

International Summer School – Social Sciences

Congratulations on achieving a place on the 2026 International Summer School, we are delighted to have you on board the Social Sciences stream from 17-21st August 2026.

We have put together a course overview to give you some insight into what you will be learning during the summer school. There are no actions to take from this document it is just to provide an overview and learning outcomes for the week.

The UK in a fragmented world

Course description

Five years after leaving the EU, the United Kingdom finds itself at crossroads, grappling with regional powers and international conflicts. Over the week, you will have the opportunity to engage with academic content related to international trade agreements, the rise of reactionary politics, politics of sport, feminism and technology. This course will equip you with new concepts and ideas, preparing you for higher education and developing your curiosity.

Learning outcomes

- Understanding contemporary priorities and challenges for the UK political economy
- Developing a capacity for questioning the current ideological landscape
- Evaluating the role of ideas in shaping politics

Lecture titles:

There will be 5 lectures released at 09:00 BST every day and a related written task.

1. The UK and Europe (Milena Romano)
2. The UK, tariffs and international trade (Maria Garcia)
3. The rise of the right in the UK and beyond (George Newth)
4. The UK and technology: disruption or regulation? (Benoit Dillet)
5. The UK and the US (David Moon)

During the week of the summer school, we advise you watch the lecture first before looking through the task instructions, most lectures are between 30-60 minutes and the task should take another 30-60 minutes to complete. Once you have finished your task for the day, you will upload it onto the assignments tab on MS Teams, and feedback will be provided as soon as possible. There is no expectation for you act on the feedback or to resubmit the task after the feedback has been given.

You will need to complete all tasks and upload to the assignments tab throughout the week, but no later than Friday 28th August 2026. If you do not submit every task, you will not be eligible for the guaranteed conditional offer.

Recommended reading and resources

1. N. Pérez-Solórzano Borragán and M. Cini (2022). '[27. Brexit](#)'. In: M. Cini, and N. Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, eds., *European Union Politics*, 7th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 403-420.
2. a) Michael Gasiorek (2022) '[New Government, new trade policy?](#)', *Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy*, 12th September.
2. b) Mattia Di Ubaldo & Niccolò Tamberi (2025) '[A beginner's guide to tariffs and why they are harmful](#)', *UK Trade Policy Observatory*, 25th April.
3. Katy Brown (2025) '[Keir Starmer's immigration plans: research shows you don't beat the far right by becoming them](#)', *The Conversation*, 12th May.
4. Meghan Kirkwood (2025) '[The UK's AI Strategy Risks Entrenching the Power of Big Tech](#)', *Policy Press*, 29th May.
5. Catherine Haddon and Jill Rutter (2025) '[The US-UK special relationship](#)', *Institute for Government*, 26th February.



Convenor: Dr Benoit Dillet, Senior Lecturer in Politics

Website: <https://researchportal.bath.ac.uk/en/persons/benoit-dillet>

General Information and Guidance sessions:

Every day at 12pm (BST), we will also have an optional information session focusing on applying to study in the UK. You can join us live for these or if your time zone/schedule does not allow this, they will all be recorded and uploaded to the International Summer School 2026 Team in the 'Files' tab for you to watch at a more convenient time.

Day and time	Theme
Monday 17 August 9am	Introduction to the Summer School & Why Bath?
Tuesday 18 August 12pm	Living in a New Culture
Wednesday 19 August 12pm	Getting Skills Ready for University

Thursday 20 August 12pm	Writing your Best Personal Statement
Friday 21 August 12pm	Student Life Q&A

If you have any questions or concerns ahead of the beginning of the summer school, please contact the International Summer School Team on internationalsummerschool@bath.ac.uk