Celebrating Politics Education

Politics, European Studies and International Relations



We want **everyone**, from right across the country and from every background, to have the **opportunity** to study Politics, European Studies, and International Relations at university. And to have the skills and knowledge to be **active** and effective **citizens**.

For the sake of our democracy, and maintaining opportunities for all, now is not the time to be complacent about the provision of **Politics, European Studies and International Relations education in England** but rather to move to enhance A level and degree courses and support those that teach them.

BISA British International Studies Association

UACES University Association for Contemporary European Studies

Political Studies Association



Higher education in Politics, European Studies and International Relations leads to:

1. **Gaining essential skills and knowledge, including understanding political ideas, power dynamics, and governments at a global and local level.**

2. **Active and informed citizenship**

3. **Successful employment and careers**

4. **Compelling world-class research, knowledge, and evidence**

5. **Gaining wider perspectives and experiences including developing an international and European outlook through studying and working abroad.**

“Our research community is strong, far-reaching and interdisciplinary and well placed to respond to pressing global challenges. REF2021 rated the vast majority of research submitted in Politics and International Studies as world-leading or internationally excellent and European Studies brings vital expertise as the UK's relationship with Europe develops. But upheaval in UK higher education risks undermining these strengths.” BISA, PSA, UACES

Reference source, British Academy ‘Politics and International Relations Provision in UK higher education' report 2025

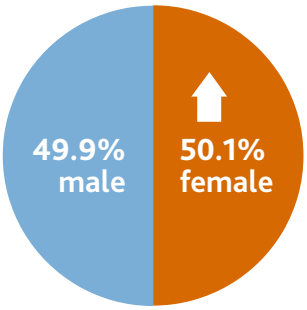
Politics and International Relations education in England at a glance

From British Academy's SHAPE Observatory & Ofqual

A level (2026) – is on the up and is ripe for further growth!



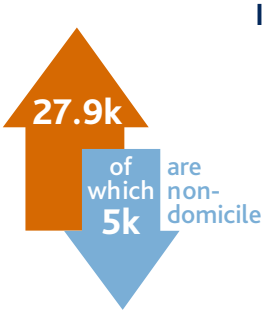
12.7% in one year
34% over 5 years

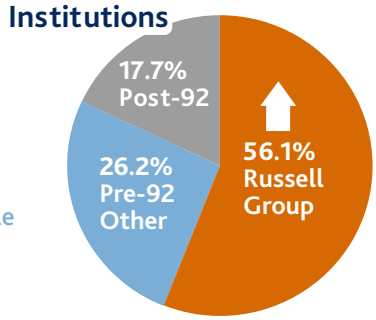


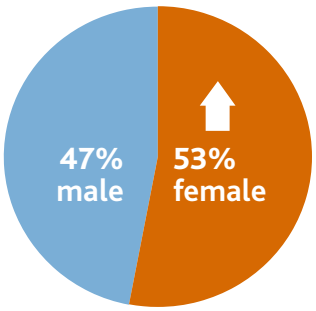


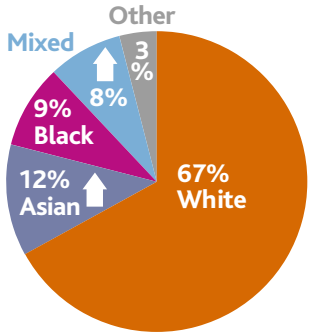
School & college settings in England: Offered in **1194** State Schools (**35%** of all state schools & academies) **+ 360** independent schools.

Undergraduates (2024/25) – these subjects continue to be popular

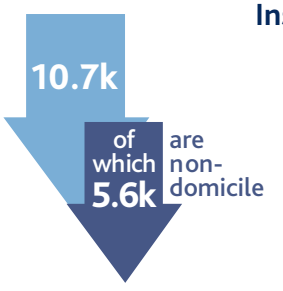


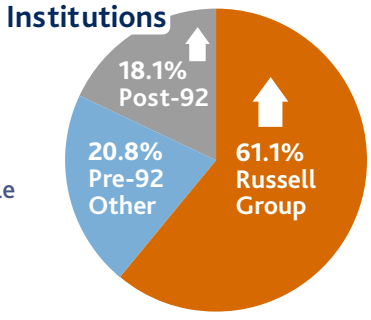


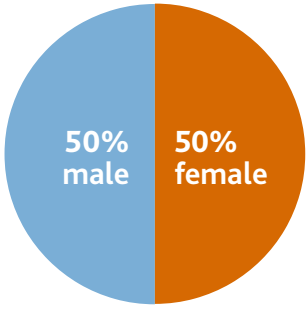


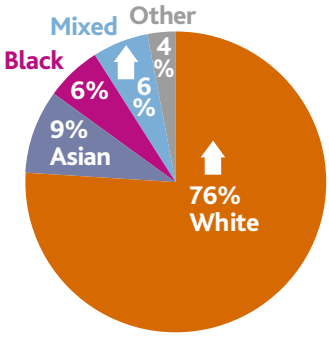


Postgraduate study is shrinking









University Provision



But... 'cold spots' (a distance of over 60km from a university course) already exist in SW, NW, NE England and East Anglia

You can help support this campaign

- Be part of the conversation, and get involved.
- Share your experiences with undergraduate and master's students doing courses at universities in your constituency.
- Take part in Politics education events in Parliament, including those universities offering the Parliamentary Studies module and teacher training events co-ordinated by the Parliamentary Education Service.
- Advocate and support more opportunities to take A level Government and Politics across the country and in your constituency.
- Advocate for Politics, European Studies and International Relations courses at universities in your constituency.
- Help ensure that the UK's return to Erasmus+ in 2027 reaches students from every background and every part of the country.

JOIN our network of supporters for Politics, European Studies and International Relations education

Scan to join and find out more



The British International Studies Association, Political Studies Association and the University Association for Contemporary European Studies are the UK's three leading learned societies for Politics, European Studies and International Relations, and we welcome the support of parliamentarians and other stakeholders in advocating for the value of higher education in Politics, European Studies and International Relations.

#InternationalRelationsMatters **#EuropeanStudiesMatters** **#PoliticalStudiesMatters**

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