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Masters political science

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Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered CreativityWhat can you do with a masters in political science? A masters in poli sci helps you access a number of different career options relating to government administration, advocacy, research, and public policy. Political science graduate programs may prepare you to understand American politics, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory at an advanced level. You may then be able to apply that knowledge to impact political structures and public policy at a state, national, and international level. This versatile career path includes a number of career opportunities within government, private business, and nonprofit organizations. Editorial Listing ShortCode: What Can You Do with a Masters in Political Science? With a masters degree in political science, you may be qualified for several rewarding career options that allow you to work in different areas of business, government, and nonprofit. You may pursue job opportunities in social advocacy, urban planning, government administration, public policy, news media, research, economics, and public relations. Positions in the field of political science may require you to work within the context of political theory, international relations, comparative politics, or American politics. More specifically, careers in political science may allow you to play a key role in the planning, development, and implementation of laws and regulations that impact American society at a state or national level. You may also have the opportunity to perform research on various political science topics, analyzing public opinion and forecasting trends related to politics and society at large. Some positions may allow you to monitor current events in society at a local, national, and international level, paying special attention to those which impact or are impacted by politics and policy. Political science masters programs may also prepare you for positions related to social advocacy. This field could include women's rights, racism, healthcare, accessibility, trade, environment, and immigration, among others. Other opportunities may include working as a lobbyist for various interest groups or within a local municipal, state, national, or international level government structure. 5 Things You Can Do with a Masters in Political Science There are a number of career paths available to you with a traditional or online master's in political science. Some of these careers include political scientist, urban and regional planner, policy analyst, news correspondent, and economist. 1. Political Scientist As a political scientist, you may have the opportunity to work closely with government administrations and political institutions. You may contribute to the development of public policy through research and development. You may also play a role in the analysis and interpretation of public opinion concerning economic, social, and political events, along with advocacy of social and political issues. As a political scientist, you may also contribute to the development and testing of various political theories in the field. 2. Urban and Regional Planner The position of urban and regional planner may allow you to work with government officials, developers, and contractors. You may also participate in the revitalization of communities through social, economic, and environmental solutions, including land use. You may consult with members of the public to collect opinions on projects, problems, and solutions. You may also oversee a project's budget and ensure that project details are in line with relevant policies related to land use, community development, and historical preservation of structures. 3. Policy Analyst As a policy analyst, you may play a key role in monitoring and assessing current events as well as social and economic issues within society. You may also participate in research, planning, and development of public policy and government legislation at a state, national, or international level. Your responsibilities may include evaluating the overall effectiveness of political policies and programs and measuring their effectiveness through changes in society. This could include changing perspectives and needs related to social, environmental, economic, and political changes. 4. News Correspondent As a news correspondent, you may need to stay up to date on current events, social change, and public opinion. You may then summarize and explain these topics to a mass audience through various media, including print, television, and radio. You may be responsible for providing informed analysis and opinion on a range of topics, depending on your area of specialty. Examples may include the American political structures, elections and the voting process, international politics, social reform, revolutionary movements, and comparative politics. 5. Economist As an economist, you may conduct research and stay up to date on various national and global economic issues. You may pay special attention to topics related to employment, spending, wages, business cycles, healthcare, and energy. You may also advise businesses and government bodies on economic issues, policies, and programs. When appropriate, you may be asked to present recommendations to resolve these issues. Political Science Careers & Salaries According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are a number of lucrative career paths for a traditional or online degree in political science, many of which require a masters degree. Careers Annual Median Salaries Political Research Scientist \$136,640 Government Affairs Specialist \$133,460 Public Relations and Fundraising Manager \$118,430 Economist \$108,350 Social Scientist \$87,260 Urban or Regional Planner \$75,950 Education Policy Analyst \$75,260 Public Relations Specialist \$62,810 Survey Researcher \$59,870 Reporter, Correspondent, or Broadcast News Analyst \$49,300 Many careers in the field of political science are expected to experience a positive job outlook through the next decade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These career paths include political scientists (6%), public relations specialists (7%), urban and regional planners (11%), and economists (14%). Is a Masters in Political Science Useful? A master's in political science can help you develop a more advanced and in-depth understanding of American politics, international relations, political theory, and comparative politics. Additionally, many positions in the field of political science, including political scientists, urban and regional planners, and economists, require a masters degree as an entry-level educational requirement. Earning an MS in Political Science, MA in Political Science, or even an online PhD in political science may help you advance into higher-level positions more quickly than with a bachelors degree alone. What Are the Best Masters in Political Science Jobs? There are a number of different career options available to you with a master's degree in political science. Common positions include political scientists and policy analysts. Political scientists earn an average of \$125,350 per year, and that average increases for those working in professional, scientific, and technical areas as well as within government. Some of the responsibilities for this position include performing research on various political topics, testing political theories, and evaluating political trends. You may also develop future forecasts and support the policy development process. Policy analysts have a more narrow focus than political scientists. In this role, you may specialize in the planning, development, and implementation of regulations and laws across various levels of government. What's the Difference Between a Masters in Political Science vs. Public Policy? Masters in political science programs are closely related to masters in public policy programs, and in some cases they may cover similar content. A masters in political science focuses more on areas of public administration, governance, and political theory. These programs generally stick to a high-level overview of public policy. A masters in public policy, on the other hand, takes a deep dive into public policy. This may include an examination of urban policy, economic policy, social policy, and international policy. In addition, a masters in public policy generally provides a more in-depth look at the planning, development, and implementation of laws and regulations. Is a Masters Degree in Political Science Worth It? Yes, a master's degree in political science is worth it for many students. In the life, physical, and social science field, jobs are projected to grow at a rate of 5% in the next 10 years (Bureau of Labor Statistics), faster than the average overall job growth. Common political science careers in this field include political scientists, policy analysts, urban and regional planners, news correspondents, and economists. Positions in the field of political science may be offered by businesses, government institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Some examples include advocacy groups, political campaigns, state governments, news organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Getting Your Masters in Political Science Online Working in the field of poli sci offers a range of employment opportunities, from government and businesses to nonprofit organizations. An online masters degree in this field may provide you with a variety of experiences throughout your career. Positions in the field of political science may offer you promising career growth and high earnings potential with above-average annual salaries. If you want to contribute to governance at a state, national, or international level or want to advocate for a particular cause as part of your career, then earning an accredited masters degree in political science may be a strategic path for you to consider. The MSc Political Science is a wide-ranging programme combining subject-specific study and rigorous methodological training.The Political Behaviour stream offers the opportunity to examine how citizens see the political world and form opinions about it, and how their political behaviour is shaped by those opinions, their social identities, and the actions of politicians. It offers courses that focus on voting behaviour, public opinion, social identities (eg, gender, ethnicity, and class), political parties, electoral politics, other forms of political engagement, and intergroup relations. It explores these topics across the globe through a combination of general thematic and more regionally focused courses (eg, focused on Europe, North America, Latin America, and other parts of the Global South).This programme will be a good preparation for a career in international organisations, government, public policy, political consultancy, security agencies, finance, the media and NGOs, as well as providing an excellent foundation for further research including PhD programmes.Upper second class honours degree (2:1) or equivalent in any discipline. A background in social sciences (political science, economics, psychology, sociology, etc) and some prior methods training may be advantageous.Please select your country from the dropdown list below to find out the entry requirements that apply to you.English language requirementsThe English language requirement for this programme is Higher. Read more about our English language requirements.Competition for places at LSE is strong. So, even if you meet the minimum entry requirements, this does not guarantee you an offer of a place.However, please don't feel deterred from applying – we want to hear from all suitably qualified students. Think carefully about how you can put together the strongest possible application to help you stand out from other students. The programme involves a combination of subject-wide content and research methods training with a range of specialist options that allow for the application and in-depth treatment of concepts and approaches. During seminars, students will actively participate in the development of their learning and analytical and disciplinary skills through a varied range of learning opportunities including structured questions, mediated discussions, small group work, presentations, mediated speakers, simulations, data analysis, problem sets, multi-media resources, etc. They'll additionally be supported through resources and opportunities for engagement through course and programme Moodle sites. The dissertation is designed to complete the programme with an in-depth research project pursued independently by each student but with the support of an individual faculty member as supervisor. The student specialises within the sub-field of the stream and produces a distinctive piece of work showing their special interests and competence as a researcher.Many optional courses allow students to specialise and study in-depth the application of methods and conceptual frameworks to particular cases and issues. You must take courses to the value of four full units and you're required to write a 10,000-word dissertation. Part-time students may take up to four courses in their first year.For the latest list of courses, please go to the relevant School Calendar page.A few important points you'll need to know:We may need to change, suspend or withdraw a course or programme of study, or change the fees due to unforeseen circumstances. We'll always notify you as early as possible and recommend alternatives where we can.The School is not liable for changes to published information or for changing, suspending or withdrawing a course or programme of study due to events outside our control (including a lack of demand, industrial action, fire, flooding or other damage to premises).Places are limited on some courses and/or subject to specific entry requirements so we cannot therefore guarantee you a place.Changes to programmes and courses may be made after you've accepted your offer of a place – normally due to global developments in the discipline or student feedback. We may also make changes to course content, teaching formats or assessment methods but these are always made to improve the learning experience.For full details about the availability or content of courses and programmes, please take a look at the School's Calendar, or contact the relevant academic department.Some major changes to programmes/courses are posted on our updated graduate course and programme information page.Discover more about our students and department.Meet the departmentWhy LSEThe Department of Government is an internationally renowned centre for teaching and research on politics and government.Within our department, we have 850 undergraduates, postgraduates and research students and more than 40 faculty staff – who come from 80 countries.Our research focuses on six main areas:comparative politicsconflict studiespolitical behaviour and political psychologypolitical economy and institutional analysispolitical theorypublic policy and public administration.The department's work covers national, sub-national and global politics – with a strong emphasis on public-facing research.Teaching within the department draws on these strengths and our central role in a prestigious social science institution. As a student, you'll learn from internationally renowned academics and study in the heart of London, close to the UK's political heartland in Westminster and the Houses of Parliament.Our students gain the knowledge and skills to become sharp-minded critical thinkers who apply diverse analytical perspectives to social issues and conflicts around the globe. We encourage students to reflect on what it means to be responsible for addressing urgent public problems and engage in these issues in practical ways to prepare for their future careers. Our graduates find fulfilling roles in government, financial and professional services, teaching and research.Learn more about our programmes, research, public events and people.We welcome applications from all suitably qualified prospective students. At LSE, we want to recruit students with the best academic merit, potential and motivation, irrespective of background.We carefully consider each application and take into account all the information included on your application form, such as your:academic achievement (including predicted and achieved grades)statement of academic purposetwo academic referencesCV. See further information on supporting documents.You may need to provide evidence of your English language proficiency. See our English language requirements.Please note: The applications, intake and ratio values below includes all the streams of the MSc Political Science programme: Conflict Studies and Comparative Politics; Global Politics; Political Science and Political Economy; and Political Behaviour.Applications for this programme are considered on a rolling basis. This means that applications will close once the programme is full.There is no fixed deadline. However, if you'd like to be considered for any funding opportunities, you must submit your application (and all supporting documents) by the funding deadline. See the fees and funding section below for more details.The table of fees shows the latest tuition fees for all programmes.You're charged a fee for your programme. At LSE, your tuition fee covers registration and examination fees payable to the School, lectures, classes and individual supervision, lectures given at other colleges under intercollegiate arrangements and, under current arrangements, membership of the Students' Union. It doesn't cover living costs or travel or fieldwork.Home student fee (2025/26)For this programme, all students pay the same tuition fees, regardless of their fee status.Overseas student fee (2025/26)For this programme, all students pay the same tuition fees, regardless of their fee status.At LSE, your tuition fees, and eligibility for any financial support, will depend on whether you're classified as a home or overseas student (known as your fee status). We assess your fee status based on guidelines provided by the Department for Education.Further information about fee status classification.Fee reductionStudents who completed undergraduate study at LSE and are beginning taught graduate study at the School are eligible for a fee reduction of around 10 per cent of the fee.Scholarships and other fundingWe recognise that the cost of living in London may be higher than in your home town/city or country and we provide generous scholarships to help both home and overseas students.We offer some needs-based awards for this programme, including the Graduate Support Scheme, Master's Awards, and Anniversary Scholarships. Competition for these awards and scholarships is strong. To apply for an award, you must have an offer of a place and submit a Graduate Financial Support application before the funding deadline.The funding deadline for needs-based awards from LSE: 6 May 2025. In addition to our needs-based awards, we offer scholarships for students from specific regions of the world and awards for certain subjects.You can't apply for a Graduate Support Scheme or LSE scholarship once you've joined the School.Please note: we do expect students who register for a programme to have sufficient funds for the duration.Government tuition fee loans and external fundingThe UK Government offers a postgraduate loan for eligible students studying for a first master's programme. This is designed to help with fees and living costs. Some other governments and organisations also offer tuition fee loan schemes.Find out more about tuition fee loans.Further informationLearn more about fees and funding opportunities.How you learnHow you're assessedLSE is internationally recognised for its teaching and research and therefore employs a rich variety of teaching staff with a range of experience and status. Courses may be taught by individual members of faculty, such as lecturers, senior lecturers, readers, associate professors and professors. Many departments now also employ guest teachers and visiting members of staff. LSE teaching fellows and graduate teaching assistants who are usually doctoral research students and in the majority of cases, teach on undergraduate courses only. You can view indicative details for the teacher responsible for each course in the relevant course guide.LSE's Department of Management are committed to supporting our students throughout their journey with us. This includes: Academic mentor: You may meet with your mentor to discuss your studies at any point. Faculty office hours: Advice and guidance on academic issues are available when you meet with our teaching staff during their office hours. Programmes team: Our dedicated team can offer advice and guidance on your programme, signpost you to school support, and help you navigate the challenging year. Other academic support: At LSE, we offer lots of opportunities to extend your learning outside the classroom. LSE LIFE is a great place to get advice and practise the skills you'll need during your studies and beyond. Through LSE LIFE, you can: attend workshops on developing leadership skills, finding the right study/work/life balance and preparing for the world of work develop your reading, academic writing and critical-thinking skills gain experience of working in study groups and develop your cross-cultural communication and teamwork skills. Disability and Mental Health Service: we want all LSE students to achieve their full potential. Students can access free, confidential advice through our Disability and Mental Health Service. This is the first point of contact for students.All taught courses are required to include formative coursework which is unassessed. It's designed to help prepare you for summative assessment which counts towards the course mark and to the degree award. LSE uses a range of formative assessment, such as essays, problem sets, case studies, reports, quizzes, mock exams and many others. Summative assessment may be conducted during the course or by final examination at the end of the course which in some cases may be offered online). An indication of the formative coursework and summative assessment for each course can be found in the relevant course guide.Previous graduates in the department have developed careers in the policy world in governments and public service, international organisations, security agencies, the media, NGOs and finance. The programme is also an excellent foundation for those students who wish to progress to a PhD programme.Further information on graduate destinations for this programmeThis data is drawn from the 2021/22 Graduate Outcomes Survey, run by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Median salaries are calculated for respondents who are paid in UK pounds sterling and in full-time employment.From CV workshops through to careers fairs, LSE offers lots of information and support to help you make that all-important step from education into work.Many of the UK's top employers give careers presentations at the School during the year and there are numerous workshops covering topics such as job hunting, managing interviews, writing a cover letter and using LinkedIn.See LSE Careers for further details. Discover our campus and student servicesFind out more about our academic guidance, advice and pastoral careExplore the accommodation services we offer to our studentsAttend our in-person events or explore LSE from home The MSc in Political Science is designed to equip you with the knowledge and practical skills needed to become a confident researcher, capable of taking leadership over societal responses to political and social challenges – whether working in governments, global institutions, NGOs, or in the media. The course will provide you with the intellectual resources needed to understand and respond to the phenomena that give rise to the current local, national and global political challenges that we face, and will develop your ability to investigate and uncover the underlying social and political dynamics that have led to the formation of these political challenges and potentially, the key to their resolution. The course will also prepare you for future doctoral study, should you be interested in taking your research interests to the next level. Tailor your courseReflecting the dynamic field of political science, this course has three compulsory modules. The rest of your credits are selected from a list of optional modules. This allows you to benefit from our specialisms – either focusing on a particular subject you're passionate about or choosing modules from across the areas for a breadth of knowledge.Our teaching in these areas is enriched by the practical experience and innovative research of staff in the Centre for Democratic Politics, the Centre for Global Security Challenges, and the Centre for Global Development.Research expertiseAs a student of MSc Political Science, you'll be part of our wider research community. You'll be strongly encouraged to engage with our research centres to facilitate the development of your skills within a supportive and nurturing research environment.Our research centres – the Centre for Democratic Politics, the Centre for Global Development, the European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, the Centre for Global Security Challenges, the Centre for Contemporary Political Theory, and the Centre for Teaching Innovation and Scholarship – offer you the opportunity to become involved with the research process and political engagement that serves as the foundation for the teaching across all our modules.School of Politics and International StudiesWatching in China? View this video on YouKu