

# CHARTER FOR GENDER STUDIES

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Gender studies refer to an international and interdisciplinary field of research. It **analyses power relations, inequalities and discriminatory practices** relating to sex, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, as well as their intersection with other categories, such as social class, ethno-racial origins or presumed origins, religion, age and disability.

This field of study falls within the broader landscape of research conducted into academically debated notions such as gender difference, gender relations, sex, gender, queerness and intersectionality. The aim of the approach is to create a space for reflection on the production of inequalities, the concept of equality, sociocultural and political practices and public policy. **Driven by critical and self-reflexive thought, the field of gender studies is continually being developed and renewed.**

At Sciences Po, gender studies are primarily taught through the lens of the humanities and social sciences (law, economics, history, political science, sociology). Teaching in this area combines theoretical, empirical and applied approaches. Whatever their programme or professional aspirations, all students at Sciences Po have the option of pursuing a gender studies course track. In doing so, they gain the knowledge base and critical tools necessary to understand issues relating to gender inequality and discrimination, including past and future historical, social, economic, legal and political dimensions.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Gender studies courses offered at Sciences Po aim to equip students with:

- Critical and analytical tools drawing upon an **updated knowledge of scientific controversies** across the field of gender studies and research
- An understanding of **inequalities and discriminatory practices** and their effects in relation to the themes listed above
- Knowledge of the **historical, social, economic, legal and political frameworks** through which are constructed gender relations

## ACADEMIC FORMATS

Sciences Po's Gender Studies Programme is built into the university's existing programmes at both undergraduate and Master's level.

## VALIDATION OF THE GENDER STUDIES TRACK

At the end of their studies, students who have acquired demonstrable academic expertise in gender studies can earn one of the following certificates:

### At the end of the Undergraduate College: the Certification in Gender and Equality

Designed as a multidisciplinary introduction to gender studies, the [Certification in Gender and Equality](#) of the Sciences Po Undergraduate College combines instruction and the Civic Learning Program with the completion of the following steps:

- Validation of a gender studies course in the first year (semester 2)
- Validation of two gender studies courses in the second year (semesters 3 and/or 4)
- Validation of at least one field experience as part of the Civic Learning Programme (the Civic Internship in year one or the Independent Project in year two) on a subject related to issues of gender, equality and/or discrimination
- Validation of the Capstone Project on a subject related to issues of gender, equality and/or discrimination.

### At the end of a Master's degree: the Advanced Certification in Gender Studies

The [Advanced Certification in Gender Studies](#) is open to all students in the second year of a Master's degree at Sciences Po. The criteria for earning the certificate are as follows:

- Completion of at least four courses on issues relating to gender studies, earning an A or B ECTS grade for each. At least two of these courses must be at Master's level.
- Discussion of a topic relating to gender studies as part of the Grand Oral exam or a thesis defence.

**Eligibility conditions for professional placements (internships, apprenticeships, Civic Learning Programme placements) to count towards the certifications**  
Professional placements (internships, apprenticeships or Civic Learning Programme placements) will count towards the gender studies track if they have required the student to analyse or explore a topic through the prism of gender (*gender analysis*).