Undergraduate Guide 2018
Department of Government and International Relations
School of Social and Political Sciences

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
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Welcome

The School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS) is a lively, friendly and enthusiastic community of scholars from around the world, and attracts some of the very best students from Australia, and beyond.

We take great pride in ensuring that our teaching is current, topical, challenging and always informed by a deep engagement with the world around us.

Most recently, the Excellence for Research in Australia, which the federal government superintends to gather evidence on the performance of all disciplines across Australia, rated social sciences at the University as 5 out of 5, the highest in New South Wales and equal top in Australia with UQ and the ANU.

In the Leiden rankings, which is a metric-based global exercise to examine where the most significant research is taking place, the social sciences in Sydney was placed second in Australia.

These and other external measures of quality underline once again the extraordinary progress we have made as a School and as an academic community of the social sciences in becoming one of the very top institutions in the world.

With nearly 100 academic staff, a constant stream of eminent visiting scholars, forums, conferences and workshops, the School is an exciting place to work and study. This guide will hopefully give you an idea of the range of activities and courses we offer in SSPS. We hope you find it informative and that it will spark your interest in visiting us.
New Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences building

In 2018 the School will be moving to a state-of-the-art new building, which will greatly enhance the facilities available to students, as well as underpinning our development as the leading centre for research and teaching in the social sciences in Australia. It features experimental labs, student study areas, a high-tech lecture theatre and many spaces designed to enhance the student experience.

Artist's impression of the new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences building. Images courtesy of Lend Lease
Why study the social and political sciences

Our undergraduate programs of study are flexible and complementary, engaging students in emerging contemporary issues as well as enduring concerns in the social and political sciences.

Our graduates learn analytical and practical skills that lead them to pursue diverse careers in the public service and non-profit sector, aid and development agencies including the United Nations, a range of non-governmental groups and businesses with a core interest in international trade, teaching, research and the university sector, as well as in journalism and communications, law and legal studies, consultancies and private sector management.

View specific options offered for your course:
- sydney.edu.au/courses

Departments and Centres

We are one of six schools in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and consist of the following Departments and Centres:

- Anthropology
- Government and International Relations
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Political Economy
- Sociology and Social Policy
- Centre for International Security Studies
- LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building
- The Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre

Find us online

@Usyd_ssp
/Usyd.ssp
sydney.edu.au/arts/ssps/
Undergraduate degrees

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) at the University of Sydney provides an outstanding liberal arts education. It prepares you to meet the challenges of the modern workforce, where expertise, inventiveness, logic and critical thinking come to the fore.

Combining a BA with the Bachelor of Advanced Studies in this new four-year degree gives you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and skills, add further breadth to your University qualification by studying subjects from a range of disciplines, and apply your skills and disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems.

You will explore your passions, interests and ambitions as you complete a double major. You can choose both majors from our broad choice across more than 45 subject areas in the humanities and social sciences, or select a second major from the University’s shared pool of units, across a number of different faculties.

In the fourth year of the degree you will undertake advanced coursework and a substantial real-world industry, community, entrepreneurship or research project. As you develop a personal portfolio of expertise and high-level skills you broaden your opportunities and prepare yourself for future success.

All majors in the School of Social and Politics Science are also available as a minor.

For a full list of majors, minors, as well as the shared pool of units across the University, visit:
- sydney.edu.au/courses
Undergraduate degrees

Bachelor of Arts
To qualify for the award of the Bachelor of Arts, a candidate must complete 144 credit points, comprising:
- A major (48 credit points)
- A minor (36 credit points) or second major (48 credit points)
- A minimum of 12 credit points of units of study in the Open Learning Environment
- Where appropriate, elective units
- If enrolled in a stream, complete the requirements for the stream

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies
To qualify for the award of the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies, a candidate must complete 192 credit points, comprising:
- A major (48 credit points)
- A second major (48 credit points)
- 12 credit points of units of study in the Open Learning Environment
- A minimum of 24 credit points in a single subject area at 4000 level, including a research, community, industry or entrepreneurship project of at least 12 and a maximum of 36 credit points.
- Where appropriate, elective units

For a detailed explanation of course components visit:
- sydney.edu.au/courses

Sample course structure: Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies
(majors in History and Sociology, advanced study in History, minor in Criminology)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Units of study</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>History major</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sociology major</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the minor is not a compulsory element of the combined degree, but can be accommodated, as in the sample above.
Undergraduate degrees

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies
(Politics and International Relations)

This new degree covers all aspects of political, cultural and economic relations at both the domestic and international levels. It explores the world-shaping political forces that extend far beyond national boundaries and impact our lives in unexpected ways.

You will engage with contemporary issues such as the Syrian War, nuclear proliferation, the global refugee crisis, the crisis in the international political economy, the implications of Brexit, and what the election of President Trump means for the world, Australia, and you. Politics and International Relations is one of the most exciting and dynamic subjects to study at university, taught by a team of leading academics and researchers.

The new degree enables students to do both the Politics and International Relations majors and combines them with a set of unique units available only to students that enrol in the dedicated program. These units have been designed to allow students to engage with contemporary issues in Politics and International Relations and to develop the real-world problem-solving skills that are highly valued across all sectors of the global job market.

The fourth year offers students increased opportunities through project units, which encourage students to use their research skills and knowledge to contribute to public debate. Our work placement and internships program provides students with enquiry-based learning activities and the chance to conduct research for organisations in the areas of public policy and international affairs.

The international exchange program will enable you to experience the world and graduate with a truly global perspective. All of these features of the new Politics and International Relations stream facilitate students with various ways of putting their skills and knowledge into practice before leaving university.

Career opportunities
Destinations for graduates include diplomatic service, intelligence and risk analysis, government and public service, policy research and consultation, not-for-profit organisations, business, and journalism.
Sample pathway: Politics and International Relations stream

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Units of study</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>GOVT1641 GOVT1601 Elective Sociology major</td>
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<td>GOVT2921 GOVT2941 Open Learning Environment units Sociology major</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>PIR Elective PIR Elective Sociology major Sociology major</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>PIR Project PIR Advanced Sociology major Sociology major</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Details of the three options available to students in fourth year are listed below. Example above shows student completing first major in Politics or International Relations, and second major in Sociology.

Bachelor of Advanced Studies

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Advanced Studies will have the opportunity of completing a fourth year in either Honours, Advanced Coursework, or a Placement in the Politics and International stream.

Honours pathway

Admission to Honours in the Politics and International Relations stream requires a major in either Politics or International Relations with a weighted average mark of 70 or above, and a second major.

Advanced Coursework pathway

The Advanced Coursework option provides students with the opportunity to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge and conduct a semester long project that can be either research or career based.
**Placement pathway**
The placement pathway exposes students to real-world projects that will enhance their career-ready skills. This pathway aims to provide students with a high level of skills that contemporary employers require.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project Unit</th>
<th>Project Unit</th>
<th>Placement Unit</th>
<th>Placement Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Compulsory units of study**
GOVT1601 Contemp Issues in Pols and Int Relations I (Program-specific unit)
GOVT1621 Introduction to International Relations*^^
GOVT1641 Introduction to Politics*^
GOVT1661 Popular Culture and Politics (only compulsory for program)
GOVT2901 Contemp Issues in Pols and Int Relations II (Program-specific unit)
GOVT2921 Intermediate International Relations*
GOVT2941 Making Policy in Political Context^^
GOVT2991 Political Analysis*^

*International Relations major
^Politics major

**Electives**
GOVT2015 Emotions and Public Policy
GOVT2111 Human Rights and Australian Politics
GOVT2112 Modern Political Thought
GOVT2117 Comparative Politics
GOVT2119 Southeast Asia: Dilemmas of Development
GOVT2120 New Zealand and Pacific Politics
GOVT2225 International Security in 21st Century
GOVT2226 International Organisations
GOVT2228 Environmental Politics
GOVT2331 Social Change and Politics
GOVT2603 Media Politics and Political Communication
GOVT2617 Introduction to Non-Traditional Security
GOVT3622 Politics of Intl Economic Relations
GOVT3623 Non-state Actors in Global Politics
GOVT3641 Government, Business and Society
GOVT3651 Politics of China
Department of Government and International Relations

The Department of Government and International Relations is a large, diverse and thriving community producing internationally-recognized research. Around 40 academic staff combine scholarly understanding of politics and international relations with work addressing practical policy problems and contemporary political challenges facing the world.

Our teaching and research focuses on five key areas: international relations, public policy, political theory, comparative politics, and Australian politics. We are also linked to influential research, such as the Electoral Integrity Project, which investigates electoral corruption and standards around the world, as well as the Sydney Democracy Network and Centre for International Security Studies, both of which bring renowned human rights activists, cyber security experts, and researchers in the field, on campus to discuss the most pressing social and security issues of our time.

Politics

**major/minor**

Politics is the study of the nature of governments, and the distribution of power at the domestic level. The major in Politics will give students the knowledge, theoretical understandings, and practical skills that underpin a successful career that engages with politics at the domestic level. Students will focus on how individuals engage with politics, and how governing bodies that shape peoples’ lives make decisions. Students will compare key elements of political systems, including government institutions, political parties, interest groups, elections, patterns of political participation, and social movements. At the end of the major students will be equipped with the key concepts, theories and methods used across the discipline of political science.

Key research and teaching areas include:
- comparative politics: looking at the way politics is conducted in different nations, and the impact of different political systems and structure on the distribution of power in society;
- politics at a domestic level: the study of Australian politics, including the role of political parties and elections, interest groups and social movements, and the position of Australia in its region;
- the policy-making process and the way governments create and implement public policy, and;
- key issues; elections, political protest, environmental politics, leadership, state economies, constitutions, differing political systems.

**Career opportunities**
Graduates from this major and minor will have the skills desired by public, private and non-profit organisations, domestically and in different political contexts across the world.

**Sample pathway: Politics and International Relations Major**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Units of study</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Politics Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Politics Elective International Relations major* International Relations minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Your minor may be upgraded into a second major

**Bachelor of Advanced Studies**
Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Advanced Studies will have the opportunity of completing a fourth year in either Honours or Advanced Coursework in Politics.

**Honours pathway**
The Honours pathway offers systematic and extended study in key areas of politics and international relations. Seminar units cover national, comparative, and international politics. You will also complete a research design unit that prepares you for the extended dissertation.

Admission to Honours in Politics requires a major in Politics or International Relations with a weighted average mark of 70 or above, and a second major.
### Advanced Coursework pathway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
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<td>Project Unit</td>
<td>GOVT1641 Introduction to Politics</td>
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<td>GOVT2941 Making Policy in Political Context</td>
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<td>GOVT2991 Political Analysis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Compulsory units of study
- GOVT1621 Introduction to International Relations
- GOVT1641 Introduction to Politics
- GOVT2941 Making Policy in Political Context
- GOVT2991 Political Analysis

#### Electives
- GOVT1661 Popular Culture and Politics
- GOVT2015 Emotions and Public Policy
- GOVT2111 Human Rights and Australian Politics
- GOVT2112 Modern Political Thought
- GOVT2117 Comparative Politics
- GOVT2119 Southeast Asia: Dilemmas of Development
- GOVT2120 New Zealand and Pacific Politics
- GOVT2228 Environmental Politics
- GOVT2331 Social Change and Politics
- GOVT2603 Media Politics and Political Communication
- GOVT3641 Government, Business and Society
- GOVT3651 Politics of China
- GOVT3652 Environmental Politics in Australia
- GOVT3653 The Australian Political Party System
- GOVT3654 Capitalism and Democracy in East Asia
- GOVT3655 Latin American Politics
- GOVT3664 Key Concepts in Political Thought
- GOVT3672 American Politics and Foreign Policy
- GOVT3980 Democracy and Dictatorship
- GOVT3989 Divided Societies
- GOVT3990 Islam and Democracy in the Muslim World
- GOVT3993 Power
- GOVT3995 Politics and Environment: Current Issues
- GOVT3997 Parliament and Democracy
International Relations

**major/minor**

International Relations is the study of the international political, social, cultural, and economic system. It explores the historical development of that system and provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the actors, institutions, and processes of international relations. The major and minor focus on the key actors, processes, institutions and structures, including territorial states that acknowledge no superior authority over issues vital to national interest. You will analyse the nature of this system – the rules and forces governing the behaviour of states, the factors that lead to military conflict or peaceful co-operation, and the current trends towards both a more globalised, integrated, and a more fragmented world.

You will be introduced to the core theories, concepts and institutions in international relations, and the history of international system, and progressively build upon these foundations, further developing your understanding of central issues, including international security, international organisations, international political economy, and international law. Students will also explore the role that international institutions play in shaping policy decisions at the global level.

Key research and teaching areas include:
- Politics at the global level: the study of the politics of countries around the world, and the way these nations interact in the international arena (foreign affairs, strategic behaviour and diplomacy);
- the policy-making process at the international level, and;
- War and peace, security, terrorism, the international political economy, global cultures, international environmental politics, human rights and security.

**Career opportunities**

Graduates from this major will have the skills desired by public, private and non-profit organisations, domestically and internationally.
Sample pathway: International Relations and Anthropology Major

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<th>Year</th>
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</table>

* Your minor may be upgraded into a second major

Bachelor of Advanced Studies

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Advanced Studies will have the opportunity of completing a fourth year in either Honours or Advanced Coursework.

Honours pathway

The Honours pathway offers systematic and extended study in key areas of politics and international relations. Seminar units cover national, comparative, and international politics. You will also complete a research design unit that prepares you for the extended dissertation.

Admission to Honours in International Relations requires a major in International Relations or Politics with a weighted average mark of 70 or above, and a second major.

Advanced Coursework pathway

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Elective</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Compulsory units of study**
GOVT1621 Introduction to International Relations
GOVT1641 Introduction to Politics
GOVT2921 Intermediate International Relations
GOVT2991 Political Analysis

**Electives**
GOVT1661 Popular Culture and Politics
GOVT2119 Southeast Asia: Dilemmas of Development
GOVT2225 International Security in 21st Century
GOVT2226 International Organisations
GOVT2603 Media Politics and Political Communication
GOVT2617 Introduction to Non-Traditional Security
GOVT3622 Politics of Intl Economic Relations
GOVT3623 Non-state Actors in Global Politics
GOVT3641 Government, Business and Society
GOVT3664 Key Concepts in Political Thought
GOVT3665 Collateral Damage & The Cost of Conflict
GOVT3672 American Politics and Foreign Policy
GOVT3980 Democracy and Dictatorship
GOVT3986 Gender, Security and Human Rights
GOVT3989 Divided Societies
GOVT3990 Islam and Democracy in the Muslim World
GOVT3993 Power
GOVT3996 Science, Tech and International Security
GOVT3999 Terrorism and Organised Crime
Meet our students

“I started this degree wanting to learn more about how international organisations work and the different mechanisms, processes and challenges. I’ve since grown in my passion for learning about political participation and digital media, and how my beloved social media can have an impact on politics and policy!”

Isabella Gorrez
Government and International Relations student

“I am passionate about political economy because it is a constant reminder that economics should work for people, not the other way around. Study in political economy taught me a great deal about the real effect that economics has on people.”

Alexi Polden
Political Economy student

“I think the future is about engaging “natural science” with “social science” based approaches. I’m working towards interdisciplinary PhD research, where I intend to focus on the innovative practices of low-income Indigenous Australians, and their cultural contributions to the fields of Science and Technology.”

Matthew Webb
Anthropology Honours student

“I am passionate about giving people the opportunity, dignity, and rights that they are entitled to and a big part of this is understanding how they are prevented from experiencing them in the first place.”

Alice McKenzie
Sociology student
Meet our academics

**Dr Aim Sinpeng**
Department of Government and International Relations
Aim’s research interests centre on the relationships between digital media, political participation and political regimes in Southeast Asia. She is particularly interested in the role of social media in shaping state-society relations and inducing political and social change. She is also the co-founder of the Sydney Cyber Security Network.

**Dr Gareth Bryant**
Department of Political Economy
Gareth’s research extends across the fields of heterodox economics, human geography, economic sociology and political ecology. He is interested in how political economic approaches to value, nature and policy can help to understand the causes of, and inform/evaluate responses to, contemporary challenges.

**Dr Ute Eickelkamp**
Department of Anthropology
Ute’s research is centred on Aboriginal people in Central Australia (especially Anangu), with a focus on children, art, Christianity, ideas of nature. Ute us specifically interested in manifestations of historical consciousness (in self accounts of dreams, life histories and work, and in play, art and religion) and in what appears to be an emergent notion of nature.

**Dr Nadine Ehlers**
Department of Sociology and Social Policy
Nadine’s research broadly focuses on the socio-cultural study of the body, law, and biomedicine, to examine the racial and gendered governance of individuals and populations. Her most recent work looks at the bio/necro/vital politics of health, specifically in terms of racial reproductivity.