

What does Education for Sustainability have to do with Politics and International Relations?

"We are interested in the political dimensions of key issues, including migration, human rights, global warming, pandemics and energy. These challenges cannot be contained or addressed within national boundaries." (<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/politics/index.page?>)

The future international political and development challenges will be shaped by the need to move to low-carbon economies, shifts in population dynamics, and greater strain on the most vulnerable in society.

Topic areas of relevance to sustainability already in the Politics & International Relations curriculum include:

- Globalisation and Global politics: health, labour and environmental concerns; human rights; equality and justice
- Population: poverty; ageing; health (including pandemics)
- Climate change: migration; health implications; energy security
- Development: what constitutes development; is it desirable or achievable? What is the role of Millennium Development Goals/Sustainable Development Goals? Can sustainability and development be compatible, and if so what is the impact on food, hunger, the commons, and scarce resources? Are there universal rights? To what extent can economic growth be reconciled with good environmental management? What are sustainable livelihoods?
- Policy: trade; democracy; behavioural change; international law and governance; decision-making for a low-carbon future

Key skills for social scientists which sustainability teaching cultivates: informed decision-making; synthesis of different opinions, theory and data; interdisciplinarity; communication; critical thinking; problem-based learning.

Find out more: Contact Julia Kendal (j.kendal@soton.ac.uk) for more information including case studies on teaching sustainability in this area.