

# Welcome to Politics and International Relations

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Ed Morgan-Jones: Director of PolIR

Ben Seyd: Director of Studies

# Welcome Week events

*Mon*                      **Induction to PolIR**

*Tues/Wed*              Explore campus; library; Students Union

*Thurs*                    **Meet your Academic Advisor (11-12, Keynes)**  
**Frontlines: PolIR uncovered (2-3, KS6)**



*Thurs/Fri*              Engage with Kent societies

# Timetable

12:05-12:30: **Introduction to learning in PolIR** (Ben Seyd)

12:30-12:45: **Academic Advisors** (Rubrick Biegon)

12:45-12:55: **Student Advisory Service** (Charlotte de Moor)

12.55-13.05: **Kent Student Union**

13:05-13:15: **Library resources for PolIR students** (Andy Prue)

13:15-13:30: **Using Oxford Politics Trove** (Ben Corlett, OUP)

... breath, and pizza lunch

# Programmes in PolIR

## **Politics and International Relations**

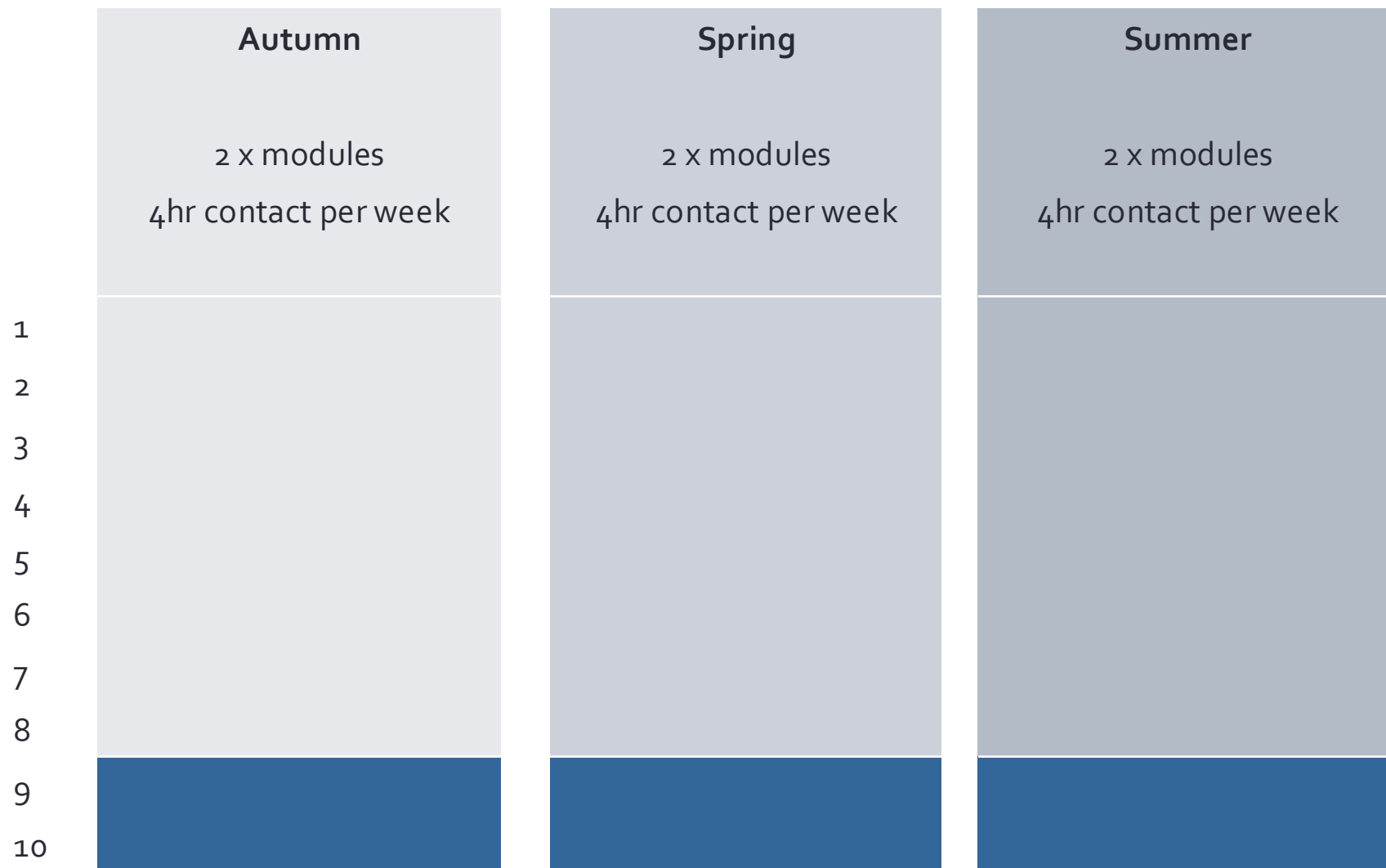
with a year in Industry

with a year in Continental Europe/N America/Asia-Pacific

## **Economics and Politics**

## **Law and Politics**

# (New) Kent structure



# (New) Kent structure

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
	2 x modules 4hr contact per week	2 x modules 4hr contact per week	2 x modules 4hr contact per week
1			
2	POLI4000: Roots of Contemporary Politics	POLI4002: States and the World	POLI4004: The Power of Political Ideas
3			
4			
5	POLI4001: Making Sense of Politics	POLI4003: Understanding Change in British Politics	POLI4005: War, Violence and Peace
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

# (New) Kent structure: Stages 2-3

## Autumn

### Stage/Year 2

Global governance of peace  
and security\*

Democracy under threat

State and revolution

### Stage/Year 3

Contemporary political  
theory

Transforming British  
politics

Politics of the Middle East  
and North Africa

Security challenges in the  
Indo-Pacific

## Spring

### Stage/Year 2

Doing politics with  
words\*

Politics of the EU

Politics of climate change

### Stage/Year 3

Dictatorships

Who do you think you  
are?

Negotiation - Theory and  
practice

Social research in practice

Final year project\*

## Summer

### Stage/Year 2

Doing politics with  
numbers\*

American politics

Foreign policy

### Stage/Year 3

Public opinion in politics

Political theory of the  
future

Politics of the global  
economy

Social research in practice

Final year project\*

# Methods of teaching

## Format

Lectures; lecture-seminars

Seminars

Workshops

} Duration: 1hr or 2hrs

## Teachers

Senior staff; Graduate Teaching Assistants

## Attendance

Class attendance logged via Presto ([link](#))

Attendance rates are monitored ([engagement policy](#))



# Assessments

Usually two per term (Weeks 6 and 10)

- Annotated bibliography
- Multiple Choice Quiz
- Presentation
- Blog post
- Policy briefing
- Conflict report
- Essay

Marking criteria: module-specific and general.

Kent categorical marking.

Problems meeting a deadline? Engagement Support office.

# Sources of support

## In PolIR

- Module-level support from your **module convenor**
- General academic support from the **Director of Studies**  
Office hours: Monday 3-4pm (D1 o8); Thursday 4-5pm (online)
- General learning support from **Academic Advisor**
- Staff office hours

## Wider professional services (<https://student.kent.ac.uk/support>)

- Student support and well-being
- Skills for Academic Success
- Careers and employability

# Sources of support

Stepping Stones application form  
2025



To apply: <https://forms.office.com/e/d6K85bMXfT>

# Politics Common Room



Keynes, C staircase, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, room 7 (C1 07)

# Successful PolIR events last year

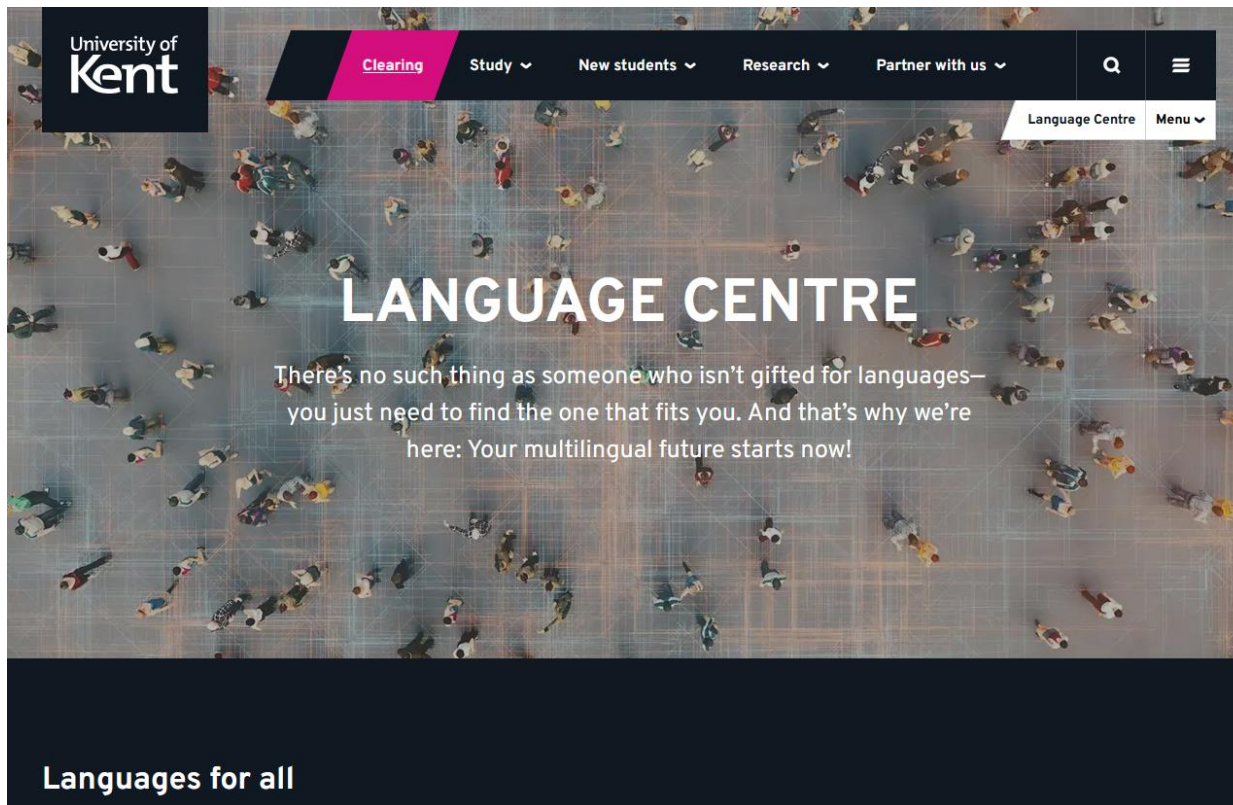


On the US election



The future of social democracy  
in Britain

# University resources



<https://www.kent.ac.uk/language-centre>

# Student Voice

- Student Voice Forums held each term (all Stages)
- Held at School (Econ, Pol and IR) and/or subject level (Pol-IR)
- Formal meetings that provide opportunities for students to feedback to academic and professional service staff; usually chaired by Student Rep(s), attended by Student Exp Lead
- Problems in modules? Concerns with teaching delivery? Issues with resources?
- Student Reps attend and convey the views of their peers
- SVFs are also open for other students (non-Reps) to attend#
- Keep you eye out for communications on SVF and get to know your Reps (or volunteer to be a Rep with KU!)



# Student Reps

Represent and Support your peers and help make meaningful change!

As a Student Rep you'll be the first point of contact for students within your school, department or division; answering questions, listening to feedback and actioning change.

Attend termly Student Voice Forums – Division specific meetings for students and staff to come together for feedback and to improve the student academic experience.

Sign up today to help make meaningful change at Kent

[kentunion.co.uk/studentreps](https://kentunion.co.uk/studentreps)



## Make meaningful change at Kent.

[kentunion.co.uk/studentreps](https://kentunion.co.uk/studentreps)



## What is the Academic Advisor Programme?

- You will all be assigned an academic advisor for the entirety of your degree at Kent.
- This will be someone who teaches in POLIR.
- Someone you can go to for:
  - Continuity across the three years of your degree beyond individual modules.
  - Academic and pastoral support.



## What Can My Academic Advisor Help Me With?

### A few examples:

- Developing your academic skillset (e.g. reading, note-taking, essay writing).
- How best to respond to and improve upon feedback on your assessments.
- Signposting you to other resources and services around the University.
- Developing your CV and your employability alongside your studies.
- Advice on further study in your third year, and references in support of applications.



# Academic Adviser Meetings

All meetings appear in your Presto Timetable. You can also request extra meetings if needed

