



University of  
**BRISTOL**

Undergraduate study

# Social Policy



## Key highlights



### Top reputation

Our social policy courses rank highly in university league tables (ranked in UK top ten in both *Times* Good University Guide 2020 and QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2020).



### Make a difference

Study with experts recognised for their work with poverty, gender-based violence, housing, migration, health and social care whose research has positively impacted people's lives.



### World-leading research

80 per cent of the school's research is classed 'world-leading' (REF 2014).



### Excellent prospects

Sought-after social policy graduates have the interdisciplinary skills to succeed in diverse careers.

[bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study)

## Why study social policy at Bristol?

Inspiring teaching allows you to analyse and explore real-world challenges in a global context, drawing on social, political, public policy and economic theories. Our School for Policy Studies is home to internationally renowned lecturers and researchers from a wide range of disciplines – an ideal environment for you to explore your interests and delve into a specialism.

Social policy is the interdisciplinary study of how societies conceptualise and respond to 'need' and promote the welfare and wellbeing of their members. We are known for the breadth of policy areas we cover 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 – here in the UK and around the world.

You can choose to study social policy as a single subject, or in combination with other social science subjects or innovation. We also offer a Study Abroad degree that allows you to spend your third year at one of our partner universities overseas, taking units from the broader social sciences, arts and humanities, or a language. We also offer a semester-long exchange scheme for several of our three-year courses.

## Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units  
[bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-socpol](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-socpol)

### Q-Step programme

We offer the option of three- and four-year degree programmes that combine core disciplinary learning with enhanced quantitative skills training in applied data analysis relevant to research in the social sciences. Find out more about our 'with Quantitative Research Methods' course offerings at: [bristol.ac.uk/qstep](http://bristol.ac.uk/qstep).

### What you will study

Our courses are designed to introduce you to the interdisciplinary study of the subject and to develop your skills and knowledge. As you progress through the degree, you can specialise to suit your interests.

The first year starts with the Critical Skills for Social Scientists unit 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 variety of optional units, including the opportunity to undertake a work placement, depending on your particular interest.

Sample units may include:

- Theorising Social Welfare
- Drugs and Society
- Migration: the UK, EU and Global Policy Perspectives
- Cities and Communities in the Urban Age
- Youth Justice.

Final-year students undertake a 10,000-word dissertation that allows you to dive into a research topic of your choosing.

'I chose Bristol because I wanted to study 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)



Providing a backdrop to your studies is Bristol, a vibrant, politically engaged city, enriched by cultural diversity.



The research carried out in the School for Policy Studies makes an enormous impact on policies and practice to improve people's lives. Explore examples of how our research has made a difference: [bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/impact](http://bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/impact).



You can choose to take a four-year Study Abroad degree, with a year studying in English at one of our prestigious partner universities overseas. Partner locations have included: Australia, Japan (pictured), Sweden, the Netherlands, or the US. Find out more: [bristol.ac.uk/go-abroad](http://bristol.ac.uk/go-abroad).

# Courses

- BSc Social Policy /  
BSc Social Policy with Study Abroad
- BSc International Social and Public Policy /  
BSc International Social and Public Policy with Study Abroad
- BSc / MSci Social Policy with Quantitative Research Methods
- BSc Social Policy with Criminology
- MSci Social Policy with Innovation
- BSc Social Policy and Politics
- BSc Social Policy and Sociology

## Connect with the School for Policy Studies

 @UoBrisSPS

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 School for Policy Studies, Uni of Bristol

### Photography

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). 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. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

