

# Political Science & International Relations

Political Science is the study of the origin, development, and operation of political systems and public policy. Political scientists conduct research on a wide range of subjects such as international relations, government institutions and political life, local politics, and government structure and operations. International Relations programs incorporate these concepts and apply them on a global scale, focusing more exclusively on foreign policy and cross cultural issues. Both degrees are interdisciplinary and incorporate a variety of subjects into their curriculum including history, economics, theory, and government.

**Undergraduate:** Students pursuing an undergraduate program in political science or international relations may receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA). A BA degree provides well-rounded academic programs, including general education course requirements in social science and humanities. A sample of courses available at the undergraduate level includes Modern World Governments, State and Local Governments, Environmental Politics, US Foreign Policy, Perspectives on International Development, Comparative Politics, Cross-Cultural Communications, and Globalization.

**Graduate:** Students pursuing a graduate program in political science or international relations may earn Master of Arts (MA) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees. Degree titles vary by institution and academic program. Graduate students usually will choose among a variety of degree concentrations in the field of political science/international relations such as American Government, International Development, International Relations/Affairs, Comparative Politics, Political Philosophy and Theory, Political Science. A sample of courses available at the graduate level include Political Theory, Public Policy, Sustainable Development, U.S. and Mexico Relations, U.S. Politics, International Environmental Issues, Politics of Specific Regions and others.

## Occupations in Political Science & International Relations:

With a degree in political science or international relations, consider your professional opportunities within the fields of Education, Federal/Local Government, Intergovernmental Organizations, International Business/Finance, Journalism, Management and Administration, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

## Choosing a Political Science & International Relations Program:

If you are considering continuing your education in this field, you should become familiar with academic trends and current developments. Utilize current literature and consider the existing research of professors in matching your academic and career goals with the right institutions for you. EducationUSA Centers provide advising services and a diverse collection of materials to assist students searching for schools and financial aid program. To find the nearest EducationUSA Advising Center, visit [www.educationusa.info/centers.php](http://www.educationusa.info/centers.php).

There is no professional or programmatic accrediting organization for academic programs in political science/international relations, however, prospective students should be sure to research all recognized regionally accredited programs at [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org).





**Organizations Affiliated with the Study of Political Science & International Relations:**

- American Political Science Association, [www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)
- International Political Science Association, [www.ipsa.org](http://www.ipsa.org)
- Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, [www.apsia.org](http://www.apsia.org)
- Foreign Affairs, [www.foreignaffairs.org](http://www.foreignaffairs.org)
- Foreign Policy, [www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com)
- The Economist, [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
- The National Interest, [www.nationalinterest.org](http://www.nationalinterest.org)

**Scholarly Journals related to the study of PS/IR:** International Affairs, International Organization, International Security, and International Studies Quarterly.

**Undergraduate Program Search Print and Online Resources:**

- College Board, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Search for schools with the College Board's online, "College Matchmaker."
- Read about specific majors and careers using the "Major and Career Profiles" search [www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors\\_careers/profiles/](http://www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/)

**Graduate Program Search Print and Online Resources:**

- Peterson's Graduate Programs in the Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences; Book 2
- Peterson's online at [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- APSA's Directory of Political Science Faculty and Programs
- Georgetown University Press, Careers in International Affairs
- Krannich, Ronald. The Complete Guide to International Jobs and Careers

**Find Scholarships to Study Political Science and International Relations:**

- EducationUSA Financial Aid links, [www.educationusa.info/pages/students/finance.php](http://www.educationusa.info/pages/students/finance.php)
- Funding U.S. Study, [www.fundingusstudy.org](http://www.fundingusstudy.org)
- Peterson's Scholarship Directory, [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- The Fulbright Program, <http://fulbright.state.gov>
- Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Fellowship, [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org)

**If you are interested in pursuing higher education in the U.S. and would like further guidance please contact your local EducationUSA Advising Center**