

## About the course

**History and Politics at Cambridge is an exciting new joint Honours degree which will run for the first time in 2017. It offers subjects from our highly-regarded History and Politics and International Relations courses, together with bespoke papers which will allow students to explore the space between the two disciplines.**

Cambridge is uniquely placed to teach History and Politics and International Relations together. Staff in the Faculty of History and the Department of Politics and International Studies have a wide range of shared interests in political and international history, the origins of contemporary politics and international relations, and the history of political thought. This new degree balances a strong grounding in the two component subjects with the chance to explore the ways in which historical and political understanding together illuminate the modern world.

In the first year, students will look at the foundations of modern politics and international relations, study a period of modern British or European history in detail, and take our unique Evidence and Argument paper, which will introduce a range of methods and approaches from across the two disciplines.



## Key facts

- You do not need to have studied Politics or International Relations before, though some colleges require A Level/IB Higher Level History or at least one essay-based subject
- The standard offer is A\*AA at A Level or 40-41 IB points, with 776 at Higher Level
- 40 places are available for 2017 entry



## History and Politics



## Teaching and resources

One of the strengths of the History and Politics degree at Cambridge is the quality of the teaching: you will have the opportunity to learn from some of the most eminent academics in the field. The degree is taught through a mixture of departmental lectures, seminars, and classes and college 'supervisions', in which students discuss their essays with a supervisor individually or in very small groups. Supervisions provide a wonderful opportunity for students to receive individual feedback on their work and to discuss the problems and ideas raised by the lectures and further reading.

Students take four papers in each year, and normally write seven to eight supervision essays for each paper. In the first year, you can typically expect between eight and ten hours of lectures and classes a week, along with one or two supervisions.



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## Course Structure

### First year

Students studying History and Politics take four papers in the first year:

- Evidence and Argument
- Analysis of Politics
- International Relations
- A paper in British Political History (1688-1886 or since 1880) or European History (1715-1890 or since 1890)

### Second year

- A paper in the History of Political Thought (either covering the period from the Greeks up to 1700 or the 18th and 19th centuries)
- A paper on either Comparative Politics or International Relations
- A further History paper, covering World History, American History, or British Social and Economic History
- A long essay paper, a historical project, or a paper on Statistics and Methods

### Third year

- A paper in General Themes and Issues, which considers general issues in history and politics and the relationship between the two disciplines
- *Three* other papers from a wide range of options:
  - History Specified Subjects, which currently include papers on the transformation of the Roman world, modern India and the American experience in Vietnam, 1941-75.
  - Specialised papers in Politics and International Relations, for instance on the politics of a particular region such as Europe or the Middle East, the politics of gender, or the politics of conflict and peacebuilding
  - Further papers in the History of Political Thought
  - A 10-15,000-word research dissertation

## Facilities

The facilities at Cambridge are first rate. The Department of Politics and International Studies has a state-of-the-art new building, whilst the History Faculty is built around the Seeley Library, which is one of the largest history libraries in the world. All students have access to the University Library which, as a copyright library, has over eight million books and a wide range of e-resources. There is also a wealth of rare materials and manuscripts which can be used for dissertation research. Cambridge provides students with plenty of opportunities outside of their course; for instance, students can improve their language skills at the Language Centre. Colleges provide additional teaching as well as extracurricular and social opportunities.

## After Cambridge

Students who take this degree will have acquired a range of skills that are attractive to employers. They learn to evaluate and discriminate between types of evidence; to cope with large amounts of information; to work independently and with others; and to present arguments clearly and persuasively.



Recent graduates from the History degree and from the Politics and International Relations track of the Human, Social and Political Sciences degree have gone on to careers in the media, law, public administration, finance, teaching, and the charity sector.

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