



This programme aims to provide students with a solid foundation in a broad range of social science research methods as well as basic research skills.

**Course details:** [Details \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=CourseDetailsTab\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=CourseDetailsTab) | [Modules \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=Modules\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=Modules) | [Fees and funding \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding) | [Entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements) | [How to apply \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply) .

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

**Study Options:** Full time, part time

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

**Start date:** September

### Contact

Got a question? [Find your answers here \(http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24\)](http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24) .

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[School of Government and Society \(/schools/government-society/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/index.aspx)

[Institute of Local Government Studies \(INLOGOV\) \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/index.aspx)

### Details

**Course details:** [Modules \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=Modules\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=Modules) | [Fees and funding \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding) | [Entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements) | [How to apply \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/social-research-local-government-public-policy.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply) .

This programme aims to provide students 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.

More information on: [Social Research MA \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/social-research.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/social-research.aspx)

### Modules

The core modules you will take are:

- [Introduction to Social Science Research \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/introduction-social-science-research.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/introduction-social-science-research.aspx) (20 credits)
- [Research Design \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/research-design.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/research-design.aspx) (20 credits)
- [Research Methods I \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-1.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-1.aspx) (20 credits)
- [Research Methods II \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-2.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-methods-2.aspx) (20 credits)

### Advanced Training Programme

Unless stated, all advanced training courses run as 2-day intensive workshops from 10–4pm with breaks. This list is updated regularly as new courses are approved so do check this website from time to time to see what is on offer.

These advanced training courses are open to all research students in the College (and some departments in other Colleges, such as Geography, subject to the discretion of the Programme Team). However, places on each course are limited and priority will be given to MA Social Research students.

These advanced training courses are also open to all staff in the University who may wish to attend without completing the assessments. However, all doctoral researchers and staff who wish to do so will be placed on a waiting list. Confirmation will be sent a week before the course dates.

### Advanced Training courses run in Semester 3, unless otherwise stated

- [From Multiple Linear to Logistic Regression \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/from-multiple-linear-to-logistic-regression.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/from-multiple-linear-to-logistic-regression.aspx)
- [Narrative Research \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/narrative-research.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/narrative-research.aspx)
- [Analyzing Hierarchical and Panel Data \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/analyzing-hierarchical-and-panel-data.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/analyzing-hierarchical-and-panel-data.aspx)
- [Visual Research Methods \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/visual-research-methods.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/visual-research-methods.aspx)
- [Ethnography and Language in the Social Sciences \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/ethnography-and-language-in-the-social-sciences.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/ethnography-and-language-in-the-social-sciences.aspx)
- [Documentary Research in Education, History and the Social Science \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/documentary-research-in-education-history-and-the-social-science.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/documentary-research-in-education-history-and-the-social-science.aspx)
- [Researching Disability \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/researching-disability.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/researching-disability.aspx)
- [Approaches to Research on Discourse \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/approaches-to-research-on-discourse.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/approaches-to-research-on-discourse.aspx)
- [Policy Evaluation \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/policy-evaluation.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/policy-evaluation.aspx)
- [Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis \(using NVivo\) \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/advanced-qualitative-data-analysis.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/advanced-qualitative-data-analysis.aspx)
- [Secondary Data Analysis in Social Research \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/secondary-data-analysis-in-social-research.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/secondary-data-analysis-in-social-research.aspx)
- [Q Methodology – A Systematic Approach for Interpretive Research Design \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/q-methodology-a-systematic-approach-for-interpretive-research-design.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/q-methodology-a-systematic-approach-for-interpretive-research-design.aspx)
- [Activity Theory and its Research Applications \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/activity-theory-and-its-research-applications.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/activity-theory-and-its-research-applications.aspx)
- Introduction to Time Series Regression
- Introduction to Econometric Software (module runs in Semester One)
- [Randomised Controlled Trials \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/randomised-controlled-trials.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/socsci/modules/social-research-ma-modules/randomised-controlled-trials.aspx)
- The Role of Thinking (*subject to approval*)

**NB:** some courses have pre-requisites, e.g. to register on Multiple Linear and Logistic Regression, Factor Analysis, or Narrative Research, you will need to have passed Social Research Methods II (20 credits module), or equivalent. You will need to provide evidence that you have passed a similar course on quantitative/qualitative data analysis where appropriate.

To register for the above advanced training courses, please e-mail: [collegessmasr@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:collegessmasr@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:collegessmasr@contacts.bham.ac.uk>) specifying which courses you are interested in. When registering for courses, please provide your name, student ID, department/programme you are affiliated to, and your e-mail address.

In addition, you will write a 14,000-word dissertation (60 credits).

## Fees and funding

**Standard fees** (</postgraduate/pgt-fees/fees.aspx>) apply

Learn more about **fees and funding** (</postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx>)

## Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships may be available. **International students** (</international/students/finance/scholarships/index.aspx>) can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

For further information contact the School directly or visit [studenthelp.bham.ac.uk](http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk/) (<http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk/>)

## Entry requirements

Learn more about **entry requirements** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/pg/requirements>).

### International students:

### Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications, our **country pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx>) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

### English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an **English language qualification** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx>) to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our **English courses for international students** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.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 \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COSo17.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/COSo17.htm)

## Related links

[INLOGOV MSc/PG Dip/Cert brochure 2014 \(PDF, 1.4MB\) \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/degrees/inlogov-pg-courses.pdf\)](#)

## Related news and events

[Blog: Harnessing the resources of social enterprises for local authority savings \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2013/06/social-enterprise.aspx\)](#)

[Blog: Towards a model of sector-led improvement in UK local government \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2013/06/sector-led-improvement.aspx\)](#)

[Blog: Citizen participation through the looking glass \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2013/06/citizen-participation-through-looking-glass.aspx\)](#)

[Blog: How do undergraduates construct their view of a public service professional? \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2013/06/public-service-professional.aspx\)](#)

[Blog: Street-level bureaucrats and the UK's Better Regulation agenda: are the two compatible? \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2013/06/street-level-bureaucrats.aspx\)](#)

[INLOGOV MSc Dissertations \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2013/07/msc-dissertations.aspx\)](#)

[Why national politics is a mixed blessing in today's local elections \(/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2013/05/BirminghamBrief0105.aspx\)](#)

## Learning and teaching

Many core elements of the programme are delivered by the College of Social Sciences, so you will be undertaking the modules with other students from across the College. In addition, there is an induction programme during the first two weeks of the term, which is compulsory, but non-assessed and a programme of skills training which is delivered at University-level, mainly by the Staff Development Unit, throughout the year. You are encouraged to attend all the modules in the programme which are appropriate to you. You must discuss your skills training needs with your designated supervisor in the first week of the first term.

This MA is recognised by the ESRC for the provision of research methods training as Year 1 of a '1+3' programme of doctoral study. It is also available as a stand-alone Masters. Home/EU students may enter into a departmental competition to be nominated for the ESRC open competition for '1+3' or '+3' funding (the '1+3' award covers the MA and provides three years' further funding for PhD research; for '+3' funding you must already have an ESRC-recognised research methods MA degree or equivalent).

## Assessment

All core modules are assessed by a 4000-word essay or report. On most advanced training courses, a 3000-report is usually required. The dissertation length is 14,000 words and students are expected to utilise the knowledge and skills they learned from the taught elements in this programme.

## Skills and attributes gained

Students will have acquired a solid foundation of a broad range of research methods that are widely used in the social sciences and will have developed:

- A sound understanding of the methodological debates
- An overview of the philosophy of social science and how this informs research design, methods chosen of data collection and analysis
- An ability to use a range of research techniques appropriate to their subject area
- Competence in the representation and presentation of information and data
- An ability to communicate research findings effectively to a wider range of audiences
- An appreciation of the potential use and impact of their research within and beyond academia
- An ability to engage with relevant users at all points in the research process, from devising and shaping research questions through to enhancing practice

## Facilities

Departments from across the School of Government and Society are all based within the recently refurbished Muirhead Tower. Following a £50million refurbishment, Muirhead Tower offers **state-of-the-art teaching and research study facilities** including free wifi throughout the building and dedicated study areas for postgraduate research students.

If you can see this message rather than a virtual tour then please [click here to install the adobe flash player](#).

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If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at [support@revolutionviewing.com](mailto:support@revolutionviewing.com)

Muirhead Tower comprises 12,000sq.m of floor space between two towers. The tower includes a number of sustainable features including solar shading (known in the trade as brise soleil) to control temperatures, as well as low energy fans; timed lighting to reduce energy waste; natural ventilation systems and a heat source taken from the University's combined heat and power generator.

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If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at [support@revolutionviewing.com](mailto:support@revolutionviewing.com)

The space has been designed to create modern, **attractive spaces for teaching and research** accommodating 150 academic offices, 230 "hubs" for post graduate research students, teaching rooms for up to 100 people and a 200 seat lecture theatre.

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## Employability

### Careers

Many students go on to do a PhD after completing this MA. Others have followed a career in local authorities, government departments, health authorities, management consultancy, media, the voluntary sector and so on.

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