

# Childhood Studies



**Undergraduate study**

# Courses

## Single Honours

### **BSc Childhood Studies**

three years L520

### **BSc Childhood Studies with Management**

three years L524

### **BSc Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods**

three years L522

### **BSc Childhood Studies with Study Abroad**

four years L525

### **MSci Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods**

four years L523

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## Why study childhood studies at Bristol?

Childhood studies is the social science of childhood and adolescence. We are one of only a few schools in the UK to offer a truly interdisciplinary approach to the study of children and young people's lives from birth to 19 years of age.

Childhood studies at Bristol combines theoretical understanding from areas such as psychology, sociology, education, policy studies, law, health and social care, anthropology and history to understand children's lives from a national and global perspective.

Childhood studies at Bristol is located within a social policy environment, giving depth and breadth to the course. The School for Policy Studies is a research-intensive department focusing on the analysis, implementation, impact of, and evidence for policy. The results of the 2014 Research Exercise Framework (REF) confirm the excellence of research in the School for Policy Studies; 80 per cent of our research was rated as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

You will benefit from studying with researchers whose work is focused on children and families, including: research with children with disabilities; studies of poverty and child health in the

developing world; safeguarding children in online and offline worlds; social exclusion and crime among adolescents; therapeutic programmes for children; children's health and wellbeing; educational provision and more. You can choose to study childhood studies as a Single Honours degree or in combination with either management or quantitative research methods.

### **Q-Step programme**

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 working to address the shortage of social science graduates with quantitative skills.

We offer a unique set of three- and four-year degrees 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).

**'I am an inter-country caseworker at Children and Families Across Borders. The foundation of knowledge that I built during my time at Bristol is fundamental to my work [and] completing my degree gave me the skills and confidence I need.'**

Rose (BSc Childhood Studies)

# What will you study?

All our degrees are designed to introduce you to the interdisciplinary social science of childhood and adolescence and to develop your skills and knowledge through the three years.

The first year enables you to explore constructions of childhood and to discuss contemporary issues, debates and challenges in childhood. You will begin to develop an understanding of child psychology and further your critical academic and research skills.

The second and third years allow you to develop your own specific pathway through the degree, depending on your particular interests and career choice. For example you might choose to follow a pathway in education, psychology, early years' provision, social work or law and justice, or you may choose a mix of units from different pathways.

Optional units have included:

- **Child and Adolescent Psychology**

Examining aspects of psychological development relating to the lives of children and young people, this unit explores their physical, cognitive and social growth.

- **Children and Young People in the Law**

Within an overall framework of children's rights, this unit analyses children and young people's status within the English legal system. Through a wide range of topics we explore the tensions inherent within children's participation and self-determination in legal contexts, for example as witnesses and defendants in criminal proceedings, as subjects of medical intervention, as refugees and asylum seekers. Discussions will focus on the potential discrepancies between enabling children's autonomy and ensuring their best interests are paramount in legal decisions.

- **Education, Schooling and Diversity**

In this unit we consider the diverse and often competing purposes of education and the relationship between discourses of education and formal schooling. With a critical and post-structural perspective on contemporary education in England, we consider the nature of formal schooling that has evolved since the advent of the social welfare state and the impact of politics and ideologies. Underpinning this unit will be a consideration of the diversity of learners and learning contexts, including discussion of the complexities of gender, culture, ethnicity, ability and special educational needs in classrooms and the role that education can play in combating societal inequalities.

- **Work and work placements**

Develop employment-related skills and enhance your understanding of work and employment within children and young people contexts. You will be supported to find a work placement, complete at least 80 hours of voluntary work and develop a critical understanding of work and the contemporary labour market in the context of theories of work, organisation and policies in relation to children and young people.

- **Study abroad**

Our 'with Study Abroad' course provides an exciting opportunity to spend your third year studying in English at one of our partner institutions overseas. You will take units from the broader social sciences, arts, and humanities, including languages. We have exchange partners from a range of universities across the world in locations including Hong Kong, Sweden, Canada, the USA and Japan.

- **Teaching methods**

We use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, clinics and guided independent study. You will develop transferable skills through working with others in small groups and through giving presentations. Several units include visits to different types of statutory and voluntary provision for children, young people and their families for the purpose of study and observation. You will also be supported to undertake voluntary work with children and their families to enhance your learning.



- **Assessment and feedback**

We place a strong emphasis on the role of assessment in supporting your academic development. We use a mixture of exams, assessed essays and, in some cases, portfolios of work. You will be assigned a personal tutor for the duration of your studies to help you understand and implement the feedback you receive.

**BSc Childhood Studies degree was declared the best in the UK by *The Guardian*\***.

\*2018 university league table, classified as Social Work



## Careers and graduate destinations

Global and national initiatives have created a strong demand for people with expertise in childhood studies who are able to work across disciplinary and professional boundaries in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The skills you acquire throughout the degree will enable you to compete strongly for the wide range of vacancies that require a graduate with critical and analytical abilities.

A degree in childhood studies provides an academic foundation for a career in a range of fields, such as education and teaching, psychology and therapeutic work with children, the management of children's services, law, policing and youth justice, social work, national and international charities, family support, children's health and wellbeing, government and the civil service, and research and development. A number of graduates go on to postgraduate study and doctoral research. The research and teaching base at the School for Policy Studies provides an excellent opportunity to further specialise in areas that interest you at undergraduate level.

Volunteering can help enhance your skills and develop practical experience valued by employers. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer for children's charities, schools and community groups in the Bristol area via the childhood studies courses and the Students' Union skills and volunteering programme.

**'Since graduating I have completed the first year of the Teach First Leadership Development Programme. The knowledge and skills I gained from the degree are invaluable. It equipped me extremely well to be knowledgeable and resilient in the face of the numerous pressures placed on professionals working with children today.'**

Hilary (BSc Childhood Studies)



## Making your application

### Typical offer for BSc Childhood Studies\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-childhood](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-childhood) for other qualifications.

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

**IB Diploma** 32 overall (contextual 29<sup>†</sup>) to include 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14<sup>†</sup>).

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

**GCSEs** Standard numeracy requirement (C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent).

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/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.

\*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 2018); 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).

### Further information

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

Find out more about our childhood studies degrees: [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-childhood](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-childhood).

# Contact us

## Enquiries Team

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**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

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## Disability Services

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

University guide to the city of Bristol

**[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)**

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## Photography

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