Three heads are better than one ...
Why study a triple degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics?

Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) is an integrated Honours degree offering the exciting possibility of exploring the three subjects in depth and obtaining an understanding of how they connect with one another.

Whether you are aiming for a career in business, politics, the civil service, the voluntary sector or in journalism, a leading background knowledge in the humanities and the social sciences would be of great value. In which case this degree course – the first of its kind in Scotland – may well be the one for you. This degree is ideal for the intellectually curious student who seeks to understand and solve the complex problems facing modern societies and economies.

Rooted in three separate disciplines, it combines a high level of intellectual stimulation with a down-to-earth understanding of the interface between political institutions, societal values and the economy.

The course

You will study nine modules in Semesters 1-3, including: Politics of the British Isles; Introductory Microeconomics; and Philosophy – what is it all about?

In Semesters 4-8 you will study the following Core Modules: Politics: Great Political Thinkers; Philosophy: Moral Theory or Logic; and Economics: Intermediate Macroeconomics.

Having completed the foundation block in all three disciplines, PPE students enjoy a particularly rich choice of Honours Option Modules comprising a diverse range of options in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. In Semesters 5 and 6 you will take modules in each of the three disciplines, then you can either continue to study in each of the three subjects or choose to specialise in two of them.

Semesters 7-8 have further specialisation (see leaflets on Economics, Philosophy and Politics respectively). In your final year, you will bring together the different skills you have acquired by preparing a dissertation, which covers at least two of the three PPE subject areas.

Assessment for all of these modules is through a combination of coursework and examinations. Coursework includes essays, tutorial presentations, participation in tutorials, role play exercises and case studies and book reviews. Exams usually account for 50% of the grade in each module.

Stirling PPE students are also encouraged to make the most of the Study Abroad opportunities offered at the University to study for a full semester or a whole academic year at participating universities in Australia, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong, Japan and the United States.

Why choose Stirling?

Our supportive and friendly Stirling PPE lecturing team has recently received the highest possible ratings for the standard of its teaching. Students benefit from small class sizes and extension interaction with leading researchers across three disciplines.
Politics staff at Stirling were nominated for numerous RATE (Recognising Achievements and Teaching Excellence) awards and recently won the Most Useful Feedback and Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching RATE awards.

Philosophy at Stirling successfully combines an innovative teaching course with research at the highest level. Philosophy offers a very highly rated undergraduate teaching programme covering all major aspects of philosophy, and are committed to providing a supportive learning environment in which students can easily feel at home.

Economics at Stirling is taught by lecturers with international reputations and our teaching has recently been assessed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and achieved the highest possible rating in all aspects of the assessment.

Will I get a job when I graduate?

With 94% of University of Stirling graduates in 2012 having found work, or progressed to a further programme of study, within six months of graduating, the University of Stirling was recently ranked in the top 12 universities in the UK for getting a job… so the prospects are excellent.

Having completed your PPE degree, you will graduate with an in-depth knowledge of political institutions and the policy making process, the big ideas that have shaped Western societies, and how the economy works.

You will be skilled in argument evaluation, whilst enjoying the ability to effectively express your own viewpoints. You will also have developed valuable insight into the cultural, intellectual and moral pressures on decision makers.

This broad ranging ability and understanding will therefore ensure that you are well-positioned to succeed in the graduate job market, whether you choose to work in the public sector, private companies, voluntary organisations, the financial sector or the media.

What our students say

“I’ve had a wonderful time studying PPE at Stirling. The diverse, challenging and rewarding nature of the curriculum gives you a great grounding in three interconnected but independent disciplines.

Each subject gives you a deeper understanding of the other two. It’s a great degree to study and I would recommend it to anyone.

Alan Grant, final year PPE student, 2013

The opportunities that I have encountered with PPE are immeasurable, allowing me to both study a diverse range of subjects and meet many different people. Throughout my entire time here, there has been enormous support.

As I progress further in my studies, I appreciate more and more the interdependence of the three disciplines. Stirling is the most incredible and beautiful backdrop for this experience.

Clare Dias, final year PPE student, 2013
### Typical timetable

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>Module 2</th>
<th>Module 3</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
<td>Mind Value and Reality</td>
<td>Introductory Macroeconomics</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>International Politics</td>
<td>From Plato to Existentialism</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomics</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Great Political Thinkers</td>
<td>Logic or Moral Theory</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Politics</td>
<td>Rationalism and Empiricism or Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td>Advanced Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Politics</td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Philosophy</td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Economics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>PPE Dissertation</td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Politics or Philosophy or Economics</td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Politics or Philosophy or Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>PPE Dissertation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Honours Option Module in Politics or Philosophy or Economics</td>
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An illustrative list of Honours option modules offered in PPE is listed below.

**Politics:** International Political Economy; Business in International Politics; Global Development; Politics of Justice, Equality and Rights.

**Philosophy:** Mind and Metaphysics; Democratic Theory; Political Philosophy; The Distribution of Property - Defending Inequality.

**Economics:** Financial Economics; Monetary Economics; Energy Economics; Environmental Economics.

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