Political Science

at Stockholm University

Department of Political Science
Welcome to the
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

What is political science?

Political science is the study of politics. Our teaching and research involves power, democracy, equality, and organisation – to name just a few areas. When you study political science, you will learn how to understand, explain, and evaluate political life and democratic processes. You will also train your ability to critically assess and analyse the world around you.

Why study political science at Stockholm University?

Our teachers include experts on a wide range of topics within the subject – from children’s rights in the EU to the relationship between businesses and local populations in Peru. At the same time, they are researchers, which means they are constantly keeping themselves updated within their fields of specialisation in order to be able to pass on their expertise to you as a student. When you study in Stockholm, you are also in close geographical proximity to important political institutions.

Our education is characterised by the many opportunities you have as a student to choose a specialisation for your studies. In addition to the courses and programmes presented here, we participate in the International Bachelor's Programme in Business Administration and Political Science.

"The training has been important and provided me with good tools for use in my professional life. I have gained confidence, and my skills are appreciated by others in my workplace."

- quotation from the Department’s alumni survey
What does a political scientist do?

The labour market for political scientists is broad, spanning both the public and private sectors. Students who have graduated from our programmes are now working as investigators engaged in public or private studies or commissions of inquiry, analysts, equality consultants, development strategists, communication officers, advisers, municipal secretaries, EU officials, political secretaries, attachés to the UN, etc.

Common workplaces include government agencies (e.g. Sida, the Swedish National Audit Office), the Swedish Parliament, municipalities, embassies, trade unions, think tanks, and aid organisations. Some of our students have also chosen to remain at the Department as teachers and researchers. Our alumni (former students) include several political reporters, finance ministers, editors-in-chief, television hosts, and director generals, as well as one speaker of the Swedish Parliament and two prime ministers!

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www.statsvet.su.se/english
Political Science I to III
– Bachelor’s level

Are you interested in how politics works?

Political science provides knowledge of key political issues and concepts. What is power? What is democracy? What is a citizen? You will learn more about ideas, institutions, and processes in political theory, Swedish politics and administration, comparative politics, and international politics. Political knowledge is placed in an academic framework and discussed from a variety of theoretical perspectives. In addition, you will be provided with tools that will allow you to independently interpret, examine, and evaluate information and research findings.

Bachelor’s level studies at the Department of Political Science consist of three levels that are taken consecutively: Political Science I, II, and III. You can also take courses in other subjects in order to design your own degree. Courses corresponding to a total of 180 credits, with political science as the main field of study, can be combined for a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science in Political Science, depending on which other subjects you choose to study. You will also be eligible to apply to our master’s programmes.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (Political Science I)
The Swedish upper secondary school courses English B/English 6 and Social Studies A or equivalents.
studievagledare@statsvet.su.se
Political Science
– Master’s level

For those who wish to continue their studies we provide two-year master’s programmes in political science.

International Master’s Programme in Political Science,
120 ECTS

The International Master’s Programme in Political Science offers breadth and depth in the study of politics. The programme aims at assisting students in developing a critical understanding of the theoretical and practical dimensions of the subject, and combines vocational elements with specialised courses in political science. During the third semester, students write a master’s thesis. During the fourth semester, students have the opportunity to do an internship or to study abroad.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with at least 90 ECTS credits in Political Science. The Swedish upper secondary school course English B/English 6 or equivalent.
master@statsvet.su.se

International Master’s Programme in Environmental Social Science,
120 ECTS

The International Master’s Programme in Environmental Social Science aims at providing students with knowledge of how to approach environmental problems from a social science perspective. It is an interdisciplinary programme that focuses on what governs people’s behaviour, beliefs, and ways of organising in relation to the natural environment.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Bachelor’s degree (180 ECTS) in a social science subject, including a thesis corresponding to at least 15 ECTS credits, or a Bachelor’s degree (180 ECTS), including a thesis corresponding to at least 15 ECTS credits, in one of the following subjects: Geography with a specialisation in human geography, History with a specialisation in environmental history, Law Studies with a specialisation in environmental law, or Environmental Science with a social science specialisation.
impress@su.se
Internship

As a student at our department, you have the opportunity of doing an internship, either as an independent course or within one of our programmes. This allows you to complement your studies with practical experiences from a workplace. Surveys among our former students show that this is very beneficial in finding a job upon graduation.

Enrolling in a political science programme at Stockholm University that includes an internship comes with a major benefit, that of being in close proximity to the centre of power: the Swedish Parliament, the Government Offices, the ministries, and various government agencies. Former students have also done internships at the European Commission, the UN, the Swedish Institute, LO (the Swedish Trade Union Confederation), the Red Cross, and various Swedish embassies in other countries.

Study abroad

As a student at the Department of Political Science, you have great opportunities for pursuing part of your education in another country.

The Department’s exchange agreement within the Erasmus+ programme allows you to choose between a number of European universities, including ones in Brussels, Vienna, Paris, Barcelona, London, Berlin, and Glasgow.

Another opportunity to gain experience abroad is to apply for one of the Department’s Minior Field Studies (MFS). MFS scholarships are funded by Sida. An MFS scholarship allows you to conduct field work in a developing country as the basis for a research paper or thesis.

In addition, you can apply for exchange studies through one of Stockholm University’s central agreements, which provide opportunities to study in countries such as Australia, Russia, and the United States.

Doctoral studies in political science

Would you like to undertake even more specialised studies? Apply to our doctoral programme! As a doctoral student in political science, you will acquire advanced knowledge of political science that you will be able to apply as a researcher, teacher, and expert on politics, organisations, and media. The doctoral programme leads to a PhD in political science.
A few of the teachers at the Department

**Karin Bäckstrand**
Karin conducts research on global environmental policy and has participated in the UN’s negotiations on climate and sustainable development since 2002. Karin is the coordinator of the International Master’s Programme in Environmental Social Science and teaches international climate and environmental policy.

**Eva Erman**
Eva conducts research in the field of political philosophy and studies normative issues involving, for example, global democracy, global justice, and human rights. She primarily teaches courses in political theory with a focus on democratic theory, democracy beyond the nation state, and ideal and non-ideal theory.

**Merrick Tabor**
Merrick is one of our most seasoned teachers. He teaches method, comparative politics, and international relations at the bachelor’s and master’s levels and is also responsible for the Department’s exchange programmes. He is a committed and valued teacher who has been awarded the University’s teaching award.

**Jonas Tallberg**
Jonas is one of Sweden’s most published and cited political scientists and has received many prestigious awards for this research. His fields of expertise are international institutions and EU politics. Jonas teaches international politics and is the coordinator of the course “Global and Regional Governance” within our master’s programme.
Our students

At our Department, you have good opportunities to influence your education in various ways, for example by participating in course evaluations, joining a student association, or acting as a representative on one of the departmental bodies.

Statsvetenskapliga ämnesrådet (SVÄR) is the body responsible for protecting your interests at the Department. SVÄR also works with labour market days, equality issues, and student pubs.

“I chose this field of study because I am interested in politics and wanted to gain deeper knowledge of how government works.”
- Alexander Satarzada
  Bachelor’s Programme in Economics and Political Science

“The best thing about the programme is that we have such committed teachers who are also active researchers. This means you learn something new in every course module.”
- Mona Camara Sylvan
  International Master’s Programme in Political Science
Contact

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