

What's Next?

How to Utilize a Political Science Degree



Political Science Association

Proudly Presented by the Western Political Science Association

Agenda

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INTRODUCTION

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WHAT'S NEXT?

An overview of your options after graduation, including advice from professors and alumni

03

Q&A

Featuring our 3 guest speakers!



Welcome!

- Please mute your mic
- Submit any questions you have through the chat function. They will be answered at the end of the presentation
- Slides will be available on our linktree after the event
- Disclaimer: this is just a general guideline and overview of your options after graduation, not a comprehensive list

Some of your (many) options...



Law School



Graduate School



International Careers



Government

Applying to Law School



Law Schools in Canada

- 24 law schools across Canada, offering degrees in common law and/or civil law and in one/both official languages
- General admissions requirements:
 - LSAT scores
 - Usually written in the summer after third year
 - Different schools treat multiple writings differently (average, highest, etc.)
 - Transcript and GPA (3.6 on average)
 - Personal Essays/Statement
 - Reference Letters
- Application deadlines: usually the first week of November (in Ontario)

Law Schools in Canada

- University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- Osgoode Hall Law School (York University)
- Allard School of Law (University of British Columbia)
- McGill University Faculty of Law
 - Students graduate with both a JD and BCL (civil law)
 - Applicants must demonstrate at least passive bilingualism
- Lincoln Alexander School of Law (Ryerson University)
 - Has an Integrated Practice Curriculum (no articling required)

For more info: <https://ccl-d-cdfdc.ca/law-schools/>

Ontario Law Schools Application Centre: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/>



Law Schools Outside of Canada

- US Law Schools:
 - Top law schools: T14 schools are recognized by any legal employer for the reputation, education, and network they provide
- UK Law Schools:
 - Students with an undergraduate degree can finish their JD degree in two years instead of the usual three
 - No LSAT required!
 - University of Leicester: over 100 Canadian students every year
- Returning to Canada:
 - Two options for accreditation:
 - i. Apply to a Canadian law school to complete your remaining courses
 - Ex. York University Master of Laws (Canadian Common Law)
 - ii. Complete the NCA examinations
 - Self-study, takes around 1-2 years

Master's Programs in Political Science

"Holding a MA in Political Science can be a springboard to securing more senior positions in the federal and provincial civil service corps, and also in accessing government consulting, media and NGO roles."

- Professor Cristine de Clercy



Political Science MA in Canada

- Applications are usually due mid-end of January
- General Application Requirements:
 - An honours specialization degree
 - Reference letters
 - Statement of research/interest
 - Past written work
 - Transcript (around a 78% average)
- General Fields of Focus:
 - Canadian Politics
 - Comparative Politics
 - International Relations
 - Political Theory

MA Programs In Canada

- University of Toronto
- McGill University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Ottawa
- Carleton University
- University of Waterloo
- York University
- Western University
- University of Windsor
- University of Calgary
- Queen's University

The best school for you depends on which area of political science you want to focus on!

For more info: <https://www.universitymagazine.ca/best-political-science-schools-in-canada-2021/>



Outside of Canada

- Harvard University
 - Does not offer a Master's Degree exclusively, only a Ph.D
- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge
- Sciences Po
- London School of Economics

For more info: <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2019/politics>

Undergraduate Summer Research Internship

- A paid internship from May to August, valued at a minimum of \$7,500
- Work closely with a professor in the faculty, and present your research at an exhibition event at the end of the summer
- For more info: <https://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/students/usri.html>

Research Affiliate Program

- For current post-secondary students who want to conduct research and gain experience with federal organizations
 - Opportunities for laboratory, field and social science research.
- For more info: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-service-commission/jobs/services/recruitment/students/research-affiliate-program.html>

Cristine de Clercy

Associate Professor, Western University



“ A Master of Arts program offers the opportunity to build upon the skills and abilities you have developed as an undergrad though working at a more sophisticated level. It also provides a chance to see whether you like working in an intensive academic environment, which is helpful for people considering academics as a possible career path.

My students over the last 20 years who have completed MA PoliSci degrees have gone on to achieve success in a wide variety of employment areas including: government relations; banking; currency and payments regulation; health care administration; law; party politics; aviation administration; and international trade.

”



Christopher Alcantara

Professor, Western University



“

Learn quantitative and qualitative methods during your political science graduate degree. Being comfortable reading and conducting qualitative and quantitative research will maximize your success in graduate school and in the job market afterwards.

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International Organizations

United Nations

- Internships, volunteer programs and opportunities for young professionals
- For more info: <https://www.un.org/en/get-involved#:~:text=You%20can%20apply%20and%20become,are%20in%20the%20private%20sector.>

United Nations Refugee Agency

- Work to protect and assist people fleeing conflict and persecution
- A variety of international short-term and fixed-term contracts, both at field locations or at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva
- For more info and job listings: <https://www.unhcr.org/careers.html>

NGOs

- **International Rescue Committee:** <https://rescue.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home?c=rescue>
- **Front Line Defenders:** <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/recruitment-volunteering>.
- **Save the Children:** <https://www.savethechildren.net/careers/apply>.
- **Oxfam:** <https://recruitment.oxfam.org/>.
- **Human Rights Watch:** https://recruiting.ultipro.com/HUM1004HRW/JobBoard/1f3f0ff9-99fb-4df2-8d3b-d832e12107eb/?q=&o=postedDateDesc&f5=SeV2_z5CcU2z5-ftB06xBA.
- **Human Rights First:** <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/careers>.
- **Amnesty International:** <https://careers.amnesty.org/vacancy/find/results/>.
- **Freedom House:** <https://freedomhouse.org/about-us/careers>.
- **Open Society Foundations:** <https://osfglobal.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/OSF>
 - For information on fellowships: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants>.

Working in Government



Federal Public Service

Government of Canada:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/opportunities/government.html>
- Provides government job listings, information on how to apply to government jobs, employment opportunities for students, and much more!

Post-Secondary Recruitment Program (Government of Canada):

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-service-commission/jobs/services/recruitment/graduates/post-secondary-recruitment.html>
- Listings for entry-level federal officer jobs across Canada, for recent university and college graduates

The Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP):

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-service-commission/jobs/services/recruitment/students/federal-student-work-program.html>
- For students who want to gain valuable, hands-on learning experience in their field of study
 - No previous work experience is required!

Parliamentary Internship Program

- A paid, non-partisan internship for university graduates at Parliament Hill from September to June
- Each intern completes placements with two MPs– one from the government and one from the opposition
- Applications are due at the end of January
- For more info: <https://pip-psp.org/>

Ontario Legislative Internship Program

- A paid, non-partisan internship for university graduates from September to July
- Each intern completes placements with two MPPs – one government MPP and one opposition MPP
- Applications are due at the end of January
- Fore more info: <https://www.olipinterns.ca/>

B.C. Legislative Internship Program

- For more info: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/content-peo/pages/legislative-internship-program.aspx>



David Hinca

Sales Director, Ontario for Desjardins
Insurance Pension Management

ABOUT DAVID

- Graduated from Western with a BA in Political Science and Economics
- Has experience working for federal and provincial cabinet ministers

HIS ADVICE

- Always network with people that you meet and stay connected. You never know where people will end up in their careers and may be able to help you in the future!
- Volunteer! Contact your MP or MPP and ask to get involved in their campaign. A Provincial election is coming up this year, so it is a great opportunity to get involved. You may have to work for free but the experience and network potential is worth it.
- Politics is unfortunately not a permanent career, so make sure you have a back up career plan. This is where networking helps out - with law, finance consulting etc.
- Believe in your value. Always show what you can bring to the table.



Anne Campbell

Parliamentary Intern, Parliamentary Internship Program

ABOUT ANNE

- Recently graduated from Western with a BA in Political Science
- Has experience in the USC, the Orientation program, and did research with a professor in the Political Science department.

HER ADVICE

- Develop strategies and ways that you are able to deal with stress, as well as find things that fill your happy bucket outside of your academic/professional life.
- It is completely normal to be a bit overwhelmed with what to do next! Just remember that a significant amount of polisci grads go through the same process. One thing to keep top of mind is that there is NO RUSH. You do not need to go to grad/ law school right away. What works for other people, may not work for you.



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Speakers



Eunice is the Vice-President of External Affairs at the USC and President at the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

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Camellia Wong is Communications Director at Future Majority, a national, non-partisan organization running the largest Millennial and GenZ voter mobilization program in the country.

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Sam is a PhD student in political science at Western University, with a likely focus on Canadian political parties, leadership, and executive institutions.

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Thank You!

Keep up with our upcoming events:

 @psawestern

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