Supporting your Learning

Placements/Internships and support
Students on the programme will have the opportunity to undertake a work based internship in a migration related organisation. Students will be supported by the specialist University careers network to identify a suitable organisation and in addition they will also be linked up with organisations involved in IRiS’s Practitioner Research Programme (PRP).

Conference and seminars
The University of Birmingham offers a vibrant and dynamic student experience. Students enrolled on the Migration, Superdiversity and Policy programme can take advantage of the specialist IRiS seminar programme which hosts sessions from world leading migration scholars. The link to IRiS, the world’s first research centre to focus on superdiversity, offers ongoing opportunities for postgraduate students to enhance their learning and experience whilst at Birmingham. In 2014, for example, IRiS will host the first International conference on Superdiversity: Theory, method and practice in an era of change.

Small bursaries to undertake mini research projects
Small bursaries are also available to undertake independent mini-research projects in a student’s specialist area of interest relating to migration, superdiversity and policy. Students are required to submit a short proposal outlining their research ideas in order to be considered for an IRiS research bursary.

Support and Resources

All participants will be supported by a personal tutor and will also be able to draw on the support of the Institute’s Programme Director, Welfare tutors and International Student tutors.

Participants will also benefit from access to e-learning resources as well as the University’s main library and student services.

How to apply
Visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/iass to apply online or contact us for an application form.

Entry Requirements
An upper second class Honours degree or equivalent would be the standard entry requirement. This would usually be in a social science, although applications from those with degrees in other disciplines will be considered. Applications will also be encouraged from those without an Honours degree who have five years or more relevant work experience in a related policy or practice area.

English language: TOEFL/IELTS score of 237/6.5. Students with lower scores will be advised to register for the university’s professional English course (six or ten weeks)

Tuition Fees
For the latest information regarding tuition fees for our courses, please visit our website at www.birmingham.ac.uk/iass
For general information on tuition fees at Birmingham, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees
Migration, Superdiversity and Policy MA/PGDip/PG Cert

The last two decades have seen unprecedented levels of migration around the globe. Whilst no one knows the precise numbers of migrants living in different localities, we do know that in many areas migrants have arrived from every country in the world. As a result of globalisation many countries have entered an era of superdiversity with societies more diverse in terms of ethnicity, faith, and immigration status, than ever before. The major policy issue is whether or not we should be tough on migration but how we can better integrate new migrants and long established communities into their chosen societies in a way that promotes social solidarity and inclusion with fair access to social welfare and other services.

What is the programme about?
This programme will explore the social, economic and political impacts of international migration and examine current, proposed and ideal approaches to welfare provision in the era of superdiversity. It will explore and collate data to help map superdiverse populations and examine the rights and entitlements of migrants in different societie. Taking an applied approach the programme will help students to learn how to access data sources and undertake research in ways that can increase understanding of the nature of superdiversity and the needs of superdiverse communities.

It will also address the ways that policy has been adapted and created in order to accommodate the changing social fabric in urban and rural areas. Students will critically examine the suitability and adaptability of different models of welfare provision, to explore critiques of multiculturalism and to develop an understanding of post-multicultural modes of service delivery.

The programme will enable students to consider approaches to meeting the needs of diverse populations in equitable ways. Migration, Superdiversity and Policy is unique in bringing together theory and practice with cutting edge research and research methods to enable students to develop applied knowledge in a rapidly evolving field. Teaching methods include lectures, seminars, presentations and participatory workshops.

Is it for me?
This programme is the first of its kind on migrant issues and is designed to meet the needs of professionals working in, or seeking work in diverse or migration related settings, local government and the third sector such as housing, community safety, health, youth services, social care, community cohesion and social inclusion. It will also be of interest to recent graduates looking to pursue a career in this area, those with an interest in diversity, migration and multiculturalism and to those considering undertaking a PhD in related fields.

The course is of relevance to students from across the world looking to explore aspects of migration as it relates to their country or city of residence.

Programme Structure
Students studying for the Postgraduate Certificate will complete three 20 credit modules, including the core module listed below.

Compulsory core module
- Migration, Superdiversity, Policy and Practice

Optional modules:
- Globalisation, Migration and Citizenship
- Introduction to Applied Social Research
- International Social Policy
- Superdiversity/Migration related specialist project (40 credits)
- A wide range of other modules from across the University of Birmingham

Students studying for the Postgraduate Diploma must complete the core module plus five optional modules or three options plus the 40 credit Specialist Project in a migration related policy topic.

Masters students must complete the core module and five optional modules or three options and the 40 credit Specialist Project before moving on to undertake a 60 credit dissertation in the area of migration and superdiversity.

Why University of Birmingham?
The Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) is the world’s first research centre to focus on superdiversity and is at the forefront of international research in this field. IRiS offers a unique opportunity for students to benefit from the programme of events and scholars from a wide range of disciplines engaged in research and policy work in migration and superdiversity.

IRiS is based in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, part of the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham. The Department is also an internationally leading centre for research in social policy and social work.

IRiS is located in the newly refurbished Milton Tower in the leafy Edgbaston campus. Close by are the grand redbrick buildings of Chancellor’s Court, the Great Hall and the famous Joseph Chamberlain Clock Tower. Just three miles from the centre of the superdiverse city of Birmingham, with easy access by public transport, major motorways and an international airport, our Edgbaston campus provides access to several restaurants, banks, supermarkets, book and stationary shops. It also has excellent sporting facilities, conveniently located student accommodation and is the only UK University to have its own railway station, known as University and just two stops from Birmingham New Street station.

Programme Leaders
Birmingham is a dynamic and superdiverse city which offers the ideal setting for this MA. The programme leaders are excellently placed to lead this initiative having many years of research and publication experience in migration related issues. They have managed over fifty externally commissioned research projects in relation to migration, from a wide range of funders including the European Union, research councils, local and national Governments, charitable trusts and statutory agencies. They have advised EU and UK Governments on integration policy and migrant communities, and the development of diversity and migration related social policy. They have a body of publications that is nationally and internationally recognised by academics and policy makers.

Dr Lisa Goodson
Lisa Goodson leads the flagship Practitioner Research Programme in IRiS and has been at the forefront of research exploring the experiences and consequences of migration in the UK and Europe. Common themes that cut across her research and teaching on migration issues, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, include: integration and cohesion, poverty and social exclusion, housing, gender and health, and approaches to welfare provision for migrants in an age of super-diversity.

Professor Jenny Phillimore
Jenny Phillimore is the Director of IRiS and has researched widely in the fields of migration and superdiversity. Over the past decade she has managed teams of researchers focusing on access to health, education, employment, training, and housing with a particular focus on integration and the implications for the UK and EU. As well as working at IASS she has led the flagship Practitioner Research Programme in IRiS and has been at the forefront of research exploring the experiences and consequences of migration in the UK and Europe. Common themes that cut across her research and teaching on migration issues, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, include: integration and cohesion, poverty and social exclusion, housing, gender and health, and approaches to welfare provision for migrants in an age of super-diversity.

Optional Modules
Globalisation, Migration and Citizenship
This module focuses on the relationship between migration and citizenship at its core and explores shifting understanding of belonging in Western liberal democracies as well as in new immigration hubs. It explores the impact of this relationship on ideas of deservingness, entitlement and access to public services and social welfare. It examines the policies and politics that shape responses to migration at international, EU, national, and local levels and how they affect the experiences of migrants on the ground.

Introduction to Applied Social Research
This module introduces students to the theory and philosophy of social research and different research methodologies in relation to an applied policy and practice context. It considers key components of the research process including research design, data collection, analysis and interpretation methods in the migration policy and practice context.

International Social Policy
This module introduces students to social policy in countries other than the UK. It looks at different models of social policy and welfare development, explores the impact of globalization on welfare and enables students to critically compare and analyse social policy within different cultural, political and historical contexts.

Specialist Project in Superdiversity, Migration and Policy (40 credits)
This new module will provide students studying at Postgraduate Diploma or Masters level with the option of completing a 40 credit Specialist Project on a migration and policy related topic. This module provides students with the opportunity to pursue their personal interests and specialisms with the support of a leading subject expert assigned to their project from IRiS. On completion of the module students will produce a policy report.

Other Optional Modules (20 credits)
Students can also choose credits from other postgraduate taught programmes from within the Institute of Applied Social Studies and Health Services Management Centre as well as from other university departments. You can discuss your areas of interest and future career aspirations with us to help you choose the most appropriate modules to study.

Dissertation (60 credits)
On completion of 120 credits, Masters students undertake a 10,000 word academic dissertation on a new migration related subject of their choice. Each student is allocated an experienced specialist supervisor, selected for their knowledge of both the subject matter and supervision skills.