

SPTB1BA - Introduction

Introduction

Introduction

Are you interested in the world around you and the way in which political power is exercised at national, European and international level?

Completing a bachelor's degree in political science in a trilingual French-English-Dutch programme is an asset for your future studies and career in a multilingual and international environment.

The trilingual French-English-Dutch bachelor's programme in political science at the Saint-Louis - Bruxelles campus allows you to take part of your programme in English and Dutch. Students take part of their programme in a language other than French, which amounts to four course units per year (two in English and two in Dutch) for the trilingual French-English-Dutch programme.

The bachelor's degree in political science mainly involves learning how to understand the mechanisms of power which govern today's world:

- How are decisions made, and at which levels of power?
- Who actually influences decisions and in whose interest?
- What are the main systems of political power both historically and throughout the world?
- How can we explain their emergence, evolution, successes and difficulties?
- What are the main contemporary issues at national, European and global level? Who do they oppose? What are the power relationships involved? What are the possible outcomes?

These are just some of the questions which political science provides answers to through various specialised areas: political parties and interest groups, electoral studies, international relations, political regimes, etc.

But power does not operate in isolation. Courses in sociology, history, law, economics and philosophy shed light on human relations in general, as well as on how they function and evolve. Finally, in order to decipher a political issue, it is necessary to master the tools for gathering and analysing the data required for a scientific understanding of human phenomena: documentary research, field observations, interviews, opinion polls, statistical analyses, etc.

Your profile

Would you like to understand the issues and political and social transformations in contemporary societies? Would you like to play an active role at local, national, European and international level?

An open mind, intellectual curiosity, knowledge of English and Dutch and constant attention to current events are basic prerequisites for future students in the trilingual political science programme.

- You have a basic knowledge of English and Dutch, allowing you to take courses in English and Dutch.
- There is no selection process for multilingual programmes.
- However, a written language test is held at the beginning of the year. It is used as a guide to assess language skills and to recommend or advise against a bilingual or trilingual programme.
- In the event of difficulties, there is the option to return to the unilingual programme in French, with language courses.

Your future job

The bachelor's degree in political science gives access to a variety of master's programs in Belgium and abroad. A master's degree in political science opens up a wide range of career opportunities.

Political scientists work in all positions related to government action:

- its implementation: government administration, international organisations, the European Commission, regional public bodies, etc;
- its elaboration: participation in an elected assembly, parliamentary or ministerial assistance, consulting firm;
- its influence: lobbying, campaigning in an NGO, attaché for a political party, a trade union, an industry association, etc;
- its analysis: journalism, consultancy, polling, research, analysis in a research department;
- its teaching: continuing education or social advancement organisations, upper secondary education, higher education or university.

Your programme

The bachelor's degree in political science is a first-cycle programme (a 'transition' bachelor's degree), consisting of 180 credits spread over three years (60 credits per year).

The programme is divided into two parts: one general, the other of a political science nature.

The general part of the programme aims to provide a background in the humanities and social sciences. This knowledge is acquired through introductory courses in the main disciplines of the humanities and social sciences (philosophy, history, economics, law, sociology and psychology), and through course units and seminars designed to teach different analytical methods in the humanities and social sciences. The political science part of the programme is structured around both general (political science: founding texts) and specialised (comparative politics, political parties and interest groups, EU politics, analysis of public action, analysis of international relations, etc.) political science course units.

In the trilingual French-English-Dutch bachelor's degree in political science, two course units are taught in English and two course units are taught in Dutch for each year of the programme.

- First year: *Analyse van de media-instellingen, Sociologie (NL), Political science, Geopolitics*
- Second year: *International relations, Politieke sociologie, Economie 1 (NL), Economics 2*

- Third year: *EU Politics, Media en Politiek, International Organisations, Milieu en samenleving*

The courses are usually taught by faculty members who are native English or Dutch speakers or who have completed all or part of their university studies in English or Dutch.

In addition, students continue to perfect their language skills by taking English and Dutch courses in first, second and third year.

Furthermore, during the second term of the third year, students may take part in an Erasmus exchange at a university in Europe, Asia, North America or South America, whose programmes are taught in a language other than French.

Another option is for students who pass the June exam session to apply for a summer language study grant in Flanders or abroad.

The Saint-Louis - Bruxelles campus also offers a bilingual (French-English) bachelor's degree programme in political science.

Pursuing a dual bachelor's degree

Our dual bachelor's degrees are one of the special features of UCLouvain Saint-Louis - Bruxelles. They allow students to take a second bachelor's degree, in tandem with their main bachelor's degree.

The second programme must comprise a minimum of 60 credits and a maximum of 105 additional credits. It can be spread over several years or completed after the main bachelor's programme.

The dual bachelor's degree has the same value as the main bachelor's degree and provides immediate access to the corresponding master's degree.

Dual bachelor's degree programmes available for political science students:

- [Bachelor in Law \[Dual Bachelor's degree for the holder of a Bachelor in Political Sciences\]](#)
- [Bachelor in Philosophy \[Dual Bachelor's degree for the holder of a Bachelor in Political Sciences\]](#)
- [Bachelor in History \[Dual Bachelor's degree for the holder of a Bachelor in Political Sciences\]](#)
- [Bachelor in Information and Communication \[Dual Bachelor's degree for the holder of a Bachelor in Political Sciences\]](#)
- [Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology \[Dual Bachelor's degree for the holder of a Bachelor in Political Sciences\]](#)
- [Bachelor in Economics and Management \[Dual Bachelor's degree for the holder of a Bachelor in Political Sciences\]](#)

For further information, please contact the faculty administration: espo-slb@uclouvain.be.

SPTB1BA - Teaching profile

Learning outcomes

By the end of their trilingual French-English-Dutch bachelor's degree in political science, students will have acquired:

I A grounding in the core teachings and methods of the discipline of political science

- A command of the fundamentals of political science and its epistemological grounding, with a view to addressing the key research issues of the discipline
- A thorough grounding in political science, in its various branches: international relations, European studies, (national) political institutions and regimes, studies of political parties and pressure groups, analysis of public policies and political ideas, etc.

II Basic knowledge in fields complementary to political science

- The ability to draw on interdisciplinary knowledge from various fields of the humanities and social sciences in order to analyse contemporary or historical social phenomena
- General knowledge of the humanities and social sciences, based on an understanding of the main postulates and teachings of the various disciplines, as well as their methods and the related ethical issues

III A grounding in the scientific method

- The ability to apply the rules and ethical principles of the scientific approach in political science
- The ability to gather and analyse quantitative and qualitative empirical data with discernment
 - The gradual ability to produce analytical work on contemporary political issues, on their own or as part of a team
 - The gradual ability to gather information using the most relevant data collection methods (statistics, etc.)
- The ability to carry out an analysis independently as well as jointly with peers
- Critical thinking and independent judgement
- The ability to analyse information, based on a review of the relevant literature and the most appropriate analytical methods

IV High-level written and oral communication skills in French, English and Dutch

- The ability to communicate the results of an analysis in a clear, coherent, structured and well-presented manner, in both written and oral form in French, English and Dutch
- The ability to take a course and the oral or written exam in English and Dutch
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Dutch; more specifically, the ability to carry on an everyday conversation and to communicate about the subjects and analyses of political science
- A familiarisation with an environment in a language other than their own (stays abroad with the possibility of an Erasmus exchange within or outside Europe in the third year of the bachelor's programme)

Programme structure

The bachelor's degree in political science is a first-cycle programme (a 'transition' bachelor's degree), consisting of 180 credits spread over three years (60 credits per year). It prepares students for a number of master's degree programmes in the second cycle, which they can take at Louvain-la-Neuve or another university in Belgium or Europe (for details, see the 'Access to further studies' page).

The first year of the degree is common to the political science, information and communication and sociology and anthropology programmes offered by the faculty. In addition to the educational commitment to providing a solid foundation for a multidisciplinary programme, which is one of the hallmarks of the programmes offered at UCLouvain Saint-Louis - Bruxelles, this shared first year facilitates reorientations at the beginning of the programme: students can change their orientation in year 2 to one of the other two programmes (information and communication or sociology and anthropology) without having to make up any course units.

The programme gradually becomes more specialised: the second year includes 20 credits in political science, and the third year includes 30 credits in political science.

The programme is made up of lecture-based course units, with introductory courses in the humanities and social sciences (philosophy, law, history, economics, psychology, sociology, political science, information and communication), as well as lessons in academic methodology accompanied by practical work (e.g. approaches and research methods in social sciences).

At the end of the programme, there is a workshop during which students work together in the field in small groups and present their work to a panel of experts, who assess the quality of the presentation and the relevance of the analysis.

SPTB1BA Programme

Detailed programme by subject

- Mandatory
- ⊗ Optional
- △ Not offered in 2024-2025
- ⊖ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
- ⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
- △ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
- 🚫 Not open to incoming exchange students
- (FR) Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)







Year





1 2 3

o Content:

o Political Sciences

- BESPO1165 Political Science

				Year		
				1	2	3
○ BPOLS1115	Media institutions analysis	Thomas Jacobs	NL [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 	x		
○ BPOLS1111	Anthropology	Jean-Pierre Delchambre	FR [q2] [30h+9h] [5 Credits] 	x		
○ BESPO1164	Geopolitics	Jeroen Joly	EN [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 	x		
○ BPOLS1124	Moral Philosophy	Raphaël Gély	FR [q1] [30h] [5 Credits] 			x
○ BPOLS1125	General and Social Psychology	Karine Dejean (coord.) Mauricio Garcia Penafiel	FR [q2] [45h] [5 Credits] 			x
○ BSOCA1314	Society and environment 	Benedikte Zitouni				

				Year		
				1	2	3
⌘ BANGL1392	English III 	Gerlanda Cipolla Marleen Cré Julie George Garkov Françoise Longrée (coord.) Erwin Ochsenmeier (coord.) Madeline Riordan	EN [q1] [0h+30h] [5 Credits] 			X
⌘ BNEER1382	Dutch III 	Isolde Boutsen (coord.) Astrid De Munter (coord.)	NL [q1] [0h+30h] [5 Credits] 			X

Course prerequisites

The **table** below lists the activities (course units, or CUs) for which there are one or more prerequisites within the programme, i.e. the programme CU for which the learning outcomes must be certified and the corresponding credits awarded by the jury before registering for that CU.

These activities are also identified in the **detailed programme**: their title is followed by a yellow square.

Prerequisites and student's annual programme

As the prerequisite is for CU registration purposes only, there are no prerequisites within a programme year. Prerequisites are defined between CUs of different years and therefore influence the order in which the student will be able to register for the programme's CUs.


In addition, when the jury validates a student's individual programme at the beginning of the year, it ensures its coherence, meaning that it may:

- require the student to combine registration in two separate CUs which it considers necessary from a pedagogical point of view.
- transform a prerequisite into a corequisite if the student is in the final year of a degree course.


For more information, please consult the [Academic Regulations and Procedures](#).

Prerequisites list

- BANGL1292** "Anglais II" has prerequisite(s) BANGL1192
- BANGL1192 - [English I](#)
- BANGL1392** "Anglais III" has prerequisite(s) BANGL1292
- BANGL1292 - [English II](#)
- BHDPO1222** "Politique économique" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1173A ET BPOLS1127
- BESPO1173A - [Economics I](#)
 - BPOLS1127 - [Economics II](#)
- BHDPO1315** "EU politics" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1165
- BESPO1165 - [Political Science](#)
- BHDPO1317** "Partis politiques et groupes d'intérêt" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1165
- BESPO1165 - [Political Science](#)
- BNEER1282** "Néerlandais II" has prerequisite(s) BNEER1183
- BNEER1183 - [Dutch I](#)
- BNEER1382** "Néerlandais III" has prerequisite(s) BNEER1282
- BNEER1282 - [Dutch II](#)
- BPOLS1120** "Droit public" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1176
- BESPO1176 - [Law](#)
- BPOLS1233** "Méthodes quantitatives II: Statistique" has prerequisite(s) BPOLS1231
- BPOLS1231 - [Approach and methods in social sciences](#)
- BPOLS1320** "Media en politiek" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1165 OU BPOLS1110
- BESPO1165 - [Political Science](#)
 - BPOLS1110 - [Communication science](#)
- BPOLS1330** "Méthodes quantitatives I: Production des données" has prerequisite(s) BPOLS1231
- BPOLS1231 - [Approach and methods in social sciences](#)
- BPOLS1331** "Méthodes quantitatives III: Analyse des données" has prerequisite(s) BPOLS1233 ET BPOLS1330
- BPOLS1233 - [Quantitative methods II: statistics](#)
 - BPOLS1330 - [Quantitative methods I: data production](#)
- BPOLS1352** "Ateliers" has prerequisite(s) BSOCA1330 ET BPOLS1330 ET BPOLS1231
- BSOCA1330 - [Field methods: observation and interviews](#)
 - BPOLS1330 - [Quantitative methods I: data production](#)
 - BPOLS1231 - [Approach and methods in social sciences](#)
- BSOCA1314** "Milieu en samenleving" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1161 OU BESPO1165
- BESPO1161 - [Sociology](#)
 - BESPO1165 - [Political Science](#)
- BSOCA1330** "Méthodes de terrain: Observation et entretiens" has prerequisite(s) BPOLS1231
- BPOLS1231 - [Approach and methods in social sciences](#)
- BSPOL1211** "Politieke sociologie" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1165 OU BESPO1161
- BESPO1165 - [Political Science](#)
 - BESPO1161 - [Sociology](#)
- BSPOL1214** "Doctrines politiques" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1165
- BESPO1165 - [Political Science](#)
- BSPOL1215** "International Organizations" has prerequisite(s) BESPO1165

○ BPOLS1111	Anthropology	Jean-Pierre Delchambre	ES [q2] [30h +9h] [5 Credits] 
○ BESPO1164	Geopolitics	Jeroen Joly	ES [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 

○ Computer Science and Quantitative Methods

○ BPOLS1150	Introduction to university work in social sciences	Karine Dejean (coord.) Marie Dufrasne	ES [q1] [22.5h +15h] [5 Credits] 
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SPTB1BA - 2ND ANNUAL UNIT

- Mandatory
- ⊗ Optional
- △ Not offered in 2024-2025
- ⊖ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
- ⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
- △ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
- 🚫 Not open to incoming exchange students
- (FR) Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

o Content:**o Political Sciences**

○ BSPOL1312	International relations ■	Valentina Brogna (compensates Amandine Orsini)	EN [q1] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐
○ BSPOL1214	Political Doctrines ■	Florence Delmotte	FR [q1] [30h +15h] [5 Credits] 🌐
○ BHDPO1317	Political parties and lobby groups ■	Olivier Paye	FR [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐
○ BSPOL1211	Political sociology ■	Johan Wets	NL [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐

o Law

○ BPOLS1120	Public Law ■	Nicolas Bernard (compensates Isabelle Hachez)	FR [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐
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o Economics and management

○ BESPO1173A	Economics I	Tom Truys	NL [q1] [45h +15h] [5 Credits] 🌐
○ BPOLS1127	Economics II	Hélène Latzer	FR [q2] [30h +15h] [5 Credits] 🌐

o Computer Science and Quantitative Methods

○ BSOCA1330	Field methods: observation and interviews ■	Emmanuelle Lenel	FR [q1] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐
○ BPOLS1330	Quantitative methods I: data production ■	Nathan Gurnet (compensates Nicolas Marquis)	FR [q1] [30h +15h] [5 Credits] 🌐
○ BPOLS1233	Quantitative methods II: statistics ■	Nathan Gurnet	FR [q2] [30h +22.5h] [5 Credits] 🌐

o Languages

○ BANGL1292	English II ■	Gerlanda Cipolla Sebastiano Ferrari Françoise Longrée (coord.) Erwin Ochsenmeier (coord.) Madeline Riordan	EN [q1+q2] [0h +60h] [5 Credits] 🌐
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○ BNEER1282

Dutch II

Isolde Boutsen (coord.)
Astrid De
Munter (coord.)
Barbara Fraipont

SPTB1BA - 3RD ANNUAL UNIT

- Mandatory
- ⊗ Optional
- △ Not offered in 2024-2025
- ⊖ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
- ⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
- △ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
- Activity with requisites
- 🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
- 🚫🌐 Not open to incoming exchange students
- (FR) Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

o Content:

o Political Sciences

● BSPOL1322	Public Policy Analysis ■	Youri Vertongen (compensates Amandine Orsini) Youri Vertongen (compensates Abraham Franssen)	FR
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o Languages

o Choose one course among the following :

✂ BANGL1392	English III 🇺🇸	Gerlanda Cipolla Marleen Cré Julie George Garkov Françoise Longrée (coord.) Erwin Ochsenmeier (coord.) Madeline Riordan	EN [q1] [0h] +30h] [5 Credits] 🌐
✂ BNEER1382	Dutch III 🇳🇱	Isolde Boutsen (coord.) Astrid De Munter (coord.)	NL [q1] [0h] +30h] [5 Credits] 🌐

SPTB1BA - Information

Access Requirements

Decree of 7 November 2013 defining the landscape of higher education and the academic organization of studies.

The admission requirements must be met prior to enrolment in the University.

In the event of the divergence between the different linguistic versions of the present conditions, the French version shall prevail.

SUMMARY

- [General access requirements](#)
- [Specific access requirements](#)
- [Access based on validation of professional experience](#)
- [Special requirements to access some programmes](#)

General access requirements

Except as otherwise provided by other specific legal provisions, admission to undergraduate courses leading to the award of a Bachelor's degree will be granted to students with one of the following qualifications :

1. A Certificate of Upper Secondary Education issued during or after the 1993-1994 academic year by an establishment offering full-time secondary education or an adult education centre in the French Community of Belgium and, as the case may be, approved if it was issued by an educational institution before 1 January 2008 or affixed with the seal of the French Community if it was issued after this date, or an equivalent certificate awarded by the Examination Board of the French Community during or after 1994;
2. A Certificate of Upper Secondary Education issued no later than the end of the 1992-1993 academic year, along with official documentation attesting to the student's ability to pursue higher education for students applying for a full-length undergraduate degree programme;
3. A diploma awarded by a higher education institution within the French Community that confers an academic degree issued under the above-mentioned Decree, or a diploma awarded by a university or institution dispensing full-time higher education in accordance with earlier legislation;
4. A higher education certificate or diploma awarded by an adult education centre;
5. A pass certificate for one of the [entrance examinations](#) organized by higher education institutions or by an examination board of the French Community; this document gives admission to studies in the sectors, fields or programmes indicated therein;
6. A diploma, certificate of studies or other qualification similar to those mentioned above, issued by the Flemish Community of Belgium,

Teaching method

In addition to traditional lectures, which take place in moderate-sized auditoriums, active teaching practices encourage the use and development of theoretical, methodological and analytical skills.

Furthermore, the bachelor's degree in political science includes more 'practical' learning activities, for example in the form of seminars or workshops based on student contributions and held in small groups. This allows students to be in close contact with professors and teacher-researchers within small working groups, and to implement approaches which make concrete use of the knowledge acquired during the programme.

The Saint-Louis - Bruxelles campus is located right in the centre of Brussels, with easy metro and train connections as well as other practical advantages. But above all, its location close to the headquarters of national and European political institutions allows interactions and participation in activities to take place in relation to these stakeholders.

The Saint-Louis - Bruxelles campus places great importance on educational support for all bachelor's programmes. The Academic Guidance Service (AGS) offers a range of support activities.

Evaluation

The evaluation methods comply with the

Master's degrees [60]

- [Master \[60\] in Political Sciences: General](#)
- [Master \[60\] in Labour Sciences \(shift schedule\)](#)

Contacts

Faculty administration

02 211 78 79 - espo-slb@uclouvain.be

Office: Ommegang 6 - 2nd floor - office OM 205

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday, 10am to 12.30pm

Curriculum Management

Faculty

Structure entity

Denomination

Sector

Acronym

Postal address

SSH/ESPB

Faculty of Economics, Social and Political Sciences and
Communication Saint-Louis ([ESPB](#))

Human Sciences ([SSH](#))

ESPB

Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 43 - bte

1000 Bruxelles

Mandate(s)

- Dean : Abraham Franssen

Academic supervisor: [Amandine Orsini](#)

Jury

- President: [Yannick Vanderborght](#)
- Secretary: [Amandine Orsini](#)
- Third member: [Karine Dejean](#)

