

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH
**A POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS DEGREE?**



Even outside the political realm, today's employers value people who can think critically and creatively, communicate persuasively, learn on the go and solve problems. Politics and International Relations graduates are in demand and have a tremendous variety of employment fields open to them.

Government, Diplomacy, Social Action

- Civil service
- Campaign advisor, constituency office manager / chief of staff
- Think tanks, NGOs and aid groups

Law, Rights and Justice

- Crown attorney or private legal practice, public defender
- Legal clerk, negotiator, mediator
- International law, business law

Business and Public Relations

- Public relations (PR), advertising, human resources
- Project management and consulting
- Corporate social responsibility

Media, Communications and Identity

- Investigative journalism, copywriter
- Policy advocate, community organizer
- Teaching, social work

A PLACE TO
BECOME



Examples of places where our graduates have gone after graduation:

EMPLOYMENT

- Siskinds Law, Associate Lawyer (London, Ontario)
- Policy Analyst at Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Executive Director, Changing Ways
- Sales Manager, Sunlife Financial (London, Ontario)
- Member of Parliament, London North Centre
- CEO and Co-Founder, Parachute Coffee
- Policy Analyst, Global Affairs Canada
- Venture Partner, MEST Africa
- Social Worker, Canadian Mental Health Association

GRAD SCHOOL

- Master of Arts, Global Governance, Balsillie School of International Affairs
- Master of Public Administration, University of Waterloo
- Master of Arts, Political Science, University of British Columbia
- Master of Arts, Political Studies, Queen's University
- Master of Arts, International Affairs, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs
- PhD in Political Science, University of Toronto
- JD, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
- JD, Western Law, Western University
- JD, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
- JD, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

LEARN MORE ABOUT
**POLITICS AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
👉 kings.uwo.ca/politics-ir

PROGRAM **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- An excellent selection of courses across all the fields of politics: Canadian politics, international relations, comparative politics/politics of development, and political theory.
- Add our totally unique Certificate in the Study of Law and Public Policy to your degree. Sharpen your legal and policy mind with this pre-law program that prepares you for your future. There is nothing like it anywhere else at Western.
- Take your studies outside of the classroom with our one-of-a-kind experiential learning field schools. Explore local, national and international destinations, such as London, Africa and Europe.
- Acquire the skills you need to succeed: autonomous thinking; persuasive written and verbal communication; the ability to interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
- Professors who are active researchers and bring their latest work into the classroom for an education about issues that matter.
- Mentorship from professors who care about student success. You might end up working as a Research Assistant.
- Travel with the very active King's Political Science Students' Association to cities like Washington, Boston, New York City and Ottawa. Meet guest speakers and get plugged into professional networks at alumni events.
- Opportunities to be a leader at King's and learn how to be one after King's. Participate in student government, be an executive in our student club, or take a leading position for an in-class simulation.



Politics and International Relations

Learn, Experience, Lead



What is **POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?**

In a world that is being reshaped in challenging ways, Politics and International Relations is where the action is. We provide real student engagement with small class sizes where professors know your name and what you're about. Every year our students and faculty travel together to some of the most important sites of political action – in Canada, Africa and Europe. You learn why societies look the way they do, and how politics is the ultimate tool for change.

kings.uwo.ca/politics-ir

EXPERIENCE GUIDE



A Place to Be. A Place to Become.

Learn more:
www.kings.uwo.ca/politics-ir



@KingsAtWestern



POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IS FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO

- Acquire research skills and develop their written and verbal communication
- Understand society's and countries' constant change
- Learn about how politics can change people's lives
- Participate in national and international experiential learning opportunities
- See leaders in action and cultivate their own leadership potential
- Learn from innovative faculty about pressing issues such as Canadian and international law; global affairs; social media and elections; negotiating peace in conflict zones

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

King's Politics and International Relations graduates are highly valued for their ability to think creatively and critically. Our degree emphasizes applied theory that combines academic and practical learning to help produce informed, prepared and active citizens. Every course has specific learning outcomes that become more sophisticated over the higher years. On completion of a degree in Politics and International Relations, students will have the following knowledge, skills and experience:

KNOWLEDGE

- Know how national and international political systems work and what they do
- Understand the nature of power and innovatively interpret its impact on society
- Propose inventive solutions to contemporary political and social problems in Canada and abroad
- Apply multiple research methodologies, grasp how knowledge is power and engage critically

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- **Research:** Develop and apply skills including accessing and interpreting primary and secondary sources as well as qualitative and quantitative data
- **Autonomous thinking:** construct and explain arguments and make knowledge claims about political life
- **Professionalism:** improve your organization, self-discipline, confidence, time management and networking skills while practicing the art of respectful interactions in formal and informal settings
- **Written communication:** organize complex ideas and distil them into clear and concise written arguments in essays, policy briefs, op-eds, blogs, book reviews and critical reflections
- **Verbal communication:** express ideas for a wide range of audiences including peers and professionals using tutorials, seminars, presentations and debates

EXPERIENCE

- Learn to be a leader through participation in our innovative approaches to learning, involvement in faculty research, and active participation in student life on campus
- Make the world your classroom by enrolling in one or more of our experiential learning classes that take you to Europe and Africa, or put you in the thick of Canadian elections and women's civic leadership work in London
- In-class simulations: model parliament, negotiating peace, write and vote on a new constitution
- Engaged citizenship: work to find solutions for problems of participation, representation and exclusion by participating in partnerships linking the university to the local, regional and global communities
- Change-making advocacy: reference cultural, social, political, and economic factors in advocating on behalf of poor, marginalized and disenfranchised people

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Every Politics and International Relations student at King's can craft an education that is right for them in and out of the classroom. Our department provides a strong core education across each of the major subfields in politics and international relations, including Canadian politics, political theory, comparative politics, public policy and administration. Students then get to choose specialized third- and fourth-year courses where they can explore and refine their interests. Small class sizes allow students to establish unmatched intellectual relationships with their peers and professors. Our commitment to real student engagement and experiential learning means that every year our students and faculty travel together to visit sites of real political action in Canada and internationally.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



WHY STUDY POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TODAY?
kings.uwo.ca/politics-ir

WELLNESS RESOURCES STUDENT AFFAIRS
kings.uwo.ca/wellness

A PLACE TO BE

THINK, Imagine, Create

FIRST YEAR

- Attend summer academic orientation
- Take a wide variety of courses to build a breadth of knowledge
- Meet with subject librarians to work on your research skills
- Meet with faculty during office hours to discuss your assignments
- Review your program progression requirements and plan for a successful degree path

DISCOVER Possibilities

- Attend Orientation Week activities at King's and Western
- Sign up for the Co-Curricular Record
- Consider joining the King's Political Science Students' Association
- Sign up for intramurals, join a club at King's and check out the Western Mustangs games
- Visit a Career Counsellor at King's to review potential career opportunities with your degree
- Check out our services offered by Accessibility Counselling and Student Development

ENGAGE in Local and Global Community

- Consider joining King's University College Students' Council (KUCSC) as a first year or program rep
- Attend King's International cultural events
- Volunteer for events such as St. Joe's Cafe or The Centre for Social Concern
- Apply for residence and participate in the living-learning communities

MIDDLE YEARS

- Take second-year pre-requisite courses and start tailoring your degree with third-year courses that suit you best
- Meet with your academic counsellor to make key academic decisions
- Make sure you complete your Intent to Register (ITR)
- Investigate growing scholarship and bursary opportunities

- Consider different ways to build experiential and engaged learning into your degree
- Check out the Life After King's series
- Think about writing for the *Regis* or the *Western Gazette*
- Explore opportunities such as work study jobs and research assistantships
- Don't just be a club member – join the executive of the King's Political Science Students' Association (KPSSA)
- Look at academic exchange opportunities to universities in other countries

- Get involved with King's Political Science Students' Association executive positions
- Take on a leadership position in a classroom simulation
- Visit and take in opportunities offered by Innovation Works
- Consider volunteering with the London Interfaith Peace Camp

GRADUATING YEAR

- Challenge yourself by enrolling in some fourth-year seminar courses
- Research graduate school opportunities and attend Graduate School Education Sessions
- Meet with faculty to discuss reference letters
- Finalize your academic and career portfolios to share with graduate programs and employers
- Sign up for the Life After King's Mentoring Program

- Take your last chance to participate in one of our experiential learning courses
- Meet with alumni and employers for informational interviews
- Use career services to review your resume and job search tools
- Attend Pillar Non-Profit Network "Nonprofit Career Talks"

- Participate in local, national and global challenges and competitions (Map the System, World's Challenge, The Undergraduate Awards)
- Join the King's Academic Mentoring Program (KAMP) as a mentor
- Check out internships offered by local and global non-governmental organizations
- Use your political knowledge: contact local organizations that share your outlook and ask about job shadowing

LEARN MORE ABOUT POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PIR)

kings.uwo.ca/politics-ir

THE KING'S ANNUAL CHECKLIST

- Meet regularly with the Academic Dean's Office to ensure you are on track towards your degree requirements
- Check out programs offered by Student Affairs
- Continually review your financial aid
- Check out opportunities to work on campus or off-campus throughout your degree
- Volunteer and support your community at King's
- Use the library resources offered by the Cardinal Carter Library
- Check out Career Connect on a regularly
- Meet with faculty during their office hours

ALUMNI PROFILE Sulamita Romanchik, MA
Honours Specialization in Political Science (now PIR) and Major in French Language and Literature MA in Global Governance, Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA), University of Waterloo
Graduation Year: BA 2017, MA 2019



“ All of my Politics and International Relations courses, and especially the experiential learning trips, helped shape me into an open-minded yet critical-thinking individual. The program provided excellent preparation for working in international development. ”

CURRENT CAREER
 Programme Development and Innovation, Junior Professional Consultant, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

CAREER OVERVIEW
 Currently working in Canada's foreign service (Global Affairs Canada: Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Services [FPDS] stream). The foreign service is a rotational career, where officers rotate between assignments at headquarters (Ottawa) and one- to five-year postings abroad. FPDS officers typically spend 50% of their career outside of Canada, serving at various Canadian missions and embassies. It is a very rewarding career, where you get to build and maintain relationships with various countries, and work on diverse files, from human rights to disarmament and security.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI
kings.uwo.ca/academics/politics-international-relations/lead