



Politics and International Studies

What distinguishes a SOAS Politics degree from any other is its truly global perspective.

Our international student body is renowned for its engagement with the major political issues of our time, making SOAS one of the most exciting universities in the world to learn about Politics and International Relations with a focus on Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

In a rapidly changing political and ideological landscape, the undergraduate degrees we provide have never been more relevant. Our programmes offer a unique combination of disciplinary and regional expertise to all students, ensuring an academic rigour that can be widely applied to contemporary situations across the world.

It is therefore no surprise that many of our students go on to make such a difference in the world, working for organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the Department for International Development.

Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits per year – unless stated otherwise.

Minimum entry requirements

A-Levels: AAA (from three A-levels excluding General Studies).

IB: 37 points with 6/6/6 at Higher level.

See p160 for more on entry requirements, application assessment, Widening Participation and joint degrees.

English language requirement

Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in reading and listening. Visit www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements for alternative acceptable qualifications.

Duration

Three years or four years when combined with certain subjects.

Skills gained

A degree in Politics prepares you to follow many different careers in business, government, international organisations and NGOs. Recent graduates have worked in policy and research, in publishing, media and in education. As well as knowledge and understanding of the complex political and cultural issues of global politics, students leave SOAS with a portfolio of widely transferable skills including:

- the ability to research information from a variety of sources
- analytical and problem solving skills
- written and oral communication skills to set out and discuss opinions and conclusions
- developing structured arguments and evaluating conflicting opinions and evidence

What do Politics and International Studies graduates do?

Chief Development Economist
Civil Servant
Diplomat
Education Officer
Journalist
Parliamentary Assistant
Political Analyst
Research Analyst
Risk Management Advisor
Social Impact Officer
Women's Mission Director

Employers include

Amnesty International
BBC Media Action
British Council Mexico
British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union
Euromonitor International
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Oxford Policy Management
Teach First
The Labour Party
Thomson Reuters
United Nations



Taught Programmes

- BA International Relations
- BA International Relations and...
- BA Politics
- BA Politics and...
- BA Politics and International Relations



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/politics



I am working as an intern at City Hall helping to promote the Mayor's Entrepreneur Competition. It is exactly the kind of thing I am keen to do. I get to communicate between universities and City Hall, and my job is to bring awareness about the competition to as many students and staff as possible, whether through Students' Union emails, posters, or speaking at lectures. The hours of work are designed to be student-friendly, so there is time to balance my studies and my work. What is so good about the internship at City Hall is that it is more than just doing a job. I am promoting a cause that I feel passionate about, and it is giving me the opportunity to make a difference in a field of work that really matters.

Bareera Ahmed
BA International Relations and Economics



BA International Relations

UCAS code: L250

The SOAS BA International Relations degree provides a uniquely global and comparative approach to the study of world affairs. Through a study of world history and global power relations, students gain a better understanding of the sources of conflict and cooperation among states, shifts in the international economy, as well as the roles of culture, identity and ideas in world politics. Students finish the degree equipped with the conceptual tools, analytic methods, analytical methods, and critical awareness to understand contemporary world events.

Structure (Typical course content)

Year 1

- Introduction to International Relations (30 credits)
- Introduction to Global History (30 credits)
- Introduction to Political Analysis (30 credits)

AND either one of the following:

- Introduction to Political Theory (30 credits)
- States, People and Power in Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics (30 credits)

OR a first year module in another department

Year 2

CHOOSE two of the following:

- War and the International (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)

PLUS either one or two modules from the following:

- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)
- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)

AND/OR options from the following:

- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)
- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Introduction to Political Theory (30 credits)
- States, People, and Power in Asia and Africa

(30 credits)

- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics (30 credits)

OR a first or second year module in another department

Year 3

Choose at least 30 credits from the following:

- Globalisation and Global Governance (15 credits)
- Identity in International Relations (15 credits)
- The International Organisation of World Politics (15 credits)
- Going Global: an Introduction to International Migration (15 credits)
- African Political Thought (15 credits)
- Decolonising World Politics (15 credits)
- Key Debates on Neoliberalism (15 credits)
- Conflict, Rights and Justice (15 credits)

PLUS additional credits from the following:

- Independent Study Project in International Relations (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- War and the International (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)
- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Islam and Democracy (30 credits)
- Nationalism, Ethnicity and State in Asia and Africa (15 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)
- Issues in Turkish Politics (15 credits)
- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)
- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)
- Politics of Culture (15 credits)
- Politics of Gender (15 credits)
- Politics, Economy, Society: Japan (15 credits)

PLUS any other open option module available in another department

BA International Relations and...

May be combined with

African Studies	LT25
Arabic+	LT2P
Chinese+	LB23
Development Studies	LL28
Economics	LL21
English	
History	LV22
History of Art and Archaeology	
Japanese+	LTF2
Japanese Studies	LTG2
Korean+	LT24
Korean Studies	TL42
Law	LMF1
Linguistics	LQ21
Middle Eastern Studies	
Religions	LVF6
Social Anthropology	LL26S09
South Asian Studies++ (3 years)	LTF3S09
South Asian Studies++ (4 years)	LTG3
South East Asian Studies	LTF4
World Philosophies	L251

+ 4-year degree with (compulsory) 1 year abroad

+ + 3- or 4-year degree with option of 1 year abroad

Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

- Introduction to International Relations (30 credits)

AND either

- Introduction to Political Analysis (30 credits)

OR

- Introduction to Global History (30 credits)

AND 60 credits from the second subject area

Year 2

CHOOSE one of the following:

- War and the International (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)

AND one of the following:

- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)
- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)

AND remaining credits to be taken from the second subject area

Year 3

Choose at least 30 credits from the following:

- Globalisation and Global Governance (15 credits)
- Identity in International Relations (15 credits)
- The International Organisation of World Politics (15 credits)
- Going Global: an Introduction to International Migration (15 credits)
- African Political Thought (15 credits)
- Decolonising the World (15 credits)
- Key Debates on Neoliberalism (15 credits)

PLUS additional credits from the following:

- Independent Study Project in International Relations (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- War and the International (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)
- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Islam and Democracy (30 credits)
- Nationalism, Ethnicity and State in Asia and Africa (15 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Critical Issues in Israeli Politics and Society (15 credits)
- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)
- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)
- Politics of Culture (15 credits)
- Politics of Gender (15 credits)
- Politics, Economy, Society: Japan (15 credits)

PLUS the remaining modules to be taken from the second subject area.

BA Politics

UCAS code: L202

The Politics degree at SOAS enables you to combine disciplinary knowledge in comparative politics, political theory, political economy and political sociology with regional expertise. Students receive a thorough training in the theories and methods of these sub-disciplines, which are then applied to the analysis of real world political situations.



Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

Students select four modules to the value of 120 credits, one from A, B, C and D

Group A

- Introduction to Political Analysis (30 credits)

Group B

- Introduction to Comparative Politics (30 credits)

Group C

- Introduction to Political Theory (30 credits)

Group D

- States, People and Power in Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Introduction to Global History (30 credits)
- Introduction to International Relations (30 credits)

PLUS an open option module from another department

Year 2

Students select four modules to the value of 120 credits, with 60 credits from A; at least 30 credits from B; and up to 30 credits from C or an open option module in another department

Group A

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asian and Africa (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)

Group B

- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)

Group C

- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)
- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)
- War and the International (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)

Year 3

CHOOSE between 30 and 90 credits from the following:

- Nationalism, Ethnicity and State in Asia and Africa (15 credits)

- Islam and Democracy (30 credits)
- Politics of Culture (15 credits)
- Politics of Gender (15 credits)
- Issues in Turkish Politics (15 credits)
- Critical Issues in Israeli Politics and Society (15 credits)
- Politics, Economy, Society: Japan (15 credits)
- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)

PLUS 30- 60 credits from the following:

- Going Global: an Introduction to International Migration (15 credits)
- Identity in International Relations (15 credits)
- Globalisation and Global Governance (15 credits)
- The International Organisation of World Politics (15 credits)
- African Political Thought (15 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Politics (30 credits)
- Extended Essay in Politics (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in Politics B (15 credits)
- Conflict, Rights and Justice (15 credits)

OR any other open option module available in another department.

BA Politics and...

May be combined with

African Studies	TL52
Arabic+	LT26
Chinese+	LT21
Development Studies	LL92
Economics	LL12
English	
History of Art and Archaeology	
History	LV21
International Relations	L290
Japanese+	LT22
Japanese Studies	TL22
Korean+	LTFL
Korean Studies	TL14
Law	LM21

Linguistics	LQ23
Middle Eastern Studies	
Social Anthropology	LL62
South Asian Studies++ (3 years)	TLHF
South Asian Studies++ (4 years)	TL3F
South East Asian Studies	TLH2
Religions	LV26
World Philosophies	L200

+ 4-year degree with (compulsory) 1 year abroad

++ 3- or 4-year degree with option of 1 year abroad

Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

- Introduction to Comparative Politics (30 credits)

AND either

- Introduction to Political Analysis (30 credits)

OR

- Introduction to Political Theory (30 credits)

AND 60 credits from the second subject area

Year 2

CHOOSE one of the following disciplinary modules:

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)

AND one of the following regional modules:

- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)

AND remaining credits to be taken from the second subject area

Year 3

CHOOSE between 30 and 90 credits from the following:

- Nationalism, Ethnicity and State in Asia and Africa (15 credits)
- Islam and Democracy (30 credits)
- Politics of Culture (15 credits)
- Politics of Gender (15 credits)
- Issues in Turkish Politics (15 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Politics (30 credits)
- Politics, Economy, Society: Japan (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in Politics (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in Politics B (15 credits)

PLUS remaining credits from the Year 2 disciplinary list, the year 2 regional list or an open option module.

BA Politics and International Relations

UCAS code: L290

This programme offers students the ability to combine our two disciplinary streams throughout their training, giving them a broad base of knowledge from which to analyse politics within and amongst countries. Students will choose from the options available to both joint degree programmes and will take a compulsory module in Political Analysis in the first year.

Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

- Introduction to Comparative Politics (30 credits)
- Introduction to International Relations (30 credits)
- Introduction to Political Analysis (30 credits)

AND either

- Introduction to Global History (30 credits)

OR

- Introduction to Political Theory (30 credits)

Year 2

Students select four modules to the value of 120 credits, one from each of the following four lists:

Group A

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asian and Africa (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)

Group B

- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)

Group C

- War and the International (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)

Group D

- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)

- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)

Year 3

CHOOSE at least 30 credits from the following:

- Nationalism, Ethnicity and State in Asia and Africa (15 credits)
- Islam and Democracy (30 credits)
- Politics of Culture (15 credits)
- Politics of Gender (15 credits)
- Issues in Turkish Politics (15 credits)
- Critical Issues in Israeli Politics and Society (15 credits)

AND at least 30 credits from the following:

- Globalisation and Global Governance (15 credits)
- Identity in International Relations (15 credits)
- The International Organisation of World Politics (15 credits)
- African Political Thought (15 credits)
- Key Debates on Neoliberalism (15 credits)
- Conflict, Rights and Justice (15 credits)
- Decolonising World Politics (15 credits)

AND the remaining credits from the following, although you cannot choose both the Independent Study Project and the Extended Essay:

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Religion and World Politics (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)
- War and the International (30 credits)
- Politics of the World Economy (30 credits)
- International Relations of East Asia (30 credits)
- International Relations of Africa (30 credits)
- International Relations of the Middle East (30 credits)
- International Relations of South Asia (30 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Politics (30 credits)
- Extended Essay in Politics (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in Politics B (15 credits)

OR any other open option module available in another department.

Certificate in Political Studies

Duration

One year (full time) or two or three years (part time)

Minimum entry requirements

The minimum entry requirement is the ability to demonstrate the potential to study at undergraduate level. However, programmes may have their own specific requirements, such as, in the case of language-based studies, a proven ability to learn a language.

More information

www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/certificate-in-political-studies

How to apply

Applications for undergraduate certificates and diplomas should be made directly to SOAS. Complete the online application at www.soas.ac.uk/certificates

This certificate is a one-year programme available to those who are keen to study politics at Masters level but do not have a first degree in the subject. It is also of interest for those who do not wish to commit three or four years to an undergraduate degree but want to study some introductory modules. It is particularly useful for students who have a first degree in an Africa- or Asia-related subject or language, and who wish to apply that skill to the study of a particular country or region.

Structure

Students normally choose TWO introductory modules and ONE EACH from the Disciplinary and Regional modules. The following is a list of available modules - please note that not every module may be available every year.

Introductory

- Introduction to Political Theory (30 credits)
- States, People and Power in Asia and Africa (30 credits)

Disciplinary

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)

Regional

- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)

