

Social Policy



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BSc Social Policy

three years L400

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

BSc Social Policy with Study Abroad

four years L404

MSci Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods

four years L403

Joint Honours

BSc Social Policy and Politics

three years LL42

BSc Social Policy and Sociology

three years LL43

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 right 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'. Bristol provides the backdrop to your studies: a city engaged with issues of environment and sustainability and enriched by cultural diversity. Voted in 2017 as the best place to live in the UK*, Bristol is a great place to study.

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 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.

**The Sunday Times*

'I chose Bristol because I wanted to study at a world-class university in an amazing city. I chose my subject because I love the idea of understanding society and how governments can influence people's lives.'

Lee (BSc Social Policy)

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, for the latest updates.

What will you study?

Our 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 starts with the Critical Skills for Social Scientists unit to equip you for the demands of the degree, alongside units covering historical, conceptual and comparative and international perspectives on social policy. Year two includes the mandatory unit Understanding Public Policy and allows you to follow up your own interests in a choice of optional units, including a work placement unit. 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 optional units 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?

Drugs and Society:

This unit examines the ways in which societies respond to psychoactive substance use, distinguishing between categories of substance and creating systems of drug control. We look at the development of British drugs policy over the last century, locate this within the context of international drug control policies and examine selected other countries' drug policies. This unit uses concepts of harm, needs, risk and pleasure to explore drugs policy and its social consequences.

Migration Policy in the UK and European Union:

This unit covers the history and current development of migration policies in the United Kingdom and the European Union (EU). It will examine EU policy development and policy failures in the context of the unfolding migration, humanitarian and refugee crisis in the Mediterranean and in Europe. The unit will explore conceptual and methodological problems surrounding the analysis of international migration. The focus will be on local, national and European migration patterns and trends in the wider global context of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Core themes of the unit include labour migration, the feminisation of migration flows, asylum seeking, the securitisation of migration debates, human trafficking and the social construction of migration as crime.

Study abroad

Our four-year 'with Study Abroad' degree offers the exciting opportunity of spending your third year at one of our partner institutions. At your host university you will be able to take units from the broader social sciences, arts and humanities, including languages. Our current exchange partners include City University of Hong Kong, Linköping University (Sweden), University of British Columbia, University of Washington and Waseda University in Japan.

Many employers place additional value on international student experience when assessing graduate job applications. We also offer semester length exchange schemes with City University of Hong Kong and Linköping University for several of our three-year courses, which allow you to spend part of your second year abroad.

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.

Best in the UK for social policy* in *The Guardian* subject league table 2018.

*BSc Social Policy (classified as Social Policy and Administration)



Careers and graduate destinations

When it comes to choosing a career, social policy graduates often have the best of both worlds. Our high quality, research-led courses will open up a wide choice of rewarding careers.

Past students have gone on to work in a variety of vocational roles across the 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, including law (via the Graduate Diploma in Law), teaching (both Teach First and PGCE) and social work.

Our social policy degrees are also commended for their broad appeal and our high-calibre graduates compete successfully for the wide range of graduate opportunities that do not require specific subject knowledge, but a set of professional skills, such as communication, teamwork and problem solving.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).



Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Social Policy*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-socpol for other qualifications.

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC[†]).

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 29[†]) to include 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14[†]).

English Language profile B^{††}

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

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

^{††}For details of English language profiles, visit 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.

Further information

Find out more about the School for Policy Studies: bristol.ac.uk/sps.

Learn more about the department and hear what our current students think on the School for Social Policy's YouTube channel.

Contact us

Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

Email 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

bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services

Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444

Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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