



Welcome to the School of
Government and
International Affairs (SGIA)

**Studying Politics and
International Affairs
for Undergraduates**





Welcome to SGIA!

Presentation Outline

- The Student Experience and Studying at Durham University
- Our programmes and entry requirements
- Programme structures – what will my degree involve?
- Year abroad and placement year
- Careers – where after Durham?
- Student View

The Student Experience

World class academic institution

- 92nd in QS World University Rankings

The collegiate experience

- A home away from home

Extracurricular activities - Societies and sport

- 2023 Sports University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide

The City of Durham and surrounding area

- Among the 5 safest places in England and Wales (Complete University Guide)



Why come to the School of Government and International Affairs?

SGIA in subject league tables for Politics and International Relations:

- 7th in the UK overall in the Complete University Guide 2023
- Top 100 in the QS world rankings for Politics and International Relations

Graduate employability

- 1st in the UK for Politics Graduates Prospects in the Complete University Guide 2022
- 95% in paid employment or further study after six months

Top 10
UK
Department

7th in The Complete University
Guide

Our Aims

We aim:

- to provide high quality and progressive study routes in Politics & International Relations within a range of Politics & International Relations degree programmes,
- to provide high-quality, research-led taught components in Politics & International Relations, with progression through study routes where appropriate,
- to be chosen by students on other undergraduate degree programmes within the University or outside,
- to operate a teaching and assessment system which ensures that students acquire knowledge and skills appropriate to their field of study
- to prepare students for further study or progression to suitable career

What does this look like in practise?

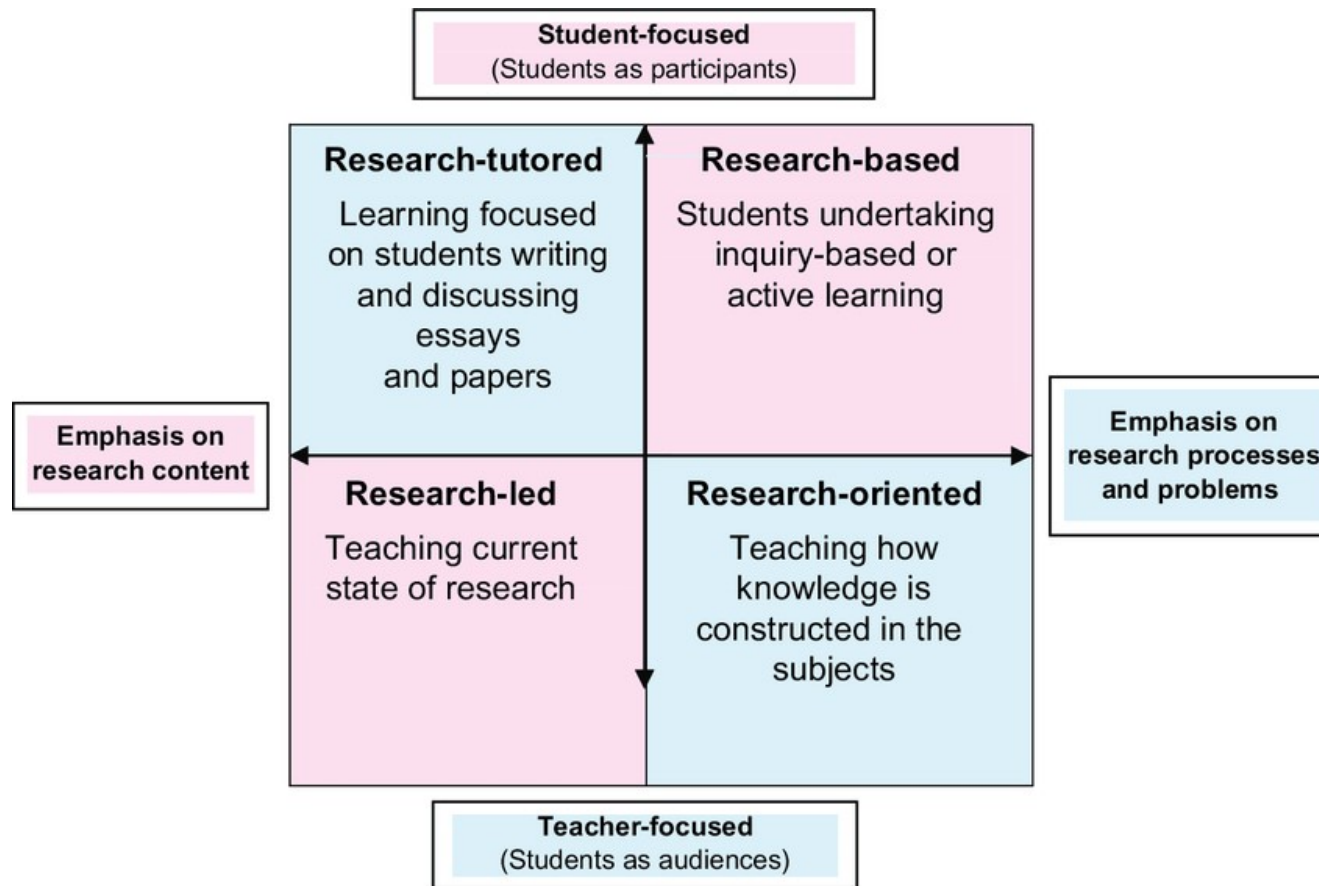
1. Student-centered learning

- Involvement
 - Student/Staff Consultative Committee
 - Module Evaluation Questionnaire
 - In-class termly feedback
- Inspiration
 - Student/Staff Seminar
 - Speaker Series
 - Staff Research Presentations
- Independence



What does this look like in practise?

2. Research-led, -informed, -based, and -tutored teaching



What does this look like in practise?

3. **An inclusive culture learning geared towards employment and further study**

- Inclusive Learning & Teaching
 - Equality and Diversity awareness in our pedagogical practice
 - Student Peer-Mentoring Programme and First Gen Scholars Group
- Athena Swan Charter recognition
 - First Politics & IR department to receive the bronze and since 2022 the silver award
- Decolonising the Curriculum
 - Contextualize the scholarly material we use, how is produced and reproduced
- Practice- and Future-oriented Teaching and Learning
 - Diverse and authentic assessments for learning
 - Educating, embracing, and enhancing through the incorporation of new technology (e.g., Generative AI)

Our single-honours programmes

**BA (Hons) Politics
L200**

3/4 years full time

Typical A level offer –
AAA

Typical IB offer - 37

**BA (Hons)
International
Relations L250**

3/4 years full time

Typical A level offer –
AAA

Typical IB offer - 37

**BA (Hons) Politics
and International
Relations L253**

3/4 years full time

Typical A level offer
AAA

Typical IB offer - 37

All programmes have a Study Abroad or Placement Year option

Other (joint- and combined honours) politics programmes

- BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics LV25
Typical offers AAA/37
- BA (Hons) Economics and Politics LL12
Typical offers A*AA/38
- BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics & Economics VL52
Typical offers A*AA /38
- BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences
Typical offers A*AA/38



Roughly 50% of applicants receive an offer.

International qualification equivalencies

- IB 37 including 666 Higher level subjects
- European Baccalaureate - overall result of 85%
- French Baccalaureate pass with 15 or above (Bien)
- German Abitur – Total mark between 1.3-1.5
- Scottish Advanced Highers - AAA

Our programme structures in a nutshell

First Year (Foundations):

- *Foundations in subject area(s) and research methods*
- Choice of modules from other subject areas and/or one from another department (incl. foreign language)

Second Year (Consolidation):

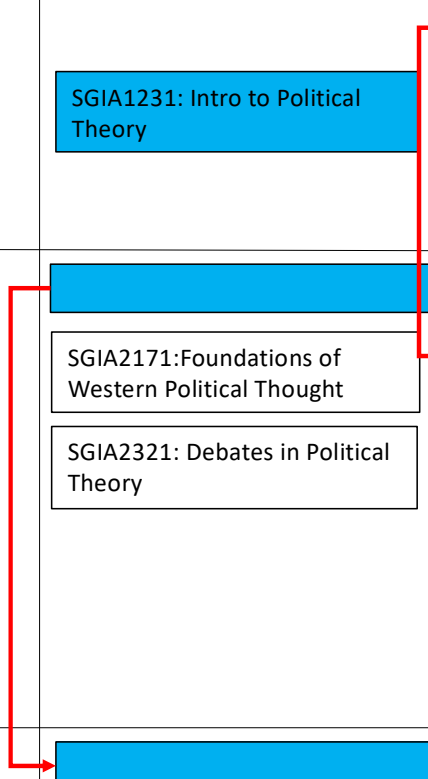
- *Research Project and (option for) specialisation in subject area(s)*
- Choice of specialist modules in core or other subject areas and/or one from another department (incl. foreign language)

Third/Final Year (Specialization):

- *Option for Year Abroad / Placement Year followed by a final year OR*
- *UG Dissertation*
- Choice of specialist modules in core or other subject areas and/or one from another department (incl. foreign language)

BA Politics

	Political Theory	Comparative Politics	IR Theory & History	Int. Political Economy
Level 1	SGIA1231: Intro to Political Theory	SGIA1201: Researching Politics & International Relations SGIA1211: Intro to Comparative Politics SGIA1191: Democratic Political System	SGIA1221: Intro to IR SGIA1071: International Security, Interdependence and Organization	SGIA1NEW: Perspectives on Political Economy
	SGIA2341: Research Project			
Level 2	SGIA2171: Foundations of Western Political Thought SGIA2321: Debates in Political Theory	SGIA2361: Analytical Politics SGIA2351: Class, Nation and British Politics SGIA271: Challenges and Conflict in European Politics SGIA2381: Democracy, Conflict and American Politics	SGIA2131: Int. Theory SGIA2261: Int. Organisation SGIA2281: Sovereignty, State and Empire SGIA311: Middle East in the International System SGIA2161: The Politics of Pacific Asia	SGIA2NEW: Capitalism: History and Theory
	SGIA3142: Dissertation			
Level 3	SGIA3171: British Political Thought Since 1850 SGIA3291: Theories of Liberty SGIA3641: Theory and Ethics of Violence ...	SGIA3311: The American Presidency SGIA3441: Elections and British Politics SGIA3681: Poverty or Prosperity? ...	SGIA3501: Advanced Topics in Int. Political Theory SGIA3711: Climate, Nature and The Global Economy SGIA3741: Decolonizing Int. Society ...	SGIA3621: Youth and Youth Policy in the Global Political Economy SGIA3381: China in Global Political Economy SGIA3671: The Politics of Inequality ...

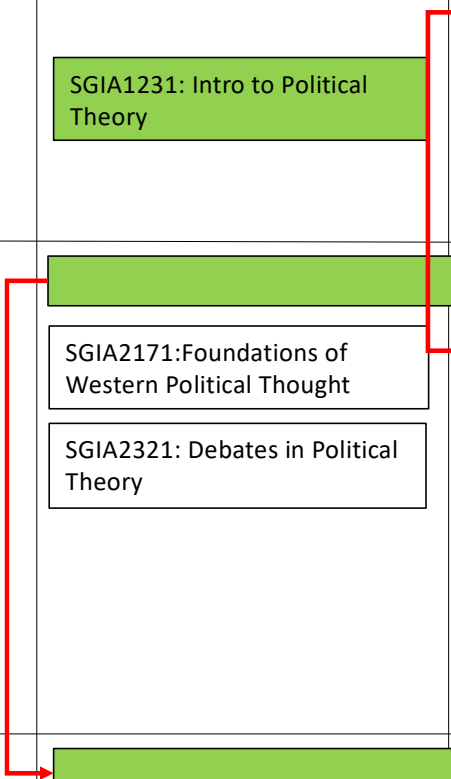


BA IR	Political Theory	Comparative Politics	IR Theory & History	Int. Political Economy
Level 1	SGIA1231: Intro to Political Theory	SGIA1211: Intro to Comparative Politics SGIA1191: Democratic Political System	SGIA1221: Intro to IR SGIA1071: International Security, Interdependence and Organization	SGIA1NEW: Perspectives on Political Economy
	SGIA1201: Researching Politics & International Relations			
Level 2	SGIA2171: Foundations of Western Political Thought SGIA2321: Debates in Political Theory	SGIA2361: Analytical Politics SGIA2351: Class, Nation and British Politics SGIA271: Challenges and Conflict in European Politics SGIA2381: Democracy, Conflict and American Politics	SGIA2131: Int. Theory SGIA2261: Int. Organisation SGIA2281: Sovereignty, State and Empire SGIA311: Middle East in the International System SGIA2161: The Politics of Pacific Asia	SGIA2NEW: Capitalism: History and Theory
	SGIA2341: Research Project			
Level 3	SGIA3171: British Political Thought Since 1850 SGIA3291: Theories of Liberty SGIA3641: Theory and Ethics of Violence ...	SGIA3311: The American Presidency SGIA3441: Elections and British Politics SGIA3681: Poverty or Prosperity? ...	SGIA3501: Advanced Topics in Int. Political Theory SGIA3711: Climate, Nature and The Global Economy SGIA3741: Decolonizing Int. Society ...	SGIA3621: Youth and Youth Policy in the Global Political Economy SGIA3381: China in Global Political Economy SGIA3671: The Politics of Inequality ...
	SGIA3142: Dissertation			



BA Politics & IR

	Political Theory	Comparative Politics	IR Theory & History	Int. Political Economy
Level 1	SGIA1201: Researching Politics & International Relations			
	SGIA1231: Intro to Political Theory	SGIA1211: Intro to Comparative Politics SGIA1191: Democratic Political System	SGIA1221: Intro to IR SGIA1071: International Security, Interdependence and Organization	SGIA1NEW: Perspectives on Political Economy
Level 2	SGIA2341: Research Project			
	SGIA2171: Foundations of Western Political Thought SGIA2321: Debates in Political Theory	SGIA2361: Analytical Politics SGIA2351: Class, Nation and British Politics SGIA271: Challenges and Conflict in European Politics SGIA2381: Democracy, Conflict and American Politics	SGIA2131: Int. Theory SGIA2261: Int. Organisation SGIA2281: Sovereignty, State and Empire SGIA311: Middle East in the International System SGIA2161: The Politics of Pacific Asia	SGIA2NEW: Capitalism: History and Theory
Level 3	SGIA3142: Dissertation			
	SGIA3171: British Political Thought Since 1850 SGIA3291: Theories of Liberty SGIA3641: Theory and Ethics of Violence ...	SGIA3311: The American Presidency SGIA3441: Elections and British Politics SGIA3681: Poverty or Prosperity? ...	SGIA3501: Advanced Topics in Int. Political Theory SGIA3711: Climate, Nature and The Global Economy SGIA3741: Decolonizing Int. Society ...	SGIA3621: Youth and Youth Policy in the Global Political Economy SGIA3381: China in Global Political Economy SGIA3671: The Politics of Inequality ...



BA Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

	Philosophy	Politics	Economics
Level 1	<p>PHIL 1011 Ethics and Values</p> <p>PHIL 1021 Knowledge and Reality</p>	<p>Choose <u>two</u> of the following:</p> <p>SGIA 1201 Researching Politics and International Relations</p> <p>SGIA 1211 Introduction to Comparative Politics</p> <p>SGIA 1221 Introduction of International Relations</p> <p>SGIA 1231 Introduction to Political Theory</p> <p>SGIA 1NEW Perspectives of Political Economy</p>	<p>ECON 1011 Principles of Economics</p> <p>ECON 1021 Economic Methods</p>
Level 2	<p>Choose <u>at least one</u> of the following:</p> <p>PHIL 2171 The Philosophy of Economics and Politics: Theory, Methods and Values</p> <p>PHIL 2081 Political and Social Philosophy</p> <p>Additional L2 options</p>	<p>SGIA 2341 Research Project</p> <p>SGIA 2361 Analytical Politics</p> <p>Additional L2 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</p>	<p>Choose <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <p>ECON 2011 Macroeconomics AND ECON 2021 Microeconomics</p> <p>ECON Economic Theory</p> <p>ECON 2061 Econometrics</p> <p>Additional L2 options</p>
Level 3	<p>PHIL 3112 Dissertation in Philosophy (must be taken alongside at least one other L3 Philosophy module)</p> <p>Additional L3 options</p>	<p>SGIA 3142 Dissertation in Politics</p> <p>Additional L3 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</p>	<p>ECON 3012 Dissertation in Economics</p> <p>Additional L3 options in: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Economic Policy Areas, Int. and Monetary Economics</p>

BA Economics and Politics

	Politics	Economics
Level 1	<p>Choose <u>three</u> of the following:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 1201 Researching Politics and International Relations</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 1211 Introduction to Comparative Politics</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 1221 Introduction of International Relations</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 1231 Introduction to Political Theory</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SGIA 1NEW Perspectives of Political Economy</div>	<div style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">ECON 1011 Principles of Economics</div> <div style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">ECON 1021 Economic Methods</div> <div style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 5px;">ECON 11071 Introduction to the International Economy</div>
Level 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 2341 Research Project</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 2361 Analytical Politics</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Additional L2 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</div>	<p>Choose <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">ECON 2011 Macroeconomics AND ECON 2021 Microeconomics</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">ECON 2291 Economic Theory</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">ECON 2061 Econometrics</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Additional L2 options</div>
Level 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">SGIA 3142 Dissertation in Politics</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Additional L3 options in : Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">ECON 3012 Dissertation in Economics</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Additional L3 options in: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Economic Policy Areas, International and Monetary Economics</div>

BA Philosophy and Politics

	Philosophy	Politics
Level 1	<p>PHIL 1011 Ethics and Values</p> <p>PHIL 1021 Knowledge and Reality</p> <p>PHIL 1041 Reading Philosophy</p>	<p>SGIA 1231 Introduction to Political Theory</p> <p>AND choose <u>two</u> of the following:</p> <p>SGIA 1201 Researching Politics and International Relations</p> <p>SGIA 1211 Introduction to Comparative Politics</p> <p>SGIA 1221 Introduction of International Relations</p> <p>SGIA 1NEW Perspectives of Political Economy</p>
Level 2	<p>PHIL 2041 Moral Theory</p> <p>PHIL 2081 Political and Social Philosophy</p> <p>Additional L2 options</p>	<p>SGIA 2341 Research Project</p> <p>SGIA 2361 Analytical Politics</p> <p>Additional L2 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</p>
Level 3	<p>PHIL 3112 Dissertation in Philosophy (must be taken alongside at least one other L3 Philosophy module)</p> <p>Additional L3 options</p>	<p>SGIA 3142 Dissertation in Politics</p> <p>Additional L3 options in : Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</p>

Sample Module – Introduction to Comparative Politics

Term 1

- Lecture 1- Module Introduction
- Lecture 2 - The State
- Lecture 3 - What is Democracy?
- Lecture 4 - Economic Determinants of Democracy
- Lecture 5 - Social Determinants of Democracy
- Lecture 6 - Democratic Transitions
- Lecture 7 - Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it Matter?
- Lecture 8 - Authoritarian Regimes: Do They Differ? Does it Matter?

Term 2

- Lecture 9 - Electoral Systems
- Lecture 10 - Who Governs?
- Lecture 11 - What is Representation
- Lecture 12 - What are Political Parties? Do They Matter?
- Lecture 13 - How Do We Participate in Politics?
- Lecture 14 - What Do We Vote For in Elections?
- Lecture 15 - How Do We Decide Who to Vote For/Against?
- Lecture 16 - Module Reflections and Revision

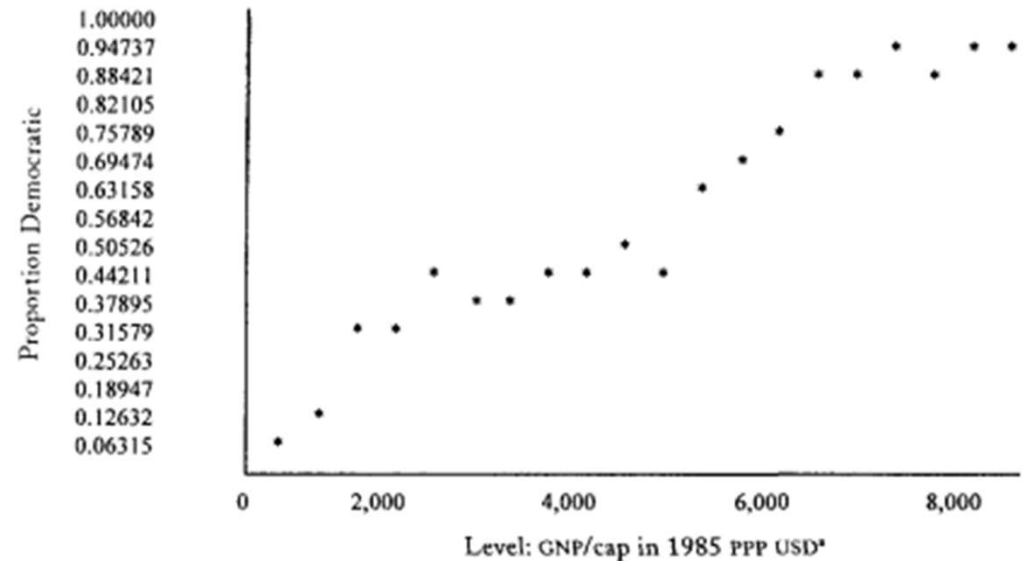
Sample Topic: Modernisation Theory

Seminar Readings

Lipset, Seymour M 1959. Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy. *American Political Science Review* 53(1), 69-105.

Przeworski, Adam & Fernando Limongi 1997. Modernization: Theories and Facts. *World Politics* 49(2), 155-183

Acemoglu, Daron & James Robinson 2018. Beyond Modernization Theory. *Annals of Comparative Democratization* 16(3), 26-31.



Global Opportunities

This includes:

- Study Abroad
- Placement Years – including internationally
- Global Internships
- International Volunteering

Possible within all SGIA programmes

A full year abroad – third year of programme

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/outbound/globalopportunities/>

Turing Scheme

Being introduced this year

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/global-durham/global-opportunities/go-turing/>

International Partner Exchanges include:

- University of Melbourne
- University of Otago
- University of Western Australia
- University of Hong Kong
- Boston College
- Osaka University
- University of British Columbia
- McGill University
- University of Tokyo

Placement years

- Good attendance record at level 1 & 2
- You must pass all level 2 modules
- Takes place in the third year of the programme
- Secure an approved placement totalling at least 40 weeks
 - Can be one long one or up to 3 shorter ones
- Examples include: House of Commons, Welsh Parliament, political affairs at Airbus, the Office for National Statistics

Please see the following webpage for detailed information and some case studies on the types of placements students have been on:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/workexperience/>

Or you can email

socialsciences.placements@durham.ac.uk

for more information

What can I do with a SGIA degree?

- Ranked 54th globally for employer reputation QS World University rankings (2022)
- 95% in paid employment or further study after six months
- 86% of those employed were in graduate level jobs/ job training schemes
- Civil service
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Local authorities
- Army, navy, air force
- Financial services
- International organisations and non-governmental organisations
- Journalism and broadcasting
- Political research, advising and advocacy
- Further graduate study
- **Anything and everything!!**

Admissions: What selectors consider

- Prior and predicted grades
- Personal Statement
- Teachers/Academic Reference
- Contextual evidence of merit & potential
- Motivation for the degree programme
- Study & other skills

**Find out more by attending 'Applying to Durham' session
CG93 Chemistry Building or visit the Admissions Desk in the
Teaching and Learning Centre/Business School**



College Allocation and Preferences

- We no longer ask you to make a college preference on your UCAS Application Form. The only option listed on UCAS is 'Durham City'
- Your college is NOT linked to your degree subject
- Before we allocate your college you will be invited to rank the colleges in the order of your preference
- You will be allocated your college in or around May

To find out more visit the **Colleges Hub** on the top floor of the Teaching and Learning Centre



Student View

Who Am I?

Final Year Student

Politics & IR Student

South College



What means can weaker states use to defeat stronger ones in International Relations conflicts? - Examples from the Anglo-Icelandic Cod Wars and contemporary intra-alliance conflicts.

Max R Malone

9978 Words

Big Adjustments, School to Politics Undergraduate

Independent Learning: Low contact hours are a steep learning curve

Learning to ask questions

Reading and research – learning to love Google Scholar



Why Durham/SGIA?

The lecturers – not just what they know, but who

Varied course - interdisciplinary

Colleges and the culture

The city itself



...It's Your Turn...Any Questions?



School of Government and International Affairs

Combining a long tradition of expertise within politics, political theory, political economy and international relations, we provide an exceptional environment for learning, training and research.

Explore

School of Government and
International Affairs

About
Us

Welcome
to new
students

Undergraduate
Study

Postgraduate
Study

Research
& Impact

Alumni

REF
2021
Result



For any questions not answered today please email
politics.department@durham.ac.uk

Any admission or university specific questions, contact
[Study : Meet Holly - Durham University](#)

Research Backup Slides

Our Research

Over 80% of our research rated Internationally Excellent or World Leading (REF 2021)

Our research institutes, centres, and groups:

- Institute for Middle East and Islamic Studies (IMEIS)
- Durham Global Security Institute (DGSi)
- Centre for Institutions and Political Behaviour (CIPB)
- Centre for Political Thought (CPT)
- Group for International Politics Research (GRIP)
- Group for International Political Economy Research (GIPE)



Research Spotlight: Security on the Move

Poverty, environmental sustainability, and conflict in Somalia from the perspective of IDPs.

Immersive ethnographic and participatory research to understand challenges and develop new approaches to urban sustainability, democratic governance, and livelihood in conflict-ridden cities.

Funders and Partners: ESRC, UK Aid, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, SOWELPA

Website: <https://securityonthemove.co.uk/>



Research Spotlight: Election Violence

Developed the first systematic event database of election violence 1832-1918 for England and Wales combining machine learning and human expert coding.

Understand the causes and consequences of election violence and most importantly, understand how in the late 19th-century England managed to curb electoral violence and intimidation.

Funders and Partners: ESRC, Westminster Foundation, USIP, Beamish Museum

Website: <https://victorianelectionviolence.uk/>



Research...There is So Much More!

International and Political Theory:

- Political Ethics and the Agents of Force (Prof. Christopher Finlay)
- The Ethics of Autonomous Weapon Systems (Prof. John Williams)

Comparative Politics:

- Seeking the Personal Vote – How MPs Communicate with Voters (Proff. Nick Vivyan, Gidon Cohen, Drs. Patrick M Kuhn, Kyriaki Nanou, and Neil Vislavanich)
- Verification, Trust and the Politics of Emotive Language on Social Media Platforms (Drs. David Andersen, Adrian Millican, Moritz Osnabrügge)

International Relations:

- The Politics of the Muslim World – Islamist Parties (Dr. Rory McCarthy), Security (Prof. Clive Jones), and International Relations (Prof. Anoush Ehtishami)

International Political Economy:

- Youth Engagement and Skills Acquisition with Africa's Transport Sector (Prof. Emma Murphy)