Social Policy visit day
2020
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This presentation...

- Introducing Social Policy
- Social Policy at the University of Bristol
- Teaching, learning, and student support
- Why study social policy at Bristol?
- Career routes in Social Policy

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What is Social Policy?

- ‘... the study of the social relations necessary for human wellbeing and the systems by which wellbeing may be promoted or, ... impaired’ (Hartley Dean, 2012)
- policy and practice in social services, health, social security, education, employment, community care and housing;
- social problems, e.g. crime, disability, unemployment, mental health, learning disability, old age;
- issues relating to social disadvantage, including race, gender and poverty;
- the range of collective social responses to these conditions (Paul Spicker, 2017);
- An interdisciplinary social science; politics, sociology, criminology, human geography, public policy...
- Empirical; theoretical; comparative

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What is Social Policy?

- Should we do anything about inequality?
- Why does poverty persist?
- Should everyone have a basic income?
- What are the impacts of austerity?
- Who should pay for higher education?
- Who should pay for care for the elderly?
- How can we address housing affordability?
- What effects does migration have on society?
- What impacts does imprisonment have on offenders?
- How does social policy function in different countries?
- How can we prevent gender violence?
Social Policy degrees

- BSc Social Policy
- BSc Social Policy with Innovation
- BSc Social Policy with Study Abroad
- BSc International Social and Public Policy
- BSc International Social and Public Policy with Study Abroad
- BSc Social Policy with Criminology
- BSc Social Policy with Management
- BSc Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods (Q step)
- MSci Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods (Q step)
- Social Policy with Innovation
- MSci Social Policy with Innovation
- BSc Social Policy and Politics
- BSc Social Policy and Sociology
Current programme structure

Year 1

Core Social Policy Units:
- Critical Skills for Social Scientists
- Concepts and ideologies
- Social Policy Past and Present;
- Comparative and International Social Policy

Plus pathway specific choices

Year 2

Development of Social Policy knowledge:
- Understanding Public Policy
- Research Methods
- Theorising Social Welfare

Choice of optional units

Pathway specific choices

Year 3

Further specialisation:
- Choice of optional units or dissertation
- Pathway specific choices
Current and recent optional units

- Comparative Social Policy in a Globalizing World
- Migration Policy in the UK and EU
- Drugs and Society
- Education and Society
- Housing, Economy, and Society
- Introduction to Disability Studies
- Youth, Sexualities, and Gendered Violence
- Gender Based Violence
- Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Punishment in Society

- Cities and Communities in the Urban Age
- Societal change and the Transformation of Work
- The State of Welfare
- Social Policy and the European Union
- Youth Justice
- Work and Work Placement
- Social Research Methods
Current and recent optional units

Criminology options
• Key Thinkers in Criminology
• Understanding Crime, Harm, and Society
• Controlling Crime and Social Harm
• Globalisation, Crime, Harm and Justice
• Violence, Conflict and Forced Migration
• Criminalising Welfare
• Understanding Terrorism
• Leisure, Pleasure and harm

Q-step units
• Principles of Quantitative Social Science
• Conducting a Research Project using Secondary Data
• Convincing stories: using numbers in the social sciences
• Segregation and inequality: measurement and debate

Management Options
• International Business Management
• Foundations of Business Law
• Public Management
• Project Management
• Marketing
• Organisation theory
Recent dissertation topics

- Media representations of the migrant crisis
- Housing affordability for first-time buyers
- Discourses of disability in government proposals
- Gentrification in London
- Gated communities and notions of community
- Young people and restorative justice
- Attitudes to illegal drugs amongst students
- Widening access to higher education
- Internships, social networking and social mobility
- Dementia and care giving
- Police officer attitudes domestic violence
- Political participation and poverty

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Teaching, learning, and student support

• Teaching methods: interactive lectures, seminars, clinics, presentations, individual tutorials/discussions with your personal tutor/dissertation tutor

• Contact hours: 9/10 hours per week; plus extensive reading

• Lectures supported by small classes

• Assessment: examinations, essays, portfolio, dissertation.

• Student support:
  o Critical skills unit to equip for higher education
  o Quick guides
  o Workshops covering study skills, exam preparation, careers and more
  o Detailed written feedback on assessment
  o Recording of lectures
  o Personal tutor

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University student health, well being, and support services

• Personal support within the School for Policy Studies:
  • Personal tutor
  • Senior tutor
  • Wellbeing advisers

• Support across the University:
  • NHS Students’ Health Service on campus
  • Residential Life Service (‘ResiLife’)
  • Wellbeing Service
  • Student Counselling
  • Disability Services
  • Accommodation Office
  • Student Funding Office
  • ‘Just Ask’ (Students’ Union)
Why study Social Policy at Bristol?
Top 10
UK University
in QS World
Rankings 2020

11th in the world’s ‘cool list’ destinations
National Geographic Traveller, 2018

4th Most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2020)

Top 5
For research in the UK (REF 2014)

One of the safest universities in the UK (Student Experience Survey 2018)

Top 10
UK University in QS World Rankings 2020

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Why study social policy at Bristol?

Highly rated in league tables:

- The Guardian: Social Policy #2 in league table (and has been #1 or 2 most years since 2007)
- QS World Ranking: Social Policy at University of Bristol in top 20 globally

Research-informed teaching

- 80% of research ranked as world leading or internationally excellent
- Led largest ever study of poverty and social exclusion in UK
- Expertise in poverty, austerity, migration, disability, gender violence, international social policy…

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Why study at Bristol?

“The best thing about studying here is the number of study spaces and libraries available and the support that we get from lecturers. They don’t just assume we understand, but actually take time to break things down or address us privately.” (Jennifer)

• “The passion and diversity of the lecturers at Bristol meant it was always interesting and developed my own passion for the subject.” (Laura)

• “The best thing was how approachable everybody was – I always felt as though those who taught us were genuinely interested in our work and our futures, and this made for brilliant academic and pastoral supervision.” (Sophie)
Why Bristol?

- Wide variety of routes and optional units
- Supportive learning environment
- Research-led teaching
- Study abroad opportunities
- Sought after graduates
Careers

https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/social-policy

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