



Course Summary: June 28, 2025

Politics and Sociology BA Honours

- UCAS code: **LL32**
- Full time
- 3 years

Master the art and science of identifying, evaluating and harnessing the political and social forces that shape our lives.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2025**

Next start date:

- September 2025

Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,535**
- International: **£23800**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**
- IB: **32 points**

[View contextual offers](#)

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Course overview

During this three-year degree, you will divide your time equally between politics and sociology – acquiring a rich theoretical understanding of both disciplines and a set of practical skills valued by employers.

The course features regular fieldwork and hands-on workshops to ensure that you graduate as a practising sociologist and political scientist. You'll be trained to conduct surveys, evaluate statistics, and use SPSS – the professional-standard data analysis software.

With a wide choice of modules throughout, you can tailor your degree to your interests – whether it's the sociology of crime or race, or the politics of the UK parliament, international diplomacy or the far-right in Europe.

Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2024-25.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

You will take a small number of core modules, learning how political and social forces interact, and acquiring some of the skills you will need in your studies.

You will then pick a larger number of modules, half in sociology and half in politics, covering subjects such as epistemology and social imagination, the foundations of modern political thought, Refugees and Displacement, Environment and Ethics, Hope and Despair, Health and Illness.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
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State, People and Politics: Comparative Politics in a Globalised World	20
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Politics and Society	20
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Optional Modules	Credits
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UK Politics: Westminster and Beyond	20
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Key Concepts in International Politics	20
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Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century	20
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Power and Inequality: How to Study Global Politics ... and Change the World	20
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Politics of Happiness	20
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Comparing Cultures: An Introduction to Anthropology	20
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The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction to the Discipline	20
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Knowing in Sociology: An Introduction to Theory, Methods and Epistemology	20
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Understanding Everyday Life	20
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Investigating Inequalities and Crime	20
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You will take at least one compulsory training module on sociological research methods, or more if you plan to write a sociology dissertation in Stage 3.

You will also choose a balanced blend of politics and sociology modules, on topics such as political violence, the politics of the Middle East, and identity in multicultural Britain.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
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Researching Social Life	20
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If you're planning to do a Dissertation in Sociology in Stage 3, you take the following compulsory module as a pre-requisite:

[This is How We Do It: Sociology Research Design and Proposal](#)(20 credits)

Optional Modules	Credits
Career Development for second year students	20
Politics of the Middle East	20
Becoming a Political Researcher	20
Government and Politics of the USA	20
The Politics and Policy of the European Union	20
Power and Poverty in the Global Economy	20
A Global History of Political Thought	20
Political Violence and the Modern State	20
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Social Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy	20
Politics Work Placement	20
Democracy or Autocracy? What are the differences and how do we analyse them	20
Sex, Gender and Power	20
The Global Politics of Race	20
International Organizations and Diplomacy	20
Being Human: debates, questions and conversations in anthropology	20
Climate and Society	20

Sociology of Crime: Social Control in Neoliberal Societies	20
Theorising Social Worlds	20
This is How We Do It: Sociology Research Design and Proposal	20
Refugees and Displacement: Borders, Camps, and Asylum	20
Exploring city life: urban studies in action	20

You will choose an equal number of politics and sociology modules, plus a dissertation that counts for double. This involves writing a 10,000-word report based on your own research or conducting a team research project with a local community organisation.

Modules

Compulsory modules

You must take ONE of the following designated modules (shown in the optional list below):

[Final Year Dissertation](#) (40 credits)

OR

[Dissertation in Sociology](#) (40 credits)

OR

[Community-based Research in Politics](#) (40 credits)

Modules

Optional Modules	Credits
Final Year Dissertation	40
The Ethics of Killing	20
Political Leadership in Britain	20

Who and why votes for far right? Using data for political analysis	20
Political Parties and Elections in the UK	20
Community-based Research in Politics	40
Politics of Immigration	20
Politics of Citizenship	20
Gender and Sexuality Politics in the Middle East	20
Public Policy: Theories, Cases, Skills	20
Politics as a Way of Life	20
Public Policy Placement	20
Power and Policy: Understanding Impact	20
Global Justice and Human Rights	20
Being Human: debates, questions and conversations in anthropology	20
Regulating Sexuality	20
Critical Approaches to Policing and Security	20
States of Mind: Sociology and Mental Health	20
Who Counts as a Person and Why Does It Matter? Questioning Personhood with Anthropology	20
Exploring city life: urban studies in action	20
Student Exchange	40
Investigating the Body	20
Class in Everyday Life	20
Dissertation in Sociology	40

Information about these graphs

We base these figures and graphs on the most up-to-date information available to us. They are based on the modules chosen by our students in 2024-25.

Teaching time is made up of:

- scheduled learning and teaching activities. These are timetabled activities with a member of staff present.
- structured guided learning. These are activities developed by staff to support engagement with module learning. Students or groups of students undertake these activities without direct staff participation or supervision

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

Your work is divided between lectures and seminars, with around 10 hours a week devoted to large and small group study. You will supplement this with a maximum of 28 hours' private study.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Dissertation or research project
- Dossier
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Presentations
- Projects

Skills and experience

Practical skills

You will be trained to conduct interviews, evaluate surveys and statistics. You'll get training in SPSS software, a world-leading statistical software that helps you to understand data, analyse trends, and make informed recommendations.

Business skills

To approach your plans beyond university with real focus, know-how and experience, you can choose to take our career development module in Stage 2.

You will also be able to put your learning into practice further by conducting real-world political research for a local organisation in Stage 3.

Research skills

You will receive practical training in the qualitative and quantitative methods used for political and sociological research, such as designing questionnaires, conducting interviews and analysing data.

You will then conduct your own original research to produce a dissertation, or join a policy research group to address a real-life local issue.

Opportunities

Work placement

Get career ready with a work placement and leave as a confident professional in your field. You can apply to spend 9 to 12 months working in any organisation in the world, and receive University support from our dedicated team to secure your dream placement. Work placements take place between stages 2 and 3.

You'll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise.

If you choose to take a work placement, it will extend your degree by a year, and your degree title will show you have achieved the placement year. A work placement is not available if you're spending a year studying abroad. Placements

are subject to availability.

[Find out more about work placements](#)

Study abroad

Experience life in another country by choosing to study abroad as part of your degree. You'll be encouraged to embrace fun and challenging experiences, make connections with new communities and graduate as a globally aware professional, ready for your future.

You may choose to spend either one or two semesters on an international exchange at a partner institution. The exchange usually takes place at Stage 3 with either the first semester (September to January) or the full year being the period of the exchange.

[Find out more about study abroad](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

You'll be based in the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology's Henry Daysh Building.

Support

You will have one-to-one academic and pastoral support from a personal tutor and from a student.

A tutor in the department has twice won a student-nominated award for pastoral care in recent years.

Your future

The nature of the course makes our graduates a good fit for roles in the Civil Service, social welfare, education, human resources, politics, customer services and other roles that require an understanding of political and social mechanisms and an informed interest in other people.

You'll graduate trained to think critically and strategically, and equipped with the skills and knowledge to pursue a range of careers.

[Read what our graduates have to say about studying Politics and Sociology at Newcastle University](#)

Make a difference

Careers support

Our Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK

From 1 January 2021 there is an update to the way professional qualifications are recognised by countries outside of the UK

[Check the government's website for more information.](#)

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit
www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle
- Visit **www.ncl.ac.uk/tour** to take virtual tours of the campus and city
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations

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