

Department of Political Science

Explore new ideas



The world we live in is more complicated than ever

The COVID-19 pandemic. A rapidly changing climate. Unprecedented levels of migration. Populism, nationalism, protectionism.

“Studying Political Science with us at Carleton can help you make sense of these significant transformations that will define your life and our world.

We prepare our students to become citizens of the world, exploring big ideas and innovative thinking to address the many complex issues in Canada and globally.

Our back-to-basics approach will guide you through the foundations of the discipline and enable you to explore in depth some of the core fields of political science, such as international relations, comparative politics, political philosophy, and public policy. Through your academic journey, you'll hone research, writing, and communication skills that are essential for almost any career path you choose to pursue.

Our programs offer exciting opportunities and unparalleled experiences in the heart of the nation's capital. Whether it's on-the-job learning through a co-op placement or internship, or the chance to meet leaders from government, politics, and public life from around the world, at Carleton you can explore politics in action!

Political Science Degree Programs

Our undergraduate BA degree programs include:

- Political Science BA
- Political Science BA Honours
- Political Science BA Combined Honours
- Minor in Political Science

carleton.ca/polisci

Students can add a **concentration** to their degree, to specialize in a field of study in Political Science, or tailor their program and explore study paths that complement their interests.

CONCENTRATIONS

- Canadian Politics
- Comparative Politics and Area Studies (*Global North*)
- Comparative Politics and Area Studies (*Global South*)
- Gender and Politics
- International Relations
- North American Politics
- Political Theory
- Public Affairs and Policy Analysis

MINOR STUDIES

- Disability Studies
- News Media and Information
- South Asian Studies
- Technology, Society, and Environment
- African Studies
- Communication and Media Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- Psychology
- Law

Real-World Experiences

Carleton Political Science students have exciting experiential learning opportunities outside the classroom — to meet, learn, and work with experts and experienced practitioners in a wide range of settings.

Co-op Program:

Get hands-on paid work experience and access to an unparalleled network of employers in Canada's National Capital Region and around the country.

International Internships:

Gain international experience, hone your second language, and meet people from around the world, all while earning course credits toward your degree, including in Washington D.C.

Political Science Internships:

With our internship opportunities, put your academic work into practice, learn new skills, and earn a credit, all while completing your degree.

Research Internships and Mentorships:

And, if you are keen on doing research, the Faculty of Public Affairs also offers opportunities for senior Political Science students to earn credits and gain practical research experience in the summer.

International Exchange:

Go on an international exchange for a term — study full-time and earn credits toward your Carleton degree at one of over 175 partner institutions around the world.

A Strong Reputation for Learning and Support

Carleton's **Department of Political Science** is among the largest and most respected programs in Canada. Our department is large enough to provide a wide range of courses, but small enough for individual students to find a supportive community of scholars.

We have a diverse, internationally-renowned faculty to guide you on your path, including award-winning researchers and teachers, visiting scholars, guest speakers, and practitioners.

First-year seminars (FYSM) offer students a unique opportunity to experience learning in a seminar setting — something most university students can't do until their third or fourth year of study. Our FYSM focus on special topics in Political Science that change from year to year. The courses are designed to encourage learning and discussion together with the acquisition of essential skills and strategies to ease the transition to university.

Keenan Reynolds

BA Honours, Second Year Student
International Relations Concentration

“

I chose to study at Carleton because of the unmatched proximity to the epicentre of Canadian federal politics, the Parliament of Canada, and also because, as an Ottawa native, I absolutely love everything the city has to offer.



Sample FIRST YEAR Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fall Term	Political Science 1100 Democracy in Theory and Practice	Political Science 1501 The Politics of Migration		First Year Seminar 1611 Are You a Feminist?	Political Science 1200 World Politics
		French 1001* French I		French 1001* French I	
Winter Term	Human Rights 1001 Intro to Human Rights	Indigenous Studies 1011 Intro to Indigenous-Settler Encounters	Law 1001 Intro to Legal Studies		Political Science 1500 Technology, Nature, Power
		Cognitive Science 1001 Mysteries of the Mind			

Students in the Honours BA program must complete 9.0 credits in Political Science, 11.0 elective credits, and must be proficient in a language other than English. Students in the BA 3-year program must complete 6.0 credits in Political Science and 9.0 elective credits. Most courses are 3 hours per week for one semester and are worth 0.5 credit.



“**Osman Elmi**
BA Honours Fifth Year
And Vice President, Student Life, Carleton
University Students’ Association

One thing that I love about Carleton is the Carleton community. There are over 300 clubs and societies here. One of my favourite campus events is the annual Panda Game! So, while you’re here, you can focus on your studies and also have a great time!



The Faculty of Public Affairs

The Department of Political Science is part of the **Faculty of Public Affairs** (FPA), which brings together academic units that deal directly with government and civil society, with a mission to foster informed citizenship and help build democracy at home and abroad. It is the only Faculty of its kind in Canada and uniquely suited to its location in Canada’s capital city.

With over 225 faculty members, and 8100 students, the Faculty of Public Affairs attracts students and scholars who seek to interact with and bring positive change to the community and world around them.

The Faculty offers undergraduate students hands-on research experience through its Research Experience course (IPAF 4900) and the Carleton University Research Opportunity Program (CUROP). It also offers interdisciplinary courses for undergraduate students, such as Developing and Managing Your Career (IPAF 3800) and Professional Speechwriting (IPAF 4800).

Read more about the Faculty and its people in **FPA Voices**.

carleton.ca/fpa



Improve Governance & Public Policy
Build a Better Society
Build Better Democracy
Foster Informed Citizenship
Address Regional & Global Challenges

Where Can a Degree in Political Science Take You?

There are many Career Paths you can explore with a degree in Political Science!

Graduates of our program have gone on to varied careers as diplomats and ambassadors, ministers and deputy ministers, policy analysts, information and communications officers, journalists, lawyers, pollsters, lobbyists, and consultants.

They are employed in the public service at the federal, provincial, and municipal level; non-governmental and international organizations; think tanks and consultancies, and other private sector firms.

Skills & Competencies

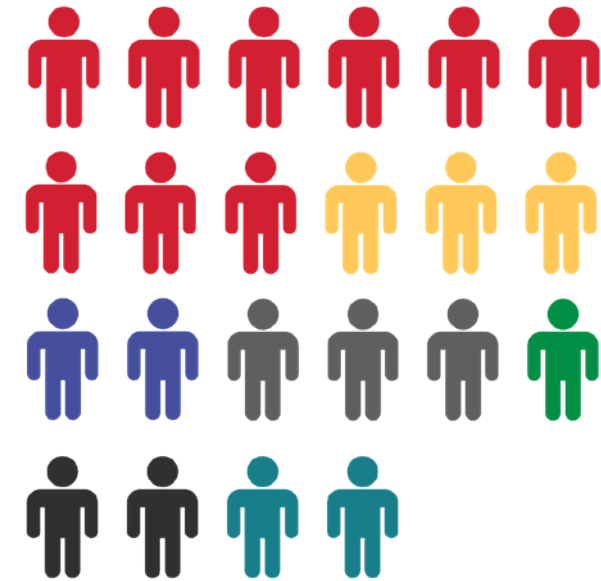
Research skills: Locate and evaluate information from a range of sources; analyze and interpret numerical data using statistical techniques; develop qualitative and quantitative research designs.

Analytic skills: Understand complex political issues and policies; read critically; logically synthesize themes, concepts, and information; compare and contrast ideas and perspectives; apply ethical reasoning to problems and issues.

Communications skills: write persuasively for a variety of audiences and in a variety of formats including memos, letters, brief reports, and complex analytics papers.

Teamwork and collaboration: Work collaboratively with others to achieve common objectives; apply interpersonal skills to negotiate and prioritize team goals; assess and manage group dynamics with empathy and respect for others.

Global and intercultural fluency: Knowledge of and openness to diverse cultures, practices, and politics in Canada and throughout the world; demonstrate inclusiveness and sensitivity with all people.



40%	Government
13%	Education
10%	Other Service Industries
12%	Professions
6%	Finance, Insurance, Property
8%	Media, Communication, IT
9%	Health Care, Social Support
2%	Resources, Manufacturing, Trades

This graph shows outcomes from 11,700 Political Science alumni since 2005. Some students in this sample have also completed other degrees, including at more advanced levels. Individual experiences and outcomes can differ from those represented here.

Career Services

Career Services assists Carleton students not only in making the transition from school to work, but also in developing their professional skills starting in first year. You can consult with career counsellors, attend career workshops, networking events, and job fairs, find volunteer and employment opportunities, and start mapping your career!

carleton.ca/career



Vika Bereza

BA Honours in Political Science
With Co-operative Education
Class of 2020

Carleton was a chance to discover me, my passions, and my future career. I am endlessly grateful for the community and the wealth of opportunities I found. From facilitating Skills Development Workshops and giving campus tours to being the President of the Carleton Political Science Society and finding a career in my field through the co-op program, I have been shaped and moulded by this place. The skills I learned and experiences brought me to where I am now — a public servant with the Government of Canada.

Awards and Scholarships

In addition to awards open to students in all disciplines, Political Science students are also eligible for numerous program-specific awards and scholarships, including:

- The R.A. MacKay Award in Political Science
- The Honorable Walter Baker Memorial Scholarship in Political Science
- The Vered Foundation Scholarship
- The David J. Bellamy Memorial Scholarship
- The Garret Elsey Memorial Award

How Do I Apply?

For more information about the application and admissions process at Carleton, including admission criteria, dates, and deadlines, visit Undergraduate Admissions.

Sign up for **Carleton360** to receive more information that is customized to your interests and shows you what your future at Carleton can look like.

360.carleton.ca
admissions.carleton.ca

Admission Requirements

- High School Diploma or equivalent, with six Grade 12 courses at the 4U or 4M level
- Required course: English (ENG4U)
- Cut-off Range: 75-77%

Experiential Learning

- Co-operative Education
- International and Domestic Internships



Calissa Daly

BA Honours in Political Science
Class of 2020

Being a student-athlete has taught me a lot about time management and hard work, but being a student-athlete at Carleton has specifically shown me that our faculty is there to support you in all of your goals, whether they are academic or not.

athletics.carleton.ca



Photo credits:
Valerie Wutti, Kevin Daly, Laurel Jarvis.

Get Involved on Campus!

The student-run **Carleton Political Science Society** hosts social and academic events, including an annual Model Parliament on Parliament Hill. You can be part of the delegation for Carleton's **United Nations Society** or **Model NATO** or join one of the many politically oriented campus clubs and societies. And, if you're interested in current events and cutting-edge research, the Department hosts speakers, seminars, and discussions throughout the year.

Co-Curricular Record

While at Carleton, students are encouraged to participate in the campus and local communities — joining clubs, attending events and lectures, and participating in community outreach programs. The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) system records students' involvement in leadership, development, and extracurricular activities, as well as community service opportunities, so they become part of your official record from Carleton.

carleton.ca/se/ccr

Check out the Department of Political Science Podcasts!

Our podcast series highlights the research of the department on the issues of the day, and features interviews with guests and students.

carleton.ca/polisci/podcasts

The Carleton Advantage

Carleton University, Canada's Capital University, is a dynamic and innovative university with a strong commitment to teaching, research, and learning. Our academic programs, capital location, career focus, experiential learning and global possibilities provide countless opportunities for learning to happen both inside and outside the classroom.

As a Carleton student, you'll have access to an unparalleled package of academic and co-curricular initiatives to complement and support your university experience, including:

- The Student Experience Office (SEO)
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAC)
- Academic Advising Centre
- International Student Services Office (ISSO)
- Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC)
- Health and Counselling Services
- University Registrar's Office (RO)
- Career Services
- Clubs and Societies
- Carleton Athletics



Julia Parsons

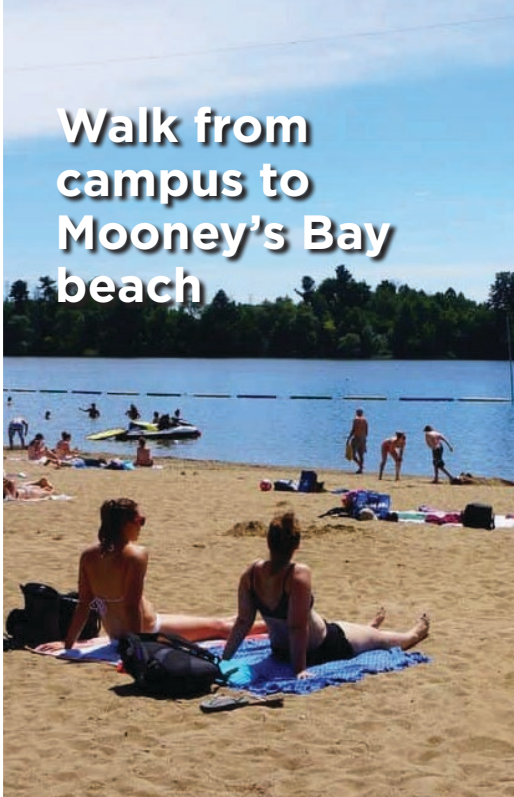
BA Honours in Political Science
Class of 2018

Being so close to Parliament and to the centre of decision-making in our country opens a world of opportunities for internships and volunteer positions. At Carleton, there's plenty of campus clubs focused on public policy and Canadian politics...and organizations that facilitate volunteer placements on Parliament Hill. Some classes might even have MPs as guest speakers or visit Question Period live.

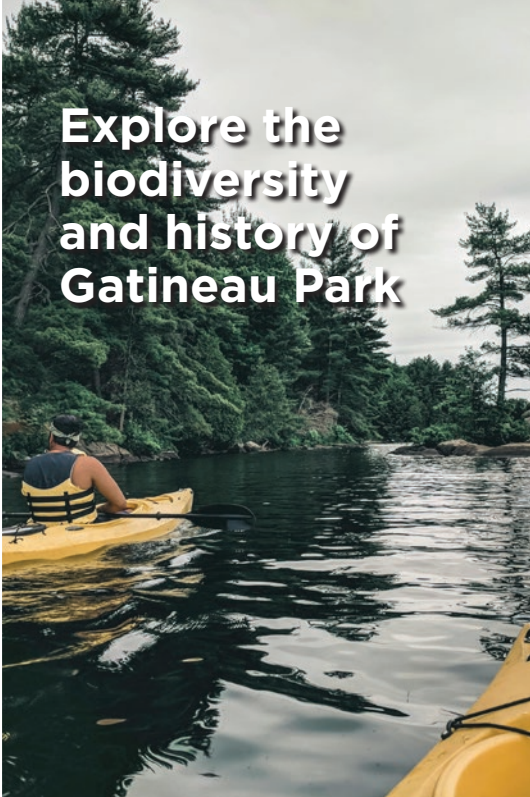


Enjoy over 900 km of cycling paths and trails

Photos by Ottawa Tourism.



Walk from campus to Mooney's Bay beach



Explore the biodiversity and history of Gatineau Park

Exploring Ottawa

Consistently ranked as one of Canada's most livable and safe cities, Ottawa is part of the spectacular National Capital Region, which spans the Ontario-Quebec border, crisscrossed by the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Rideau Rivers. You can explore the region year-round on foot, bicycle, or skis, along hundreds of kilometres of trails and multi-use paths. And of course, the Rideau Canal — a designated UNESCO World-Heritage site — is just steps from Carleton's campus, so you can paddle or skate to the heart of the city to explore Parliament Hill, our national museums and galleries, and the tastes and sounds of the Byward Market.

Ottawa is also known for its many festivals such as Bluesfest, Tulip Festival, Winterlude, and much more.

A Snapshot

With an area of 2796 km², Ottawa and the greater Ottawa region covers more land areas than Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, and Montreal combined.

Ottawa has the largest tech park and federal employment node in Canada. It's home to a young, vibrant, entrepreneurial workforce, with a bilingual rate of 44%, and more engineers, scientists, and PhDs per capita than any other city in Canada.

For graduate students who choose to study here, Ottawa offers invaluable research facilities and work opportunities at the numerous agencies, institutions, and businesses located in the city — no matter where your tastes and interests lie, you'll find something here for you!





Carleton
University

Department of
Political Science

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