



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
POLICY, SOCIOLOGY  
AND CRIMINOLOGY



# SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Global Public Policy

Migration Studies

Social Policy

Social Research (Social Policy)

Sociology

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# Introduction

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Welcome to the Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology, we are a leading multi-disciplinary academic team committed to providing world-class research and innovative degree programmes. The mission of the department is not just to 'understand the world', but to also 'change it.' Consequently we are at the forefront of cutting edge social science research that informs and influences public debate.

## **Our achievements**

In turning this mission into practice, we are proud of our many achievements. Our academics are recognised leaders in their field, working alongside UK government departments and supra national organisations, such as the European Commission and United Nations to bring about positive social change. More than 2/3rds of our research is rated as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' in terms of its rigour, significance and originality, and we have extensive international links with like-minded partners at Harvard, Melbourne, Peking, Vancouver, Seoul and beyond.

## **Why choose to study in the Department?**

The Department has developed a reputation for delivering high-quality teaching and learning, which enables students to develop into reflective and research-informed professionals. In 2019, the UK Social Policy Association awarded the Department, the Policy Press Outstanding Teaching Award, in acknowledgment of our teaching excellence. Our postgraduate degrees are delivered by experts in each field and offer students a wide range of optional modules, so that you can personalise your degree to your needs and interests.

The Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology at the University of Birmingham is an internationally leading centre of research drawing together academic expertise in theory, empirical research and policy.

We have 50 academic experts working across five Departmental research themes: Crime & Social Harm; Poverty, Wealth & Inequality; Civil Society and Volunteering; Social Theory and Transformation; and Ethnicity and Religion.

The Department also hosts three world-leading research centres: Centre for Household, Assets and Savings Management; Institute for Research into Superdiversity; and the Third Sector Research Centre.

You will be part of a dynamic academic department that hosts a range of external speakers and lunchtime seminars. Moreover, our students have access to a dedicated study space located in the heart of the Department.





## CONTENTS

Birmingham... a great place to live and learn	4
Global Public Policy	6
Migration Studies	8
Social Policy	10
Sociology	12
Social Research (Social Policy)	14

# Birmingham...

## a great place to live and learn

Birmingham is an exciting destination with a long cultural and intellectual heritage. Choose Birmingham for a warm welcome in one of the most diverse cities in the UK.

### OUR CITY

As England's second city and home to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth games, Birmingham is a thriving, vibrant place to live. Multicultural, commercial and contemporary, it also boasts a rich history and heritage.

When you study here, you'll find it's not just the perfect base for your work – it's also the perfect place to begin your career and set down the foundations for a successful future.

Easily accessible from and to the rest of the UK, Birmingham is under two hours from London by train, and Birmingham Airport is around half an hour away from the city centre.

#### Birmingham highlights

All tastes are catered for in Birmingham. In the city centre alone, more than 200 restaurants serve food from 27 countries. Home to the famous Balti Triangle, this includes over 100 Balti houses, attracting more than 20,000 visitors each week while Chinatown offers tasty cuisine from across Asia.

In your leisure time, you'll find a huge range of activities to keep you entertained and occupied. Shopping areas include the famous Bullring and Grand Central, Resorts World, the ever growing Jewellery Quarter, and The Mailbox with its designer stores and upmarket restaurants. Birmingham also hosts a range of markets, including the famous German market at Christmas.

If you are looking for some culture, then you'll find plenty on your doorstep; including the diverse quarters in Digbeth, Cadbury World, concert arenas such as the O2 Academy, Custard Factory, Resorts World Arena, Symphony Hall and Arena Birmingham. You'll also find art galleries such as our very own Barber Institute situated on campus, and the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. With all this and so much more, you'll always find something to do.

### OUR CAMPUS

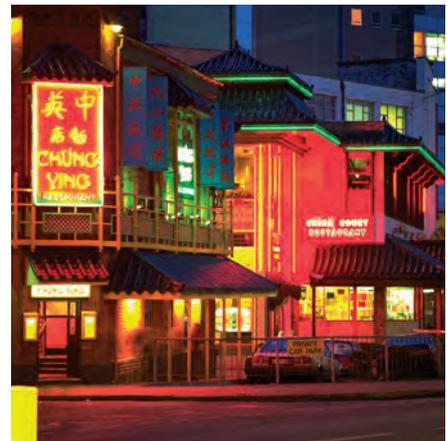
The University campus offers a peaceful and tranquil haven, yet is right on the doorstep of the bustling city. So whether you're looking for some quiet downtime to study or fancy a big night out, you're never far from where you want to be.

Striking architecture and 250 acres of parkland make for the stunning setting of our campus, which also boasts a whole range of amenities. You'll find bars, shops, a travel agent, opticians and a major bank, as well as an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site. Plus there is the added benefit of a full-time security team.

#### Green Heart

The Green Heart is a vast landscaped park at the heart of our historic campus, with a range of spaces for activities ranging from ceremonial occasions to public performances. It features and showcases some of our extensive range of cultural collections and is a place for meeting and relaxing all year around.

We are in the process of a five-year, £175 million campus development project; this has seen new facilities such as the Library; the new Sport & Fitness centre with the city's first 50-metre pool; contemporary student accommodation, and a multi-storey car park.





# Global Public Policy

## MA/PGDip

Policy making is becoming an increasingly complex process in the 21st Century. Traditional models of policy making are facing challenges from below, through the drive to devolution, and from above, as supra national forms of governance continue to evolve. Alongside, these developments, social issues, such as pollution, crime, and migration, increasingly transcend national boundaries, to present further challenges to policy makers. The context in which we make policy is radically changing.

### FACT FILE

**Start date:** September

**Duration:** MA: 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time; MA with Placement 21 months; Diploma: 9 months full-time, 18 months part-time

**Study mode:** On campus

**Fees for 2020–21:** UK/EU – £9,250; International – £20,070; MA with Placement, Home/EU – £10,890 International – £24,990

**Entry requirements:** 2:1 Honours degree, or equivalent. Applicants with a 2:2 degree classification will be considered on a case by case basis, if you have extensive related work experience.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date fees and fees for the PGDip.

### What is this programme about?

This exciting programme seeks to understand the ways that policy is formulated within an evolving and dynamic context, by drawing on the core concepts of policy analysis and theories of policy change. It will offer insights into the policy actors, coalitions and forms of evidence, that shape the creation of both 'good' and 'bad' policy, as well as providing a detailed understanding of the policy making architecture that characterises local, regional and supranational institutions. Moreover, the programme will explore the social, political, economic and historic contexts in which policy is formulated and the ways that power influences policy making.

As well as considering theories of the policy process, the programme offers the opportunity to study across a range of global policy issues and social problems, such as poverty, migration, crime, and homelessness, to understand these theories in action.

### Is it for me?

The programme is designed for those who intend to pursue a range of policy related careers, within local, regional or global institutions and will equip student to work across a number of policy domains. It will equip students with the policy analysis skills necessary to examine and evaluate policy outcomes; alongside, a broader range of social research methods required to research substantive policy issues. Through a suite of module options students can tailor the curriculum to match their interests and career plans. For those students interested in gaining experience in the workplace, we have pathways that incorporate a placement module.

### Core modules

As well as a range of optional modules, the Global Public Policy programme consists of two core modules and a dissertation for the MA qualification.

### Global Policy Institutions and Networks

This module explores some of the key conceptual and analytical issues in the study of global policy institutions and networks. Drawing on concepts from political economy, including multi-level governance, Varieties of Capitalism, and transnationalism, the module examines processes of political and economic divergence and convergence. It examines power shifts away from nation states, due to the influence of supranational and non-governmental organisations such as the United Nations and EU, and towards sub-national levels through processes of decentralisation. The module also considers the role of transnational actors and trade liberalisation in shaping policy processes and social outcomes at different spatial scales. Contemporary case studies are drawn from both the Global North and Global South to illustrate these key debates.

### Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking

This module critically explores some of the key issues and debates in the analysis of international public policy, focusing on the whole process of policymaking. The module provides students with the opportunity to identify and discuss the nature and role of policy analysis. This includes examining what are social issues, identifying significant dynamics and trends within the policy process, and identifying opportunities for shaping the future direction of policy. A range of theoretical policymaking models are discussed throughout the module, including policy networks, advocacy coalitions, policy transfer, and welfare regimes.



### LEARN MORE

To view the most up-to-date modules, please visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/global-public-policy.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/global-public-policy.aspx)

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5708

Email: [socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

### MA Global Public Policy

#### MA Global Public Policy (12 months) (180 credits)

##### Core modules

- Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking (20 credits)
- Global Public Policy Institutions and Networks (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

##### Optional modules\*

##### (80 credits from the list below):

- Migration and Development (20 credits)
- Migration and Superdiversity Placement (20 credits)
- Gendering Migration and Diaspora (20 credits)
- Sociology of Race and Racism (20 credits)
- Third Sector in Social Policy (20 credits)
- Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking (20 credits)
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality (20 credits)
- Crime and Social Harm (20 credits)
- Applied Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis (20 credits)
- Global Policy Institutions & Networks (20 credits)
- Policy Evaluation (20 credits)
- Philosophies of Welfare: creating new societies? (20 credits)
- Changing Attitudes to Social Issues (20 credits)
- Transforming Identities (20 credits)
- Transforming Societies (20 credits)

\* The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

### Placement Pathway

#### MA Global Public Policy with Integrated Placement (21 months)

This programme includes three elements. Six taught modules (from MA optional list opposite) are taken during the first year. In the second year, students complete a 12,000-word dissertation on a social policy subject of their choice and undertake a 20-week work-based experience in a local public, private or third sector organisation.

#### Postgraduate Diploma Global Public Policy with Integrated Placement (Nine months)

This programme combines four taught modules (from MA optional list opposite) with an opportunity for an eight-week work based placement in a local public, private or third sector organisation. The modules are taken during the Autumn and Spring Terms with the work-based placement starting in March and continuing through to the end of the Summer Term in June.

### Health Pathway

- MA Global Public Policy with Integrated Placement (Health) (21 months)
- Postgraduate Diploma Global Public Policy with Integrated Placement (Health) (9 months)
- MA Global Public Policy (Health) (1 year)

These programmes are aimed at those with an interest in health policy. They include modules from the School's Health Services Management Centre.

The MA includes six taught modules (four modules from list opposite and at least two selected from the Health Services Management Centre) and a 12,000-word dissertation. The MA with integrated placement also includes a 20-week work-based placement in a non-clinical health setting in the public, private or third sector.



# Migration Studies

## MA

The last two decades have seen unprecedented levels of migration around the globe. Whilst no one knows the precise numbers of migrants living in different localities, we do know that in many areas migrants have arrived from every country in the world. Our MA Migration Studies challenges our students to consider the policies we require to meet the needs of superdiverse populations, as well as to ensure social inclusion of migrant groups.

### FACT FILE

**Start date:** September

**Duration:** MA: 1 year full-time,  
2 years part-time

**Study mode:** On campus

**Fees for 2020–21:** UK/EU – £9,250;  
International – £18,450

**Entry requirements:** 2:1 Honours degree, or equivalent. Applicants with a 2:2 degree classification will be considered on a case by case basis, if you have extensive related work experience.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date fees.



As a result of globalisation, many countries have entered an era of superdiversity with societies more diverse in terms of ethnicity, and immigration status, than ever before. The major policy issue is not whether we should be tough on migration, but how we can better integrate new migrants and long established communities into their chosen societies, in a way that promotes social solidarity and inclusion with fair access to social welfare and other services.

#### What is the programme about?

This programme will explore the social, economic and political impacts of international migration and examine current, proposed and ideal approaches to welfare provision in the era of superdiversity. It will explore data to help map superdiverse populations and examine the rights and entitlements of migrants in different societies. Taking an applied approach, the programme will help you to learn how to access data sources and undertake research in ways that can increase understanding of the nature of superdiversity and the needs of superdiverse communities.

The programme will enable you to consider approaches to meeting the needs of diverse populations in equitable ways. Migration Studies is unique in bringing together theory and practice with cutting-edge research and research methods to enable you to develop applied knowledge in a rapidly evolving field.

#### Is it for me?

This Migration Studies programme is the first of its kind to focus on superdiversity and will be of interest to professionals working in, or seeking work in diverse or migration-related settings, local government and the third sector such as housing, community safety, health, youth services, social care, community cohesion and social inclusion. It will also be of interest to recent graduates looking to pursue a career in this area, those with an interest in diversity, migration and multiculturalism and to those considering undertaking a PhD in related fields. Students on the programme will have the opportunity to apply to undertake a work-based internship in a migration related organisation, as part of our optional Migration and Superdiversity Placement module.

Students will be taught by academics from the Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRIS). IRiS is the world's first research centre to focus on superdiversity and is at the forefront of international migration research. IRIS offers a unique opportunity for students to benefit from a programme of research events and scholars from a wide range of disciplines engaged in research and policy work in migration and superdiversity.



### LEARN MORE

To view the most up-to-date modules, please visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/migration-studies.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/migration-studies.aspx)

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5708

Email: [socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

### Core modules

As well as a range of optional modules, our Migration Studies programme comprises of two core modules and a dissertation.

#### Migration, Superdiversity, Policy and Practice

This module examines theories surrounding migration and super-diversity paying particular attention to the policies and politics that shape responses to migration from a global to local level. It challenges you to think critically about migration and the impact upon policy and the provision of social welfare and to examine reactions and responses to migration from a range of contrasting perspectives. It encourages you to reflect on ways in which migration is shaping questions about citizenship, inclusion, identity and cohesion at different policy levels.

#### Globalisation, Migration and Citizenship

This module places the relationship between migration and citizenship at its core and explores shifting understanding of belonging in Western liberal democracies as well as in new immigration hubs. It explores the impact of this relationship on ideas of deservingness, entitlement and access to public services and social welfare. It examines the policies and politics that shape responses to migration at international, EU, national and local levels and how they affect the experiences of migrants on the ground.



### MA Migration Studies

#### Core modules

- Migration, Superdiversity, Policy and Practice (20 credits)
- Globalisation, International Migration and Citizenship (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

#### Optional modules\*

(80 credits from the list below):

- Migration and Development (20 credits)
- Migration and Superdiversity Placement (20 credits)
- Gendering Migration and Diaspora (20 credits)
- Sociology of Race and Racism (20 credits)
- Third Sector in Social Policy (20 credits)
- Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking (20 credits)
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality (20 credits)
- Crime and Social Harm (20 credits)
- Applied Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis (20 credits)
- Global Policy Institutions & Networks (20 credits)
- Policy Evaluation (20 credits)
- Philosophies of Welfare: creating new societies? (20 credits)
- Changing Attitudes to Social Issues (20 credits)
- Transforming Identities (20 credits)
- Transforming Societies (20 credits)

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# Social Policy

## MA

Social Policy seeks to not only understand the social world; but seeks to change it for the better through practical action. Our MA Social Policy challenges students to seek solutions to the most pressing social issues in our societies today.

### FACT FILE

**Start date:** September

**Duration:** MA: 1 year full-time,  
2 years part-time

**Study mode:** On campus

**Fees for 2020–21:** UK/EU – £9,250;  
International – £18,450

**Entry requirements:** 2:1 degree, or equivalent. Applicants with a 2:2 degree classification will be considered on a case by case basis, if you have extensive related work experience.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date fees.

pressures that nation states face, rising socio economic inequality and austerity has begun to reverse a number of key social advancements in terms of health and social mobility, making it a fascinating and critical time to study these issues.

#### What is the programme about?

Social policy entails the study of a range of social problems, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, crime and health inequalities. In doing so, students are encouraged to consider the underlying causes and to formulate policy solutions to address specific social problems. Alongside this, the programme examines contemporary and comparative developments within social policy, so that students are able to consider the shifting nature of welfare arrangements in their broader political, economic and social contexts from both a UK and global perspective.

Inherent to Social Policy, as a field of study, is a normative focus that seeks to not only describe the state of a specific society in terms of the fulfilment of human needs, but to consider if our societies should be more effectively and justly organised. A key focus for the programme, is on the ways in which we might transform

our societies to increase human well-being, and to encourage students to evaluate alternative forms of social organisation.

#### Is it for me?

Social policy is an applied social science that challenges students to formulate their own policy solutions to key social issues. In so doing, equipping students with a combination of social research expertise, substantive knowledge of social issues and policy domains, as well as techniques of policy analysis. This programme is designed for those working in various areas of social policy such as health, housing and social services or who are interested in pursuing a career in these and related fields. It is also suitable for students who have studied a relevant social science or humanities programme at undergraduate level and who are now seeking to study social policy for the first time at postgraduate level.

You will be taught by academics in one of the longest established academic Departments in the UK, that has researched and taught Social Policy for over 60 years. We have academic experts who engage in research across a range of social problems and policy domains, such as poverty, crime, homelessness, substance use, migration, health and social care.



### LEARN MORE

To view the most up-to-date modules, please visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/social-policy.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/social-policy.aspx)

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5708

Email: [socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

### Core modules

As well as a range of optional modules, our Social Policy programme comprises of two core modules and a dissertation.

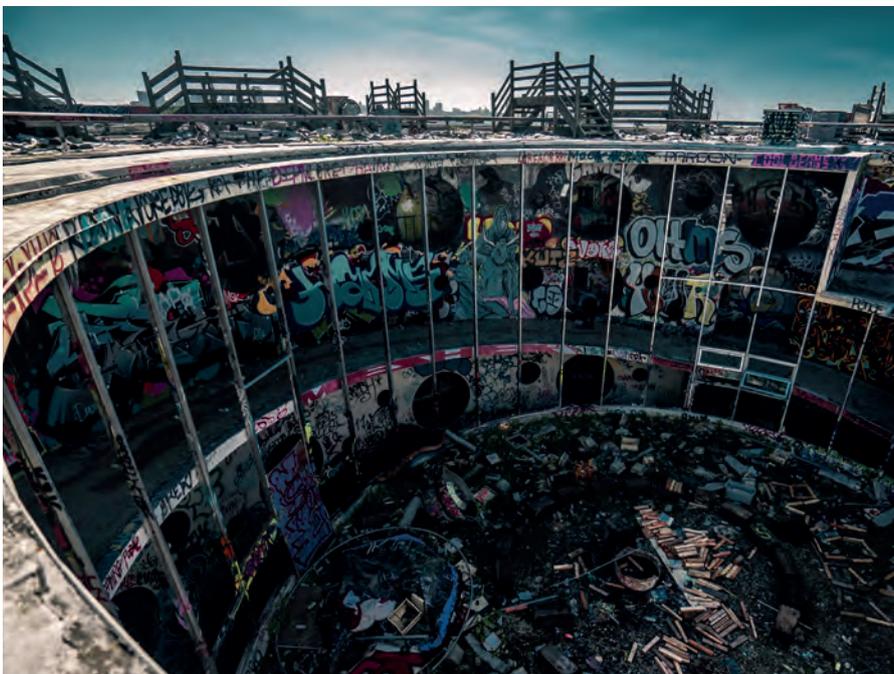
#### Philosophies of Welfare:

##### Creating New Societies? (20 credits)

Through this module, students will be introduced to a range of 'typical' welfare ideologies before engaging with a variety of critical perspectives. The aim is to provide a firm grounding in key theoretical debates that inform the development and critique of welfare provision in the UK (and beyond). The module starts with an exploration of conservatism, liberalism and social democracy before examining contemporary forms of neo-liberalism and the third way. Attention then moves on to examine critical theories: Marxism, Feminism and Anti-Racism as traditional points of critique before examining new points of departure in relation to environmentalism, anarchy, queer theory, morality and temporality.

#### Poverty, Wealth and Inequality (20 credits)

Addressing issues of poverty and inequality are pressing social and political issues of our time. This module will explore different approaches to the definition and measurement of poverty and inequality and their implications for our understanding of the scale and drivers of disadvantage. These ideas will be illuminated through discussion of a variety of issues, including citizenship/human rights, age, disability, gender, and ethnicity, as well as policy areas, namely health, housing and crime. Students will be challenged to consider a range of theories and methodological approaches used to research this area and their relationship to effective evidence-based policies. Throughout the module the emphasis is upon understanding the relationship between empirical research and anti-poverty policy, as well as how policy might best address the issue of widening inequality and its consequences.



### MA Social Policy

#### Core modules

- Philosophies of Welfare: creating new societies? (20 credits)
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

#### Optional modules\*

##### (80 credits from the list below):

- The Third Sector and Social Policy (20 credits)
- Migration, Super diversity, Policy and Practice (20 credits)
- Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking (20 credits)
- Globalisation, International Migration & Citizenship (20 credits)
- Crime and Social Harm (20 credits)
- Sociology of Race and Racism (20 credits)
- Applied Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis (20 credits)
- Gendering Migration and Diaspora (20 credits)
- Global Policy Institutions and Networks (20 credits)
- Migration and Development (20 credits)
- Policy Evaluation (20 credits)
- Changing Attitudes to Social Issues (20 credits)
- Transforming Identities (20 credits)
- Transforming Societies (20 credits)

\* The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

# Sociology

## MA

The 21st Century has witnessed rapid social changes, in terms of our personal relationships, communities, politics, and the technology we use. Our Sociology MA offers the tools to understand the drivers of this change as well as the challenges these present within our societies.

### FACT FILE

**Start date:** September

**Duration:** MA: 1 year full-time,  
2 years part-time

**Study mode:** On campus

**Fees for 2020–21:** UK/EU – £9,250;  
International – £18,450

**Entry requirements:** 2:1 Honours degree, or equivalent. Applicants with a 2:2 degree classification will be considered on a case by case basis, if you have extensive related work experience.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date fees.

Sociology provides distinct insights into the contested character of contemporary processes of global, national and local transformations, and how these transformations are driven by and reflected in the complexity of individual identities and allegiances.

#### What is the programme about?

The programme has a strong theoretical core, which critically examines the major sociological traditions as tools for understanding contemporary social transformations. We take these traditions and combine them with cutting edge theoretical frames to explain social phenomenon that are reshaping our societies, such as: the rise of new technologies and social media; widening socio economic inequalities; the rise of new forms of populist politics; and increasing forms of individualisation.

Alongside social theory, the programme offers a suite of optional modules that examine a number of social issues and divisions, such as crime, migration, poverty and inequality, gender, race and ethnicity. Students approach these issues by pursuing distinctively sociological questions of the relationships between individuals, groups, institutions and wider social processes; the dynamics of stability and change and the distribution of power. This is paralleled by training in the analysis of empirical sociological research, the design of research and the methods for collecting, interpreting and presenting sociological data.

#### Is it for me?

The programme will appeal to students who have studied a relevant social science or humanities programme at undergraduate level and who want to better understand complex shifts and transformations within our societies. You will be taught by academic experts from the Department's 'Social Theory and Social Transformation' research theme, where we investigate global, national and local dynamics of change, the patterns of social relationships and the culture of everyday life. This programme will equip students with critical reasoning and analytical skills that are valued across a range of careers, including Social and Market Research, Policy and Campaigns, The Media, Charities and the voluntary sector as well as providing a basis for doctoral study.



### LEARN MORE

To view the most up-to-date modules, please visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/sociology.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/sociology.aspx)

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Email: [socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



### Core modules

As well as a range of optional modules, our Sociology programme comprises of two core modules and a dissertation.

### Transforming Societies

This module looks at the key structural shifts that are shaping the trajectory of contemporary societies. It integrates material from classic and contemporary social theory, and applies them to substantive and empirical areas such as the nature of cultural and economic globalisation; the social impact of new technologies; social divisions and social power; the rise of new forms of populism and social activism; and changes in the structure of key institutions such as work, consumption and democracy. It explores the role of the sociological imagination in both understanding and critically intervening in these processes.

### Transforming Identities

This module critically examines how our individual and collective identities are shaped by and constitute wider processes of social change. It charts the contribution social theory has made to our understanding of the self and identity, and how identities are implicated in both social change and reproduction. The contestation and negotiation of identity is explored in key contemporary social settings such as debates over body technology and post-humanism; gender, ethnic and sexual identity; personal relationships; self-help and self-optimisation; new political subjectivities, ideology and discourse; the role of mass and niche media, culture and consumption.



## MA Sociology

### Core modules

- Transforming Identities (20 credits)
- Transforming Societies (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

### Optional modules\*

#### (80 credits from the list below):

- The Third Sector and Social Policy (20 credits)
- Migration, Super diversity, Policy and Practice (20 credits)
- Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking (20 credits)
- Globalisation, International Migration & Citizenship (20 credits)
- Crime and Social Harm (20 credits)
- Sociology of Race and Racism (20 credits)
- Applied Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis (20 credits)
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- Policy Evaluation (20 credits)
- Changing Attitudes to Social Issues (20 credits)
- Philosophies of Welfare: creating new societies? (20 credits)
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality (20 credits)

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# Social Research (Social Policy)

## MA/PGDip

Within the public sector, there is an increasing emphasis on 'evidence-based policy-making' and on the critical review of policy-making and its impacts. The MA Social Research (Social Policy) will provide you with the skills to make a real difference in this area.

### FACT FILE

**Start date:** September

**Duration:** MA: 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time; Diploma: 9 months full-time, 18 months part-time

**Study mode:** On campus

**Fees for 2020–21:** UK/EU – £9,250; International – £19,170

**Entry requirements:** 2:1 Honours degree, or equivalent. Applicants with a 2:2 degree classification will be considered on a case by case basis, if you have extensive related work experience.

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date fees.

This programme is recognised by the ESRC as a research training programme designed to provide participants with a solid foundation in a broad range of social science research methods as well as basic research skills. Students will acquire a general overview of the philosophy of social research, and understand how this informs research design, methods of data collection and analysis. They will also develop an ability to use a range of research methods to communicate research findings effectively and an understanding of the potential use of, and impact of their research, within and beyond academia. Optional modules offer students the opportunity to advance their command of specific research methods and techniques, as well as substantive areas of social policy.

The core elements of this programme are delivered by staff from across the College of Social Sciences, many of them engaged in cutting-edge research in their particular fields. Students benefit by undertaking this training with their peers and academics from numerous diverse departments including Economics, Education, Politics, and Social Policy. Students receive discipline-specific dissertation

supervision, provided by the Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology.

### Is it for me?

If you are interested in undertaking a research career in the areas of social policy, social work, health and social care or criminal justice fields, this programme could be for you. Normally, you will have already done an undergraduate degree in Sociology, Social Policy, or other social sciences subject, though we look at each case on its merits. Alongside rigorous methods training, the programme offers an opportunity for students to apply their research skills to particular areas of policy interest as well as to further extend their understanding of specific social problems.

This course is also designed for those considering an academic career, for whom this degree is ideal preparation for undertaking a doctorate (PhD). It also includes those seeking a research career in such areas as central government, local government, charities and in consultancies and market/social research. Moreover, the degree provides good transferable skills in evaluation and in analysing data, and the ability to critique published research.

### Core modules

#### Philosophy of Social Science Research

The module considers fundamental philosophical debates about what counts as 'knowledge' across the social sciences. Teaching addresses (natural) science as a method of obtaining knowledge and the interpretative tradition in the social sciences. You explore fundamental philosophical debates about what counts as 'knowledge' across the social sciences and apply these discussions to your own disciplines and field of study.

#### Research Design, Practice and Ethics

The module introduces you to social science research designs and ethical issues in research practice. Learning supports you to be able to make strategic choices when developing your own projects, and to assess the design and research ethics decision-making in others' published research work.

#### Foundations in Qualitative Research

Qualitative research is examined across a range of topics, from different approaches and methods including ethnographic and observational research, discourse and conversation analysis, documentary and archival analysis, participatory research and the use of interviews. Ethics in qualitative research is specifically considered, as is the evaluation of qualitative research.

#### Fundamentals in Quantitative Research Methods

Concepts, methods and skills central to quantitative research, including data collection approaches and concept operationalisation, are core throughout this module. Building on a grounding in ideas relating to probability sampling, sampling error and statistical inference, coverage of techniques extends from comparisons of means and simple cross-tabular analyses to a discussion of multivariate analysis approaches, focusing on linear and logistic regression.



### LEARN MORE

To view the most up-to-date modules, please visit our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/global-public-policy.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/social-policy/global-public-policy.aspx)

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5708

Email: [socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:socialpolicy-postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## MA Social Research (Social Policy)

### Core modules

- Philosophy of Social Science Research (20 credits)
- Research Design, Practice and Ethics (20 credits)
- Foundations in Qualitative Research (20 credits)
- Fundamentals in Quantitative Research Methods (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

### Optional modules\* (40 credits from the list below):

#### Twenty-credit modules

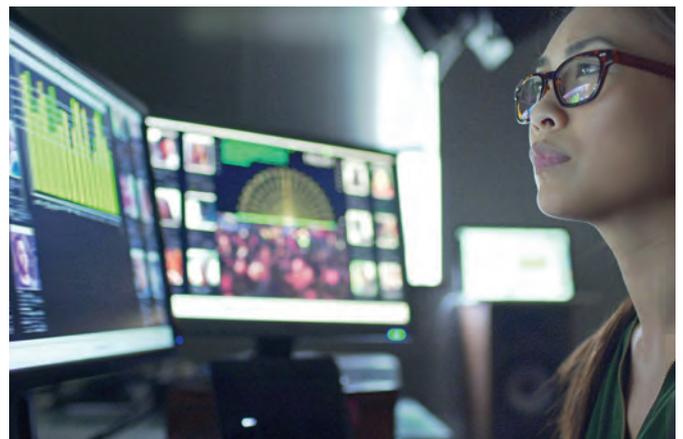
- Transforming Identities (20 credits)
- Transforming Societies (20 credits)
- The Third Sector and Social Policy (20 credits)
- Migration, Super diversity, Policy and Practice (20 credits)
- Policy Futures: Theories and Concepts in International Policymaking (20 credits)
- Globalisation, International Migration & Citizenship (20 credits)
- Crime and Social Harm (20 credits)
- Sociology of Race and Racism (20 credits)
- Applied Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis (20 credits)
- Gendering Migration and Diaspora (20 credits)
- Global Policy Institutions and Networks (20 credits)
- Migration and Development (20 credits)
- Policy Evaluation (20 credits)
- Changing Attitudes to Social Issues (20 credits)
- Philosophies of Welfare: creating new societies? (20 credits)
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality (20 credits)

#### Ten-credit modules

Advanced Research Methods modules offered within the College of Social Sciences include:

- Multivariate Linear and Logistic Regression
- Factor Analysis
- Narrative Research
- Visual Research Methods
- Researching Disability
- Approaches to Research on Discourse
- Policy Evaluation
- Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis
- Secondary Data Analysis in Social Research
- Using and Producing Research
- Activity Theory and its Research Applications
- Ethnographic Methods: Ethics, Politics, Practice
- Introduction to Time Series Regression
- Introduction to Econometric Software
- Analysing Hierarchical and Panel Data

\* The optional modules listed for this programme may be subject to change. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.





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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (November 2019).

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