



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

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**TOHU PAETAHI TŌRANGAPŪ**  
**BACHELOR OF**  
**POLITICS**

**2027**



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Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 24 universities worldwide to do so. The University gained a total score of 966 out of a possible 1,000 points across eight audited categories, including maximum points for the employability and inclusiveness categories. Maximum points were awarded for 25 of the more than 30 indicators, including overall student satisfaction;

further study; graduate employment rate; international diversity, support, and collaborations; academic reputation; satisfaction with teaching; campus facilities; accreditations; art and cultural investment and facilities; disabled access; scholarships and bursaries; low-income outreach; and student cohort diversity.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington uses all reasonable skill and care to ensure the information contained here was accurate at the time it was prepared. However, matters covered by this publication are subject to change due to a continuous process of review, and to unanticipated circumstances. The University therefore reserves the right to make any changes without notice. So far as the law permits, the University accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any person due to reliance (either whole or in part) on the information contained in this publication, whether direct or indirect, and whether foreseeable or not.



# TOHU PAETAHI TŌRANGAPŪ

## BACHELOR OF POLITICS

Study politics where it happens in Wellington—the heart of the nation's political life. This unique degree prepares you to understand and influence the decisions that shape society.

### DRIVE CHANGE

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington's Bachelor of Politics (BPols) prepares you to lead and innovate. Whether you're aiming to shape policy, work in international relations, or drive change in your community, this degree gives you the interdisciplinary foundation and practical experience to make a difference here in Aotearoa and beyond.

### FIND YOUR FIT

With six majors, three specialisations, and 11 minors to choose from, you can tailor your study to match your passions and career goals.



“For me, the most valuable part of my degree is being in the capital. The opportunity for lecturers to bring in politicians, ambassadors, and public servants—and to engage with them outside of class through the University's strong political community and extracurriculars—has been wonderful. It lets me see politics not just in theory, but in action, in real time.”

### Zinzan

Student, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations  
Student, Bachelor of Laws

# DEGREE STRUCTURE

The BPols is a three-year degree. You are required to take courses totalling at least 360 points. These are made up of a mixture of core courses, major and minor courses, and elective courses (courses in other subjects you are interested in).

## CORE COURSES

All BPols students must complete:

- ▶ POLI 101
- ▶ 20 points from INTP 100–199
- ▶ 20 points from POLS 100–199
- ▶ MAOR 126.

These compulsory courses give you a solid foundation on which you can build your chosen majors and interdisciplinary minors. You must select at least one major and one minor for the BPols. If you are not taking the Politics, Philosophy, and Economics major, you'll have the opportunity to take two additional courses that can count towards a major or minor from another degree.

## MAJORS

- ▶ International Relations
- ▶ Political Communication
- ▶ Political Science
- ▶ Politics of Aotearoa New Zealand
- ▶ Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
- ▶ Public Policy

Many of the majors listed above can also be taken as a minor.

## MINORS

- ▶ Asian Politics
- ▶ Civic Engagement
- ▶ Environmental Politics
- ▶ Human Rights, Justice, and Peace
- ▶ International Political Economy
- ▶ Māori Politics
- ▶ Pacific Politics
- ▶ Politics of Migration
- ▶ Science and Politics

## BACHELOR OF POLITICS VERSUS BACHELOR OF ARTS

An alternative way to study Politics at Te Herenga Waka is through a Bachelor of Arts (BA) majoring in Political Science. A BA could be a good choice for you if you want to mix your study of Politics with a focus on a different subject.

Compared to the BA, the Bachelor of Politics dives more deeply into political theory and practice. The BPols gives you more scope to explore politics from different perspectives. You'll build a broader understanding of key political issues across different domains.

## DEGREE EXAMPLE

BPols majoring in Political Science, with a minor in Māori Politics

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
POLI 101 Politics and People 20 points	MAOR 126 Engaging with Māori in Professional Practice 20 points	POLS 205 The New Europe 20 points	PHIL 264 Ethics and International Affairs 20 points	POLS 353 Growing Pains: Contemporary Challenges and Directions for NZ Politics 20 points	PUBL 304 Cabinet Government 20 points
INTP 113 Introduction to International Relations 20 points	POLS 114 Introduction to Comparative Politics 20 points	Elective 20 points	POLS 209 Dictatorships and Revolutions 20 points	MDIA 308 Māori Media 20 points	MAOR 316 Māori Politics 20 points
POLS 111 Introduction to Government and Politics in Aotearoa New Zealand 20 points	Elective 20 points	Elective 20 points	MAOR 216 The Treaty of Waitangi 20 points	Elective 20 points	Elective 20 points
<b>60 POINTS</b>	<b>60 POINTS</b>	<b>60 POINTS</b>	<b>60 POINTS</b>	<b>60 POINTS</b>	<b>60 POINTS</b>
<b>120 POINTS</b>		<b>120 POINTS</b>		<b>120 POINTS</b>	

Total points required: 360  
Total points completed: 360

Core	Major	Minor	Elective
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# EXPLORE OUR SUBJECTS

## MAJORS

### International Relations

In this major, you'll examine the political motivations at the heart of the world's current events and explore questions of war and peace, human rights, globalisation and the distribution of wealth and poverty around the world, and the efforts of transnational groups to promote change.

International Relations has an optional specialisation in International Security.

### Political Communication

Examine political communication in democracies and non-democratic power structures. Learn about the role that communications, marketing, and public relations play in elections and interest-group campaigns.

Explore the power of communication in contemporary politics, and study the development of public opinion, party brands, and policy.

### Political Science

Political Science is the study of the exercise of power, and of the theories and philosophies at the heart of politics. Examine political ideas from liberalism and communism to conservatism and feminism and explore the differences between political systems around the world.

Political Science has optional specialisations in Comparative Politics or Political Ideas.

### Politics of Aotearoa New Zealand

Get to grips with the political dynamics that shape Aotearoa New Zealand. This major offers a deep dive into New Zealand's political institutions, actors, and processes—from Parliament and political parties to protest movements and iwi governance.

### Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

This major brings together political science, philosophy, and economics to help you tackle complex social challenges from multiple angles. You'll explore how political institutions work, how ethical decisions are made, and how economic incentives shape behaviour and outcomes.

### Public Policy

Public policy is the set of decisions that shape how a country is run. Explore how governments make these decisions, how the public sector works, the political side of policymaking, and how policies can be improved.

## MINORS

### Asian Politics

Explore the diverse political systems, ideologies, and power dynamics of Asia. Learn how the region's politics influence global affairs, from trade and diplomacy to nationalism and regional security.

### Civic Engagement

Understand what it means to be an active citizen in today's world. This minor explores political participation, advocacy, and the role of civil society in shaping democratic life, and it gives you practical experience of civic engagement.

### Environmental Politics

Examine the political dimensions of climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice. Learn how political decisions shape—and are shaped by—our relationship with the natural world.

### Human Rights, Justice, and Peace

Explore the ways that we can create peace and preserve human rights across nations in a world with different historical legal systems and approaches to law and justice.

### International Political Economy

Investigate the intersection of politics and economics on a global scale. Study how international trade, finance, and development shape global power and inequality.

### Māori Politics

Engage with Māori political thought, tino rangatiratanga, and the evolving constitutional and governance debates in Aotearoa New Zealand. This minor centres te ao Māori within an understanding of today's politics.

### Pacific Politics

Study the politics of the Pacific region, including the legacy of colonialism, climate change challenges, and regional governance. Understand how Pacific peoples shape political life locally and globally.

### Politics of Aotearoa New Zealand

Gain a focused understanding of the institutions, histories, and movements that define politics in Aotearoa New Zealand. Study how local issues connect to global trends and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### Politics of Migration

Explore the politics of borders, citizenship, and human movement. This minor focuses on migration's causes and consequences, and the policies and discourses that surround it.

### Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

Tackle political problems from multiple angles by combining ethical reasoning, economic analysis, and political insight. This minor is ideal for students who want to sharpen their policy thinking and critical skills.

### Science and Politics

Examine how science and technology shape political decisions—and how political values shape science. Learn to navigate the politics of risk, evidence, and innovation.



# WHERE CAN YOUR DEGREE TAKE YOU?

Politics graduates can work in roles that involve critical analysis, research, and strong verbal and written communication skills.

The skills you develop through the Bachelor of Politics will set you up for a career in areas such as:

- ▶ academic research or teaching
- ▶ international relations and diplomacy
- ▶ non-governmental and global organisations
- ▶ political activism
- ▶ public service and policy analysis.

# POSTGRADUATE PATHWAYS

After completing the Bachelor of Politics, you'll have plenty of options for continuing your studies at an advanced level.

The BPols offers a clear pathway into postgraduate study in the following Master's programmes at Te Herenga Waka:

- ▶ Master of International Relations
- ▶ Master of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- ▶ Master of Political Science
- ▶ Master of Public Policy.

# FIND OUT MORE

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/bpols](http://wgtn.ac.nz/bpols)

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/apply](http://wgtn.ac.nz/apply)

## ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

You can apply for admission up to two years in advance of the year you plan to start studying. Apply through our student portal, Pūaha. Once you have met the requirements, you will receive either a conditional or an unconditional Offer of Place.

After receiving your Offer of Place, you will be invited to select your courses once course enrolment is open. You select courses for one academic year at a time.

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/puaha](http://wgtn.ac.nz/puaha)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To enrol in a BPols, you will need University Entrance, or to meet the requirements of another admission type. For more information, go to [wgtn.ac.nz/study](http://wgtn.ac.nz/study)

## CONTACT US

Te Wāhanga Aronui

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Tītoko—Student Success  
Level 4, Murphy Building, Kelburn Campus

📞 0800 04 04 04

✉ [info@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:info@vuw.ac.nz)

## COURSE PLANNING

For help with course planning, contact Te Kahupapa—Future Students.

📞 0800 04 04 04

✉ [future-students@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:future-students@vuw.ac.nz)

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/courses](http://wgtn.ac.nz/courses)

## OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

### Disability support

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/disability](http://wgtn.ac.nz/disability)

### Māori student support

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/awhina](http://wgtn.ac.nz/awhina)

### Pasifika student success

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika](http://wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika)

### Rainbow student support

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow](http://wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow)

### Refugee-background student support

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students](http://wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students)

### Scholarships

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships](http://wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships)

### Student services and support

📍 [wgtn.ac.nz/student-support](http://wgtn.ac.nz/student-support)



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