

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

**School of Social Policy**  
International Brochure



# 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. Pay attention to 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 the University of Birmingham is one of the leading centres for applied social policy in the UK. 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.**

## International Students at the School of Social Policy

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 Student 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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/international.aspx)



## Undergraduate Study

The School of Social Policy offers a variety of exciting undergraduate programmes in a number of areas of social policy including criminology, health, social care, housing and communities.

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 for Social Policy and Social Work** offers taught programmes for graduates keen to develop their interests in social work, social policy and professional practice, migration and superdiversity, including 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.

## Undergraduate Study

### BA Social Policy

- A dynamic academic subject which 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 practise: 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)



## Other possible pathways

SOCIAL POLICY: HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

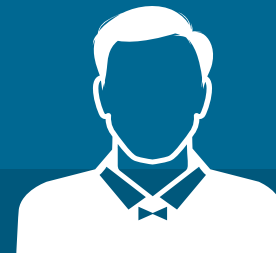
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL POLICY: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIOLOGY

SOCIAL POLICY AND PLANNING

For more information, please visit:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/  
social-policy/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/index.aspx)





## Postgraduate Study

### Policy into Practice MA/Diploma/Certificate

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- 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

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- Designed primarily for international students who are government officers with work experience in social policy
- Includes work-based placements within public, private or third sector organisations in the West Midlands area





### MA Social Work (Qualifying)

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- Enables those with a BA degree to obtain the new professional qualification in Social Work, as well as a Master's 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)

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- 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 Policy Diploma/Certificate

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- 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

### MA Social Research (Social Policy)

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- 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

### Msc in Healthcare and Policy Management

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- Provides theoretical frameworks and practical tools that can be applied both to the UK health system and overseas
- Designed for current or aspiring senior managers, clinicians and policy makers working within healthcare organisations



### MA in Migration, Superdiversity and Policy

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- 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



A social policy degree could lead to a career in...

Charities, trusts and foundations

Education

Financial/insurance

Health Services

Public administration

Government

### Quotes from our Students

Sam Ellison, Fulbright Scholar, MA Migration, Superdiversity and Policy, chose the University of Birmingham because it has:

'The best combination of academics and athletics.'

Elham Allahdad, MSc Healthcare Policy and Management Student in Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), from Iran, says:

'People in HSMC are so welcoming and kind that you won't have any problem to fit into the Department. Get prepared to experience one of the best years of your life in this nice and friendly campus.'

Feylyn Lewis, Social Work PhD Student, USA, says:

'My PhD Supervisor is a world-renowned expert in his field so it made sense to come from the states to study with him. One of the biggest challenges of being an international students has been adjusting to the differences here in the UK, [the] School has been really really supportive!'

### How do I apply?

Please email us at:

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

### Where can I find more information about The School of Social Policy?

Please visit:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/international](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/international)

### Where can I find information about funding?

Read information about scholarships, fees and funding at:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/courses/postgraduate.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/courses/postgraduate.aspx)



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