

Political Studies at Trent

What is power? How do power relations and structures shape Canadian society and societies around the world? What is the relationship between states, businesses, non-governmental organizations, social movements/protests, and citizens? Explore these and many other questions in Political Studies at Trent. Here, you will sharpen your analytical skills and learn how to make a positive impact in the world. Focus your political exploration on Canadian politics, world politics, or political theory. Immerse yourself in understanding political structures and systems, as you engage in lively debates and discussions alongside sought-after experts in globalization, populism, international relations, and political theory.

These explorations can take place both in the classroom and beyond – through the Political Studies Co-op program, you can put skills to action across three paid work terms in professional settings.

Political Studies Co-op

Co-op is an opportunity for students to gain work-integrated experiential learning that will help them get a head start on their career. The Political Studies Co-op assists graduating students in achieving a competitive edge while generating experience within a wide range of sectors. Specifically, co-op gives the students a chance to obtain 12 months of practical experience on the job, develop or enhance technical skills, explore career options, network with a variety of individuals and organizations, learn from mentors, enhance communication and presentation skills, and develop technical writing skills.

Political Studies Co-op is a competitive direct-entry program with a limited number of spaces.

Program Requirements for Admittance into Co-op:

- Minimum 80% cumulative average
- ENG4U with a minimum of 60%

To remain in the co-op, students must:

- Successfully complete the required Co-op courses (COOP 2000H, 4000H)
- Maintain a minimum 75% cumulative average throughout their study terms
- Complete three co-op work terms (POST 2700P, 3700P, 4700P)
- Receive satisfactory evaluations during each of their work terms

Political Studies Co-op Work Term Schedule

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study Term 1	Study Term 2	Study Term 3
Year 2	Study Term 4	Study Term 5	Work Term 1
Year 3	Study Term 6	Study Term 7	Work Term 2
Year 4	Work Term 3	Study Term 8	

All co-op students are encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor for degree mapping and to ensure they are meeting all their program requirements. You can book an appointment on the Student Experience Portal (trentu.ca/sep) or by calling 705-748-1011 x7333.

Please Note: Co-op is meant to prepare students for the real-world job application process and as such, the co-op process is competitive and dependent upon many factors including market conditions, the student's efforts to secure a work term, and the academic performance of a student. Every effort is made to find suitable co-op work terms for students, but a work term opportunity cannot be guaranteed for every student. Co-op students will secure positions through successful participation in the co-op interview process and/or their own job search activities. It is preferred that no more than two of the three work terms are with the same employer. Withdrawal from the co-op program will not normally be approved while a student is on a work term.

Students who are unable to obtain a suitable co-op opportunity in an upcoming work term are expected to continue with their academic program on a full-time basis. A missed work term can be made up. If a co-op student is unable to complete three work terms yet otherwise fulfills degree requirements, they will be awarded an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies.

Students do not pay tuition during each work term. Instead, students are required to pay co-op fees plus ancillary fees and levies. The Co-op Assistance Program is available to support students in financial need with co-op expenses. For more information, please reach out to coop@trentu.ca.

International Students who are required to complete co-op work terms that are integral to their academic program must apply for a co-op work permit. Please reach out to internationaladvising@trentu.ca for more support.

Students with Disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact sas@trentu.ca for more support.

Sample Work Term Areas for Political Studies:

- Community Development
- Evaluation & Research
- Media & Communications
- Policy Analysis
- Public Service

Potential Career Paths for a Political Studies Graduate:

- Policy Analyst
- Government Relations Specialist
- Lawyer
- Journalist
- International Relations Specialist

