

Programme Changes: Bachelor in Social Sciences 2025-2026

This document provides an overview of the programme changes that will apply to the Bachelor in Social Sciences starting from the academic year 2025-2026. The following changes will be implemented:

- Semester change for two courses in the first year (BA1)
- Title change of a BA2 subject
- New course in the Communication Studies orientation (BA3)
- Semester change for two courses in the Political Sciences orientation (BA3)
- New course in the electives module of methodological courses (BA3)

Detailed information is provided in the following sections. For any questions regarding your study path, please contact your study path counsellor: [Study path counselor Social Sciences, Solvay Business School | Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(vub.be\)](#)

First Year (BA1)

Starting from the academic year 2025-2026, two courses will change semester:

- **'Introduction to Sociology'**, currently a first-semester course, will become a second-semester course.
- **'Introduction to SPC Methodology'**, currently a second-semester course, will become a first-semester course.

If you are currently enrolled in one or both of these courses and do not pass, you will need to retake them in the corresponding semester next academic year.

First Year 2425	ECTS	SEM	First Year 2526	ECTS	SEM
Introduction to Sociology	6	1	Introduction to SPC Methodology	6	1
Introduction to Political Science	6	1	Introduction to Political Science	6	1
Introduction to Communication Studies	6	1	Introduction to Communication Studies	6	1
Statistics for Social Sciences	6	1	Statistics for Social Sciences	6	1
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6	1	Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6	1
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6	2	Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6	2
European History	6	2	European History	6	2
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6	2	Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6	2
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6	2	Introduction to Sociology	6	2
Seminar Current Issues I	6	2	Seminar Current Issues I	6	2

Second Year (BA2)

Starting from the academic year 2025-2026, the compulsory BA2 course '**Economy and Society**' will undergo a title change to '**Political Economy**'. This title change will not impact on your study path. If you have not passed '**Economy and Society**', you will be required to take the course under its new title, '**Political Economy**', as of academic year 2025-2026.

Second Year 2425	ECTS	SEM	Second Year 2526	ECTS	SEM
Critical Thinking in Sociology	6	1	Critical Thinking in Sociology	6	1
Critical Thinking in Communication Studies	6	1	Critical Thinking in Communication Studies	6	1
History of International Relations	6	1	History of International Relations	6	1
Qualitative Research Methods	6	1	Qualitative Research Methods	6	1
Quantitative Research Methods	6	1	Quantitative Research Methods	6	1
Social Change and Inequality in Europe	6	2	Social Change and Inequality in Europe	6	2
Economy and Society	6	2	Political Economy	6	2
Popular Media Culture and Diversity	6	2	Popular Media Culture and Diversity	6	2
Critical Thinking in Political Science	6	2	Critical Thinking in Political Science	6	2
Seminar Current Issues II	6	2	Seminar Current Issues II	6	2

Third year (BA3): Communication studies

Starting from the academic year 2025-2026, the compulsory first semester course '**Cultural Media Studies**' in the Communication Studies orientation will be substituted with a new first semester course titled '**Visual Culture**'.

- Students who are currently enrolled in '**Cultural Media Studies**' for the academic year 2024-2025 and do not successfully complete the course will be required to take the new course in the following academic year.
- Students who are currently enrolled in '**Cultural Media Studies**' for the academic year 2024-2025 and do successfully complete the course will not experience any adjustments.
- Students who are not yet enrolled in '**Cultural Media Studies**' will be required to take the new course in the following academic year.

Communication Studies 2425	ECTS	SEM	Communication Studies 2526	ECTS	SEM
EU Media Policy	6	1	EU Media Policy	6	1
Cultural Media Studies	6	1	Visual Culture	6	1
Content and Textual Analysis	6	1	Content and Textual Analysis	6	1
Historical Perspectives on Media and Communication	6	1	Historical Perspectives on Media and Communication	6	1
Media Psychology and Sociology	6	1	Digital Media Sociology	6	2
Online and Social Media Strategies	6	2	Online and Social Media Strategies	6	2
International Communication	6	2	International Communication	6	2
Bachelor Paper Social Sciences	12	1+2	Bachelor Paper Social Sciences	12	1+2

Third Year (BA3): Political Sciences

Starting from the academic year 2025-2026, two courses will change semester:

- **'History of Globalization'**, currently a first-semester course, will become a second-semester course.
- **'Contemporary Politics in the Global South'**, currently a second-semester course, will become a first-semester course.

If you are currently taking either course and do not pass, you will need to retake it in its new semester next year.

EXCEPTION FOR EARLY GRADUATION: Students eligible for an early graduation may be affected by History of Globalization moving to the second semester. If this impacts your graduation plan and you meet the [early graduation criteria](#), you may **substitute History of Globalization with a free elective**.

This elective may be:

- A course from another orientation, or
- A second methodological course.

This option is only available to students eligible for early graduation. If this applies to you, email studypath.es@vub.be with the subject line: 'Free Elective Social Sciences'.

Political Sciences 2425	ECTS	SEM	Political Sciences 2526	ECTS	SEM
PSPEU	6	1	PSPEU	6	1
History of Globalization	6	1	Contemporary Politics in the GS	6	1
Democratic Theory and Practice	6	1	Democratic Theory and Practice	6	1
Contemp Issues in Intern Politics	6	1	Contemp Issues in Intern Politics	6	1
Political Ethnography	6	1	Political Ethnography	6	2
International Relations Theory	6	2	International Relations Theory	6	2
Contemporary Politics in the GS	6	2	History of Globalization	6	2
Bachelor Paper Social Sciences	12	1+2	Bachelor Paper Social Sciences	12	1+2

Third Year (BA3): Methodological Electives

Starting from the academic year 2025-2026, the elective course **'Digital Methods'** will be discontinued and will no longer be offered in the programme. Instead, a new course, **'Audience Research'**, will be introduced.

Students who are currently enrolled in **'Digital Methods'** and do not pass in the 2025-2026 academic year will need to select a new elective course of their choice in the following year.

Electives 2425	ECTS	SEM	Electives 2526	ECTS	SEM
Generalized Linear Techniques	6	1	Generalized Linear Techniques	6	1
Content and Textual Analysis	6	1	Content and Textual Analysis	6	1
Political Ethnography	6	1	Political Ethnography	6	1
Multivariate Data Analysis	6	1	Multivariate Data Analysis	6	1
Policy Analysis	6	1	Policy Analysis	6	1
Digital Methods	6	2	Audience Research	6	2