

Social Policy at Birmingham – transcript of film

Anna

I loved learning social policy, I loved the way in which it wasn't just for the lecture room. You walk outside and you see somebody selling the 'Big Issue' or somebody campaigning and it is social policy. Social Policy is everywhere and it is something that you won't even realise that you are involved in.

Alex

Social policy in itself is really relevant to your life. It is not just what you read in a book, it's also what you read on the news. You don't have to read books that are 100 years old, you are actually learning about this man who is living, the same age as you, living probably a few streets away from you.

Hiro

In one degree you actually learn many areas, not only the society but also about criminology, psychology, economics and business studies and that sort of stuff.

Sophia

I like how all the modules are split – coursework, some exams and some presentations. I thought that way you are learning all the different skills and you find also, all of your modules link together.

Anna

It's not rigid teaching, it's debates, it's presentations. They teach you how to speak openly and to present your thoughts and present your ideas and to look at all the perceptions.

Hiro

You have a module where you have to go and volunteer, so you actually go out there and see how the society actually works and what is happening out there.

Anna

I worked in an agency surrounded by people who were passionate about adoption. It taught me the finances of the charity, the way in which a charity has to advertise, has to campaign and how to be sensitive to certain subjects.

Sophia

I worked at the youth offending team and I mentored little children who were at risk of offending, or who had already offended. I really enjoyed doing that. That was a very good module in the fact that you had to do a written piece of work and you had to do a presentation. I think that was a useful skill because if someone says in an interview, can you do a presentation and you have already got that basis, you know where to start from.

Alex

The fairly small ratio between students and lecturers meant you got a lot of contact if you want to and people were really happy if you actually want to contact them.

Hiro

The tutors were always there to help so very very friendly staff.

Anna

For me, my personal tutor was fantastic. They really develop the way in which you think. If you are not happy with something or with the way you write, you get one-to-one feedback. It is a way of learning that really carries you.

Alex

There is wide range of potential careers you can go in. I got a job offer because of the sort of skills that I got from my degree here.

Anna

I really looked at it as something for myself and something that I have come away from in 3 years and I feel ready to do anything. I have learnt so much, it is hard to articulate.

Sophia

I think it has made me mature a lot. I used to be very – do one task or another thing – whereas now I want to focus on one thing, do it very well, very detailed and use as many sources as possible to try and get the best outcome. Yes, very focused, very determined woman!

Alex

I loved my degree. I loved the 3 years spent in Birmingham because I got exactly what I wanted, but I think I achieved more than I actually bargained for.

Anna

Social policy has the depth that enables you to go on in life and to go into anything you feel comfortable doing. It shows you that wherever you come from and whoever you are, you can make a difference.