

Politics, Philosophy
and Economics
at Edinburgh

Study **Politics, Philosophy and Economics** at a world-leading university.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Social and
Political Science

Welcome to the School of Social and Political Science

The School of Social and Political Science is one of the leading schools of social science in the UK and we pride ourselves on our innovative teaching, lively community of staff and students, and pursuit of academic excellence.

Our research is world class and it informs and shapes our teaching. As one of our students, you will enjoy a challenging, rich and rewarding learning environment, as well as the opportunity to engage in the most current debates from the start of your studies.

The School of Social and Political Science brings together specialists in a wide range of disciplines and is also home to many research centres and groups.

Our school is a vibrant and intellectually stimulating place to study, which will provide you with an education enriched with insights from across the social and political sciences and beyond.

Why Edinburgh?

World-class reputation

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently ranked amongst the 50 best universities in the world, which allows us to attract some of the brightest academics and students. This means that you will learn from and amongst the very best in teaching and research.

Invest in your future

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you'll be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We support students to develop a broad range of skills, grow in confidence and learn more about themselves.

As a result, employers regard Edinburgh as an excellent training ground for high-flyers and value our graduates for their intellectual ability and the attributes they're able to develop while studying with us.

A supportive environment

Student support is embedded within the School and you will have a named contact to guide you through university life. There are also a number of student peer-learning opportunities in place to ensure you always feel supported.

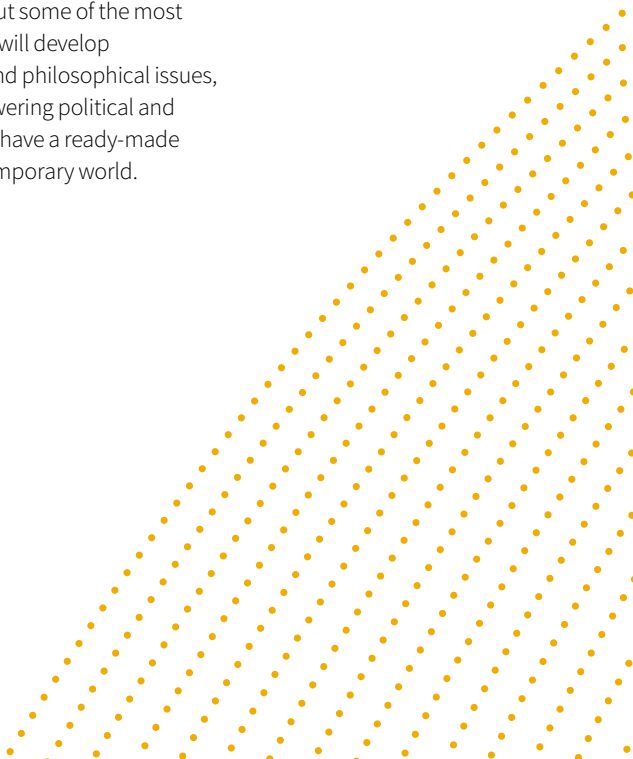
What is Politics, Philosophy and Economics?

Politics is concerned with the choices that political systems must regularly make, examining the processes that maintain or change those systems, and explaining the concepts and values used in political analysis.

Philosophy helps students develop analytical rigour and logical reasoning, and addresses questions regarding how we acquire knowledge and make ethical judgements.

Economics studies the allocation of resources and decision-making by consumers, firms and governments, and is increasingly central to governmental policy-making, the conduct of businesses, and enormous transformations throughout the world.

Our Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) degree will help you develop frameworks for thinking about some of the most pressing issues of the modern world. You will develop frameworks for thinking about political and philosophical issues, combined with quantitative skills for answering political and economic questions - PPE graduates will have a ready-made tool kit for addressing issues in the contemporary world.



What you'll typically study

YEAR 1	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Politics	Politics and International Relations 1A	Political Thinkers
Philosophy	Morality & Value	Logic 1 OR Introduction to the History of Philosophy
Economics	Economics 1	

YEAR 2	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Politics	International Political Economy	Statistical Methods for Economics
Philosophy	Mind, Matter and Language	Knowledge and Reality
Economics	Economics 2 (year-long)	

YEAR 3	
Politics	Choice of two Honours-level options in Politics
Philosophy	Choice of two Honours-level options in Philosophy
Economics	Choose one combination from: • Topics in Microeconomics & Topics in Macroeconomics • Topics in Microeconomics & Essentials of Econometrics • Essentials of Econometrics & Applications of Econometrics • Essentials of Econometrics & Topics in Macroeconomics

YEAR 4	
Politics	In year 4 students have the choice either to specialise in two of the three subjects, or to study all of the three subjects.
Philosophy	
Economics	Students who choose to specialise in two of the subjects will take two subjects in either Politics and Philosophy, or Politics and Economics, or Economics and Philosophy. Students who choose to study all three of the subjects will study a balance of courses between Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. Students also have an opportunity to write a Dissertation in one of the subject areas in which they specialise.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this booklet at the time of going to press. However, it will not form part of a contract between the University and a student or applicant and must be read in conjunction with the individual degree specifications, which can be found at: www.drps.ed.ac.uk

Summary of core PPE courses

Politics and International Relations 1A:

Concepts and Debates. PIR1A introduces key concepts such as power, participation and representation. Each week revolves around an important political question, the associated concepts, and the societal and academic debates around it.

Political Thinkers aims to introduce students to historical writers whose thoughts on politics – international and domestic – have become recognised by theorists as canonical in the Western tradition, or whose work is becoming increasingly recognised within a broader, non-Eurocentric canon.

International Political Economy introduces the subject area of international political economy. It begins with a review of the principal theoretical approaches to the study of global economic forces. It then examines the major issue areas in the postwar global economy, including: trade; international finance; transnational corporations; and globalisation and regionalisation.

Statistical Methods for Economics is an introduction to probability theory and statistics. It covers the core prerequisites needed for future courses in econometrics.

Morality and Value introduces you to some of the problems and concepts in moral philosophy that are central to philosophy as a discipline.

Introduction to the History of Philosophy

gives an overview of the core texts, debates and questions in the history of the discipline. The course covers a diverse spectrum of thinkers, such as ancient Greek and Islamic philosophers.

Logic 1 introduces what is known as formal or symbolic logic.

Mind, Matter and Language introduces you to some of the problems and concepts in philosophy of mind and philosophy of language that are central to philosophy.

Knowledge and Reality looks at main problems in epistemology and metaphysics. Topics vary by year, and may include: defining knowledge, sources of knowledge, scepticism, disagreement, space and time, universals and particulars, causation, and free will.

Economics 1 is a calculus-based course. The first semester focuses on developing and using models of supply and demand in microeconomic (individual market) contexts. The second semester considers macroeconomic (aggregate, economy-wide) phenomena. During the second semester we look in greater depth at national income accounting, economic growth, money and inflation, labour markets and unemployment. You'll learn relevant mathematical techniques and apply them to economic contexts as an integral part of the course. Problem solving is an important part of this course.

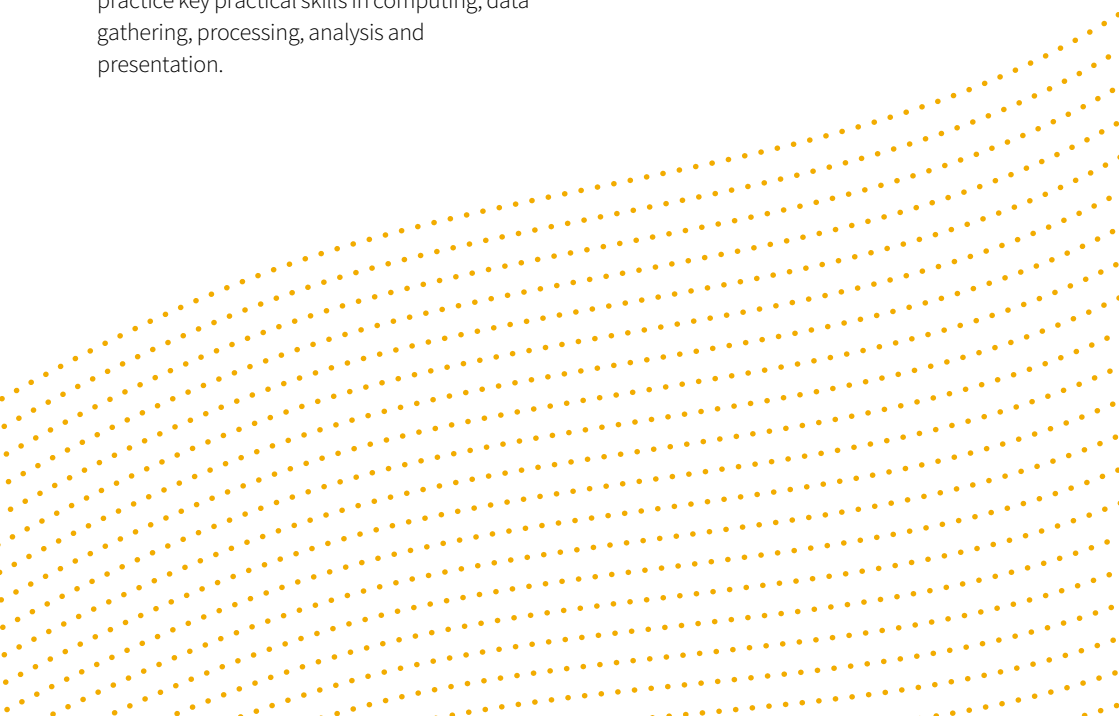


Economics 2 is also calculus based. The first semester looks at the theory of the firm and market structure, factor markets, externalities, the role of government and general equilibrium, with applications to monopoly and oligopoly, stock markets, property rights and public goods. The second semester looks at macroeconomics and includes topics such as monetary and fiscal policy, the open economy, exchange rate systems and monetary union, business cycles, economic policy and financial markets.

Essentials of Econometrics provides an opportunity to learn skills that are important for the later stages of the economics programme. Essentials of Econometrics aims to ensure that you have a sound grasp of the basic techniques of modern empirical economics. The topics covered are likely to include statistics, the linear regression model and regression analysis in practice. This course also includes weekly lab sessions to reinforce lectures and an opportunity to develop and practice key practical skills in computing, data gathering, processing, analysis and presentation.

Topics in Microeconomics/Topics in Macroeconomics

These courses extend and deepen the work of Economics 1 and Economics 2, bridging the gap between intermediate and graduate-level courses in economics, and providing insight into recent areas of economic research activity. Throughout, there is an emphasis on the application of economic principles. In Microeconomics, topics covered may include economics of asymmetric information; principal agent model; hidden action; moral hazard; hidden types adverse selection; topics in game theory; auctions; bargaining theory; and topics in behavioural economics. In Macroeconomics, topics covered are likely to be drawn from dynamic models of unemployment and the macroeconomy; international macroeconomics; the economics of banking; and the financial cycle.



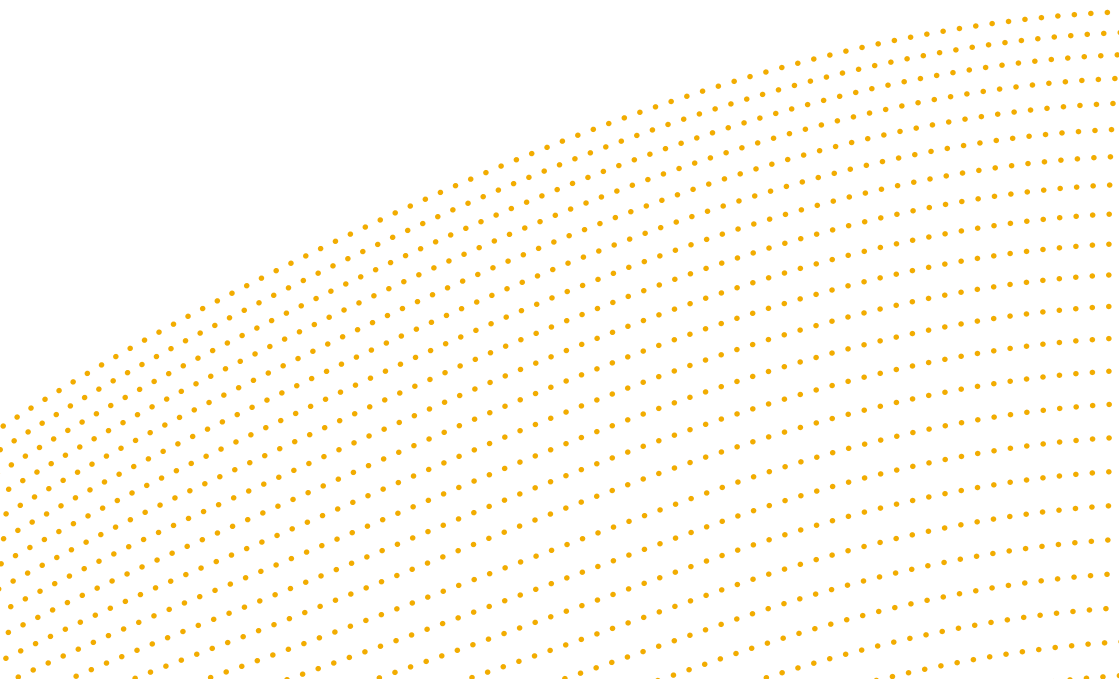
Teaching

We use a mixture of teaching methods including lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars and online environments.

In years 1 and 2 students normally have six to nine hours per week of lectures and three tutorial hours a week. The lectures are large, but tutorial groups will normally have no more than 15 students. Courses are typically assessed through a combination of essays and exams, but can also include tutorial participation and various types of written assignments.

In years 3 and 4 you will be assessed by a mix of essays and exams, as well as other forms of assessment, including policy and parliamentary briefs; book or literature reviews; or group projects. In your final year you will also conduct your own research and complete your dissertation.

It is expected that students will engage in independent study and learning throughout their degree, based on the guidance provided by course reading lists.



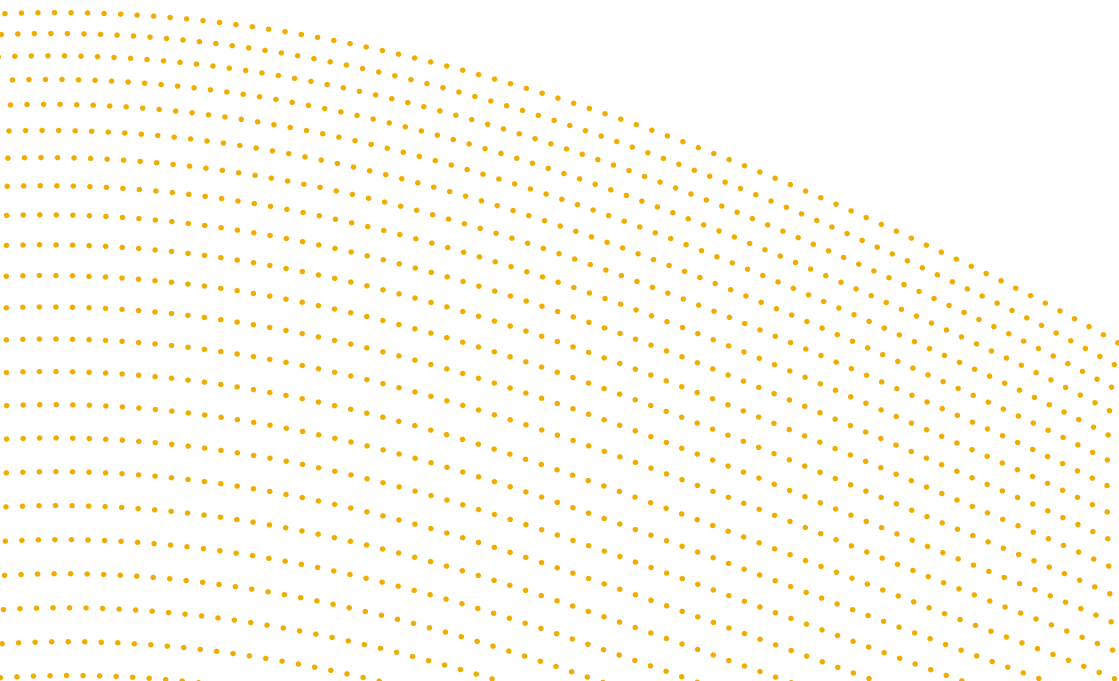
Study Abroad

We offer students an extensive range of opportunities to study abroad as part of their degree. Our exchange partners include a wide range of institutions across the world, including universities in Europe, the USA, Canada and Asia.

International study allows you to immerse yourself in different cultures. It gives you the opportunity to try new things, take on new challenges and to make the most of your time at University.

Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject as well as the opportunity to learn a new language.

www.ed.ac.uk/global/exchanges



Careers

The University's Career Service looks to enhance your university experience from the moment you arrive, not just in your final year, so use us from day one. We're here to inspire and empower you to be the best you can be and fully develop your potential. We support you to gain experience that will enhance your personal development and employability, alongside your academic studies. In an increasingly competitive employment environment, we offer many opportunities to gain the skills and experience that will ensure you are as well prepared as possible to achieve a satisfying and rewarding future.

Our Services

- A dedicated careers consultant for your School, offering targeted information, resources, newsletters and one-to-ones.
www.ed.ac.uk/careers/schools
- Information and advice; in person via our drop-in centre in the Main Library, and available 24/7 via our websites, blogs and social media: **www.ed.ac.uk/careers**
- Careers consultations
- CV and applications advice
- Careers events: job fairs, themed events, volunteering, creative careers, sustainability, IT, and much more

Information and advice

- Volunteering opportunities within the University and beyond
- Opportunities to go overseas with the University's Go Abroad scheme
- The Edinburgh Award - get recognition on your final transcript for additional work and extracurricular activities you've been part of during your time with us.
- Part-time and vacation jobs, internships, graduate jobs and more, via our dedicated job site: **mycareerhub.ed.ac.uk**



Getting ready for Edinburgh

If you'd like to get ahead with some background reading, we recommend the following books.

Politics

Levitsky, S., and D. Ziblatt. (2018) *How Democracies Die: What History Reveals about our Future*. Viking.

Swift, A. (2019) *Political Philosophy: A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians*, 4th ed., Polity Press.

Sobolewska, M. and R. Ford (2020) *Brexitland: Identity, Diversity and the Reshaping of British Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Philosophy

Chrisman, M. and Pritchard, D. (2016) *Philosophy for Everyone* 2nd ed, Routledge.

Warburton, N. (2012) *Philosophy: The Basics*, Routledge.

The University of Edinburgh: Introduction to Philosophy

A massively open online course (MOOC) that you can do anytime, from our Eidyn Research Centre. The course introduces you to some of the main areas of research in contemporary philosophy. It's also one of the most popular MOOCs of all time: www.coursera.org/learn/philosophy

Economics

Banerjee, A. and Duflo, E. (2012) *Poor Economics*, Penguin.

Kahneman, D. (2012) *Thinking Fast and Slow*, Penguin.

Hartford, T. (2007) *The Undercover Economist*, Abacus.



Undergraduate degrees in **Politics, Philosophy and Economics**

- MA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics

For further information on entry requirements visit: [edin.ac/entry](https://www.ed.ac.uk/entry)

Read more about our programmes at: [edin.ac/ourdegrees](https://www.ed.ac.uk/ourdegrees)

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