

BHASVIC

Guide to Higher Education Employability

Law, Philosophy,
Policy, Politics,
Theology & Religious

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What to ask on a Law open day

Thinking of studying law at uni? Want to know what questions you should be asking at your open day? Print out this list before you arrive to keep as a handy reminder...

About your course

- Are many of my lecturers also lawyers or barristers?
- Do I need to take particular modules if I want to become a solicitor or a barrister?
- Can I put the skills I learn into practice? Will I get to take part in law clinics or moot courts during my course?
- How is the course taught - in lectures, seminars or smaller groups?
- Is it an accredited course?

Facilities and equipment

- What books do I need to buy?
- Are resources / case law all available online?
- How much reading is there per week?

Placements and work experience

- Are there any law trips (to court for instance)?
- Do I need to arrange work experience during this course?
- What are my chances of securing a training contract straight from this course?

Assessments

- What is the split between exams / coursework / group projects / presentations?
- Are there any practical assessments? A moot court or clinical practice assessment?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation or research-based project?

Law graduate prospects

- How can I better my chances of getting a training contract at the end of this course?
- How many graduates on my course have gone on to careers in law?
- Does the university have contacts with law firms that I could use?

What to ask on any Philosophy open day

If you've got a penchant for philosophy don't head to a university open day without printing out these must-ask questions...

About the course

- How much reading is there each week?
- How many contact hours / lectures are there per week?
- Am I taught research methods?
- How many of my lecturers are still publishing research?
- Do I specialise in a particular period or area, or is it a broad syllabus?

Books and facilities

- What books are necessary for me to buy?
- Do I need to read anything before I start the course?
- Are there enough books for all history students to access easily?
- Can my reading material be found online?

Field trips and placements

- Are there any field trips?
- Can I do a placement year? ERASMUS?
- Will companies take on interns from this course?
- Can I take modules in other subjects?

Assessments

- What is the split between exams / coursework / group work?
- Will I have to do presentations during the course?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation or research-based project?

Prospects

- Can I move on to a related PhD or Masters after my course? Is there funding for me to do this?
- How could I make the most out this course and get a job at the end of it?

What to ask on a politics open day

Thinking of studying for a degree in politics? Here are some questions you could ask tutors and students when you're at a university open day.

About the course

- What ranges of modules are available to me?
- Can I pick modules outside of my subject?
- What skills will I learn on this course? E.g. research methods, referencing, drawing graphs...
- Are there any guest lecturers or speakers who come to the university?
- Do I need maths or statistics?

Equipment and facilities

- What books are necessary for me to buy?
- How much reading is there each week?
- Are resources and reading material available to use online?
- Do I need to read anything before I start the course?
- Work experience and field trips

Are there any field trips?

- Where will they be – is there a choice?
- How much does a field trip cost and will I have help with this?
- What assignments are set during a field trip, and do these count towards my degree mark?
- Do I have to organise placements or work experience during my summer breaks from university? Will I have help from the uni to do this?

Assessments

- What is the split between exams / coursework / group projects?
- Do I need to do a presentation on this course?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation or research-based project?
- How do I decide on a dissertation subject?
- Can I move on to a related Masters or PhD after I finish my course? Is there funding for me to do this?

Law

A law degree combines the academic study of legal theory with applying law to real life scenarios. You'll learn about criminal law, public law and company law as well as legal issues relating to topics such as property, the environment and human rights. The course equips you with the core knowledge and skills needed to go on to study to become a solicitor or barrister but is equally useful for any career where thinking logically and communicating clearly are important.

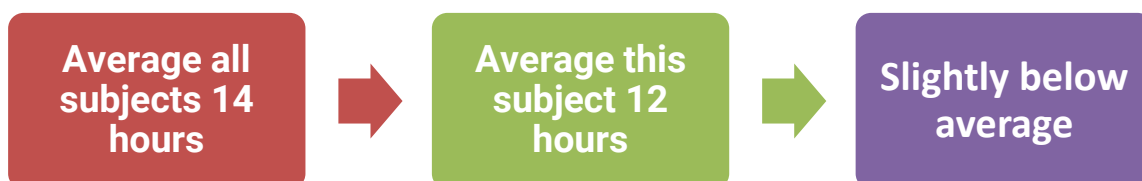
- EXAMS
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- LLB
- INDEPENDENT STUDY

Example course modules

- Legal systems and method
- Criminal Law
- Race, media and crime
- Law of torts
- EU Law
- Contract Law
- Introduction to jurisprudence
- Medical Law and ethics
- Criminal justice
- Tax law

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about law

My course covers a wide range of areas, including criminal law, contract law and property law. My course looks at the content of these areas of the law, how they apply in real life cases and hypothetical situations, evaluate the law, and decide how we feel the law should alter to meet different social ways and needs (and the recommendations already put forward for this). These different aspects make the course extremely challenging, but it is an interesting challenge that can be overcome.

1st year, University of Surrey

Law students don't have an awful lot of contact hours, anything between eight to 12 hours including seminars. There is, however, a lot of reading to be completed outside of teaching hours and commitment is needed to do well. The first year of my course has a varied syllabus including tort, contract, justice equality and society, public law and the English legal system. It really gives you a great foundation to start your law degree. Tort challenges opinions and contract helps to develop problem solving skills, whilst public law focuses on the role of law in politics and the basis of our constitution.

1st year, University of Sussex

Studying law means having to devote quite a lot of time to your work. On my course, there are 10 hours of teaching time each week and a lot of content to get through, so during free time it's essential to catch up with seminar work and lectures. However, even with the research that is required, law is an extremely interesting course to take - you are constantly learning about new areas and it's amazing how it applies, more than you think, to real life. There are five modules in the first year and there are different ways in which they're assessed, for example one might be 100% coursework, or 100% exam, or 50% of each. You even get the chance to do an oral presentation called a moot, which I particularly enjoyed as it gives you the chance to showcase how you would argue a legal point.

1st year, Nottingham Trent University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- History or English

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Entry Test

Top Universities for Law – Complete University Guide

- Cambridge, Glasgow, Oxford, LSE, Aberdeen
- Durham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Kent – all very high student satisfaction scores
- York, Queens, Lancaster, Reading - all with top graduate prospects

Career prospects

Law graduates tend to go into the legal industry, and they usually take similar routes. Jobs are competitive – often very competitive - but starting salaries are good and high fliers can earn serious money. Be aware though - some careers, especially as barristers, can take a while to get into. If you want to qualify to practice law, you need to take a professional qualification and many law graduates then go on to law school. If you want to go into work, then a lot of law graduates take trainee or paralegal roles and some do leave the law altogether, often for jobs in management, finance and the police force. A small proportion – about one in 17 last year – of law graduates also move into another field for further study. Psychology, business and social studies are all popular for these career changers, so if you do take a law degree and decide it's not for you, there are options.

Transferable skills

Research, communication and analytical skills, critical thinking, exploring a variety of perspectives, writing and presentation skills, teamwork, leadership, time management.

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Paralegal
- Solicitor
- Barrister

Other real-life job examples

- Chartered accountant
- Conveyancer
- Patent attorney

What employers like about this subject

A very popular degree, law provides students with a range of useful skills. Specialist subject skills include knowledge of the legal system under study; how to apply, assess and critique law; how to interview and how to use legal databases and legal theories. Law students also develop a range of sought-after transferable skills including effective communication, teamwork and research skills and the ability to think critically. Graduates are in demand, not just in the law industry itself, but from employers in accountancy, recruitment, government bodies, hospitals, insurance, banking and universities.

Local Market Information – Civil Service Fast Stream

If you enjoy a challenge, want to make a difference and are eager to take on responsibility, consider joining the Civil Service Fast Stream. The Civil Service Fast Stream is an accelerated leadership development programme that provides talented graduates from a range of backgrounds with the experience, skills and knowledge needed to become senior leaders within the Civil Service. You'll gain a variety of experience through different placements or postings in government departments and agencies. may work in roles involving direct contact with the public.

What should you write in a law personal statement? From wider reading to spot-on spelling and grammar, you'll need a personal statement that makes a convincing case.

Admissions tutors share their top dos and don'ts...

What should you write in a law personal statement?

Bringing your interest in law to life is key

'Try to demonstrate that you have a genuine interest in law as a discipline. This interest can come from any number of experiences you may have had, be they academic, personal or professional.' Dr Ryan Murphy | Law Admissions Tutor – Aston University

If you're already studying law, then you might want to talk about topics you've enjoyed and any wider reading you've done.

Haven't studied law at A level (or equivalent)? Don't worry – there aren't usually subject-specific entry requirements for law degrees. Learn more about the 'unspoken rules' of university entry requirements [here](#).

Dr Murphy suggests these other ways to demonstrate your engagement with law:

A book you've read that had a legal dimension to it.

Work experience, which could be in a solicitor's firm or a mini-pupillage, but equally could be shadowing at your local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), some charity work, or even your Saturday job.

Visiting your local magistrates' court, the Crown Court, or your nearest employment tribunal. As Dr Murphy puts it, 'the English legal system is open and receptive to those wishing to experience law in action'.

Join a debating club, or start your own. If you have the opportunity to conduct a personal project or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), consider giving it a legal focus.

But don't simply list what you've done. Write about relevant experiences in your statement in a reflective way. What did you see? What did you learn? Why did it enhance your interest in law?

What else to include in your law statement

Why you want to study law: bring this to life by focusing in on aspects of law that are of particular interest to you, how it relates to your current studies, and what additional reading you've embarked on. But keep it concise – three or so paragraphs is probably fine.

How your skills fit: demonstrate that you have, or are developing, the skills needed for success in law – from public speaking to persuasive writing, or your meticulous attention to detail when writing essays.

Current affairs: the University of Cambridge (and many other universities) like applicants who keep up-to-date with current affairs and who are interested in the legal implications of the latest news stories.

Good written English: sentence construction, spelling, and punctuation are absolutely vital, and sometimes a cause for rejection.

Combined course applications: if you're applying for law in combination with a different subject, make sure you demonstrate something relevant to the other subject too.

What you've drawn from extracurricular activities: this is another good way to demonstrate your motivation, skills and enthusiasm for the course.

What not to do in your law personal statement

Fail to research your chosen courses: all that talk of your passion for company law won't impress a uni that doesn't offer it as an option.

Spelling and grammatical errors: as Dr Murphy says, 'law is a discipline of precision, so being careless in such an important document will not bode well for a future legal career'.

Not explaining why it's relevant: if you read the law section of The Times, that's great, but make sure you elaborate on why it's relevant to your application. Try reflecting on a specific article or feature, for instance.

Overuse of quotations: 'don't try too hard to impress with quotations. I don't care what Locke thinks, I want to know what you think!'.

Use clichés: including overuse of the word 'passion' or the phrase 'law is all around us'. Don't just say it, demonstrate it in a personal, concise way. And remember, less is more.

Are a law personal statement and LPC personal statement the same?

No, these are two different things.

A law personal statement is part of the UCAS application process when applying to study law.

A personal statement for the Learning Practice Course (LPC) is submitted to the Central Applications Board (CAB) when applying to LPC training to become a solicitor, having already completed an undergraduate law degree (or conversion course).

While it is also a personal essay which you use to sell your skills, experience and passion for law, it is very different to a law personal statement – for one thing, the word limit for a LPC personal statement is 10,000 words (compared to 4,000 words for a UCAS personal statement).

https://web.ucas.com/ps_law

Other routes

[Law apprenticeships](#) | [Prospects.ac.uk](#)

Sources & Links

[Law Subject Guide](#) | [Why Study Law At Uni?](#) | [UCAS](#)

[Law Society](#)

[The Bar Council](#)

[Chartered Institute of Legal Executives](#)

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/law>

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/on-demand.aspx>

[https://virtuallawfair2020.pathable.co/digital-campus-events#/?limit=20&scroll=item,veymqC9sEoEpytpPK,veymqC9sEoEpytpPK,155,93&skip=73&sortByFields\[0\]=startsAt&sortByOrders\[0\]=1&uid=GC5EfHwTTTJdi7hoa](https://virtuallawfair2020.pathable.co/digital-campus-events#/?limit=20&scroll=item,veymqC9sEoEpytpPK,veymqC9sEoEpytpPK,155,93&skip=73&sortByFields[0]=startsAt&sortByOrders[0]=1&uid=GC5EfHwTTTJdi7hoa)

The Lawyer Portal <https://www.thelawyerportal.com/>

Law Careers.net <https://www.lawcareers.net/>

Future Learn <https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/law-courses>

University of Aberystwyth - miscarriages of justice <https://www.channeltalent.co.uk/event/law-criminology-miscarriages-of-justice-a-taste-of-law-criminology-with-dr-sam-poyser-from-aberystwyth-university/>

<https://www.allaboutlaw.co.uk/diversity>

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/visit-us/open-days/ug-campus-open-days/2020/online-open-day.aspx>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/law/>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/social-policy/>

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/schools-and-colleges/Teacher-and-adviser-resources/downloadable-materials>

<https://goingtouni.city.ac.uk/homepage/why-study-series/why-study-law/>

<https://www.derby.ac.uk/departments/schools-colleges-liaison/digital-resources/law-and-criminology/>

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/64250/goldsmiths-law-human-rights-lecture-human-rights-and-climate-change>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdKDxEDbxB8&t>

<https://socialsciencesoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/teachers/online-resources/>

<http://www.uolprobono.co.uk/>

Taster session <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/taster-days/law-criminology-politics>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/virtual-open-day/>

Undergraduate Law with Stephen Dnes: <https://www.nchlondon.ac.uk/videos/undergraduate-law-with-stephen-dnes/>

University of Nottingham Taster

day <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/webinars.aspx>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/webinars.aspx>

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/plymouth-on-demand/pod-law-criminology-and-policing>

<https://www.solent.ac.uk/prospectus/resources/2021-course-brochure-business-law-criminology.pdf>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/law>

<https://www.uos.ac.uk/>

Philosophy

A philosophy degree involves studying the ideas of great thinkers, examining their arguments and voicing your own opinions - and it could be a good fit if you're the sort of person who continually questions things and likes an intellectual challenge. Topics include ethics (the nature of right and wrong), metaphysics (the relationship between appearance and reality) and the mind (thought and feelings). You'll find philosophy graduates in a wide range of industries and job sectors.

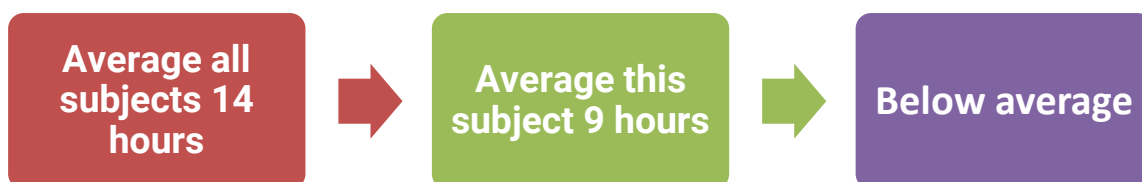
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- POLITICS
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- ESSAY-WRITING
- ETHICS
- RELIGION
- LOGIC

Example course modules

- Metaphysics
- Realism and normativity
- Philosophical problems
- Great books
- Classic readings in philosophy
- Social and political theory
- Engaging with the humanities
- Acting: text and character
- Philosophy of film and literature

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about philosophy

I study philosophy and I have six hours of lectures a week and six hours of tutorials every other week. In my first year my course covered a range of topics, from ethics to knowledge to logic.

1st year, Durham University

I have 6 hours of lectures and 6 hours of seminars every week. Philosophy involves, as you may expect, disciplined thought on a range of philosophical issues, and interrogates possible answers questions such as "how should we live?", "what is perception?" and "what exists?". What surprised me was how much of the course is focussed on HOW to do philosophy, such as logic, and how to produce good arguments. This was actually thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening. My course is very challenging, but if (as is often the case on my course) you genuinely enjoy the work then you will not struggle. Most of the work, I thought, was mind-based. If you spend spare time thinking through arguments and puzzling about the world, you're 50% of the way there! What is required extra is reading and research, which you are free to choose for yourself although there is a lot of guidance if you want it. We are assessed through essays and exams. As a Philosopher course-specific facilities aren't important, but Hallward Library is more than sufficient and it's easy to find books not named in guidance which are absolutely fascinating and relevant.

1st year, University of Nottingham

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- Religious studies
- Classical civilisation
- Philosophy

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

Top 10 Universities for Philosophy – Complete University Guide

- Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews, LSE, UCL, Durham
- Lancaster, York, Essex, Kent – all very high student satisfaction scores
- Birmingham, Sussex, Sheffield - all with top graduate prospects

Career prospects

Although there aren't a lot of jobs around for professional philosophers, philosophy degrees are an increasingly popular option, with more than 2,300 students graduating in a philosophy-related subject in 2012. Nearly a quarter of philosophy graduates take a postgraduate qualification, and it's a relatively common subject at both Masters and doctorate level – so if you think academic life might be for you, think ahead about how you might fund further study. For those who go into work, philosophy grads tend

to go into education, management, marketing, community work, human resources and the finance industry, while a few even went into IT, where their logical training can be very useful.

Transferable skills

Critical thinking, reasoning, mental agility, communication and an appreciation of other people's viewpoints, analyse arguments, develop creative solutions & write persuasively.

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Marketing executive
- Arts administrator
- Information analyst

Other real-life job examples

- Paralegal
- Financial advisor
- Management information officer

What employers like about this subject

A student who takes a philosophy degree will learn a range of subject-specific skills including metaphysics, which deals with appearance and reality; ethics, dealing with the nature of morality, and the philosophy of the nature of the mind. Transferable skills you can develop on a philosophy degree include excellent communication and negotiating skills, self-motivation and independent working and the ability to understand and articulate complex information. Philosophy graduates are flexible and found throughout the economy, particularly in universities, the social and welfare industries, hospitals, advertising and the finance industry (especially accountancy, audit, banking and consultancy).

Local Market information – Civil Service Fast Stream

If you enjoy a challenge, want to make a difference and are eager to take on responsibility, consider joining the Civil Service Fast Stream. The Civil Service Fast Stream is an accelerated leadership development programme that provides talented graduates from a range of backgrounds with the experience, skills and knowledge needed to become senior leaders within the Civil Service. You'll gain a variety of experience through different placements or postings in government departments and agencies. may work in roles involving direct contact with the public.

Personal Statement advice: Philosophy

Philosophy: show your analytical abilities

Some applicants for philosophy degrees will already be studying the subject, but many won't have studied it before. If you are in that position, then Professor Christopher Janaway at University of Southampton has some simple but clear advice to offer: 'We want you to show us that you have a genuine interest in the subject, so tell us about the reading you've done, lectures you've been to, or any other ways you have engaged with philosophy.'

University of Bristol selectors outline a whole range of qualities that would impress. But what perhaps stands out amongst these, alongside demonstrating your interest and commitment to philosophy, is that

the way you approach your statement needs to show that you are capable of clear thinking, and understanding and that you can analyse problems and construct an argument.

Giving structure to your statement will be very important, though how you actually thread it is entirely up to you.

London School of Economics selectors are also interested in your views and opinions on 'questions such as morality, free will, or consciousness,' as well as the experiences you have had which have led to your desire to study philosophy. Such as, they would expect the majority of your statement to be based around your subject interest and enthusiasm.

It's open-ended – you have 47 lines and no rules, but don't try to be too smart. You will stand out by doing your research, being interesting, relevant, and different, and by reflecting on what you've been reading.

Sources & Links

[Philosophy Subject Guide | Why Study Philosophy At Uni? | UCAS](#)

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/on-demand.aspx>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/philosophy>

https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=5203

<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/careers-advice/what-can-you-do-philosophy-degree>

<https://bpa.ac.uk/resources/> (resources for students section)

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/visit-us/open-days/ug-campus-open-days/2020/online-open-day.aspx>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/philosophy/>

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/schools-and-colleges/Teacher-and-adviser-resources/downloadable-materials>

<https://youtu.be/vRyZlrFN-K0>

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/schools-of-study/humanities/philosophy-taster-sessions>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/virtual-open-day/>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/manchester-live/subject-webinars/>

<https://www.nchlondon.ac.uk/study/visit-us/ug-virtual-events/taster-lectures/women-philosophy/>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/course/Religion,-Philosophy-and-Ethics-BA>

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/undergraduate-courses/>

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/undergraduate/liberal-arts/liberal-arts-with-a-language-year-abroad/>

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/undergraduate-courses/>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/philosophy>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/philosophy-politics-and-economics>

Policy

If you feel strongly about contemporary social issues such as crime, gender inequalities, immigration, poverty and management of the health service, a social policy degree could be for you. This type of course gives you the chance to combine subjects such as sociology, politics, psychology and history to understand how policy decisions are made. This degree is useful for areas such as local government and the civil service, social and policy research, health promotion, public relations, advice work, journalism and overseas development.

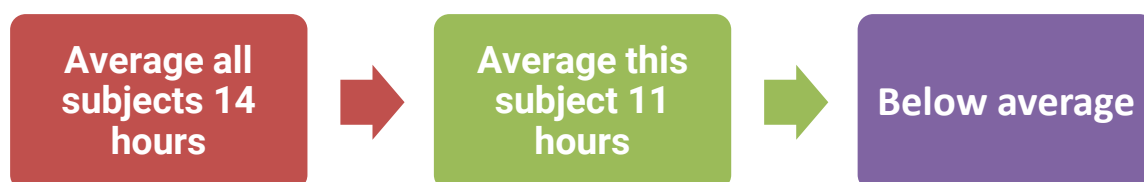
- BSC
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- POLITICS
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- REPORT-WRITING
- PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT
- SOCIOLOGY

Example course modules

- Social research methods
- Social policy and the welfare state: theoretical perspectives
- The policy process
- Contemporary social policy issues
- Challenges of social policy issues
- Challenges of European politics
- Comparative politics and policy
- Understanding families and family life
- Criminology in the professions
- Ideology into practice
- Social engagement

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about policy

I really enjoyed the content of my course. If you are interested in criminology/ criminal justice, then I would definitely suggest it. I usually had between 10-15 teaching hours a week, and usually had one day off a week. For each module there would usually be an essay at the end of each topic, and if you did some reading and had the relevant lecture notes available, these usually weren't too difficult. I was also required to do some presentations, but these were only in front of about 10 people in my seminar group, so they weren't too stressful.

1st year, University of Portsmouth

There are far less contact hours than I expected. For my first and second year I have only had eight hours' contact time a week - four hours of lectures and four hours of seminars. However, I do understand that they expect a large amount of individual study - at least 10 hours per module is expected each week! The content is interesting. First year may seem very basic as they have to bring everyone up to the same level. Types of assessment depend on the modules you take. Some are more coursework-based, others are more exam-based and you also get equal coursework/ exam-based modules. Picking what is best for you is the best way to do well in your studies!

2nd year, University of Kent

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- Sociology
- Politics

Application checklist

- January application
- Personal statement

Career prospects

Just under 1,500 students graduated in social policy in 2012, which makes it one of the smaller social studies subjects. This is a popular subject at Masters level – over 1,000 Masters in social policy were awarded last year - and so a lot of the more sought-after jobs in management and research tend to go to social policy graduates with postgraduate degrees. For those who leave university after their first degree, then jobs in social care (especially community and youth work) and education, marketing and HR are popular – along with local government, although there are fewer of those jobs around than in the past.

Transferable skills

Research, communication and analytical skills, critical thinking, exploring a variety of perspectives, writing and presentation skills, teamwork, leadership, time management.

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Housing officer
- Education or learning support officer
- Social policy adviser

Other real-life job examples

- Paralegal
- Social Researcher
- Probation officer

What employers like about this subject

A degree in social policy will help you to gain subject-specific skills including an understanding of social theory; how social issues and social policy influence one another, and society and skills in the generation, interpretation and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative data from social surveys and research. Transferable skills you can develop include communication, numeracy, problem-solving, IT and good time management. Social policy graduates find work across the economy, in industries including local and central government, lobbying and advocacy organisation, social care, hospitals, the probation service, schools, the law, and manufacturing.

Politics

Politics is the study of how governments work, how public policies are made, international relations and political ideas - from democracy to human rights. You will learn to assess ideas and arguments and develop your written and spoken communication skills. Students often choose to combine politics with subjects such as economics, business and history. After this course you could work for a political party or in areas such as journalism, local government, civil service and law.

- BSC
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- ESSAY-WRITING
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- GOVERNMENT

Example course modules

- Central themes in political thought
- Modern British politics
- Capital labour and power: Britain 1707-1939
- The holocaust
- Total War in the modern era
- Freedom, power and resistance: an introduction to political ideas
- International politics
- Making of the modern world
- The political economy of development
- Comparing extremism in European liberal democracies

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about politics

Classes are very much discussion-based, with the teacher simply directing and posing questions. A lot of wider reading is required to really come to grips with the material. The course is very dynamic and covers a broad range of social sciences, incorporating philosophy, economics and sociology. The workload is manageable, with the average of two essays a term for each module.

1st year, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London

I have eight contact hours a week divided into lectures and seminars for each module - a lot of background reading is expected. The course is a mixture of theoretical and applied politics and the wide range of option choices allows you to choose a preference. Some modules are harder than others. Having A-level government and politics provides a good grounding, making some aspects easier, but it is not essential. The majority of my first year consists of coursework essays. Some modules incorporated a presentation or how well you engaged in seminars as part of the mark. I took three exams in May which were all essay based.

1st year, University of East Anglia UEA

Good mix of assessment for the classes and a good range of modules to choose from. I would encourage anyone with an interest in politics to apply for the parliamentary research internship in their dissertation year, as you get real experience of the political process. Likewise the EU Studies module with Brussels internship - an excellent experience that isn't offered at a lot of other universities!

3rd year, University of East Anglia UEA

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- Sociology
- Politics
- Philosophy

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

Top 10 Universities for Politics – Complete University Guide

- Oxford, St Andrews, UCL, LSE, Cambridge
- Warwick, Bristol, Loughborough, Aberystwyth – all very high student satisfaction scores
- Durham, Exeter, Sheffield, Essex - all with top graduate prospects

Career prospects

Most politics or international relations graduates don't actually go into politics - although many do, as activists, fundraisers and researchers. Other popular industries include marketing and PR, management consultancy, youth and community work, the finance industry and academic research (you usually need a postgraduate degree to get into research). Politics is a very popular postgraduate subject, and so about one in six politics graduates go on to take another course to get a Masters after they finish.

Transferable skills

Gathering / analysing information from different sources, exploring different perspectives, developing informed views, presentation skills, data handling, constructing arguments, meeting deadlines.

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Civil Service fast streamer
- Political advisor
- Industrial relations advisor

Other real-life job examples

- PR officer
- Financial advisor
- Armed Forces officer

What employers like about this subject

A degree in politics can help to develop skills in evaluating and applying approaches to collecting, analysing and presenting political data; in understanding the processes, theories and problems that drive and shape politics, and in interpreting political events. You can also develop useful transferable skills in communication, thinking creatively and constructing coherent arguments. These skills are sought after in industries requiring people who are good at solving problems and in negotiating and influencing, and so politics graduates often work, not just in politics and Government, but in advertising, marketing and PR, in banking and accountancy, in the defence industry, in the law and in social and welfare roles.

Local Market information – Civil Service Fast Stream

If you enjoy a challenge, want to make a difference and are eager to take on responsibility, consider joining the Civil Service Fast Stream. The Civil Service Fast Stream is an accelerated leadership development programme that provides talented graduates from a range of backgrounds with the experience, skills and knowledge needed to become senior leaders within the Civil Service. You'll gain a variety of experience through different placements or postings in government departments and agencies. may work in roles involving direct contact with the public.

Personal Statement advice: Politics

If you Politics: less can be more...

Demonstrating your understanding of and interest in studying politics is a key way of impressing tutors:

'The most persuasive statements are those that are clearly written and which get straight to the point. Less is often more. I simply want it made clear to me that an applicant is academically interested in studying the subject at university, that they've done their homework, and have a sense of what the academic study of politics is actually about... that it's not just current affairs.

It's also best to avoid pretentious or ostentatious language. Short sentences please! And while some experience of the political world or participating in activities like the UK Youth Parliament can send a good signal, I never particularly wish to know if an applicant wants to be prime minister.' Dr Nicholas Allen - Politics and International Relations Admissions Tutor, Royal Holloway, University Of London

The University of Bristol helpfully outlines what tutors are looking for in politics applicants on its website – you need to show evidence of:

- your engagement with the subject beyond the A level (or equivalent) syllabus
- what it is that specifically and explicitly enthuses you about the debates you engage with, the books you read, and the ideas you discuss

They would also be very interested in your reflections on any relevant volunteering or campaigning you might have done, but it's you as an individual and your intellectual engagement with ideas that they most want to get a feel for.

There's no model answer – it just needs to be unique to you. Or one other way you might stand out, in Dr Allen's view, is by speaking to an admissions tutor at an open day and following it up with an email exchange.

https://web.ucas.com/ps_politics

Sources & Links

[Politics Subject Guide | Why Study Politics At Uni? | UCAS](#)

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/international-relations>

Theology and religious studies

Theology is a broad and varied subject; you could be analysing ancient religious texts or discussing contemporary global politics. You'll learn how religion has shaped the world we live in and the impact it has on society today. Courses include study of different faiths, such as Christianity, Islam and Judaism and cover topics such as religious diversity and the Holocaust. Theology graduates find employment in lots of job sectors - from the clergy, charity and youth organisations through to traditional graduate jobs, including teaching, law and management.

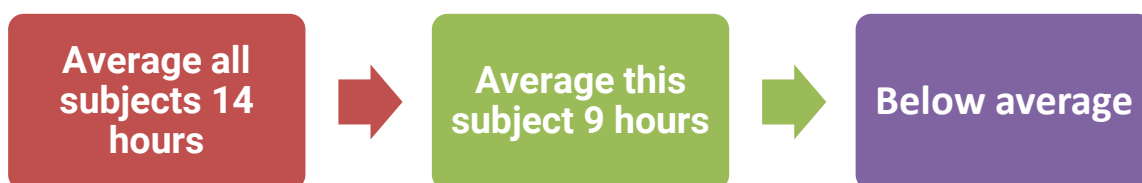
- LOTS OF READING
- BA
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- ESSAY-WRITING
- ETHICS
- PHILOSOPHY

Example course modules

- Symposium in religion and theology
- Living religions
- Approaches to the study of religion
- Introduction to biblical studies
- Introduction to the history of Christianity
- Introduction to Islam
- Global Christianity
- The Holocaust in history and memory
- Women in Islam
- Hinduism

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about theology and religious studies

I study theology and religious studies and I only have about six hours of contact time a week. Whilst it is great to have so much free time to myself, the few hours of uni also require me to be organised and ensure that I structure my time well. The type of work that you're required to do can vary from essays and exams to presentations, group work and recording an online log.

2nd year, University of Leeds

Course content is fantastic and relevant, module options are many! I took modules in history of the papacy and political theology, as well as liturgy and Christian anthropology. I had the option of taking up to 10 optional modules out of over 40 to choose from. The workload is challenging and it increases, but it is enjoyable and engaging. I have had to do essays, presentations and exams, as well as timed essays and lead a tutorial.

3rd year,

The theology department at Chester is really good. We get 12 hours per week of contact time in the first year, 10 in the second year and eight in the third). However, if you are doing a course that involves a lot of reading like I am, it's almost a full-time job for you to read everything lecturers want you to! Assessments mainly include essays, with the occasional presentation. I don't find the course too challenging because I love the content - it isn't a chore or difficult because most of the content is so interesting.

2nd year, University of Chester

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- history
- English literature
- Religious studies
- Philosophy

Application checklist

- January application
- Personal statement

Career prospects

Theology is actually a very vocational subject – by far the most common move for theology graduates is to go into the clergy. If you want to study theology but don't want to follow a religious career, then there are plenty of options available. 2012 graduates went into all sorts of jobs requiring a degree, from education and community work, to marketing, HR and financial analysis – even sports coaching. Postgraduate study is also popular – a lot of theology graduates train as teachers, or go into Masters or even doctoral study, so bear that in mind as you make your choice.

Transferable skills

Research, communication and analytical skills, critical thinking, exploring a variety of perspectives, writing and presentation skills, teamwork, leadership, time management.

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Teacher
- Clergy
- Community worker

Other real-life job examples

- Financial analyst
- Civil Service fast streamer
- Housing and homelessness officer

What employers like about this subject

A theology degree will help you to develop subject-specific skills including an understanding of religions and the way that they have influenced society in the past and present and a familiarity with current religious and ethical debates. Transferable skills you can develop on a theology degree include excellent communication and negotiating skills, the ability to understand and articulate complex information and good time management. Theology is the original vocational degree and so religious organisations are much the most common employers of graduates, but they also get jobs in a variety of industries including schools, social care, recruitment, banking, the Civil Service, the law, publishing and health.

[Theology Subject Guide | Why Study Theology At Uni? | UCAS](#)

Last year 181 BHASVIC students went onto study Law, Politics and Philosophy-related degrees at universities including Bangor University, Bristol, UWE, Cardiff, City, University of London, Coventry, De Montfort, Durham, Goldsmiths, King's College London, University of London, Lancaster University, Liverpool John Moores, LSE, Loughborough, Manchester Met, Newcastle, Nottingham Trent, Oxford Brookes, Queen Mary, Queen's University Belfast, Royal Holloway, Sheffield Hallam, SOAS, Solent, Swansea, University of Law, UCL, Aberdeen, Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, UEA, Exeter, Glasgow, Kent, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Roehampton, Sheffield, Southampton, St Andrews, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, Winchester, York.

Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019–23 entry

- American Studies (3 Years)
- American Studies (4 Years)
- American Studies and English
- Ancient History and Philosophy
- Asia Pacific Studies and International Relations
- BA in International Politics
- Business and Law
- Business Management with Law
- Classical Studies and Philosophy
- Comparative Religion and Social Anthropology
- Common Law/English Literature
- Classical Studies and Philosophy
- Common Law
- Common Law/History
- Criminology with Law
- Criminal Law
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Criminology and Forensic Psychology
- Criminology and Forensic Studies
- Criminology and Law
- Criminology and Psychology
- Criminology and Social Policy and Social Change
- Criminology and Sociology
- Criminology and Sociology (with Foundation Year)
- Criminology with Forensic Psychology
- Criminology with Psychology
- Criminology with Year Abroad
- Economics and Philosophy
- Economics and Politics
- Economics and Politics with Year Abroad
- English and Philosophy
- English Law and German Law
- English/Philosophy (Equal)
- European Social and Political Studies (4 years)
- European Politics

- Film and Television Studies/Politics
- French and Politics
- French Studies with International Relations
- Geography and International Relations
- History and Political Science
- History and Politics
- History and Politics with Study Abroad
- History and International Relations
- History and International Relations (with Foundation Year)
- History and International Relations (with placement year)
- History and Philosophy of Science
- History and Politics
- History and Politics of the Americas with a Year Abroad
- History with Politics
- Human Sciences
- Human Sciences with Study Abroad
- Human, Social, and Political Sciences
- Humanities Foundation Year
- International Development
- International Development and the Environment with Overseas Placement
- International History and Politics
- International Relations
- International Relations (with Foundation Year)
- International Relations and Economics
- International Relations and Modern Languages
- International Relations and Politics
- International Relations and Politics with Foundation Year
- International Relations (Including Year Abroad)
- International Relations (SocSci)
- International Relations and Global Development
- International Relations and History
- International Relations and Japanese
- International Relations and Languages
- International Relations and Politics
- Land Economy
- Law
- Law (Accelerated)
- Law (Foundation)
- Law (LLB)
- Law and Media & Communication
- Law LLB
- Law with a Foundation Year
- Law with Business
- Law with Business Studies
- Law with Criminology
- Law with Foundation
- Law with Hispanic Law (4 years)
- Law with International Business
- Law with International Relations
- Law with Politics and Human Rights
- LLB Law with Professional Placement

- Law with American Studies (with a study abroad year)
- Law with International Relations
- Law (Bachelor of Laws)
- Law (Study Abroad)
- Law and Criminal Justice LLB
- Law with a Language
- Law with American Studies (with a study abroad year)
- Law with Business
- Law with Business and Management
- Law with Business Studies
- Law with Criminology
- Law with English Law
- Law with International Legal Studies
- Law with International Relations
- Law and Media & Communication
- Law with Politics
- Law with Psychology
- Liberal Arts
- Liberal Arts (with Foundation Year)
- Liberal Arts with Study Abroad
- Liberal Arts With Study Abroad (4 years)
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- LLB Law
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- Philosophy and Modern Languages
- Philosophy and Politics
- Philosophy and Theology
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
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- Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Thought
- Political Science and International Relations
- Political Science and Sociology
- Political Science with Year Abroad
- Politics, Philosophy and Law (PPL)
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- Politics and American Studies
- Politics and Contemporary History
- Politics and Economics
- Politics and International Relations
- Politics and International Relations with Study Abroad
- Politics and International Relations with Year Abroad
- Politics and Modern History
- Politics and Modern Languages & Cultures
- Politics and Sociology
- Politics with Chinese

- Politics with Economics
- Politics with International Relations
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- Modern History and Politics (Integrated)
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- Philosophy and Psychology
- Philosophy, Business and Ethics
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
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- Politics and Chinese
- Politics and Data Science
- Politics and Economics
- Politics and Hispanic Studies
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- Politics and International Relations with a year in North America
- Politics and International Studies
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- Psychology with Criminology
- Public Health
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- Social Policy with Year Abroad
- Sociology and Politics
- Social and Political Sciences
- Sociology and Criminology
- Sociology and Politics
- Theology and Religion American Studies and Politics with a Year Abroad
- Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
- World Philosophies

Sources & Links

[GRADUATE PROSPECTS](#)

[WHICH? STUDENT SURVEY](#)

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<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses>

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<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/course/Biblical-Studies-and-Theology-BA>

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/undergraduate/liberal-arts/liberal-arts-with-a-language-year-abroad/>

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/pgceandschooldirectsecondary/religiouseducation>

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