



Course Summary: March 27, 2026

Politics BA Honours

- UCAS code: **L200**
- Full time
- 3 years

Train your mind to recognise, analyse, understand and apply the theories, mechanisms and forces that drive political decision-making.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2026**

Next start date:

- September 2026

Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,790**
- International: **£24,500**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **AAB**

- IB: **34 points**

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Undergraduate Open Day

Start your university journey. Find where you belong. Friday, June 26 (9:00-16:00)

Saturday, June 27 (9:00-16:00)

[Book your place now](#)

Course overview

This flexible degree will give you the opportunity to study a dynamic and diverse subject area. From exploring the pressing issues of international crisis to analysing the latest domestic political developments, you will develop key skills in critical thinking, research, and communication.

You'll gain the knowledge and skills to look beyond the headlines to analyse the key dynamics of political events, and join a close-knit community of students and staff that creates an environment in which you can flourish.

Our academic staff will bring political issues alive for you. Our expertise covers all aspects of politics as a discipline, so you can study a range of topics taught by acknowledged experts in their field.

Through a combination of core and optional modules, you can tailor your degree to your interests. You'll study topics that include a mix of global politics, political philosophy, international relations, and political systems and institutions.

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 2025-26.

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 be given a foundation in the core discipline of politics and gain an understanding of politics at the national level and a thorough grounding in political theory.

A mix of compulsory and optional modules will help you to become an informed and engaged global citizen.

You will start to relate your studies to historical, global, national, and ideological contexts.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
UK Politics: Westminster and Beyond	20
Power and Inequality: How to Study Global Politics ... and Change the World	20
Politics of Happiness	20
State, People and Politics: Comparative Politics in a Globalised World	20
Optional Modules	Credits
Interconnected World	20
Key Concepts in International Politics	20

Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century	20
Comparing Cultures: An Introduction to Anthropology	20

During your second year, you will build on your critical thinking, research, and communication skills as you cover key political actors, issues and organisations, including political parties, in more depth.

You'll develop critical insight into the relationship between theory and practice and how research methods used in the social sciences shape our understanding of both fields.

You will deepen your knowledge of political theory and be able to choose from optional modules to broaden your understanding of key issues and of politics in differing national contexts.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Becoming a Political Researcher	20
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Social Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy	20
Optional Modules	Credits
Political Geography	20
Career Development for second year students	20
Politics of the Middle East	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
Politics Work Placement	20
Democracy in Deeply Divided Societies	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

International Study Year Module: On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3 you can spend a year at an international partner institution.

Placement Year Module: On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3, you can spend a year in a placement with an approved institution. Placement opportunities are guided by governmental and institutional policy at the time.

You will begin to specialise in the political topics that are of interest to you. As a part of this, you will undertake a significant piece of independent research that harnesses your subject knowledge and the research skills you've developed throughout your degree.

You'll complete your studies with optional modules covering topics across politics and its subfields.

Modules

You will choose at least 20 and not more than 60 credits of modules from the following list:

Optional modules	Credits
Final Year Dissertation	40
Final Year Project: Semester 1	20
Final Year Project: Semester 2	20
Community-based Research in Politics	40
Public-Policy Placement*	20

You will take at least 60 credits of modules normally selected from the following list:

Optional modules	Credits
Geopolitics	20
Career Development for Final Year Students*	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
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
Power and Policy: Understanding Impact	20

Optional modules	Credits
Global Justice and Human Rights	20

*Permission to take this module subject to approval of the Degree Programme Director.

If you did not take an International Study Year module you can take one of the following modules subject to agreement from the Degree Programme Director.

Modules	Credits
Student Exchange: Semester 1	60
Student Exchange (Dissertation Students)	40

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

You will learn through a combination of lectures, seminars, group-work and research projects, and benefit from our strong focus on teaching.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Presentations
- Reflective report/journal
- Seminar tasks/exercises

Skills and experience

Practical skills

You'll get training in R, world-leading, free statistical software that helps you to:

- understand data
- analyse trends
- make informed recommendations

Business skills

You'll also be able to put your learning into practice by conducting real-world political research for a local organisation (including Newcastle City Council) in Stage 3

Research skills

In stages 1 and 2, you will be given hands-on training in the quantitative and qualitative research methods required for the effective collection, analysis and visualisation of data.

In Stage 3, you'll apply these learned skills in the field to your research projects.

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 semester 2 of Stage 2 or semester 1 of Stage 3 on an international exchange at a partner institution.

[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

You will graduate with the specific skills and knowledge to pursue a career in politics. You will also have the ability to think critically, assess evidence, carry out research, construct an argument and articulate it.

These skills have seen our politics graduates enjoy successful careers in the media, non-governmental bodies, inter-governmental organisations, finance, management consultancy and business.

Some choose to pursue vocational training to become lawyers or teachers; and others undertake further postgraduate study in fields such as politics, business and finance.

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

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

If you're studying an **accredited degree** and thinking about working in Europe after you graduate, the best place to find current information is the [UK Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states](#). This official resource explains whether your profession is regulated in another country, what steps you need to take, and which organisation you should contact.

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at
<https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8lUrf7kTxXbgdfr1>
- 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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<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-welcome/student-contract/>

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