

Government

Politics is about power and ideas, and it determines the public life of society. It encompasses a broad spectrum of activities relating to public affairs, from the competition of political parties to the operations of public bureaucracies. In earlier centuries, politics was largely carried on by a relatively small elite, but modern democracy involves the whole population. Since it is at the junction of power and morality, politics has always attracted the attention of philosophers and historians, and its study, originating in Athens in the fourth century BC, is the foundation point for all the social sciences.

Departmental Facts

The Department of Government is one of the largest political science departments in the UK. The Department's activities cover almost all areas of political studies, and represent a comprehensive range of academic approaches and expertise, including the history of political thought, political philosophy, contemporary political theory (especially public choice), comparative politics and the detailed study of institutions and policy-making in many different areas of the world. The Department has a strongly cosmopolitan character and its alumni are to be found in some of the leading departments of political science and in journalism, commerce, central and local government, and non-governmental organisations in the UK and across the world.

The Department was ranked third in the UK in the subject tables of the Independent newspaper Complete University Guide 2010. Furthermore, in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), 30 per cent of the Department's work was described as 'world-leading', with a further 30 per cent described as 'internationally excellent'.

Careers

Studying within the Department of Government, students will have the opportunity to develop specific subject knowledge alongside a set of highly valuable and transferable employability skills, including:

- effective written and verbal communication skills;
- the ability to interpret and present statistical or numerical information;
- the ability to work independently and collaborate with others to achieve common goals;
- strong research skills with the ability to gather, organize and analyse information from a variety of secondary and primary sources in order to construct reasoned arguments;
- the ability to investigate problems and exercise critical judgment when formulating and advocating solutions;
- becoming adept at managing their own learning self-critically and using feedback constructively.

Unsurprisingly, the top employment sector for graduates was regional and national government. Many graduates find positions within the UK Civil Service whilst others can be found working within governments around the world. Popular alternative employment sectors include: media and publishing; consultancy, and banking. Other graduates have opted to transfer the skills developed as a government graduate to other disciplines, for instance, law and journalism.

Government courses available to General Course students include:

GV100 Introduction to Political Theory	GV264 Politics and Institutions in Europe
GV101 Introduction to Political Science	GV265 States, Nations and Empires
GV225 Public Choice and Politics	GV302 Key Themes in the History of Political Thought
GV227 The Politics of Economic Policy	GV310 Democracy and Democratisation
GV262 Contemporary Political Theory	GV350 Theories and Problems of Nationalism
GV263 Public Policy Analysis	GV351 Government, Politics and Public Policy in the European Union