

# Politics and Sociology

BA Honours

A  
world-class  
university in a  
world-famous  
city



# Politics and Sociology

BA Honours

UCAS code LL32

3 Years

Political issues are invariably social issues, involving questions of power, inequalities, conflict and change in contemporary societies.

Dividing your time equally between sociology and politics, you develop a rich, in-depth and well-informed understanding of the social forces that create and sustain political and social institutions.

Optional modules allow you to tailor the degree to suit your own interests, with topics like:

- critical international politics
- political violence and the modern state
- refugees and displacements
- urban sociology

Your choice of topics is closely aligned to the research expertise of our academic staff, allowing you to study at the cutting edge of the discipline with our internationally recognised experts.

## Highlights of this degree

### Quality and ranking

Politics at Newcastle is highly regarded:

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

Sociology also ranks highly:

- **top 200** – Sociology category – QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018
- **top 200** – Social Sciences category – *Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2018*

### Study at the cutting edge

The subject areas of politics and sociology at Newcastle both have an international reputation for their research.

In politics, our research activity focuses on three overlapping areas:

- governance and political organisations
- international politics
- political philosophy

In sociology, our research areas include:

- Identities, embodiments and selves

- Imagining pasts and futures
- Power, inequalities and citizenship

We also have strong links to the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences (PEALS) research unit.

We value learning in partnership with our students. We share real-world data in research-informed modules and support you to analyse your own material as your skills develop.

You will gain independent research experience and data analysis skills during your dissertation.

### 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](#).

### Study abroad

You have the opportunity to broaden your academic experience by taking part in a [study abroad exchange](#) in Stage 3 in places such as:

- Denmark
- Germany
- Sweden
- Norway

Many of our partner institutions teach in English, so fluency in the language of your host institution is not essential.

We also have links with non-EU universities in Canada, Australia, the US and Singapore.

### Facilities and support

At Newcastle, you'll join a close-knit community of students and academics. You will divide your time between [Sociology](#) and [Politics](#), both of which are part of the [School of Geography, Politics and Sociology](#).

### Facilities

You will have access to modern learning and teaching spaces, in the [Politics Building](#) and [Claremont Tower](#), as well as the award-winning University 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 can join the student-run Politics Society and Sociology Society who organise a busy calendar of events throughout the year.



**Our multi-award-winning Library has a wealth of study resources.**

## Course Details

All candidates are considered on an individual basis.

If your qualifications are not listed here, please see our additional [entry requirements web pages](#) to find out which other qualifications are considered.

The entrance requirements below apply to **2020 entry**.

### Stage 1

#### Compulsory modules

SOC1032 Politics and Society

POL1045 Politics: Essential Research Study Skills

#### Optional modules

You choose two Sociology modules from the list below:

SOC1027 Comparing Cultures

SOC1030 The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction to the Discipline

SOC1031 Knowing in Sociology: An Introduction to Theory, Methods and Epistemology

SOC1033 Understanding Everyday Life

You choose two Politics modules from this list:

POL1017 Governing Under Pressure: The Politics of the UK and EU

POL1032 Introduction to International Politics

POL1046 Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century

POL1047 Power, Participation and Democracy: Comparative Perspectives

POL1048 Foundations of Modern Political Thought

### Stage 2

#### Compulsory modules

You take the following compulsory module:

SOC2069 Researching Social Life I

If you plan to do a sociology dissertation in your final year you also take the following:

SOC2070 Researching Social Life II

#### Optional modules

You take three modules from the list below.

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

## Stage 2

POL2086 Current Issues in Politics and International Relations

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

POL2096 Politics Work Placement\*

POL2110 Security Studies

POL2113 Sex, Gender and Power

\*Module cannot be combined with NCL2007

\*\*Discuss with the Degree Programme Director before selecting this module

You take two modules from the list below (unless you have selected SOC2070 above, in which case you take one module from the list below):

SOC2056 Sociology of Health and Illness

SOC2058 Understanding Social Change and Transformation

SOC2067 Consumer Culture: An Anthropological Perspective

SOC2071 The Sociology of Childhood

SOC2084 Social Invention of Central Europe

SOC2085 Refugees and Displacement: Borders, Camps and Asylum

SOC2086 Post-disciplinary Criminology: Hermeneutics, Poststructuralism and Cultural Theory

SOC2087 Identity and Difference in Multicultural Britain

With approval of the Degree Programme Director, you may substitute one Politics or one Sociology module for the following:

NCL2007 Career Development for second year students

## 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

### Compulsory modules

You choose one of the following dissertation modules:

POL3046 Dissertation in Politics

POL3103 Community-Based Research in Politics

SOC3097 Dissertation in Sociology\*

*\*In order to take Dissertation in Sociology (SOC3097) students must have completed SOC2070.*

### Optional modules

If you have selected SOC3097, you'll take three Politics modules from the list below.

If you have selected POL3046, you will take one Politics module from the list below.

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

POL3122 The Politics of Happiness

POL3124 Mexican Politics: Authoritarianism and Democracy

If you have selected SOC3097, you'll take one Sociology module from the list below.

If you have selected POL3046, you will take three Politics modules from the list below.

SOC3077 Making People: Anthropology of Belonging, Life and Death

SOC3078 Dreamworlds: Society and the Utopian Imagination

SOC3084 Tools of Hope and Despair. Making Sense of Uncertainty and Expectation in Society

SOC3090 Investigating the Body: Sociological Debates about the Social, Legal and Creative Management of the Human Body

SOC3091 CSI Newcastle: The Sociology of Forensic Sciences

SOC3092 Moral Dilemmas, Judgements and Debates: The Anthropology of Rights and Wrongs

SOC3096 Educating Inequalities in a Global Age

SOC3098 Community and Conflict in the Countryside

SOC3099 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

You also have the opportunity to spend semester 1 of Stage 3 studying abroad through a study exchange. You study modules that count towards your final degree and begin work on your dissertation.

SOC3085 Student Exchange

## Teaching and assessment

### Teaching methods

Your work is divided between lectures and seminars, with around 10 hours a week devoted to large and small group study. You will supplement this with a maximum of 28 hours' private study.

### Assessment methods

You will be assessed by a combination of:

- essays
- examinations
- projects
- dossiers
- presentations and poster presentations

In Stage 3, you undertake a dissertation in either politics or sociology on your topic of choice.

### 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 Sociology careers

Studying sociology will enable you to develop valuable skills which can be applied to many different careers, including understanding how society works and its diverse social situations, the ability to analyse complex data, team working, and communication skills.

Throughout the course you will be encouraged to develop a personal portfolio of knowledge and skills in a field best matching your tastes and abilities. This will provide you with an opportunity to get acquainted with the work environment in an area of employment of interest to you.

Employers recognise that sociology graduates tend to have an interest in dealing with people and this is reflected in some of the types of jobs sociology graduates do.

Previous Newcastle University sociology graduates can be found working across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Areas of employment include:

- the Civil Service
- education
- social welfare
- recruitment
- HR
- customer services

Some graduates will continue to postgraduate-level studies. Popular choices include [Master's-level Sociology](#), the [Postgraduate Certificate in Education](#) and law conversion courses.

Find out more about the career options for [Politics](#) and [Sociology](#) 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:**

### Tuition Fees (UK students)

The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK students is set by the UK government.

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.



Graduates meeting the Vice-Chancellor.



Go online for information about our full range of degrees  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate)



To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle)



Visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/tour](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/tour) to take virtual tours of the campus and the city



Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/openday](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/openday)



Contact us online at  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries)  
or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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Full details of the University's terms and conditions, including reference to all relevant policies, procedures, regulations and information provision, are available at

[www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations)



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