

Programme Changes: Bachelor in Social Sciences 2026-2027

This document provides an overview of the programme changes that will apply to the Bachelor in Social Sciences starting from the academic year 2026-2027. The following changes will be implemented:

- [Semester change for two courses in the first year \(BA1\)](#)
- [Semester change for two courses in the second year \(BA2\)](#)
- [New course in the compulsory module in the Political Sciences orientation \(BA3\)](#)

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 2026-2027, two courses will change semester:

- Communicating Scientific Knowledge, currently a first-semester course, will become a second-semester course.
- Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics, 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 2526	ECTS	SEM	First Year 2627	ECTS	SEM
Introduction to SPC Methodology	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	Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	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	Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6	2
Introduction to Sociology	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 2026-2027, two courses will change semester:

- Critical Thinking in Communication Studies, currently a first-semester course, will become a second-semester course.
- Critical Thinking in Political Science, 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.

Second Year 2526	ECTS	SEM	Second Year 2627	ECTS	SEM
Critical Thinking in Sociology	6	1	Critical Thinking in Sociology	6	1
Critical Thinking in Communication Studies	6	1	Critical Thinking in Political Science	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
Political Economy	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 Communication Studies	6	2
Seminar Current Issues II	6	2	Seminar Current Issues II	6	2

Third Year (BA3): Political Sciences

Starting from the academic year 2026-2027, the compulsory first semester course ‘**Contemporary Issues in International Politics**’ will be discontinued and will no longer be offered in the programme. It will be substituted with a new compulsory first semester course titled ‘**Political Ecology**’.

- Students who are currently enrolled in ‘**Contemporary Issues in International Politics**’ for the academic year 2025-2026 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 ‘**Contemporary Issues in International Politics**’ for the academic year 2025-2026 and do successfully complete the course will not experience any adjustments.
- Students who are not yet enrolled in ‘**Contemporary Issues in International Politics**’ will be required to take the new course in the following academic year.

Students who are required to take ‘Political Ecology’ but do not see this course listed in their study requirements in Student SelfService are advised to contact the study path counselor at studypath.es@vub.be to have it added to their programme.

Political Sciences 2526	ECTS	SEM	Political Sciences 2627	ECTS	SEM
PSPEU	6	1	PSPEU	6	1
Contemporary Politics in the GS	6	1	Contemporary Politics in the GS	6	1
Democratic Theory and Practice	6	1	Democratic Theory and Practice	6	1
Contemporary Issues in International Politics	6	1	Political Ecology	6	1
Political Ethnography	6	1	Political Ethnography	6	1
International Relations Theory	6	2	International Relations Theory	6	2
History of Globalization	6	2	History of Globalization	6	2
Bachelor Paper Social Sciences	12	1+2	Bachelor Paper Social Sciences	12	1+2