

Doctor of Social Work

The Doctor of Social Work is designed for social workers and for those wanting to undertake a professional doctorate in the field of Applied Social Studies. Its purpose is to enable those working in professional contexts to make a difference by carrying out applied or action orientated research in a variety of areas. It also facilitates organisational input on agreed research areas and can enhance organisational research capacity.

It is a professional doctorate for both UK based as well as International (EU and wider Overseas) students.



Over 4,500 students from 150 countries worldwide choose to study here at Birmingham, and we now boast one of the largest and most vibrant international student communities in the UK. Take a look at the [collaboration map \(/schools/social-policy/international/collaboration-map.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/international/collaboration-map.aspx) in our [international section \(/schools/social-policy/international/index.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/international/index.aspx), and find out what it is like to be an international student living and studying in Birmingham, as well as the global reach of the School of Social Policy. You can also [find out why our students love living and studying in Birmingham \(/undergraduate/birmingham/mybham/index.aspx\)](/undergraduate/birmingham/mybham/index.aspx).

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Combined research and taught, continuing professional development

Study Options: Full time, part time

Duration: 3 years full time or 6 years part time

Start date: September

Contact

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Got a question? Use our [ask us anything \(http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24\)](http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24) facility to get the answer you need.

[School of Social Policy \(/schools/social-policy/index.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/index.aspx)

[Institute of Applied Social Studies \(IASS\) \(/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/index.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/index.aspx)

Details

The Doctor of Social Work is designed for those who are involved in aspects of social work, social policy and practice in a wide range of settings, including government, voluntary organisations, community-based projects, management, education, social care, health care, probation and user groups, as paid workers or volunteers.

It is of interest to all those operating in social work and related arenas. It aims to develop critical reflection within participants' policy, practice and organisational contexts, enhance applied social research skills, and develop ability to carry out and apply original research.

The programme comprises research training, work orientated assignments and a 50,000-word thesis demonstrating original work.

Fees and funding

Standard fees apply
[\(/postgraduate/dr-fees/tuition.aspx\)](/postgraduate/dr-fees/tuition.aspx) Learn more about fees and funding

Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships may be available. International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government. More information on [international scholarships \(/International/students/finance/scholarships/index.aspx\)](/International/students/finance/scholarships/index.aspx).

For further information contact the School directly or contact the Student Funding Office via the online enquiries system at www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk (<http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk>).

Entry requirements

Normally a first-class or upper second-class Honours degree in social work or a relevant social science, or the successful completion of an appropriate postgraduate programme is required.

Doctor of Social Work applicants would usually also have a relevant professional qualification and experience.

Potential for research generally also needs to be indicated.

International students

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries.

[Listen to what some of our international students in the School of Social Policy say about studying at Birmingham \(/schools/social-policy/international/students.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/international/students.aspx).

How to apply

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the [How to apply pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COSo67.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COSo67.htm)

Learning and teaching

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The Institute of Applied Social Studies is an internationally leading centre for research in social policy and social work. IASS, which is part of the School of Social Policy, is located in the Muirhead Tower a fully WiFi enabled, sophisticated, hi-tech learning environment. There are nine libraries supporting your learning through access to one of the biggest research library facilities in the UK. Open access computing facilities are widely available across campus.

Research interests of staff

- **Third sector policy and practice: voluntary action and the structure and working of voluntary organisations: poverty, social security and anti-poverty policy**
Contact: Professor Pete Alcock
Tel: +44(0)121 414 6630
Email: [p.c.alcock@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:p.c.alcock@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:p.c.alcock@bham.ac.uk)
- **Islamophobia: the role and function of faith and faith communities in public and political spaces; minority community issues; equalities legislation, policy and practice; citizenship, multiculturalism, integration and community cohesion.**
Contact: Dr Chris Allen
Tel: +44(0)121 414 7203
Email: [c.allen.2@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:c.allen.2@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:c.allen.2@bham.ac.uk)
- **Geographies of money and finance; financial inclusion and exclusion; education, learning and knowledge; wealth and inequality**
Contact: Dr Lindsey Appleyard
Tel: +44(0)121 415 1063
Email: [l.j.appleyard@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:l.j.appleyard@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:l.j.appleyard@bham.ac.uk)
- **Black service users' views of mental health services; re-ablement and community services for older people; mental health legislation; the contribution of social theory to the understanding of mental stress; risk assessment in mental health; the role of masculinity in shaping men's experience of mental distress and our responses to it; service user participation; evaluation of health and social care responses to mental health and old age**
Contact: Ric Bowl
Tel: +44(0)121 414 6688
Email: [r.e.e.bowl@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:r.e.e.bowl@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:r.e.e.bowl@bham.ac.uk)
- **Individual and family experiences of impairment and disability; individual and family experiences of health and social care; care and welfare attitudes in relation to the balance between state, family and individual responsibility**
Contact: Dr Harriet Clarke
Tel: +44(0)121 415 8479
Email: [h.clarke@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:h.clarke@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:h.clarke@bham.ac.uk)
- **Public understandings of social policy; the politics of representation in social policy**
Contact: Dr Stuart Connor
Tel: +44(0)121 414 8031
Email: [s.a.connor@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:s.a.connor@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:s.a.connor@bham.ac.uk)
- **Housing in europe; ageing populations**
Contact: Professor John Doling
Tel: +44(0)121 414 5710
Email: [j.f.doling@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:j.f.doling@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:j.f.doling@bham.ac.uk)
- **Comparative international analysis of social work policy and practice in relation to aspects such as age, gender, mental health, disability and communities**
Contact: Professor Barbara Fawcett
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Email: [b.fawcett@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:b.fawcett@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:b.fawcett@bham.ac.uk)
- **New migration, integration, community cohesion and inclusion; community engagement and community research methodology**
Contact: Dr Lisa Goodson

Tel: +44(0)121 414 4993

Email: l.j.goodson@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:l.j.goodson@bham.ac.uk>)

- **Race and gender; Asian women within the family and wider society; service provision within areas of disability and sexuality**
Contact: Dr Surinder Guru
Tel: +44(0)121 415 8481
Email: s.guru@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:s.guru@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Youth and family policy; youth justice; crime and anti-social behaviour; comparative social policy, particularly Latin America**
Contact: Dr Nathan Hughes
Email: n.j.hughes@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:n.j.hughes@bham.ac.uk>)
- **African Caribbean home ownership; Ethnic minority housing wealth; Return migration; Ethnic minority communities; Life history methods**
Contact: Dr Ricky Joseph
Tel: +44(0)121 414 7233
Email: r.joseph@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:r.joseph@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Work with older people; community care; direct payments; health and social care interface; interprofessional education and user involvement**
Contact: Rosemary Littlechild
Tel: +44(0)121 414 5728
Email: r.j.littlechild@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:r.j.littlechild@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Non-governmental organisations; community participation; neighbourhood regeneration; mental health; substance use and anti-poverty strategies**
Contact: Angus McCabe
Tel: +44(0)121 414 5732
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- **Governance, management and regulation of housing associations; role of the non-profit sector in public policy; homelessness and access to social housing; new migration, equality and diversity**
Contact: Professor David Mullins
Tel: +44(0)121 414 3348
Email: d.mullins@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:d.mullins@bham.ac.uk>)
- **The welfare state in Britain since 1945; the Labour Party and the welfare state; the Conservative Party and the welfare state; the history of British social policy; social democratic social policy; the Swedish welfare state**
Contact: Dr Robert Page, FRSA
Tel: +44(0)121 414 8066
Email: r.m.page@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:r.m.page@bham.ac.uk>)
- **New migrants and access to education, training, employment and housing; integration, social inclusion and social cohesion and new migrant communities; developing innovative research methodologies to facilitate inclusion of excluded groups; community research methodology**
Contact: Professor Jenny Phillimore
Tel: +44(0)121 414 7822
Email: j.a.phillimore@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:j.a.phillimore@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Financial security of individuals, families and households including: assets and asset-based welfare; poverty, wealth and inequality; social security policy; financial planning and management (including savings, pensions, credit and debt); changing family forms, particularly the growth of lone parenthood**
Contact: Professor Karen Rowlingson
Tel: +44(0)121 415 8565
Email: k.rowlingson@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:k.rowlingson@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Social work with older people; community care policy and practice; adult service users' experiences of social work and social care services; enhancing service users' quality of life and mental well-being; service user involvement**
Contact: Dr Denise Tanner
Tel: +44(0)121 414 2941
Email: d.l.tanner@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:d.l.tanner@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Mental health, recovery and social inclusion; whole family approaches; wellbeing and resilience; personalisation and self-directed support; identity issues; social theory and social models of mental distress; service user and carer participation; social work and interdisciplinary working**
Contact: Dr Jerry Tew
Tel: +44(0)121 414 3640
Email: j.j.c.tew@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:j.j.c.tew@bham.ac.uk>)
- **Gender; sexuality and sexual orientation; services for people with learning difficulties; relationships of care; narrative methods; social work ethics and values; adult social care; social inclusion; diversity and equality**
Contact: Dr Nicki Ward
Tel: +44(0)121 414 5713
Email: n.j.ward@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:n.j.ward@bham.ac.uk>)
- **The sociological analysis of professional judgement and decision making; the analysis of professional talk; policy development and the reform of social work; socio-technical systems design**
Contact: Professor Sue White
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Assessment methods

The programme comprises research training, work orientated assignments and a 50,000 word thesis demonstrating original work.

Employability

If I gain a postgraduate research degree in this area, what are my career prospects?

The University of Birmingham has recently been ranked 9th in the UK, and 55th in the world, for post-qualification employability in a global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Over the last five years 98.6% of postgraduates from the School of Social Policy have been in work and/or further study six months after graduation.

The skills you'll gain from studying in the School are highly sought after in most jobs or professions, as you will develop



analytical skills and the ability to gather, assess and interpret data, all of which require clear and logical thinking.



Birmingham's School of Social Policy postgraduates enter a wide range of occupational sectors: the majority in the public sector in areas such as youth work but others including events, sales, administration and education. Graduates also opt to continue in academia.

What type of career assistance is available to doctoral researchers in this department?

The College of Social Sciences, to which the School of Social Policy belongs, has specially designated careers advisors and careers consultants who can provide guidance for doctoral researchers on career paths, CVs, training opportunities, application and interviews. The University's central Careers' Service also runs workshops and offers personally tailored advice and guidance including 1-1 careers advice, 1-1 CV advice. The Career's Service also runs CV writing workshops especially for postgraduates in the College of Social Sciences, giving advice on how to compile CVs for both employment and for academic roles.

The University also has dedicated careers advisors for International students who run workshops and networking opportunities with potential employers. These are especially popular with International postgraduate researchers.

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