

Here is an overview of the political science programme at the University of Salzburg and its professional perspectives. The programme offers an in-depth knowledge of political actors, institutions (polities), processes (politics), political culture and policies which helps to understand and to handle the complexity of globalization and the interdependent world we live in.

The programme looks at terms such as “multiculturalism” and deals with historical developments, cultural diversity, regional and international integration by offering appropriate sets of courses (*European Union Studies, Regional Studies*). It offers an analysis of the sustainability of current attitudes and behaviour for future generations (*Sustainability Studies*) or a focus on the change of gender relations and the development of strategies for establishing greater equality (*Gender Studies*).

It thus aims at providing a broad knowledge of political science with the five main subjects Political Theory, Comparative Politics (and Policies), Austrian Politics (in a comparative perspective), International Relations and Politics of the European Union, combined with several opportunities of specialization.

Please note that most course offerings are in German, although – increasingly – several courses are offered in English each year. Anyway, in most courses many readings are in English and student presentations in English are possible.

We believe that studying political science is useful not only for a professional career but also in personal life and for decisions as a citizen.

Dr. Franz Kok
Chair of Political Science Curriculum Committee

Prof. Anselm Skuhra
Head, Section Political Science

Studying Political Science

The BA-MA Study Programme of Political Science includes courses on the following main subjects of political science:

- *General introduction* to political science and its methods
- *Five main subjects* of political science:
 - Political Theory and History of Political Thought
 - Comparative Politics
 - Austrian Politics in a comparative perspective
 - International Relations
 - Politics of the European Union
- *Courses of neighbouring disciplines* and *optional subjects*

The Study Programme is divided into BA (Bachelor) and MA (Master) levels.

BA (Bachelor) in Political Science

The BA curriculum introduces students to the methodological basics (definitions of politics and science, techniques and methods of scientific research), gives an overview of neighbouring disciplines (economics, law, sociology, and history) and provides basic knowledge about politics and the main subjects of political science (Political Theory and History of Political Thought, Comparative Politics, Austrian Politics (in comparative perspective), International Relations and Politics of the EU). The compulsory courses in this framework comprise 46

semester hours and can be completed in six semesters. The BA thesis is written in one of the main subjects and should be 40 to 55 pages in length. Furthermore, an internship of eight weeks with a government agency, NGO, political party and the like is obligatory.

There are a number of optional courses to be chosen from the programme recommended by the Curriculum Commission. They serve to either obtain supplementary qualifications (16 hours of one particular subject) or specialised qualifications (24 hours of one particular subject). The recommended courses are published each semester in the university yearbook (online).

General recommendations for specialisation in the optional subject:

- Economics
- Law
- Foreign languages
- History
- Sociology
- Gender Studies
- European Union Studies
- Sustainability
- Regional Studies etc.

MA Curriculum in Political Science

The successful graduation from the BA curriculum or its equivalent is the precondition for enrolling in the MA programme. The latter includes eighteen semester hours of the main subjects and supplementary optional courses. The basic knowledge provided by the BA Studies is deepened and specialised during the MA programme. Students choose two out of the five main subjects. In one of them the MA thesis will be written, in both additional courses are possible.

The obligatory courses are focused on research and provide the skills for independent and critical scientific work. In pro-seminars and seminars, students write papers about a problem of political relevance of their own choice. They define main questions and hypotheses and analyse them. The average group size of these courses is about 15 students.

Specialisation in Political Science consists, first, of a *special field I*, in which students have to attend the obligatory courses (one seminar, one special pro-seminar and basic texts on the respective main subject as well as the MA seminar) and write the MA thesis (100 – 150 pages). Furthermore, they choose a *special field II*, in which they attend two courses in the respective main subject (seminar or pro-seminar and the basic texts pro-seminar on the respective main subject). Both special fields are part of the final MA exam.

Internship and study abroad

Research, specialization and professional relevance are essential elements of the political science curriculum.

The training in political science is supplemented by an obligatory internship of eight weeks in a non-academic institution. It can be scheduled at the end of the second semester at the earliest and is part of the BA curriculum.

Courses of four semester-hours have to be enrolled in a foreign language. These courses can be taken during studies abroad of one or two semesters at a university in a foreign country. Corresponding to the internationalization of academic work and cooperation, it is highly recommended that all students study one semester or an entire year abroad. A special network of partner universities in the framework of the ERASMUS-Programme is coordinated by the department and offers help and support (including financial support) to students who wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

The partner universities are in:

The Degrees

The BA curriculum provides basic knowledge about political science. Many students already work in institutions or organizations of political relevance during this phase.

The MA curriculum (MA thesis and MA exam) provides the students with the ability to handle the methods of political science in independent and critical research. The MA thesis provides for specialization in a given field in which students have to demonstrate their expertise and qualification.

Students who have further scientific interests and ambitions can extend their education by opting for doctoral studies and a dissertation of about 200 to 300 pages.

Professional perspectives

Unlike law or medicine, it is difficult to name a dominant professional model for students of Political Science. However, the Salzburg curriculum provides for a number of key qualifications which are highly useful in a wide range of professions: analytical thinking, critical research, problem solving, identification of problems, team work, writing skills and so on. Political scientists can be regarded as competent “managers” of political, social or economic problems in an ever more complex world.

Empirical data about the careers of political scientists show that they find employment mainly in public administration, interest groups, parties and media, but also in private enterprises. A smaller number is active in scientific research and teaching at universities and other institutions. Furthermore, political science graduates have the possibility to choose a diplomatic career. They can directly express their interest to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and undergo the entrance exam. For this purpose it is required to be fluent in English and French.

Experience shows that the programme selected by the students greatly affects the professional perspectives: relevant (volunteer or professional) activities, a fruitful internship, experience in living abroad, and the knowledge of foreign languages all help to find good employment. MA thesis and doctoral dissertation play a similar role. Empirical data show that political scientists have good chances on the labour market. The average political science graduate has to wait for only about three months after graduation to find employment.

Further information about studying political science, its programme and current courses in Salzburg is available online at: www.sbg.ac.at/pol or directly from Dr. Franz Kok as the chair of the PSc "Curricularkommission":

Rudolfskai 42, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
Tel. +43-662-8044-6613 DD
E-Mail: franz.kok@sbg.ac.at
Office hours: Monday 14–16

BA Curriculum in Political Science (180 ECTS-Credits respective 3 years)

General courses 21 ECTS-Credits	Main subjects (17 ECTS-Credits per subject)				
	Comparative Politics	Political Theory (and History of Political Thought)	International Relations	Austrian Poli- tics (in compa- rative perspec- tive)	Politics of the EU
PS Introduction to Political Science 6 ECTS-Credits	VO Introduction to Comparative Politics I 3 ECTS-Credits	VO Introduction to Polit. Theory I (and History of Polit. Thought) 3 ECTS-Credits	VO Introduc- tion to Inter- national Rela- tions I 3 ECTS-Credits	VO Introduc- tion to Austrian Politics I 3 ECTS-Credits	VO Introduc- tion to the Politics of the EU I 3 ECTS-Credits
VO Methods of Po- litical Science Re- search I 3 ECTS-Credits					
PS Methods of Po- litical Science Re- search (qualitative methods) II 6 ECTS-Credits	PS Introduc- tion to Compa- rative Politics II 6 ECTS-Credits	PS Introduc- tion to Polit. Theory II (and History of Polit. Thought) 6 ECTS-Credits	PS Introduc- tion to Inter- national Rela- tions II 6 ECTS-Credits	PS Introduc- tion to Austrian Politics II 6 ECTS-Credits	PS Introduc- tion to the Politics of the EU II 6 ECTS-Credits
PS Methods of Po- litical Science Re- search (quantitative methods) III 6 ECTS-Credits	SE Seminar Comparative Politics 8 ECTS-Credits	SE Seminar Polit. Theory 8 ECTS-Credits	SE Seminar International Relations 8 ECTS-Credits	SE Seminar Austrian Poli- tics 8 ECTS-Credits	SE Seminar Politics of the EU 8 ECTS-Credits
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> In one of the seminars, students have to write a BA thesis in a main subject of about 40-55 pages (70.000 – 100.000 characters; supervised in one of the seminars) 14 ECTS-Credits </div>					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Basic courses of neighbouring disciplines (4 x 3 ECTS-Credits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional and Administrative Law Political Economy History Sociology </div>					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Internship 8 weeks full-time in a relevant institution accepted by the Curriculum Commission. </div>					
Optional subject: (44 ECTS-Credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law (i.e. Public Law, European Law, etc.) Communication Studies Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociology Contemporary History European Union Studies Gender Studies Sustainability Studies Regional Studies Geography etc. 					

MA Curriculum in Political Science (120 ECTS-Credits respective 2 years)

Epistemological reflections 3 ECTS-Credits	Main subjects				
	Comparative Politics	Political Theory (and History of Polit. Thought)	International Relations	Austrian Politics (in comparative perspective)	Politics of the EU
Theories of social science, project management	Special field I: SE in the first main subject chosen 8 ECTS-Credits PS basic texts in the first main subject chosen 6 ECTS-Credits MA seminar in the first main subject chosen 8 ECTS-Credits MA thesis 100 – 150 pages (180.000 – 270.000 characters) 30 ECTS-Credits				
	Special field II: PS/SE in the second main subject chosen 6/8 ECTS-Credits PS basic texts in the second main subject chosen 6 ECTS-Credits				
	Diploma exam in the special fields I+II 10 ECTS-Credits One course of each of the other main subjects 18-24 ECTS-Credits In total, at least 3 seminars or proseminars in three different main subjects				
Optional subject: (22 ECTS-Credits):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law (i.e. Public Law, European Law, etc.) • Communication Science • Economics • Sociology • Contemporary History • European Union Studies • Gender Studies • Sustainability Studies • Regional Studies • Geography • etc. 				