



Politics

From international relations to political theory, New Zealand politics to comparative studies – empower yourself with Politics.

“Try some of everything. The strength of Otago’s Politics programme is its breadth. In one degree you can take anything from political philosophy to environmental politics.”

Carys Goodwin
Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Politics)
Strategy and Policy Advisor,
HM Treasury, London

Politics is the study of how power is organised and used, nationally and internationally. Power relations affect every aspect of our lives, determining what we think, say and do, and how we co-operate to make the world a better place.

So much of what we see in the news is about politics, including Brexit, the US election, the civil war in Syria, and the Treaty of Waitangi. By studying politics, you will gain a balanced, analytical and insightful understanding of topics that may be sensationalised in the media. Empower yourself to know the difference: study Politics.

0800 80 80 98 | otago.ac.nz | txt 866 | university@otago.ac.nz



Why study Politics?

Consider what you stand to gain from a better understanding of people and power, conflict and co-operation. By studying Politics, you will get to know power intimately and acquire the insight and skills to use power for the betterment of yourself, society, and the world.

Politics is a practical field of study that will empower you to understand and take part in responsible decision-making. It is also an intellectually stimulating field.

The knowledge and skills acquired from studying Politics will not only empower you to make a difference, but are very attractive to future employers.

Politics at Otago

Otago's Politics lecturers are all experts in their fields, actively engaged in research that enriches their teaching.

Our approach to the study of politics is a blend of traditional and modern analysis. The breadth of the discipline of politics is reflected in the wide range of papers on offer at Otago. At Otago, Politics is arranged into four fields:

- International Relations – study international conflicts and co-operation between states.
- New Zealand Politics – understand the politics of Aotearoa.
- Political Theory – ask important theoretical questions about the nature of power and justice.
- Comparative Politics – compare the politics of a range of countries and regions.

Background required

Studying Politics at Otago assumes no prior knowledge. If you have an interest in national and international affairs, you should consider including some Politics in your degree.

Degree options

You can study Politics as a major within the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc)
- Bachelor of Arts and Commerce (BACom)

Politics is an excellent subject to study with another area of interest, either as a double-major in the BA, alongside a Science subject in the BASc, alongside a Commerce subject in the BACom, or as a double degree with Law or Commerce, and other options.

Politics is also part of the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) major, and is available as a minor within a range of degree options, or simply as an additional interest paper to strengthen your degree.

An understanding of politics also complements degrees in areas such as Law, International Business, History, Economics, Geography, Management or Psychology.

Student exchange

The opportunity to study at an international university and understand another culture is an invaluable educational experience for a Politics student. You may be able to do part of your study overseas through the University's extensive exchange programme or as a postgraduate student.

Continuing your studies

We offer a range of postgraduate programmes. The twelve-month long Master of Politics (MPols) and Master of International Studies (MIntSt) degrees are excellent options for students interested in specialising in a particular area of politics or seeking an extra edge when considering their future career options. We also offer two research degrees – the Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Career opportunities

Politics graduates have the ability to analyse issues logically, to challenge conventional assumptions, to consider different options and viewpoints, make informed decisions, and act with flexibility, adaptability and creativity.

In addition to these specialist skills, our programmes enable you to develop a range of personal and professional skills that are highly valued by employers.

A Politics degree has helped many graduates find exciting, challenging and highly-rewarding careers in a broad range of fields across New Zealand and around the world. Our graduates are policy analysts, diplomats, working with refugees, journalists, business leaders, lawyers, public servants, consultants, and even politicians.

Many continue on to study towards a postgraduate degree at prestigious international universities.

PROFILE

Emily Mathias

Bachelor of Arts (Politics) and Bachelor of Laws
Policy Advisor Climate Change, Ministry for the Environment

It only took one Politics paper to hook Otago graduate Emily Mathias.

"I had always been interested in politics and current affairs, which was what led me to study Politics as a minor. The first paper I took was international relations. It was such a great paper I got hooked and ended up reshaping my entire degree around it."

Emily completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Politics and a Bachelor of Laws. She is now employed by the Ministry for the Environment as a policy advisor in the Climate Change department, a role that involves helping develop the New Zealand Government's direction on international climate policy.

"Studying Politics offered a lot of flexibility, which was what I loved the most. I enjoyed international relations and political theory and was able to focus on those without having compulsory papers in anything I didn't enjoy."

"My ability to specialise in climate change and political theory contributed to gaining my current job."

"It was also crucial that I had worked as a research assistant while studying, and that I was involved in extracurricular activities such as the Politics Students' Association."

"I went on an exchange to study Politics at Essex University in the UK in my final year, which was an awesome opportunity to gain an international perspective on current political issues."

Emily's focus now is to continue working within the Ministry to develop policy that will make New Zealand a world leader in climate change action.

"This area of work has so many opportunities and I'm very excited to be part of it at such a young age. I also plan on completing my legal profs so I can move into the legal division in the future."



For questions about
Politics
otago.ac.nz/politics

