



Course Summary: May 22, 2025

Politics and History BA Honours

- UCAS code: **VL12**
- Full time
- 3 years

Explore the key political issues facing us today and the historical events behind them on this politics and history degree.

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: **AAB**
- IB: **34 points**

[View contextual offers](#)

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Course overview

This three-year joint honours degree focuses on developing your skills and abilities to critically analyse historical and political topics. You'll graduate as a confident independent learner with a specialist knowledge in areas of interest to you.

You'll be able to follow your own path, choosing to study modules which are closely related, or cast your net wide, studying topics that span six continents.

You'll study in a research-led environment, alongside scholars at the forefront of their fields. You'll also improve your research skills, completing a range of research projects during your degree.

In history, you'll explore themes including revolution, slavery, radicalism, medical history, and religion across a variety of periods, geographies and cultures. In politics, you'll look at global politics, political philosophy and international relations.

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'll build a foundation to become an independent learner and critical reader/thinker through compulsory modules.

Optional modules give an overview of our range, whether that be the major pathways in Politics (such as political thought and international politics), or the chronological and cultural variety of History.

Modules

| Compulsory Modules | Credits |
|--------------------|---------|
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| Evidence and Argument | 20 |
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| Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century | 20 |
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| Optional Modules | Credits |
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| Global Middle Ages | 20 |
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| Stuff: living in a material world | 20 |
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| Global Ancient Histories | 20 |
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| Historical Sources and Methods | 20 |
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| History Lab I | 20 |
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| History Lab II | 20 |
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| Introduction to Public History | 20 |
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| What is History For? | 20 |
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| UK Politics: Westminster and Beyond | 20 |
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| Key Concepts in International Politics | 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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| State, People and Politics: Comparative Politics in a Globalised World | 20 |
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| Studying Political Economy: Ideas, Theories and Skills | 20 |
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You'll choose six optional modules in total – three each from Politics and History. Through these modules you'll deepen your subject knowledge and build on your skills from Stage One.

You'll critically engage with the topics you're studying and become a confident participant in our learning community. If you are thinking about undertaking an optional dissertation in Stage Three, you'll select modules to prepare you for this.

Modules

| Optional Modules | Credits |
|---|---------|
| From Lascaux to Knossos: Prehistoric Europe | 20 |
| Archaeologies of the Roman Empire: The Roman World from Augustus to Justinian | 20 |
| Colonial Worlds: History and Archaeology | 20 |
| Hellenistic Empires from Alexander to Cleopatra | 20 |
| The Roman World from Hadrian to Heraclius | 20 |
| Greek and Roman Religions | 20 |
| Slavery in Greco-Roman Antiquity | 20 |
| Sacred words and dirty deeds: Thriving in Late Antiquity | 20 |
| The Mediterranean: a connected past | 20 |
| Africa: History of a Continent | 20 |

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| Social Histories of Alcohol: Britain and Ireland, 1700 - Present | 20 |
| Oral History of Modern Britain | 20 |
| 1968: A Global Moment? | 20 |
| Culture and Communication in Medieval Eurasia | 20 |
| Crafting History: Developing a Research Proposal | 20 |
| Famines in History | 20 |
| Researching History | 20 |
| The Aftermath of War in Europe and Asia, 1945-56 | 20 |
| Revolutions of the Mind: European Thought, 1550–1750 | 20 |
| Destroying Nature: Disasters, Diseases and Environmental Injustice | 20 |
| Diversities of Sexuality and Gender in History | 20 |
| 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 |

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| Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Social Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy | 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 |

Study abroad

If you study abroad for one semester as part of the study abroad student exchange programme, you choose one of the following modules:

HaSS Study Abroad Semester 1 (60 credits)

HaSS Study Abroad Semester 2 (60 credits)

You will continue to study a mixture of Politics and History modules. This can be through an even split of modules, or a weighting towards History or Politics. You may include a research dissertation in either subject.

Through study in the recommended modules you'll critically reflect on History and your own ideas through close study of an influential work. You'll also broaden your horizons by considering the uses and abuses of history in public life.

Modules

| Optional Modules | Credits |
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| Neolithic & Early Bronze Age Britain in its European Context | 20 |

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| Fundamentals of Digital Humanities: | |
| Computer literacy, data analysis and GIS | 20 |
| Reading History | 20 |
| Writing History | 40 |
| Public History In Practice | 20 |
| The Irish Revolution, 1879-1923 | 20 |
| Reconstruction and the New South, 1865-1900 | 20 |
| British Foreign Policy since Suez | 20 |
| Birth Control in the 19th and 20th Centuries | 20 |
| Civil Rights in America, 1948-1975 | 20 |
| Gender and the British Empire: Violence towards Men and Women in the Making of Modern South Asia | 20 |
| The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1961-1990 | 20 |
| The Rising Generation: Youth, Age and Protest in Cold War Britain | 20 |
| Buddhism and Society in Medieval Japan | 20 |
| May 1968: All Power to the Imagination | 20 |
| British Colonialism in Sudan: Violence, Gender and Race, 1899-1956 | 20 |
| Fictional Histories: from medieval to modern | 20 |
| Exhausted! The problem of sleep (and not sleeping) from 1500 to the present day | 20 |

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| Insiders and Outsiders: Migrants, Refugees, and the Making of Modern Europe | 20 |
| Beyond Brexit: The UK and European Integration since 1945 | 20 |
| Riot, Reform and Revolution: Britain c.1760-1832 | 20 |
| Read All About It! The News Revolution in Georgian Britain, 1714-1780 | 20 |
| Career Development for final year students | 20 |
| Writing for Foreign Policy Makers: Research Project in Foreign Policy Analysis | 20 |
| Final Year Dissertation | 40 |
| Final Year Project: Semester 1 | 20 |
| Final Year Project: Semester 2 | 20 |
| 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 |

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| Power and Policy: Understanding Impact | 20 |
| Global Justice and Human Rights | 20 |
| Envious Show: Wealth, Power and Ambition in Narratives of the Country House, 1550-2000 | 20 |

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

Most of your modules will be delivered through lectures, seminars and workshops. Seminars become more important in Stage 2 and 3, reflecting your development into a confident and skilled independent learner and part of the School's wider learning community.

In Politics, you'll also focus on public speaking, with in-class debates used to test, defend and refine your ideas.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Presentations
- Projects

Skills and experience

Practical skills

You'll have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience carrying out community-based politics research. You'll support a local institution or non-governmental organisation and apply some of your learned skills in the workplace.

Research skills

You'll be able to choose to complete an independent research project in Stage 3. You can either complete a dissertation, or the more practical option of hands-on research within the community.

You'll learn to plan, develop and implement a project, while contributing to academic knowledge, or having an impact on the community.

Opportunities

Study abroad

You can gain a global perspective and enhance your academic profile by studying abroad. This opens doors to exciting new experiences. Study abroad for one semester or a full academic year at one of our partner universities overseas.

Study abroad usually takes place in stage 3 of your studies and extends your degree by one year. You can also choose short-term global opportunities like summer schools, virtual exchanges or internships that usually take place over the

summer months.

[Find out more about study abroad.](#)

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](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

You'll be based at our city-centre campus between the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, in the historic Armstrong Building and the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, in the recently refurbished Henry Daysh Building.

You'll have access to a range of on-campus facilities, including:

- the Philip Robinson University Library, which houses over 800,000 books and provides access to ca. 1.8m e-books
- Special Collections & Archives – a rich collection of archival material, historical medical texts and rare books

- The Great North Museum: Hancock, our on-campus museum which holds an extensive collection of Greek, Roman, and Etruscan artefacts

Support

You'll have the support of an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree to help with academic and personal issues.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have when starting university.

Your future

Join our network of successful graduates

On graduation from our degree courses, you will have the proven ability to think critically, assess complex material and data, carry out research, construct a well-informed argument and articulate it on paper and in person.

Some of our graduates have used this powerful combination of skills to progress directly into careers in politics, economics and international relations – for employers such as the Houses of Parliament, HM Treasury, local government, the Civil Service, inter-governmental organisations and public affairs consultancies.

Others have applied their skills with equal success in the media, law, finance, management consultancy, education, human resources, marketing, business and academia.

Our Politics graduates include MPs in Westminster, fast-track civil servants in the Cabinet Office and Department for Work and Pensions, parliamentary researchers, and Brussels-based public affairs consultants.

Our staff also maintain strong links with governmental bodies such as the UK and Scottish Parliaments, NATO and the EU.

Make a difference

Careers support

You'll benefit from targeted careers support throughout your degree. In your induction week, you'll explore potential career paths.

In Stage 2, you can apply for a work placement with a local political party or charity. In Stage 3 you can boost your prospects by conducting policy research on behalf of a local community organisation.

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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