Politics and International Studies - Undergraduate Live Chat - Chat to find out more about studying Politics at Warwick

Dr Trevor McCrisken will be answering your questions on studying Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick.

Hello and Welcome to the Live Chat for Warwick Politics & International Studies (PAIS) UG Admissions! My name's Trevor and I'm the Admissions Director for the department.

Today

For the next hour you can ask whatever you want about the UG degrees offered by PAIS at Warwick.

We'll have people joining the meeting as the hour progresses, but those of you who are already here in the Meeting Room please do start the ball rolling by asking me questions...

PAIS DEGREES
Eight core degrees in the Department:
- BA Politics
- BA Politics and International Studies
- BA Politics and Sociology
- BA Politics, International Studies and Modern Languages (French, German, Hispanic Studies or Italian)
- BA Politics and International Studies with Chinese

Here is a list of the core degree programmes based in PAIS at Warwick. What would you like to know about them? Which programme are you interested in taking?

Hello Charmaine and Anne - I can see that you've joined us in the meeting room. What would you like to know about studying politics at Warwick?
Hi

Yes, I do.

Hi
Hi Anne

Hello! Thank you for setting up this live chat. I would like to ask about Politics and International studies with Chinese, is the Chinese language for beginners?

Thanks for offering this today

I'd like to know more about the Politics and international studies course

Hello! Thank you for setting up this live chat. I would like to ask about Politics and International studies with Chinese, is the Chinese language for beginners?

Hi Charmaine - the Chinese language teaching makes up 25% of the degree. Students are assessed on arrival for their language level and placed into classes according to their level - some students have no prior knowledge while others might be at beginners or intermediate level.

I'd like to know more about the Politics and international studies course

Anne, that's great - Politics and International Studies is our most popular course - what would you like to know?

How much of a focus is there on politics in the Americas?

It looks as if its a very global course?

Hello! Thank you for setting up this live chat. I would like to ask about Politics and International studies with Chinese, is the Chinese language for beginners?

You can find out full details of the range of levels of Chinese taught at degree level on the programme here: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/languagecentre/academic/chinese/

Language Centre - Academic Modules - Chinese (Mandarin)
Language Centre - Academic Modules - Chinese

Thank you!
It looks as if its a very global course?
Anne, yes the course does take a global view but we do have a number of modules focused specifically on the Americas - my expertise, for example, is in US politics and US foreign policy and we have a second year and third year module on both of these subjects. My colleague Tom Long is an expert on Latin America and teaches modules in second and third year on the region. Since the US especially is a major global influence you will find it being discussed across a range of modules on international relations, security, development, political economy, etc.

Yes, I think the US influences a lot of other countries politics at the moment, and it would be interesting to study this further

Thank you!
Charmaine, there is also a compulsory year abroad in China where it is possible to take classes taught in Chinese as well as taking more advanced level language classes

Is there any chance to study languages if its not part of the degree?
Yes, I think the US influences a lot of other countries politics at the moment, and it would be interesting to study this further

You would certainly get that opportunity in PAIS. There are several colleagues who work on the US, particularly in relation to national security, foreign policy, defence and intelligence

That's really interesting. I find it fascinating at the moment and it would be great to be able to study this in depth

Is there any chance to study languages if its not part of the degree?
Yes, you can take up to a quarter of your modules outside the department during each year of the degree and this can be in a language such as French, German, Spanish, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Russian, Arabic in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures or in the Modern Languages Centre. Students are assessed for their level and placed on modules accordingly. Plus there are opportunities to spend a year on Study Abroad or Work Placement if you had a year to the degree.

That's really interesting. I find it fascinating at the moment and it would be great to be able to study this in depth

You'll certainly get that opportunity in PAIS - and in your final year you could write and research a Dissertation on it if you were interested
Ok. That sounds good. Can I ask you what you are looking for in a future applicant?

This slide and the next couple of slides show the course structure for the degrees BA Politics and BA Politics and International Studies.

I'm actually really interested in studying French along with Politics and International relations, however the degree Politics, international relations with French requires French HL for the IB. So I guess it would not be suitable for students who are beginners in French?

| Ok. That sounds good. Can I ask you what you are looking for in a future applicant? |

We have high entry requirements in terms of A level or equivalent grades - AAA - but please do apply even if your predicted grades are a couple of grades lower. We put a lot of emphasis on the personal statement and we're looking for you to show us why you are interested in studying politics, not just what you've done. We want students who are critically reflective and engaged in the subject so it's important to try to show that in your ps.

---

Good morning sir. I would like to study Politics and International studies with Language module, also I would like to take year abroad. Can I take practice during study?

I'm actually really interested in studying French along with Politics and International relations, however the degree Politics, international relations with French requires French HL for the IB. So I guess it would not be suitable for students who are beginners in French?

| I'm actually really interested in studying French along with Politics and International relations, however the degree Politics, international relations with French requires French HL for the IB. So I guess it would not be suitable for students who are beginners in French? |

Charmaine, I think that may be changing so that provided you have studied a language on the IB to a high level that you can come onto the PAIS and French degree as a beginner. That is certainly the case with the other PAIS and Modern Languages degrees. Let me check...

| I'm thinking of including a study abroad experience into my studies, but I don't want to decide now. Can I include an option later on if I want to? |

| Yes Anne - you apply for the standard degree and then during Year 2 you can decide to do a year abroad and apply for the various options in Europe and Asia that we offer. You would then be away from Warwick in year 3, adding a year to make your degree 4 years in total. We do also have a limited number of spaces on an Integrated Year Abroad to North America for which you apply in Year 1 and go in Year 2, still completing within 3 years. The year abroad is only compulsory for PAIS and Modern Languages students |
Good morning sir. I would like to study Politics and International studies with Language module, also I would like to take year abroad. Can I take practice during study?

Hi Zhanel - if you’re interested in one of the PAIS and Modern Languages degrees then the Year Abroad is included and can be either study or work in a country where your language of study is spoken. If you are on one of the non-language degrees you can still take language modules each year and then apply for an intercalated additional year of study and/or work abroad for the 3rd year of what becomes a 4 year degree.

Sorry to ask this, but if you were at high school, would you choose Warwick for your degree?

What if I already speak 4 languages and studying fifth language? Do you need any certificate?

Wow you’re quite a linguist! The Modern Languages Centre will assess your language ability in whatever fifth language you wish to take and then place you in an appropriate level class.

Do I need any work experience for entry requirements?

Sorry to ask this, but if you were at high school, would you choose Warwick for your degree?

Haha - well I have to say yes don’t I?! In all honesty, I really do think it’s a great place to study. I’ve worked here for 16 years and have had little desire to go anywhere else and our students have a very high rate of satisfaction too which you can check by looking at our NSS results. Our department is also truly excellent in academic terms - we’ve been ranked No. 1 for Politics in the UK by The Times for the last two years and whatever you think of league tables that is still impressive. If you’re looking for a campus university then again Warwick has masses to offer students in terms of experiences and culture and clubs and societies. So yes, it would be on my list for sure!

Do I need any work experience for entry requirements?

We don’t require work experience but if you do have any experiences that are relevant please do talk about them in your personal statement - but don’t just list what you’ve done; say why it was important to you, what you learned from it, and perhaps how it relates to why you now want to study politics.
Warwick is definitely on my list. It's a difficult decision, so it is good to hear such positive things about the department.

Hi, thanks for the live chat. How does the entry-level work? I'm from South Africa and we don't use A levels. What would its equivalent be?

I really like the thought of being on a campus university.

What if I want to combine this course with other special modules?

Also, I'm currently studying Political science, philosophy, and economics. If I plan on doing my honours at Warwick, how would the course content work as I read that you primarily focus on US politics and so forth.

Warwick is definitely on my list. It's such a difficult decision, so it is good to hear such positive things about the department.

It is certainly tricky. I would consider three main things: do you want a campus experience? Do you have preferences in terms of geographic location? To what extent does the academic quality of the programme matter to you? On the campus and academic quality you can't go wrong with Warwick; in terms of location, that's very much a personal preference. But with Warwick's central location, you can get to loads of places very easily. Birmingham is very close; London and Manchester are easy train rides; the surrounding countryside is beautiful; and Coventry is City of Culture 2021.

Hi, thanks for the live chat. How does the entry-level work? I'm from South Africa and we don't use A levels. What would its equivalent be.

Hi, Tisseto - we certainly get students from South Africa so we'd welcome your application. You can find out about equivalencies on the UG admissions webpage here: https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/admissions/entry-requirements

International Entry Requirements: What's my degree score equal to?

Entry qualifications and degree equivalences at Warwick for students with international qualifications. GPA entry requirements for British degrees.

Thank you, your advice is much needed and welcomed.
Also I’m currently studying Political science philosophy and economics if I plan on doing my honors at Warwick how would the course content work as I read that you primarily focus on US politics and so forth

I was asked how central the US and the Americas can be earlier - and that is certainly a focus you can take - but our degrees and modules, and the expertise of our large faculty are much broader than that. If there is an overarching focus to our degrees it is global/international with certain regional specialisms - Europe, Africa, Asia, Americas - and also pathways relating to Political Theory, International Relations & Security, International Political Economy, and Public Policy & Political Systems

Also I’m currently studying Political science philosophy and economics if I plan on doing my honors at Warwick how would the course content work as I read that you primarily focus on US politics and so forth

There is also a PPE degree at Warwick which you can find out more about on the Warwick webpages

Ok thank you.

What if I want to combine this course with other special module?

We have a range of Joint Degrees as you can see from this slide - or if you take a core degree in the department you will have up to 25% of your optional modules each year that you can take in other departments

I really like the thought of being on a campus university

Will you have the opportunity to visit before applying? That always helps to get a feel of what it would be like to study and live here
Hi Charamine

I'm not sure that I will be able to. I really have enjoyed this week though. Thanks for making this available to me.

It does seem that to take the degree in PAIS and French you need French in your IB - however if you take either BA Politics or BA Politics and International Studies you can then take French from beginners level as 25% of your degree each year by choosing it as an option. You could then apply for Study Abroad in France for an intercalated year and have a degree that is essentially with French even if it is not in the title.

Not a problem - and you can always follow up with any further questions by e-mail.

Thank you for the information above.

Here are the entry requirements for the core degrees BA Politics and BA Politics and International Studies. Other joint degrees have higher or lower requirements ranging from A*AA to AAB - full details on the University webpages

Thanks for answering my questions today. It's been very helpful.
We're getting to the end of the hour now so do you have any last questions? You can follow up using the contact details on this slide.

Thanks for answering my questions today. It's been very helpful.

No problem - I hope you choose to apply.

Thank you for the information above.

Charmaine, you're welcome - I hope you choose to apply to us.

Thank you very much! Hope to see you in Uni!

Ok thank you.

You're welcome Tiisetso - I hope you choose to apply to us.

Thank you very much! Hope to see you in Uni!

Yes that would be great - good luck with your application Zhanel.

OK - that's the hour! Many thanks for taking part and we look forward to your applications and hopefully seeing you at Warwick next year. All the best, Trevor.