

Course Summary: March 27, 2026

Politics and International Relations BA Honours

- UCAS code: **L290**
- Full time
- 3 years

Combine the best of our Politics and International Relations degrees to launch your career with an impressive blend of skills and expertise.

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 train you to understand the political ecosystem within and between individual countries – preparing you to succeed in any career that requires the skilled analysis of complex material and the ability to draw clear-minded, evidence-based conclusions.

You will 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.

Starting with a solid grounding in systems of government, political theory and world politics, you can tailor your degree through specialist modules on topics such as inequality and justice, environmental politics, and international security.

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 gradually develop the critical thinking, research, and communication skills required to study international relations and become an informed and engaged global citizen. You'll gain an understanding of what it means to compare political systems as well as a solid grounding in the dynamics of the international system and in political thought. You will start to relate your studies to historical, global, national, and ideological contexts.

By the end of Stage 1, you will be able to identify the factors that shape contemporary events in the world of politics and international relations, with a

growing understanding of the interrelationships between the national and the global.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
UK Politics: Westminster and Beyond	20
Key Concepts in International Politics	20
Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century	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

You will build on the skills developed in Stage 1 as you look in greater depth at key issues, organisations, and actors in politics and international relations. You'll develop critical insight into the relationship between theory and practice and how research methods, including comparative methods, used in the social sciences shape our understanding of both fields.

You will be able to start to tailor your degree to your interests by choosing from a range of optional modules, covering key issues such as security, development and justice.

By the end of Stage 2, you will have the knowledge and skills needed to analyse how problems in politics and international relations are created, defined, and potentially solved.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
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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

In Stage 3, you can begin to specialise in the areas of politics and or international relations 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 study with optional modules covering topics across international relations, comparative politics, and political theory. By the end of Stage 3, you will be a keen analyst of international relations who is able to identify, assess, analyse, and evaluate global issues with critical insight and methodological sophistication.

In addition, you'll complete your study with optional modules covering topics across international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Modules

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

Optional modules	Credits
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
Community-based Research in Politics	40
Public-Policy Placement*	20

You will take 60 credits of modules from the following:

Optional modules	Credits
Geopolitics	20
Career Development for Final Year Students*	20
International Organisations and Diplomacy**	20
The Ethics of Killing	20

Optional modules	Credits
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
Global Justice and Human Rights	20

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

**Not available if you have previously taken Regional and International Organisations module

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.

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

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

You will benefit from our strong focus on teaching quality. This translates into engaging modules, delivered through a stimulating variety of lectures, seminars, teamwork activities, research projects and simulation exercises.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Case studies
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Portfolio submission
- Projects
- Reflective report/journal

Skills and experience

Practical skills

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

Business skills

Your degree will have a practical real-world focus throughout.

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

Research skills

In Stage 3, you will have the chance to produce a dissertation or report based on a piece of your own independent research. You will be given hands-on training in advance on the design, methodology and implementation of your research, including both qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques.

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 as part of your degree. Enrich your experience by studying at one of our partner universities in Australia, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong and the USA, among others. Embrace fun and challenging experiences, make connections with new communities, and graduate as a globally aware professional.

You may choose to spend semester 1 or the full academic year 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

Upon graduation you'll be able to think critically, assess complex material and data, carry out research, and construct well-informed arguments.

Our graduates have used these skills to progress 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
- public affairs consultancies

Others have applied their skills with equal success in industries such as:

- media
- law
- business and finance
- management consultancy
- education and academia
- human resources
- marketing

[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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