Undergraduate Guide 2018
Department of Political Economy
School of Social and Political Sciences
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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)
Department of Political Economy

The Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney is the largest and most significant research group for political economy in Australia. It is involved in more research grants and publications on heterodox economics than any other university in the region.

The Department offers students the opportunity to engage with a variety of schools of economic thought including those in the Marxian, Keynesian, Institutional, ecological and feminist traditions.

The Department regularly hosts eminent political economists such as Walden Bello, Sheila Dow, Diane Elson, Erik Olin Wright and former finance minister of Greece, Yanis Varoufakis, who is an honorary professor of Political Economy at the University of Sydney.

Political Economy major/minor

Political Economy focuses on the relationship between the economy, society and political interests. The teaching program centres on the proposition that the study of economics must reach beyond technical debates to include an understanding of the economy in its historical, institutional, social and cultural context. Understanding the modern economy requires study of the broad questions that deal with the dynamics of globalisation and the implications for national economic policy settings; economic instability, uneven development and inequality; trade-offs between free markets and universal health, education and social services; the financialisation of everyday life and insecurity, economic growth and ecological sustainability.

Studies in Political Economy will equip you with an understanding of the most pressing social and economic issues of our time including:
- What are the sources of inequality between individuals and nations and how can inequality be reduced?
- Is there an inherent conflict between economic growth and environmental sustainability?
- How and why do economies descend into crisis, and can economic crisis be prevented?
- Who are the winners and losers in processes of economic restructuring?
Career opportunities

Our graduates can be found in the policy and research units of leading think tanks, private sector business, unions and other non-government organisations. They work in government Departments such as the Australian Treasury, regulatory institutions including the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority, the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. They work in non-government organisations such as the Australian Council for Social Services, Choice, and a variety of international and domestic welfare agencies including Oaktree and the Salvation Army. Others have gone on to become journalists working in both the print and electronic media, providing commentary on the state of the economy. A number of graduates work as Ministerial advisors, where they contribute to the design and management of economic and other public policies.

Sample pathway: Politics Economy and Sociology Major

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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* 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 Political Economy.

Honours pathway

Honours offers high performing students with a major in Political Economy the opportunity to develop superior research, writing and communication skills. This one year program is made up of two advanced level seminar courses and the preparation of a 20,000 word honours thesis on a topic of the student’s choice.
Admission to Honours in Political Economy requires a major in Political Economy with a weighted average mark of 70 or above, and a second major.

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<th>Honours Seminar</th>
<th>Honours Seminar</th>
<th>Honours Thesis</th>
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**Advanced Coursework pathway**
This option offers students the opportunity to develop high level research, writing and communication skills through advanced level coursework. The major project unit lies at the centre of the advanced studies program and is designed to give you an opportunity to engage with policy-relevant and industry-specific issues as they occur in real world environments.

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<th>Project Unit</th>
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<td>Project Unit</td>
<td>Advanced Coursework</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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**Sample units of study**
ECOP1001 Economics as a Social Science  
ECOP1003 International Economy and Finance  
ECOP2011 Economic Theories of Modern Capitalism  
ECOP2012 Social Foundations of Modern Capitalism  
ECOP2612 Economic Policy in Global Context  
ECOP2613 Political Economy of Global Capitalism  
ECOP2616 Inequality and Distribution  
ECOP2617 Globalisation and Labour  
ECOP2618 Neoliberalism: Theory, Practice, Crisis  
ECOP2619 Development in Emerging Economies  
ECOP2911 Class: Exploring Theory and Methods  
ECOP3015 Political Economy of the Environment  
ECOP3017 Human Rights in Development  
ECOP3019 Political Economy of Money and Finance  
ECOP3021 Development and Environment in India  
ECOP3022 Political Economy of Gender  
ECOP3911 Theories in Political Economy  
ECOP3912 Research in Political Economy
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.