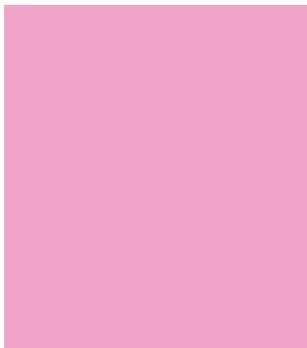
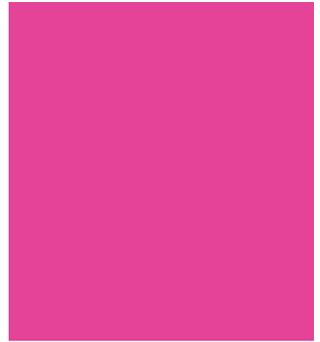




University of  
BRISTOL

# Social policy Undergraduate



The University of Bristol is part of the £19.5 million Q-step programme, designed to promote a step change in quantitative social science training. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE, the University of Bristol Q-Step Centre is part of a national network of 15 centres in the UK working to address the shortage of social science graduates with quantitative skills.

We offer a unique set of three- and four-year degree programmes that combine core disciplinary learning with enhanced quantitative skills training focusing on applied data analysis relevant to research in the social sciences. Look for course titles that include 'with Quantitative Research Methods' in this leaflet and find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/qstep](http://bristol.ac.uk/qstep).



**A step-change in  
quantitative social  
science skills**

Funded by the  
Nuffield Foundation,  
ESRC and HEFCE



## Why study social policy at Bristol?

Social policy is the interdisciplinary study of how societies conceptualise and respond to 'need' and promote the welfare and wellbeing of their members. Historically, this meant the study of the welfare state but it has come to mean much more than this. Bristol's social policy degrees are particularly strong for the breadth and choice of policy areas covered and for emphasising the international context of the subject.

As a social policy student you will learn to think critically about issues such as risk, need, citizenship, inequality and globalisation. We look at these not just in relation to the UK but also globally, drawing on areas like East Asia and Scandinavia for examples from the first year. We also look at the role and scope of global institutions like the United Nations and the European Union.

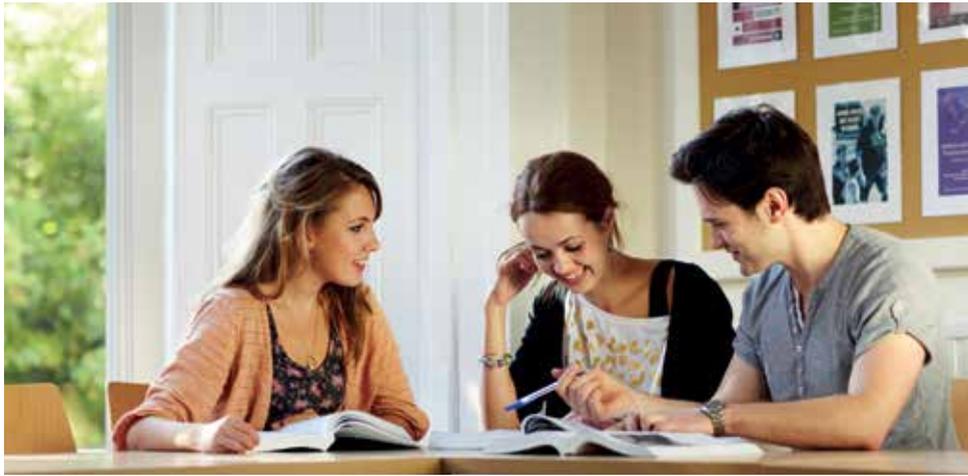
You can choose to study social policy as a single subject or in combination with politics, sociology, management, criminology or quantitative research methods. We offer high quality teaching related to the research strengths of the School for Policy Studies; your lecturers will be among some of the leading researchers in their field. The results of the 2014 Research Exercise Framework (REF) confirm the excellence of research in social policy and social work in the School for Policy Studies: 80 per cent of our research was rated as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' and the school was rated eighth overall in the country (when taking into account the number of staff entered).

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# 1st

BSc Social Policy ranking in  
*The Guardian* University subject  
table 2016 and the *Good  
University Guide*

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## What will I study?

### Single Honours courses

BSc Social Policy, three years	L400
BSc Social Policy with Study Abroad, four years	
BSc Social Policy with Criminology, three years	LM49
BSc Social Policy with Management, three years	LN42
BSc Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods, three years	L402
MSci Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods, four years	L403

### Joint Honours courses

BSc Social Policy and Politics, three years	LL42
BSc Social Policy and Sociology, three years	LL43

These courses are designed to introduce you to the interdisciplinary study of social policy and to develop your skills and knowledge through the three years. As you move through the degree you are given the chance to make more choices each year and can construct your choice of specialisms within the range offered.

The first year includes units covering historical and theoretical perspectives and introducing comparative and international themes and concepts. Year two includes the mandatory unit

'Understanding Public Policy' and allows you to follow up your own interests in your choice of optional units. Year three includes the opportunity for you to design and carry out your own investigation for your dissertation and to explore more optional areas, such as the current optional units in social policy outlined below.

### The State of Welfare

This is a period in which the provision of social welfare is subject to immense social and economic pressures. A seemingly endless period of retrenchment and austerity poses risks to the sustainability of key welfare services. Additionally the demographic time bomb and the migration crisis in Europe raise major questions about the viability of social welfare provision. In these contexts the unit will ask: what is the future for social welfare?

### Social Policy and the European Union

The unit develops students' understanding of institutions and policy processes within the European Union. It explores a range of theoretical perspectives on the development of the 'European Social Model' and considers the role of the EU itself in social policy. The unit will consider the tensions and nature of relations between the European Union and member states. Key issues to

be explored include poverty and social exclusion, education, citizenship, migration and integration policies. The unit also considers the nature, responses to, and impact of the global economic crisis on European integration.

### Punishment in Society

This unit aims to provide a comprehensive and critical analysis of past and present penal policies. Insights from sociological, historical and critical theory will be used to further our understanding of contemporary policy and practice in Britain and several other countries.

### Study Abroad

We have exchange schemes with City University of Hong Kong and with Linköping University in Sweden, which allow students to spend part of their second year abroad. We also encourage students who wish to spend part of the second year abroad on an individual basis to do so through the University's Global Opportunities Office.

### Teaching Methods

Teaching methods include traditional lectures, interactive lectures, classes/seminars, tutorials and clinics. Transferable skills are developed through working with others in small groups and giving presentations.

### Assessment

We place a strong emphasis on the role of assessment and feedback in helping you develop through your study. Every unit includes both formative and summative assessment. Methods of assessment include unseen examinations, extended essays and other structured written assignments. The 10,000 word dissertation is a piece of research carried out independently with the support of an academic supervisor. This is mandatory for Single Honours students, as well as for 'with Management', 'with Criminology' and 'with Quantitative Research Methods' students. It is optional for Joint Honours students.

100%

of students are satisfied with the quality of the course

(National Student Survey 2015, BSc Social Policy)



## What are my career prospects?

When it comes to choosing a career social policy graduates often have the best of both worlds. The degree can be 'vocational' across a range of public, private and voluntary sector services, and many enter the national management training schemes for the NHS, local government and the civil service. Recent trends show increasing numbers are looking to pursue professional vocations – law (via the Graduate Diploma in Law), teaching (both Teach First and PGCE) and social work.

However, it is also a non-vocational subject and our graduates compete successfully for the wide range of graduate opportunities that do not require specific subject knowledge but rather a set of skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving.

*"I'm now a policy and partnership officer for Oxfordshire County Council where I work across adult and children's social care. I loved my time at the School for Policy Studies. I always felt that our tutors were genuinely interested in our work and our futures, which resulted in brilliant academic and pastoral supervision."*

**Sophie**  
BSc Social Policy, 2011

100%

of students are in work or further study six months after graduation

(Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2013/14, BSc Social Policy)

## Making your application

### Typical offer for BSc Social Policy\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug17-socpol](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug17-socpol) for other qualifications

**A-levels** ABB (contextual BBB<sup>†</sup>)

**IB Diploma** 32 overall (contextual 31<sup>†</sup>) to include 16 points at Higher Level

**English Language Profile** B<sup>††</sup>

**GCSEs** Grade C in English and Mathematics

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit

[bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers)

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit

[bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements)

**Selection** UCAS or Common Application

**Deferred entry** Considered

\*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2016), however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed students who have a genuine interest in the sort of subjects we cover. We do not normally interview, so please use your personal statement to demonstrate your commitment and suitability for the degree. You could show this by the way you talk about your own studies, work experience and other interests – what has interested you and why?

You do not need any specific prior knowledge such as particular subjects studied at A-level; our first year is intended to provide you with the basis of what you need to successfully progress through the degree.

### Further information

Find out more about the School for Policy Studies: [bristol.ac.uk/sps](http://bristol.ac.uk/sps).



## Contacts

### Enquiries Team

**Tel** +44 (0)117 394 1649

**Email** [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

### Accommodation Office

**Tel** +44 (0)117 954 6640

**Email** [accom-office@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:accom-office@bristol.ac.uk)  
[bristol.ac.uk/accommodation](http://bristol.ac.uk/accommodation)

### Disability Services

**Tel** +44 (0)117 331 0444

**Email** [disability-services@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:disability-services@bristol.ac.uk)  
[bristol.ac.uk/disability-services](http://bristol.ac.uk/disability-services)

### Student Funding Office

**Tel** +44 (0)117 331 7972

**Email** [student-funding@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:student-funding@bristol.ac.uk)  
[bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding](http://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding)

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University guide to the city of Bristol  
[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

Undergraduate study website  
[bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study)

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2017. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2016). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website for the latest updates: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

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