Welcome to SPAIS
(School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies)
Join a community of scholars

- The SPAIS team consists of 37 Politics staff who all specialise in different fields.
- We’re home to approximately 850 students.
- SPAIS is located on Priory Road next to the heart of the University campus, the SU Living Room and the University’s Indoor Sports Centre.

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Why study Politics at Bristol?

• Explore your interests – our diverse range of units means that you can study topics such as IR theory, global governance and international security across the UK, Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

• Our staff are experts in their fields - their published research and real-world political experience directly influences how you'll be taught.

• You'll become part of a high-achieving student body; approximately 250 are admitted annually.

• We encourage a ‘learning community’ – you’ll gain valuable insight outside of the classroom through co-curricular events; as part of the International Affairs and Politics societies; and the Staff Student Liaison Committee.

• Our degrees are designed so that students are the researchers - we want to hear your opinions!

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Our focus

Our degrees are underpinned by the following themes:

- Comparative politics
- Political theory
- International relations
- Methodology
Course structure

*please note that course units in the second and final years vary between degrees and may change. A sample of our current units can be found here*
How are the degrees organised?

- Politics can be taken as either a Single Honours degree or alongside another subject as a Joint Honours degree.
- Degrees are either three or four years long.
- Six units a year (20 credit points each)
- Joint Honours: 60 credit points on each side of the degree.
- Degrees are classified using second-year marks (40%) and final-year marks (60%)
- Four-year degree: second year (30%); third year (10%); final year (60%)
First year: Single Honours

Every student completes six 20 credit point units (or courses) a year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Core units</th>
<th>Core units</th>
<th>Optional units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Thinking Politically</td>
<td>Political Concepts</td>
<td>Issues in World Politics OR an open unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Theories of International Relations</td>
<td>Comparative Government and Politics</td>
<td>Politics of the Global South OR an open unit</td>
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First year: Joint Honours

Every student completes six 20 credit point units (or courses) a year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thinking Politically (core)</strong></td>
<td>Political Concepts (core)</td>
<td><strong>Choice of:</strong> Theories of International Relations OR Comparative Government and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit from joint subject</strong></td>
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Second year: Single Honours

- In addition to the mandatory module Investigating the Political (pre-requisite for the dissertation), you’ll chooses five units from a list of approximately 20.

- For 2019/20 the unit choices were:
  - **Theory:** Contemporary Political Theory, Rational Choice, The History of Western Political Thought, Green Political Thought
  - **Comparative Politics:** Democracy and US Govt, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russian Politics, South Asia, British Government and Politics, Co-operation and Integration in Europe
  - **International Relations:** International Organisations and Global Governance, Understanding Genocide, Comparative and International Political Economy, Global Justice, Contemporary IR, Power Politics and IR of East Asia, Development Studies
  - **Methods:** Conducting a Research Project, Investigating the Political
Second year: Joint Honours

- You’ll pick any three units from a list of approximately 20.
- For 2019/20 the unit choices were:
  - **Theory**: Contemporary Political Theory, Rational Choice, The History of Western Political Thought, Green Political Thought
  - **Comparative Politics**: Democracy and US Govt, Sub-Saharan Africa, Russian Politics, South Asia, British Government and Politics, Co-operation and Integration in Europe
  - **International Relations**: International Organisations and Global Governance, Understanding Genocide, Comparative and International Political Economy, Global Justice, Contemporary IR, Power Politics and IR of East Asia, Development Studies
  - **Methods**: Conducting a Research Project, Investigating the Political (mandatory if you want to do the final year dissertation)
Final year units

During final year you’ll be able to pick specialist units depending on your interests. You will also complete your dissertation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core unit</th>
<th>Options</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Honours</td>
<td>Any 3 units or 1 taught unit and the dissertation</td>
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Final year units (cont.)

For 2019/20 the unit choices were:


• **International Relations** – Contemporary Chinese Foreign Policy, Gender and Security, Popular Culture and World Politics, Politics of the Environment, Critical Security Studies, Peacebuilding: Theory and Practice, US Foreign Policy, The Holocaust: History and Legacy, and European Foreign Policy

• **Political Theory** – How to Win a Political Argument, Contemporary Feminist Thought, Justice between Generations, Postmodern Political Theories, Perspectives of Power

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Study abroad

Depending on which course you choose, we also offer opportunities to study abroad for a semester or full year.

We have study links with:

- Czech Republic (Prague)
- New Zealand (Dunedin)
- Belgium (Leuven)
- South Korea (Seoul)
- Japan (Kyoto, Nagoya)
- Australia (Sydney, Melbourne)
- Canada (Montreal, Hamilton)
- Singapore
- France
- USA (Los Angeles, California, Wisconsin, Chicago, Maryland New Jersey)
- South Africa (Stellenbosch)
- Hong Kong
- Denmark (Copenhagen)
- Germany (Freiburg)

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Thank you