Politics and History
BA Honours

A world-class university in a world-famous city

UCAS code VL12
3 Years
Politics and History
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This degree allows you to combine your interests in history and politics, dividing your time equally between the two.

In order to ensure we keep our courses fresh, exciting, and reflective of the latest research developments, we regularly review and update our course content and structure. Full details of our BA Politics and History for students beginning in 2020 will be available on our website in October 2019.

Choose from a wide range of topics including British, European, American and world history, and international politics and political thought.

Concentrate on different areas of the world from both an historical and a political perspective, or develop your interest in particular approaches to the study of history or politics.

Explore and evaluate different forms of historical evidence and benefit from the University’s historic collections and the acclaimed Great North Museum on-campus.

Develop skills in critical analysis, communication and research through an independent research project on a topic of particular interest to you.

Highlights of this degree

Quality and ranking
History at Newcastle is highly regarded:

- **top 200** – Arts and Humanities category – Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2018

Politics at Newcastle is also highly regarded:

- **top 20 in the UK** - the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020
- **90% overall satisfaction score** – National Student Survey 2019
- **top 200** – Social Sciences category – Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2018

Boost your employability with a work placement

Apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an optional work placement between Stages 2 and 3. You can apply to spend your placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so.

You’ll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise.

It will extend your degree by a year and is subject to availability, however it isn’t available if you’re spending a year studying abroad.

Find out more about Work Placements.

Flexible degree structure

This degree offers you flexibility to follow your own interests rather than follow a prescribed course of study.

See the Course Details for details of the wide variety of topics you can choose from.

You can also take topics from other subjects within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, such as:

- archaeology
- classics
- politics
- philosophy
- a modern language

Study abroad

Studying abroad as part of your degree is a fun, challenging experience that will broaden your cultural horizons.

It will improve your language skills and develop an international network of friends.

You have the opportunity to take part in a study abroad exchange in either Stage 2 or Stage 3.

You can study in a European country, including:

- France
- Italy
- Finland
- Slovenia

You can also choose to study in a non-European country, such as Australia, the USA or Hong Kong.

Facilities and support

As a joint honours student at Newcastle, you will divide your time between politics and history.

Politics is delivered by the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology and History is delivered by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology.

Facilities

In both schools you have access to modern teaching and learning facilities.

University-wide facilities include the multi-award-winning University Library Service, with over one million books, a huge range of electronic resources, and a Special Collections department with excellent historical and literary books and manuscripts.

The University-led Great North Museum is adjacent to campus. It has world-class archaeological treasures and a resource-rich library.
Support
You will have an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree. They can 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.

Social activities
You will have the opportunity to take part in activities organised by the Politics Society and History Society.

Course Details

Modules for 2019 entry

Please note
The module and/or programme information below is for 2019 entry. Our teaching is informed by research and modules change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, student feedback, or insufficient numbers of students interested (in an optional module). To find out more read our terms and conditions.

Module/programme information for 2020 entry will be published here as soon as it is available (end of May 2020).

Our degrees are divided into Stages. Each Stage lasts for an academic year and you need to complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each Stage. Further information, including the credit value of the module, is available in each of the module descriptions below.

Stage 1

Compulsory modules
HIS1030 Evidence and Argument
POL1046 Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century

Optional modules
You must take at least one module in History and one module in Politics from the lists below:

History modules
HIS1025 World Empires
HIS1027 European History
HIS1029 Varieties of History
HIS1044 Aspects of British History
HIS1046 The History of the Americas

Politics modules
POL1017 Governing Under Pressure: The Politics of the UK and EU
POL1032 Introduction to International Politics
POL1045 Politics: Essential Research Study Skills
POL1047 Power, Participation and Democracy: Comparative Perspectives
POL1048 Foundations of Modern Political Thought

You must select your final 40 credits from the History or Politics lists, or, with the approval of the Degree Programme Director, you may select one module from either list, plus modules to a maximum of 20 credits from those offered by other schools in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
Stage 2

Optional modules
You choose up to three History modules and up to three Politics modules from the lists below. You must take at least one History module and one Politics module in each semester.

You can take a module for the ERASMUS student exchange programme, subject to agreeing an overall selection of modules with the Degree Programme Director. If you wish to participate in Study Abroad, you should choose one of the following modules:
HIS2100 Erasmus Student Exchange
HIS2101 Erasmus Student Exchange

History modules
ARA2011 Prehistoric Europe
ARA2016 Aegean Prehistory
ARA2091 Archaeologies of the Roman Empire: The Roman World from Augustus to Justinian
ARA2092 The Medieval World: AD 400-1500
ARA2097 Historical Archaeology of the Modern World (post 1492)
CAH2006 Hellenistic Empires from Alexander to Cleopatra
CAH2061 Slavery in Greco-Roman Antiquity
CAH2207 Caesar’s Gift: Rome under the Emperors (V100 & VL12 only)
HIS2003 Religion and Politics in Tudor England, c.1470-1558
HIS2012 Clash of Civilizations: Islam, the Crusades and the Mongol Invasions (c.750-1300)
HIS2031 Between Revolutions: Britain 1688 - 1789
HIS2072 Anglo-Saxon England: from Roman Britain to the Norman Conquest, 410-1066
HIS2078 Approaches to the History of Western Medicine
HIS2084 Europe’s Reformations
HIS2085 Pre-Columbian and Spanish America
HIS2086 Twentieth Century France 1914-95
HIS2095 Social Histories of Alcohol: Britain and Ireland, 1700 - Present
HIS2104 The Dark Ages: The Post-Roman World, 500-700
HIS2114 Death, Dying and the Dead in Early Modern England, 1500-1832
HIS2124 A History of Contemporary Britain
HIS2131 American Slavery, American Freedom: Black and White America in the Age of Revolutions
HIS2133 Society and Politics in Colonial India, 1880s-1947
HIS2140 Survey History of Japan
HIS2170 The History of New Orleans
HIS2219 Oral History and Memory
HIS2228 The Habsburg Empire
HIS2235 The Soviet Experiment: 1917-1991
HIS2239 Colonialism and Post-Colonialism in Egypt and Sudan
HIS2240 Greece from ancient times to the 21st century: Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the past

Politics modules
POL2012 Politics of the Middle East
POL2022 Government and Politics of the USA
POL2034 The Politics and Policy of the European Union
POL2045 British Politics: State and Society
POL2078 Critical International Politics
POL2081 Research Methods in Politics
POL2082 Political Violence and the Modern State
POL2087 Contemporary Russian Politics
POL2088 The Politics of Africa: Africa’s Place in Global Politics
POL2090 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Social Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
POL2110 Security Studies
POL2113 Sex, Gender, and Power

You may select, subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director, one of the following modules:
NCL2007 Career Development for Second Year Students
NCL2100 Developing Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and Employability
POL2096 Politics Work Placement

Work Placement (optional)
You can apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an optional work placement between Stages 2 and 3. You can apply to spend your placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so. It will extend your degree by a year and is subject to availability. It isn’t available if you’re spending a year studying abroad. Find out more about Work Placements.

Year 3 (Placement Year)
On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3, you may as part of your studies for the degree spend a year in a placement with an approved organisation. If you are required to re-sit your Stage 2 assessment, you must delay the start of your placement until you have done so. If you fail Stage 2, you may not complete a placement year.
NCL3000 Careers Service Placement Year Module

Stage 3

Optional modules
You choose modules from the History and Politics lists below, totalling no more than 60 credits but at least 40 credits from each subject. Some prerequisites may apply.
Stage 3

**History modules**

- HIS3000  Reading History
- HIS3030  History and Society
- ARA3013  Early Medieval Britain
- ARA3016  The Archaeology of Byzantium and its Neighbours
- ARA3021  Frontier Communities of Roman Britain
- ARA3031  Historical Archaeology of Britain 1500-Present
- ARA3118  Origins and Transformations: Early Prehistoric Europe
- ARA3121  Sex, bodies and identities in Classical Greece
- CAH3010  The Life and Afterlife of Alexander the Great
- CAH3012  Geographical Knowledge in the Ancient World
- CAH3025  Celluloid History II
- HIS3035  Elizabeth I: the Politics of Religion
- HIS3131  China in Revolution
- HIS3134  The Great Patriotic War and its Aftermath
- HIS3135  The Nazi New Order in Europe
- HIS3181  The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1961 - 1990

**Politics modules**

- POL3059  Democracy and the Constitution
- POL3079  The Government and Politics of Italy
- POL3092  Political Parties and Elections in the UK
- POL3104  The Fall and Rise of China
- POL3106  Democracy in Deeply Divided Societies
- POL3108  The Politics of the Far Right in Europe
- POL3109  Gender, Campaigns and Media
- POL3110  International Organisation and Diplomacy
- POL3111  UK Parliamentary Studies
- POL3114  Animal and Environmental Ethics
- POL3116  The Ethics of War
- POL3117  Politics of Immigration
- POL3118  Environmental Governance and Policy
- POL3122  Politics of Happiness
- POL3124  Mexican Politics: Authoritarianism and Democracy
- Subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director, you may select no more than 40 credits from the following list:
  - HIS3200  Writing History
  - POL3046  Dissertation in Politics
  - POL3047  Projects in Politics: Semester 1
  - POL3048  Projects in Politics: Semester 2
  - POL3103  Community Based Research in Politics

Subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director, you may select one of the following modules:

- NCL3007  Career Development for Final Year Students
- NCL3100  Applied Entrepreneurship

**Teaching and assessment**

**Study at the cutting edge**

Both the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology and the School of History, Classics and Archaeology have an international reputation for their research. This research feeds directly into our teaching, so you are learning at the cutting edge of the discipline.

Find out more about our history research and our politics research.

**Teaching methods**

We use a variety of teaching methods, including:

- lectures
- seminars
- teamwork exercises
Assessment methods
You will be assessed by written examinations and course work, such as:

- documentary commentaries
- group presentations
- literature reviews
- essays

During Stage 3 you produce a research-based dissertation, and take two workshop-style modules where you deal principally with historical documents, as well as a module designed to examine how history is written.

Find out more
Visit our Teaching and Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University.

Careers

Politics and History careers
The skills you develop as a historian are highly regarded by employers in many sectors. You will learn to critically evaluate evidence, organise ideas and present a coherent argument. You will assess problems in the light of considerable amounts of information, often conflicting, and will present complex material accurately, clearly and convincingly, both orally and on paper.

Such skills are essential in a wide range of careers – including commercial management and administrative roles in the public, private and charitable sectors. As a result our graduates enter a variety of careers:

- finance
- management
- information
- education
- human resources
- media
- marketing
- legal services

A survey by David Nicholls of Manchester Metropolitan University revealed that History turns out more directors of top companies than any other subject.

You can also make direct use of your knowledge of history in certain sectors including undertaking specialised research, publishing, information management, archivist, museum and curatorial work, plus other opportunities across the cultural and heritage sector.

Qualities such as self-motivation, teamwork ability and leadership may also be gained through non-academic activities and work experience and prepare you for a range of careers.

Find out more about the career options for Politics and History from Prospects: The UK’s Official Careers Website.

What our graduates go on to do: employment and further study choices
See what our recent graduates went on to do and view graduate destinations statistics. These statistics are based on what graduates were doing on a specific date, approximately six months after graduation. Take a look at the most recent data available for our graduates.

The destination data is available in varying levels, beginning with the University and moving through Faculty and School down to individual course reports. This final level may give you some useful ideas about possible options after your course or a course you are considering.

Careers and employability at Newcastle
Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

96% of our 2017 UK-domiciled UG/PG graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.

85.5% of our graduates are in graduate level employment or further study within six months of graduating.

We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through an initiative called ncl+. This enables you to develop personal, employability and enterprise skills and to give you the edge in the employment market after you graduate.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers.

Fees & Funding

Tuition Fees (UK students)

2020 entry:
£9,250

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

Please note:
The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK students is set by the UK government.
### Tuition Fees (UK students)

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation. See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

### Tuition Fees (EU students)

**2020 entry:**

£9,250

You will pay the same tuition fees as UK students for the duration of your course.

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

**Please note:**

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation. See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

### Tuition Fees (International students)

**2020 entry:**

£18,000

*Please note:

You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme (unless you are on a shorter exchange programme).

The tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation.

If you spend a year on placement or studying abroad as part of your degree you may pay a reduced fee for that year.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

### Scholarships and Financial Support (UK students)

You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.

Newcastle University Scholarships

Government financial support

### Scholarships and Financial Support (EU students)

You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.

Newcastle University Scholarships

Government financial support

### Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)

We offer a range of scholarships to eligible international students:

- Vice-Chancellor’s International Scholarships
- Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarships
- Vice-Chancellor’s Global Scholarships

We also offer International Family Discounts which are available for all international students with a close family member who has graduated from or is now studying at Newcastle University.

Newcastle University offers Sanctuary Scholarships for eligible undergraduate students (excludes MBBS and BDS students) from asylum-seeker and refugee backgrounds.

Some of our subject scholarships and sports scholarships are also available for international students.

### Apply

**Applying to Newcastle University through UCAS**

To apply for undergraduate study at Newcastle you must use the online application system managed by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UCAS codes for Newcastle University:

- institution name - NEWC
- institution code - N21

**UCAS buzzword**

Ask your teacher or adviser from your school or college for the UCAS buzzword. You need the buzzword when you register on the Apply system. This makes it clear which school or college you are applying from.

All UK schools and colleges and a small number of EU and international establishments are registered with UCAS.

If you are applying independently, or are applying from a school or college which is not registered to manage applications, you will still use the Apply system. You will not need a buzzword.
Making your application
On the UCAS website you can also find out more about:
- application deadlines and other important dates
- offers and tracking your application

Application decisions and enquiries
Find out more about our admissions process and who to contact if you need help with your application.

The scenic quayside is a short walk from campus.