Politics, Philosophy and Economics - Undergraduate Live Chat - PPE: Chat with our Current Students

Students from our Politics, Philosophy and Economics Department will be online to answer your questions on studying PPE at Warwick

Hello and welcome to the PPE Live Chat. We’ll be hosting a Q&A session for today’s chat. Please feel free to ask your questions, and we’ll try and answer these for you. Chatting with you today are 2 current PPE students, Laura and Mo and PPE Programmes Officer, Chloe Stamper.

Please remember that this is a public chat, so please do not share personal or confidential information. If you have anything that is confidential that you wish to ask, please contact us by email at PPEoffice@warwick.ac.uk.

Hello! What subjects did you study for your A-Levels? What jobs do you consider applying for in the future?

Hey Thabile! I did History, Psychology and Economics at A-levels and I’m considering a Masters in Development Studies at the moment.

Hello! I am a Year 13 student currently looking at studying Economics and Politics as an undergraduate next year. I would like to ask how does the workload differ from subject to subject? Because as I can imagine, Philosophy lessons will be quite different from Economics, for instance.

And I would like to ask how many modules of Mathematics do you have, as compared to the students who study BSc Economics? Do you have any lectures together with them? Thank you.

So why did you choose this course, and not focus exclusively on History for example? Is this course relevant if I like History, Philosophy and languages?

I’m trying to decide whether to apply to PPE or pure economics. I think this chat will help me to decide whether PPE is for me.

Hello! I am a Year 13 student currently looking at studying Economics and Politics as an undergraduate next year. I would like to ask how does the workload differ from subject to subject? Because as I can imagine, Philosophy lessons will be quite different from Economics, for instance.

HI Milena! As a PPE student, I only did all three disciplines in my first year. It went well, but I think it depends on your background. I did have to do a lot of readings for Philosophy and Politics. Maths and Stats went well, because I had a solid quantitative background, but some people decided to spend more time on these. You are able to choose optional modules as well, so you can tailor your study experience depending on your interests.

Hello! I’m an international student and I’d like to ask if Economics module is considered to be more like global economics or microeconomics is also included?

I’d I do choose PPE and I want to steer more towards economics during the degree, can I do that?
Why did you choose this course in particular?

So why did you choose this course, and not focus exclusively on History for example? Is this course relevant if I like History, Philosophy and languages?

I choose PPE because I really liked Economics but I was interested in the different perspectives Politics and Philosophy bring to the interpretation economics. With PPE you learn about history from a different perspective for example you can choose modules in economic history or you can look at the history of globalisation or colonisation. However you can also take outside modules so in my first year I did a language module - Mandarin but in my second and third years I have the freedom to choose history modules if I want.

And I would like to ask how many modules of Mathematics do you have, as compared to the students who study BSc Economics? Do you have any lectures together with them? Thank you.

Both PPE and Econ students have core Mathematics and Stats courses in first year. But as a PPE student, you can choose between a medium and an advanced level. Otherwise you can have courses in common with the BSc Economics students, depending on what optional modules you choose. If you focus on taking Econ modules, then yes, the lecture and seminars will be common to everyone taking these. Econ modules can be more or less quantitative. You can have for instance Linear Algebra or something more qualitative like Behavioural Econ.

Is the student community quite supportive?

Is there a lot of independent work required, or do you have many lessons? (I am in the French system and almost spend more hours studying at school than on my own!)

Hello! I’m an international student and I’d like to ask if Economics module is considered to be more like global economics or microeconomics is also included?

Hey Elia, so the economics is divided into Microeconomics and macroeconomic each year which are compulsory if you choose Economics as your pathway. Beyond that the economics is very diverse and there are various modules to choose from, you can do development economics for example or economic history or econometrics, it is very much tailored to what you are interested in and what you want to get out of the degree.

Do you have time for your personal interests?

I’d like to know that too. I’m worried about the transition to university.

Why did you choose this course in particular?

To be honest I was mostly interested in Philosophy, but I felt that in the long run I wanted to go into politics. That’s why I thought that some academic background in Economics and Politics would really help me shape my perspective. I haven’t changed my mind, I still want to go into policy-making and I feel that so far the course was exactly what I expected and prepared me really well! Interdisciplinary study really empowers you to think critically and that’s a huge gain.

Thank you Laura! That’s good to know, thank you! Ah, okay, so it is possible to choose a level of Mathematics even for the compulsory modules (for the Economics side). So, if I understand correctly the optional modules I choose can go down the more/less quantitative route, but the compulsory modules will be similar to the Economics students?
Hello! Yes, on the PPE programme you can tailor your degree to what interests you. In your second year students choose a pathway, either a BA or BSc. So if you were to do the BSc, you can choose to take more Economics modules. You can view the course structure online: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ppe/prospective/undergraduate/study/course-structure

Course Structure

In the course of your studies, you’ll select your own individual pathway through the extensive module offerings, and so tailor the programme to your own passions and aspirations. For example, you can choose focus on two subjects in more depth, even taking up to 80% of your optional modules in one discipline, or you can choose to study all three subjects in equal proportion. Depending on your chosen pathway and modules, you can graduate with either a BA or BSc.

I also study History as one of my A-levels, so I would like to ask Mo - were the skills and content you learnt in History easily applicable and useful for the Politics side of your course? Or was it difficult to adjust to a subject you have never studied before?

That’s really helpful. Thank you.

What made you want to study at Warwick? I am honestly a bit confused: all the universities in the UK offer more or less the same courses... What makes Warwick special :)?

Is the student community quite supportive?

I feel it is very supportive. You have plenty of societies, some of them academic, some of them sporty and some of them social. You can find help with things like essays, job applications or your personal development - think public speaking, for instance.

Is there a lot of independent work required, or do you have many lessons? (I am in the French system and almost spend more hours studying at school than on my own!)

There's a lot more time for independent work. You will typically have 1-2 hours of lectures per module and 1 hour of seminar and then the rest is you. So that means if you have 5 modules you have 10 hours a week of school and the rest is independent study.

I am currently taking an online course for philosophy (on my own)... would it be helpful in the application process?

*online course

Do you have time for your personal interests?

Yes, but it does require you to have good time-management skills. Given that you have few contact hours per week, you need to decide yourself how you want to handle your independent study. It is advisable to be committed throughout the term rather than leave everything until exam time. But most students do sports or are part of a society, so you definitely have time to pursue your interests outside academia!
Also I'd like to ask if you could recommend an online course of Economics which would help me to get prepared for university?

I'd like to know that too. I'm worried about the transition to university

Does my previous reply answer your question or would you like to know more about this?

Which five modules do you study? What IS a module?

I also study History as one of my A-levels, so I would like to ask Mo - were the skills and content you learnt in History easily applicable and useful for the Politics side of your course? Or was it difficult to adjust to a subject you have never studied before?

So, I'd never studied politics and philosophy before I came into uni but in my first year everyone has Introduction to Politics and Introduction to Philosophy so that everyone has the same background knowledge. In terms of skills, the research skills and essay writing skills I gained from history were very useful for my essays because I already knew how to analyse and evaluate questions. Also the critical way of thinking you develop from studying history was also really helpful for developing arguments and actually right now I focus on Politics and Philosophy in my degree.

I am currently taking an online course for philosophy (on my own)... would it be helpful in the application process?

Hello Thabile, that would be good to mention in your personal statement yes. It is not a requirement to have studied the subject beforehand however. As in your 1st year at University all students study foundation modules in each department.

Which five modules do you study? What IS a module?

A module is like a subject. For instance I am studying these modules - Democracy and Authority, Issues in Political Theory, Dissertation, Hobbes and Rousseau etc.

Do you know anyone who entered Warwick university from warwick ifp? What kind of difficulties do they face?

That's VERY helpful, thank you so much Mo! Would you recommend students to do any prior introductory reading (textbooks) before September if they have not studied one of the subjects, or are those Introductory Modules at the beginning of the year sufficient?

What made you want to study at Warwick? I am honestly a bit confused: all the universities in the Uk offer more or less the same courses... What makes Warwick special?

And another question that I would like to ask is, do you discuss current political events in the news during your lectures or seminars in your Politics modules? Or is there not that much time for it, is that more for societies?
What made you want to study at Warwick? I am honestly a bit confused: all the universities in the UK offer more or less the same courses... What makes Warwick special?

The bridge model at Warwick PPE is what makes it special in my opinion because it means that I am not studying three different subjects: Philosophy, Politics and Economics but instead I am studying one subject PPE which brings all three disciplines together and shows how they are all related and combines them in its mode of analysis. Not many other units do this in the PPE course and I’ve found this really useful in my degree. Beyond that the PPE course is VERY flexible like I can choose my own modules and even my cores are optional so no two people doing PPE are doing the exact same thing and this means that my course is very specific to my interests. Also Warwick campus is really nice especially as I was an international student so it meant that able to make a home at Warwick because everyone was on campus and I could see my friends very easily. There are many great things about Warwick so be honest more than I can type, I 100% recommend.

Thank you Laura! That’s good to know, thank you! Ah, okay, so it is possible to choose a level of Mathematics even for the compulsory modules (for the Economics side). So, if I understand correctly the optional modules I choose can go down the more/less quantitative route, but the compulsory modules will be similar to the Economics students?

No problem at all! So in your first year, you can either do Maths A or Maths B. Same for Stats A and B. You also have a core module called Economics 1, which covers both Macro and Micro. BSc Students to these as separate modules and a bit more in-depth. If in your second year you choose to carry on with Econ, you have to do a module called Economics 2 - this is also slightly different from what BSc Econ students are doing. Other than that, the optional modules that you’d be choosing within the Econ department are the same as BSc students would be doing.

Also I’d like to ask if you could recommend an online course of Economics which would help me to get prepared for university?

so, there is this website I found really nice when I was doing economics at A levels. It might be useful for you just to have a look at the kinds of things economics focusses on in first year [https://www.economicshelp.org](https://www.economicshelp.org)

Economics Help

Essays on topical issues, latest developments in UK and global economies, and answers to readers questions

Thank you a lot Mo!

That makes much more sense now, thank you!! Would you say there is a big jump between Maths and Stats in the first year as compared to A level? Or is it much harder for those, who have not done Further Maths?

And another question that I would like to ask is, do you discuss current political events in the news during your lectures or seminars in your Politics modules? Or is there not that much time for it, is that more for societies?

Well, it depends really! Sometimes we do cover recent events in our seminars, and sometimes questions related to these come up in exams as well. We are strongly encouraged to read the news and keep ourselves updated. Some modules are more theoretical and cover political thinkers from the past. Other than that, I did discuss a lot of issues relevant to global affairs in the MUN society, which was very helpful.

Thank you so much for answering Laura, that really helps!
Do you know anyone who entered Warwick university from warwick ifp? What kind of difficulties do they face?

Hello Ella,
All students who successfully complete the Warwick IFP and apply to Warwick through UCAS will receive a guaranteed conditional offer for a related undergraduate programme. More information is available online; https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses-2020/ppe

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (BA/BSc) (Full-Time, 2020 Entry)
98% of graduates agreed Warwick’s Philosophy, Politics and Economics course is intellectually stimulating. Society’s big problems like climate change and the refugee crisis are best understood through interdisciplinary perspectives, which Warwick’s PPE will allow students to examine and answer.

That’s VERY helpful, thank you so much Mo! Would you recommend students to do any prior introductory reading (textbooks) before September if they have not studied one of the subjects, or are those Introductory Modules at the beginning of the year sufficient?

To be honest, I didn’t do any and I found first year quite okay because all the content in new and Introductory and they don’t expect you to know so before hand. But, if you do want to do any, I believe there are some on the PPE website that are recommended. Two books that will be a short read and very nice are - A Very Short Introduction to Politics and A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy. I don’t know if there is an economics one but they are very cheap lie £5 or so.

What made you want to study at Warwick? I am honestly a bit confused: all the universities in the UK offer more or less the same courses... What makes Warwick special?

Once I had my offers, I had to weigh Warwick against other universities. For me, a very important thing was that Warwick allowed me to specialise in 2 subjects rather than make it compulsory to carry on with all three. Another thing was its position on league tables and the fact that it’s very targeted by employers. Warwick is very strong in all three departments, and there are so many opportunities for student research, and I find that amazing!

Must I be really at ease with English to study philosophy? I am currently studying philosophy at school (in French), and I realise how fluent I must be to express my ideas well!!

Thank you Chloe!!

Thank you Mo, I have heard of these books. Thank you for the help!

That makes much more sense now, thank you!! Would you say there is a big jump between Maths and Stats in the first year as compared to A level? Or is it much harder for those, who have not done Further Maths?

I didn’t do A-levels, I did the Romanian Baccalaureate in higher Maths and I found the Maths B level quite easy! I chose Stats A and had high marks in that, but I know that some people who chose Stats B struggled a bit with that.

Thank you so much for answering Laura, that really helps!
Thats a pleasure!

What grades are expected to get in? I guess you have to be really motivated... Is it important to take part in charities, like for Oxford/Cambridge?
Thank you Laura!

Must I be really at ease with English to study philosophy? I am currently studying philosophy at school (in French), and I realise how fluent I must be to express my ideas well!!

Well truthfully there is a diverse background of students on the PPE course, I have a few French friends and I don't know that they have had any difficulties but even if they have, there is English Language support for anyone who needs it.

That makes much more sense now, thank you!! Would you say there is a big jump between Maths and Stats in the first year as compared to A level? Or is it much harder for those, who have not done Further Maths?

Hi Milena,

Just to add that there are weekly Maths and Stats drop in session to support students with any questions or concerns students may have that are studying both modules. So there is a lot of support available for students should they need it.

Sunt fericta sa intalnesc oameni din Romania!!! I lived in Romania for a long time - are there many international students?

Thank you Chloe, that is good to know and will be useful! Speaking of support, is there a Careers center of some sort that will help students find internship/work experience related to their subject area during non-term time? Or is that solely up to the student to find it?

Don't forget that the Admissions team will be online Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They'll be answering your questions on entry requirements and applying to Warwick. You can sign up at [www.warwick.ac.uk/livechat/wow](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/livechat/wow).

**Warwick Online Week**

We host regular chats all year round, and you can find the upcoming chat schedule here.

What grades are expected to get in? I guess you have to be really motivated... Is it important to take part in charities, like for Oxford/Cambridge?

The entry requirements for PPE are:

- A level - A*AA plus GCSE Mathematics A/T or above.
- IB - 38 points to include 5 in Standard Level Maths / Maths Studies.

We welcome applications from students with other internationally recognised qualifications. More information is available online: [https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses-2020/ppe](https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses-2020/ppe).

If you are unsure what the level is for you, please get in contact with our Admissions team by emailing: ugamissions@warwick.ac.uk.

**Philosophy, Politics and Economics (BA/BSc) (Full-Time, 2020 Entry)**

98% of graduates agreed Warwick’s Philosophy, Politics and Economics course is intellectually stimulating. Society’s big problems like climate change and the refugee crisis are best understood through interdisciplinary perspectives, which Warwick’s PPE will allow students to examine and answer.
Likewise! Yes, there are many international students on campus - more than half are from outside the UK. This always makes our seminar discussions very interesting. There are societies dedicated to many countries - so students can easily find friends from the same areas.

Thank you Chloe, that is good to know and will be useful! Speaking of support, is there a Careers center of some sort that will help students find internship/work experience related to their subject area during non-term time? Or is that solely up to the student to find it?

Yes there’s an overwhelming amount of support for Careers and Skills. We have a careers and skills website, a lot of careers fairs and a lot of careers events that are advertised via email, the school app and via the PPE department. At PPE we also have a specific careers advisor dedicated to us and we even have a specific PPE careers talk for all PPE students this Thursday. The PPE society also does a lot of careers events like CV workshops for example and generally offer a lot of support. You will definitely have a lot of careers and skills support if you want.

That’s amazing! Thank you so much!

Thank you very much for all your answers! I feel slightly less confused :)

Do Warwick IfP students study in the same building as you? Or there is a different one for them?

You’re welcome. If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us by emailing PPEoffice@warwick.ac.uk.

Another question: French universities don’t really care about extra-curricular activities. Is it important though, for the application process? Does the activity need to have a link with the course I want to apply to?

Do Warwick IfP students study in the same building as you? Or there is a different one for them?

Hello Ella, all classes are taught across campus.

Warwick IFP have the chance for you to also talk to current students, so it might be useful for you to also contact them as they might be able to answer your questions about Warwick IFP in more detail. Information on when these chats take place is available online: https://warwick.ac.uk/study/ifp/studentvoices/

Student Voices

Hear more from our students

Just to let you know the chat is due to end in 10 minutes, so please let us know if you have any final questions. If we are unable to answer your question, please contact us by email at PPEoffice@warwick.ac.uk.

Thank you so much Chloe! I’ll register for the IfP chat then! Thanks for all the useful information all of you gave. 👏 hand-rose:
You're welcome Ella. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the PPE Office by emailing PPEoffice@warwick.ac.uk

Another question: French universities don’t really care about extra-curricular activities. Is it important though, for the application process? Does the activity need to have a link with the course I want to apply to?

As you probably know, for the UCAS application, you need to write a personal statement. If you took part in extracurricular activities that relate to the course you're applying for, then I think it is something that you might want to include. I myself covered things outside academia - I wrote about being Head of the Student Council and some fundraising activities that I coordinated. But I always linked those back to the reason why I want to do PPE, and what skills and knowledge I acquired. I believe that the character limit for the personal statement is quite harsh, so you might want to think about how everything you include there supports your application!

That is helpful, thank you!

With pleasure!

Thank you for joining us and asking your questions. We really enjoyed chatting with you and we look forward to chatting with you again next time - you can find our chat schedule at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ppe/prospective/undergraduate/livechat. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us a PPEoffice@warwick.ac.uk.

**PPE Live Chat**

The University of Warwick's PPE programme is running Live Chats to give you the chance to chat with current students and ask us your questions.