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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Social Policy



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BSc Social Policy

three years L400

BSc International Social and Public Policy

three years L410

BSc International Social and Public Policy with Study Abroad

four years L411

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 Innovation*

four years L405

MSci Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods

four years L403

* This course is subject to approval.

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 examples from areas such as East Asia and Scandinavia right from your 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, innovation 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 Excellence 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'. Providing the backdrop to your studies is Bristol, a city engaged with issues of environment and sustainability and enriched by cultural diversity. Named 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*

Our BSc Social Policy degree was declared the best in the UK.

Guardian University Guide 2019, classified as Social Policy and Administration

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). 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 throughout your studies. As you move through your 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, comparative and international perspectives on social policy. Years two and three allow you to develop your own pathway through a wide choice of optional units, including the opportunity to undertake a work placement, depending on your particular interests. Optional units have included:

• The State of Welfare

Today, the provision of social welfare is subject to immense social and economic pressures. Additionally, the demographic time bomb and migration issues in Europe raise major questions about the viability of social welfare provision. In these contexts, this unit asks: 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 the drug policies of some other countries.

• Migration: UK, EU and Global Policy Perspectives

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.

• Work and Work Placements

In this unit, you will have the chance to develop employment-related skills and enhance your understanding of individual and community wellbeing. 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.

Study abroad

Our four-year 'with Study Abroad' degree offers the exciting opportunity of spending your third year at one of our partner institutions overseas. 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 universities in Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Sweden and the US.

Many employers place additional value on international student experience when assessing graduate job applications. We also offer semester-length exchange schemes 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 degree. 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.

Social Policy is part of the School for Policy Studies on Priory Road, home to internationally renowned lecturers and researchers from a wide range of disciplines.



'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)

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 sectors, including positions in government offices, think tanks and charities. Many also enter 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.

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers.

High Fliers Research 2019



Graduate employers

Next Link
Charityworks
Bigg
Care Quality Commission
Elim Housing Association



Career destinations

Social Media Executive
Trainee Expert Practitioner
Graduate Analyst
Community Outreach Worker
Supported Housing Officer

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-socpol for more information about our courses, including joint honours.

Typical offer for BSc Social Policy

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC).

IB Diploma 32 points overall (contextual 29) with 16 at Higher Level (contextual 14).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs Standard numeracy requirement (4 or C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-socpol.

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 our YouTube channel: School for Policy Studies, Uni of Bristol.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-socpol.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students