- All four Political Science modules are compulsory, 5 ECTS each.
- **A** modules run in Michaelmas term, September to December; **B** modules in Hilary term, January to April.
- At the end of the year you choose your Year 2 pathway.

MICHAELMAS TERM · 5 ECTS EACH

POU11011 Introduction to Political Science A

POU11033 Politics and Popular Culture A

HILARY TERM · 5 ECTS EACH

POU11012 Introduction to Political Science B

POU11034 Politics and Popular Culture B

Module titles link to the 2026/27 outlines.

Senior Fresh (SF): choose your pathway

	POL	SCI	OTHER	OPEN
Joint Honours	20	20	20	
Major with Minor	40	20	—	
Political Science as minor	20	40	—	
Single Honours	40	—	20	

ECTS. Open: open modules and Trinity Electives.

- 40 ECTS: all seven modules opposite are mandatory.
- 20 ECTS: choose from the list; A and B modules pair up.

Want a Political Science capstone in Year 4? Take POU22040 now.

FULL YEAR · 10 ECTS

POU22040 Introduction to Political Science Research

MICHAELMAS TERM · 5 ECTS EACH

POU22011 History of Political Thought A

POU22021 International Relations A

POU22031 Comparative Politics A

HILARY TERM · 5 ECTS EACH

POU22012 History of Political Thought B

POU22022 International Relations B

POU22032 Comparative Politics B

Also listed as POU22013 / POU22014 (Philosophy).

Junior Sophister (JS): confirm your award

	POL	SCI	OTHER	OPEN
Joint Honours	30	30	–	
Major with Minor A	40	20	–	
Major with Minor B	30	30	–	
Single Honours	50	–		10

ECTS, with Political Science as your major.
You confirm your award before Year 3.

- **Research Methods A** (POU33011) is core, taken with Research Methods B or Introduction to Qualitative Methods.
- Everything else is optional, 5 ECTS each.

THE ROUTE TO A POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONE

SF POU22040 Introduction to Political Science Research
10 ECTS, full year.



JS POU33011 **Research Methods A**
with Research Methods B (POU33012)
or Introduction to Qualitative Methods (POU33174).



SS POU44000 **Capstone research project**
20 ECTS, full year, supervised.

No POU22040, no Political Science capstone. You could still do one in your other subject.

Junior Sophister (JS): Michaelmas modules

MICHAELMAS TERM · 5 ECTS EACH

- POU33011 Research Methods for Political Science A **core**
- POU33021 Irish Politics A
- POU33041 Political Institutions of the United States
- POU33071 European Union Politics A
- POU33091 Political Violence A

MICHAELMAS TERM, CONTINUED

- POU33193 Politics and Markets
- POU33201 Authoritarianism
- POU33231 Political Participation and Mobilisation
- PIU33173 Political Philosophy **Philosophy**

Research Methods A requires POU22040 and is taken with Research Methods B or Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Hilary. Political Philosophy is a Philosophy module, available if it is clash-free. Titles link to the 2026/27 outlines; modules are subject to change.

Junior Sophister (JS): Hilary modules

HILARY TERM · 5 ECTS EACH

- POU33012 Research Methods for Political Science B
- POU33032 Irish Politics B
- POU33082 European Union Politics B
- POU33102 Political Violence B
- POU33132 European Court of Justice

HILARY TERM, CONTINUED

- POU33174 Introduction to Qualitative Methods
- POU33184 Topics in International Politics: International Environmental Politics
- POU33212 Identity Politics and Political Competition
- POU33222 Politics of the United Kingdom

Research Methods B or Introduction to Qualitative Methods completes the methods requirement for the Political Science capstone. Titles link to the 2026/27 outlines; modules are subject to change.

Senior Sophister (SS): the capstone year

	POL	SCI	OTHER
Joint Honours, capstone in Political Science	40 ■	20	
Joint Honours, capstone in your other subject	20	40 ■	
Major with Minor A	40 ■	20	
Major with Minor B	60 ■	—	
Single Honours	60 ■	—	

ECTS, with Political Science as your major and Other your second subject. ■ includes the 20 ECTS capstone.

FULL-YEAR MODULES

POU44000 Capstone research project
20 ECTS

POU44040 African Politics 10 ECTS

POU44050 Political Psychology 10 ECTS

- **The capstone** is a supervised, year-long research project. It requires POU22040, POU33011, and POU33012 or POU33174.
- Term options follow on the next two slides: 5 ECTS unless tagged. Check prerequisites in the outlines, and balance Michaelmas and Hilary.

Senior Sophister (SS): Michaelmas options

MICHAELMAS TERM

- POU44021 Contemporary International Relations A
- POU44251 Politics of Forced Migration
- POU44311 Gender and Politics
- POU44403 Topics in Far-Right Politics
- POU44423 Making Sense of China

MICHAELMAS TERM, CONTINUED

- POU44603 Contemporary Political Theory A
 - POU44623 Elections, Parties and Public Opinion in Ireland
 - POU44653 Causes, Consequences and Responses to Hate Crime
 - POU44663 Politics Across the Lifespan
 - ECU44111 Topics in Political Economy
- Economics, 10 ECTS

5 ECTS unless tagged. Elections, Parties and Public Opinion in Ireland requires Irish Politics A or B. Contemporary Political Theory A is also listed as **POU44683**. Titles link to the 2026/27 outlines; modules are subject to change.

Senior Sophister (SS): Hilary options

HILARY TERM

POU44032	Contemporary International Relations B
POU44112	Political Parties
POU44172	Russian Politics After Communism
POU44192	Advanced Topics in Civil Conflict
POU44272	Religion and Politics
POU44334	Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism

HILARY TERM, CONTINUED

POU44502	East Asian Politics
POU44634	International Political Economy
	10 ECTS
POU44644	Forecasting Politics
POU44674	Mass Media and Politics
PIU44114	Theories of Rights Philosophy

5 ECTS unless tagged. Forecasting Politics requires Research Methods A or equivalent. Theories of Rights is a Philosophy module. Titles link to the 2026/27 outlines; modules are subject to change.

Where Political Science graduates go

- Public service, European affairs and the civil service
- Diplomacy and international organisations
- NGOs, advocacy and campaigning
- Consulting, policy analysis and research
- Journalism and communications
- Data analysis, and further study at master's or PhD level
- Teaching at second or third level

Trinity Careers Service

2nd floor, 7–9 South Leinster Street,
Dublin 2

careers@tcd.ie · tcd.ie/careers

Book appointments and submit a career query through MyCareer:
mycareerconnect.tcd.ie

Start early. Careers advisers can review a CV, run mock interviews and help you find internships from first year.

People, places and documents

Trinity Joint Honours office

Arts Building, Room 3135

joint.honours@tcd.ie

01 896 1374

tcd.ie/tjh

Rules and regulations

Assessment and progression for Joint Honours:

tcd.ie/tjh/assessment

Department of Political Science

3 College Green

polsci@tcd.ie

tcd.ie/political-science

Your tutor

Every student has a College Tutor for advice and support. Find yours in my.tcd.ie.

Handbook and module outlines

Course handbooks

Joint Honours module outlines 2026/27

Pathway documents and tool