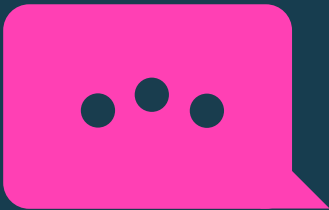




The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Department Of
Politics &
International
Relations



Your questions answered...

Written by **current students** for **future students!**

As students, we know all too well how difficult it can be to decide which university and course is right for you (we were in your shoes not that long ago!).

You'll have already received lots of information about your course and the University, but we thought you might find it useful if we answered some of the questions we had when we were making our final decisions.



CHAT WITH NIAMH

What is Sheffield like compared to other big cities?

NIAMH

Sheffield's a great city to live in! Growing up in a rural area, I was apprehensive to move to a big city but I immediately felt comfortable. The city isn't huge but there's plenty to do with loads of bars, clubs and restaurants just a walk away. There's also many green spaces (Sheffield is pretty famous for the number of parks and trees it has!), cool independent shops and local craft and food markets. There's a bit of something for everyone.

CHAT WITH ANDREEA

I haven't been to an open day, what's the best way to get a feel for the city?

ANDREEA

What made me really excited to come here, especially since I didn't get to attend an open day, was watching YouTube videos of people giving tours of the campus, moving in to accommodation or doing activities in the area. This was my way of getting a vibe about all the cities and universities on my list and deciding which one felt more like a potential home for me.

There's so much to do in Sheffield!

There's loads of gigs and music events like Tramlines festival, sport events (we always go big for Varsity here) and a wide range of museums to go and visit - there's even a video game museum in the city centre!





CHAT WITH AMAL

What are the transport links like in the city? How easy is it to get around?



AMAL

It is really easy to get around the city! There are loads of travel options and student discount is available from most travel operators. For example, the tram network is a great way to travel directly to places like Meadowhall shopping centre and the Fly DSA Arena. Sheffield is also in a great location for travelling to neighbouring cities like Leeds, Manchester and York. For me personally, this was an important factor in choosing the University of Sheffield as I commute from Manchester, and price of tickets and the journey time are really reasonable.

What are some good things to get involved in to improve your career prospects?

AMAL

One of the great things about studying at Sheffield are the links with Sheffield alumni, which results in some really exciting opportunities for students. This includes things like trips to London to visit Alumni in roles relating to Social Sciences, as well as placement and graduate job opportunities with different organisations and companies that are promoted by the department.

There are several ways you can get international experience too such as studying or working abroad. For something a little closer to home, you could get involved in different programmes depending on your interest, e.g. Academic Reps, Languages for All, Volunteering, (guest) open lectures, Sustainability Skills and Education (SusSEd), Global Café and all sorts of sports. There are so many possibilities to explore your interests and learn skills for life.



CHAT WITH RACHAEL

How easy is it to get a part-time job and can you balance working while studying?

RACHAEL

The Students' Union is a good place to start to look for a job because there are a lot of outlets within the union you could apply to and they prioritise hiring students. They also pay quite well and they won't let you work too many hours – they recommend no more than 16 hours per week. Another option is working as ambassadors for the University, or getting a job locally. I've got quite a lot of friends who work in local shops and they found that it's really flexible. It's a very 'studenty' city so you find that employers even outside of the University are really understanding and will work around your timetable.

It's true what you've heard about the hills!

You'll definitely have good calves by the time you leave



CHAT WITH NIAMH

What's the workload like? Is it manageable?

NIAMH

I've found that the workload is very manageable and you get plenty of time to complete assignments. As long as you stay on top of everything then you won't ever drown in reading and essays. Staff are always available via email or office hours for you to speak to them about your assignments, course content or if you just want to go through something in a bit more detail that was discussed in a seminar/lecture.



CHAT WITH EMMA

How did you find doing the course if you didn't do politics at A Level?

EMMA

I didn't do politics at A Level and didn't even know that much about British Politics, so I was a bit intimidated at first. However I loved history and philosophy when I did them at A Level and the theory aspects that I learned in those subjects translated really well into the course offered at Sheffield. I am able to apply a lot of the skills I learned in those A Levels to my current studies.

I fell in love with Sheffield when I visited, and in the end, that's what made me make it my first choice.

CHAT WITH JAMES

Is there any political bias in the department?

JAMES

Personally, I don't believe so. So far I have been encouraged by lecturers to develop my own understanding through studying political theories rather than having a specific political stance enthralled upon me. Furthermore, there are Conservative, Labour and Marxist student societies so there's always a place to find like-minded individuals.

CHAT WITH EMMA

What advice do you have for those who are struggling deciding between courses and universities?

EMMA

I found it useful to think about what it was about the subject area that I liked; what kind of topics interested me (e.g. terrorism, party politics) and how I liked to study it (e.g. practical, philosophical, theoretical). Then I compared this to the modules offered on each course and matched them to my preferences.



CHAT WITH JACK

How does the course at Sheffield prepare you for employment in the future?

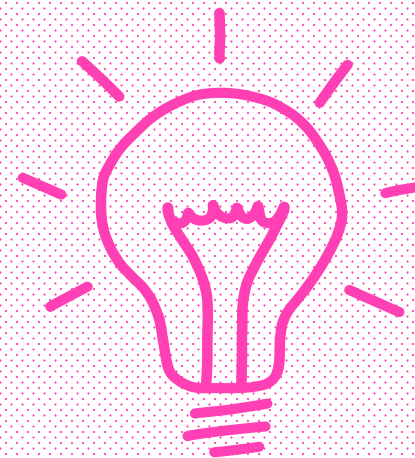
JACK

When I was looking at universities, what appealed to me about Sheffield was the research-led philosophy behind the politics course. This meant there would be plenty of opportunities to actively feed into the research process, something I thought would be a really valuable skill for possible careers in the future.

A career in government always interested me, so one of the most useful things for me was taking the Parliamentary Studies module. The module was the first of its kind in the UK and uses practitioner insight to give in-depth knowledge to students about how Parliament functions - resulting in the chance to publish coursework as part of a real parliamentary inquiry.

I know many Sheffield Politics alumni who attribute interview success to insights and knowledge gained on this module - it really does stand out. It's from opportunities like this and so many others in the department that I was able to land a place on the Civil Service Fast Stream straight after graduating, firstly working in Sheffield before moving down to Whitehall. During my time on the Fast Stream I had a number of roles in the Cabinet Office and the Department for International Trade.

Everyone is SO friendly here. People will say hello (or 'Eyup') to you as they walk past... they don't do that in the South where I'm from!



It's important to get a feel for the city of your prospective universities; remember you will be moving there for at least three years and living in a new place is a massive part of the uni experience.



Want to get in touch?

Email us at: politics-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk
or call Katie our Admissions and Recruitment Officer
on **0114 222 1641**.

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