What is social policy?

Why do we have the highest rate of teen pregnancy in Europe? Is the criminal justice system working? Is the divide between rich and poor getting bigger?

Social policy is an integral part of our lives and the world around us. Observe the questions people are asking on social media, in newspapers, on television and on the radio; listen to the passionate dialogue between local, national and international commentators and you will find social policy issues at the core of those debates. Those with a keen interest in current affairs will find social policy a fulfilling and fascinating subject.

A social policy degree at the University of Birmingham will empower you to analyse and understand the differing aspects of social issues, and will prepare you for a career in a sector where you can make a valuable contribution to society.

The School of Social Policy at Birmingham is one of the leading centres for applied social Policy in the UK. Our research centres focus on the topics of the third sector, migration and superdiversity, health and social care, and wealth and financial security. We are committed to bridging the divide between teaching, research and practice and to applying our research through teaching, publications, consultancy and policy advice. We want to make a difference. We make a difference.
Social work is a career where you can make a real difference to the lives of individuals, families and communities. Using principles of human rights and social work values, social workers work in partnership with service-users, carers and other professionals. They apply relevant theories, the law, knowledge and evidence to support individuals and families, promote independence and prevent harm, neglect and abuse.

- The Department of Social Work and Social Care, within the School of Social Policy, is a leading centre for research in social work internationally.

- Our social work degree programme enables students to develop important skills, knowledge and understanding of key areas of social work; including law, theories, methods and values.
- The programme offers enhanced learning, facilitated through the involvement of a range of contributors, including service-users and carers, professional social workers and academics.
- International students obtain a BA (Hons) or MA in Social Work and HCPC professional accreditation, which is recognised worldwide.
The School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham has vast experience of welcoming students from all over the world. It is a vibrant, dynamic and exciting place to study.

Our International Students Advisory Service (ISAS) offers help with everything from student visas to planning your journey, and when you arrive at Birmingham, there will be support from your course team, our University International Office and from the School’s International Lead. The University organises events for international students, as well as a specific social forum.

Visit the website for more detailed information at:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/international.aspx
The School of Social Policy offers a variety of exciting undergraduate programmes in a number of areas of social policy, including crime, policing, health, social care, sociology and criminology.

The School has one of the most prestigious and longest-running social work programmes in the UK. Both BA and MA are offered, leading to highly prized degrees and the award of internationally recognised professional qualifications in social work.
Postgraduate study

The School also provides a range of taught Masters (MA and MSc) programmes, as well as Postgraduate Diplomas, Certificates and other qualifications that can be taken on a full- or part-time basis.

The Department of Social Work and Social Care offers taught programmes for graduates keen to develop their interests in social work and professional practice.

The Department for Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology boasts taught programmes in a variety of innovative fields, such as social policy, migration and superdiversity, ideal for those looking towards a career in research.

The Health Services Management Centre has a range of postgraduate courses that provide a challenging and stimulating study experience for both aspiring and existing practitioners in health and social care organisations.
**BA Social Policy**

- A dynamic academic subject that explores contemporary and often controversial issues about society and human wellbeing
- Draws on a diverse range of subjects such as psychology, history, criminology, politics, sociology, media studies and international studies
- A module-based placement experience is available for those students wishing to enhance their employability

**BA Social Work**

- Focuses on professional principles for social workers including law and theory, and a commitment to human rights, social justice, equality, diversity and inclusion
- Explores key areas of practice: communication, relationship-based practice, and working within organisations
- Social workers make a real difference to the lives of individuals, families and communities
BA Policy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

- Focuses on the study of cutting-edge, real-world issues
- Crosses boundaries of traditional disciplines as a means of better understanding our 21st-century world
- Advances your understanding of policy, politics and economics through the study of high-profile issues and events

BA Social Policy and Criminology Joint Honours

- Combine popular degree subjects that offer complementary insights into a range of social problems and social harms, such as drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, homicide and workplace injury
- Why are ‘social harms’ treated as crimes or social policy issues? Why are some dealt with through the welfare system, and some through the criminal justice system? Explore the answers to these questions, and many more
- Undertake a specialist placement during your second year (provided that requisite academic performance criteria are met)
BA Sociology

- Provides the knowledge and skills to critically engage issues such as globalisation, the changing nature of work and the family, gender roles and sexuality, multiculturalism, the impact of the media and information technologies and new forms of politics
- Are we living in a 'broken society'? What new forms of cultural identity are emerging? What are the effects of globalisation on cultural, economic and political life? Explore the answers to questions like these
- Receive a broad grounding in the major approaches to the discipline, with emphasis on the cultivation of research skills
Other possible pathways

For more information, please visit:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/index.aspx
EDUCATION AND SOCIOLOGY

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIOLOGY
Policy into Practice MA/Diploma/Certificate

- Examines the welfare needs of populations and how the government makes sure these are met
- Explores the development and nature of government interventions
- Begins with the study of UK social policy and then widens to encompass the challenges faced by other countries

Policy into Practice MA/Diploma with Integrated Placement

- Designed primarily for international students who are government officers or with work experience in social policy
- Includes work-based placements within public, private or third sector organisations in the West Midlands area
Policy into Practice MA/Diploma with Integrated Placement (Health)

- Includes a work-based placement in non-clinical health setting
- Designed for those with an interest in health policy
- Includes modules from the prestigious Health Services Management Centre

MA Social Work (Qualifying)

- Enables those with a BA degree to obtain the new professional qualification in Social Work, as well as a Masters degree
- Longest running social work education programme in the UK
- Provides an internationally recognised and prestigious professional qualification in social work
MA/PGDip Social Research (Social Work and Professional Practice)

- For those who have practical experience in the fields of social work, health and social care, or criminal justice
- Recognised by the Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) as a research training pathway
- Designed to provide potential doctoral candidates with a sound background in research design
- Provides cutting-edge training in methods, data collection and analysis

MA Social Research (Social Policy)

- Recognised by the ESRC as a research training pathway
- Designed to provide potential doctoral candidates with a sound background in research design
- Provides cutting edge training in methods, data collection and analysis
- Delivered by leaders in the field

MA Social Policy MA/Diploma/Certificate

- Introduces social policy from both a British and international perspective
- Explores the subject within the context of broader political, social, economic and demographic developments
- Designed for those who have a first degree in another discipline, or are looking to refresh their understanding of the subject

MSc in Healthcare and Policy Management

- Introduces the ‘building blocks’ of learning about health policy and management
- Provides theoretical frameworks and practical tools that can be applied both to the UK health system, and overseas
- Designed for current or aspiring managers, clinicians and policy-makers
MA in Migration, Superdiversity and Policy

- Explores the social, economic and political impacts of international migration
- Examines current, proposed and ideal approaches to welfare provisions in the era of superdiversity
- Uses data to map superdiverse populations
- Evaluates the rights and entitlements of migrants in different societies

Online / Distance Learning – Advanced Child Protection Studies MSc / PG Diploma / PG Certificate

- This programme is designed to appeal to the more experienced professional already engaged in this area of activity – for example in social work, policing, law, education, nursing and health
- This programme will equip students with advanced knowledge that will enable them to work effectively in the field of child protection, whether this is in the area of practice, management, research, or service development
- This programme will facilitate the development of higher-level critical analysis skills, and to develop students’ capacity for knowledge-informed practice and more original thinking in relation to the complex issues that arise in the contested field of child protection
A SOCIAL POLICY DEGREE COULD LEAD TO A CAREER IN...

- Charities, Trusts and Foundations
- Education
- Financial/Insurance
- Health Services
- Public Administration
- Government
‘Learning about the causes of crime as well as different social issues in a global context deepened my knowledge in numerous aspects.’
Hok (Charlotte) Lau, 2nd year, BA (Hons) Social Policy and Criminology student from Hong Kong

‘The programme not only gives you concept and theory but also remarkable practical things through placement.’
Yohan Rubiyantoro, MA Policy into Practice with Integrated Placement student from Indonesia

‘My time here is exciting! I am doing a degree which reflects my interests, I truly believe that I made the right choice coming here.’
Frances Barra, 2nd year, BA. Policy, Politics, and Economics student from the Seychelles