

Course Summary: March 27, 2026

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: **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

Our 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 specialist knowledge in your own areas of interest.

Follow your own path, choosing to study modules which are closely related, or cast your net wide, studying topics that span six continents.

Study in a research-led environment, alongside scholars at the forefront of their fields.

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
- religion

- public engagement with the past

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 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'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
Evidence and Argument	20
Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century	20
Optional Modules	Credits
Global Middle Ages	20
Stuff: living in a material world	20
Global Ancient Histories	20
Historical Sources and Methods	20
History Lab I	20
History Lab II	20
Introduction to Public History	20
What is History For?	20
UK Politics: Westminster and Beyond	20
Key Concepts in International Politics	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
Studying Political Economy: Ideas, Theories and Skills	20

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

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 or a research or community-partnership project on a political theme or issue.

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

Modules

Optional Modules	Credits
Neolithic & Early Bronze Age Britain in its European Context	20
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
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, 1714-1800	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
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

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 can 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:

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

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

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 can choose to spend up to a year studying at a partner institution overseas.

If you choose to study abroad, it will extend your degree by a year.

[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 an academic adviser 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

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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