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Welcome to the School of Social Policy

The mission of the School of Social Policy is to ‘understand the world – but also to change it’. This means doing high quality and relevant research, but using this as a starting point for making a practical difference in the real world through our teaching, our professional training, our policy advice and our work with local communities, the public and the media.

Our achievements
In turning this mission into practice, we are proud of our many achievements, including running the UK’s oldest social work training programme dating back to 1908, our multiple award-winning NHS Management Training Scheme, the relationships we have with local partners in the public and voluntary sectors, and our leading role in the largest senior leadership development programmes in the history of the National Health Service.

More than three quarters of our research is rated as ‘world leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ in terms of its rigour, significance and originality, and we have extensive international links with like-minded partners at Harvard, Melbourne, Peking, Vancouver, Seoul and beyond.

Our Departments
The School is made up of two departments, the Department of Social Policy and Social Work and the Health Services Management Centre. The Department for Social Policy and Social Work offers a variety of exciting undergraduate programmes in a number of areas of social policy, including criminology, health, social care, housing and communities.

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.
What is Social Policy?

It is unlikely that you will have studied Social Policy at school before coming to University so this is an opportunity to expand your knowledge and study something completely new and exciting. The focus of social policy is to examine and evaluate a wide range of social questions, issues and debates about society, human aspirations and well-being.

The UK is the sixth richest country in the world, so why have more than a million people had to rely on food banks in the last year? Is the criminal justice system working? Should faith groups have a role in public life? 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. By studying Social Policy at Birmingham we encourage and empower you to consider the differing views of social issues and examine the opposing views on how to respond to these questions and dilemmas.

Those with a keen interest in topical issues but who are undecided on a definite course or career will find social policy an ideal choice as it encompasses diverse subject areas. The subject is appropriate for those who enjoy and want to know more about current affairs, unlocking value for those who want to make a contribution towards improving society so that others can follow and benefit.

A Social policy degree is suitable for Home/EU students currently studying a range of A level subjects as well as international students who have an interest in contemporary social issues and debates.
Our Areas of Study

We offer the following undergraduate programmes in Social Policy:

**Social Policy and Pathways**
- Social Policy BA (L400)
- Social Policy with Year Abroad BA (L40A)
- Social Policy: Health and Social Care BA (L401)
- Social Policy: Housing and Communities BA (L4K4)

**Policy, Politics and Economics**
- Policy, Politics and Economics BA (L990)
- Policy, Politics and Economics with Year Abroad (60L2)

**Joint Honours degrees**
- Social Policy and Criminology (L673)
- Social Policy and Sociology BA (LL43)

As a Birmingham student you will learn from world-leading experts. From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we’ll enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a formal transition review during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.
Programme Overview
The social policy degree at Birmingham enables you to understand the nature of social issues in the UK and beyond. It encourages you to not only develop an understanding of contemporary social issues but investigate potential solutions and how to promote change to tackle social problems.

If you choose to study on the BA Social Policy with Year Abroad option you will follow the same programme for the first, second and final years of the BA Social Policy programme. The only difference in the programme structure is that you will spend the third year of your degree abroad.

Programme Structure.

First year
The ambition of a social policy degree programme is to create critically aware and engaged students who are able to analyse and evaluate political and public policy objectives, their formulation and implementation. This requires the gradual development of student’s knowledge base and skills. Your first year is designed to help you find your feet and get up to speed with the subject. We introduce some of the main disciplines, themes, concepts and problems facing the UK in a contemporary global context. These include:

- Key concepts in social policy: for example, need, citizenship, equality, difference, globalisation and risk;
- The mixed policy economy of wellbeing;
- Key topics of social policy: health, education, housing, migration, poverty, social security and income maintenance;
- The demographic and socio-economic context of social policy provision;
- The construction of social issues and problems and changing policy responses over time;
- Introductory research skills;
- An introduction to criminology to explore the criminalisation of social problems and the shifting nature of social policy responses.

Taken together, your core and optional modules will provide you with opportunities to develop your understanding of social policy, and the space to explore new areas of academic study.

Core modules in your first year are designed to help you find your feet and get up to speed with the subject through the study of some of the main disciplines and themes which are relevant to social policy. These include:

- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Problems and Social Policy
- Researching Policy and Society
- Introduction to Criminology

You can also choose a further two optional modules which reflect your particular interests from a range of subject areas such as:

- Social Theory and Social Policy
- Comparative Social Policy
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Equalities and Diversity
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality
- Third Sector and Social Enterprise
- Housing and Communities

Taken together, your core and optional modules will provide you with opportunities to develop and consolidate your understanding of social policy, and the space to explore new areas of academic study.

Second year
In your second year you will consolidate and build upon the knowledge base and skills gained in your first year. The focus here is initially upon supporting students in developing their research and analytical skills so that you have the capabilities of both conducting your own small scale investigation of a social issue of your choice in your final year of study and also the ability to effectively appraise and use bodies of research at every stage of your studies. This will of course provide you with a range of practical skills and knowledge needed in the wider world of work after your degree.

As such there are two core modules in year two:

- Policy Analysis
- Social Research Methods

You can also choose a further four optional modules which reflect your particular interests from a range of subject areas. You may wish to continue developing analytical skills and your understanding of the social and political worlds through modules such as:

- Social Theory and Social Policy
- Comparative Social Policy
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Equalities and Diversity
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality
- Third Sector and Social Enterprise
- Housing and Communities

You will continue developing analytical skills and your understanding of the social and political worlds through modules.
BA Social Policy with Year Abroad

This course follows the same programme as the standard BA for Years 1 and 2. You will then complete your third year abroad and return for your fourth and final year to the same BA programme.

Third year
In your third year, you will spend a year abroad at a university in the EU or elsewhere in the world. There are a wide range of countries and universities from which you can choose. As well as a range of European universities, you may also choose from a range of current partners worldwide. These include countries in which a variety of different languages are spoken, including universities at which courses are taught in English.
Final year

By your final year you will be prepared to conduct your own research project (or extended essay). You will have the opportunity to explore knowledge and policy in an area of your choice which reflects your particular interests. Your core module is a choice between a research-based dissertation or an extended essay. Module options at this level will enable you to focus on additional areas of the research expertise of the School of Social Policy and the research centres of the School, further enabling you to benefit from research excellence and leading, contemporary research. As such you can explore issues such as:

- Matters of personal finances, wealth and the relationship these have with social policy
- The role of religion in politics and social policy
- The future prospects and developments within social policy
- Political histories of the ways in which social policies have developed
- The challenges of migration and diversity for social policy aims and ambitions.

By your final year you will be prepared to conduct your own research project (or extended essay) providing you with the opportunity to select a topic which is of particular interest to you and explore knowledge and policy within that policy area. As such your core module is a choice between a research-based dissertation or an extended essay.

If you choose to do the dissertation (40 credits) as your core module then you can select four optional modules. If you choose to do the extended essay (20 credits) you can choose five optional modules. Optional modules include:

- Prospects for Social Policy
- Migration and Super Diversity
- Doing or Not Doing God
- From Beveridge to Cameron
- Your Money and Your Life
- Harmful Societies

Birmingham social policy is designed to facilitate student learning in key aspects of the discipline, not just so that they can just understand policy, but also to encourage them to seek out and pursue change. Students study the tools and methods of social research alongside theories of policy making, evidence-based policy and different policy analysis techniques and applies to this issues such as drug abuse, body work, homelessness, poverty and domestic violence in order to both analyse and evaluate existing policies and also explore alternative possibilities.

The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may change and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.
'One of the main reasons I chose the University of Birmingham is because of the wonderful campus it’s based in at the centre of a fantastic city. Furthermore, everybody at the school of social policy were welcoming and friendly, and made me feel at home.

Social Policy is the study of society, its wellbeing and how social problems emerge. Its main focus is on how Government may or may not intervene in trying to solve those problems. One of the courses main strengths is that there are a number of policy fields to study; crime, housing, poverty, Islamophobia, the history of the welfare state, how people manage their money through savings and pensions policy. These modules come alongside fantastic modules in how to conduct social research around these problems and how policy is created and how one can analyse it. In addition the degree makes you create your own policy solutions to social problems and make you look at how government works in a new way. A further positive is that one does not have to do modules in all of the policy fields. As you go along your degree you find out which policy areas interest you most, and you can pick modules in those areas to study as the degree progresses.

What you put in to your degree you get out of it. It’s your choice whether you choose to fully engage or not. However if you choose to fully engage, because of small class sizes, you can really build respectful relationships with the top, research leading academics you are being taught by. In addition there are great opportunities to represent the student body in schemes such as student rep. In these schemes a body of students meet with staff to tell them how the wider student population feel about the degree programmes. There are also opportunities to do loads of extracurricular activities such as becoming members of society boards which is great fun but also a good chance to expand your friendship groups and skills.'

JOHN BAMFORD, BA Social Policy
Health and Social Care issues have a very high profile across a range of political and public agendas, various forms of media, and within a wide range of agency settings and professional arenas.

The range of issues which form the focus of this programme is very broad ranging too: How can we as a society respond to the increasing demands for health and social care services at a time of financial austerity? Should the state, the family or some mix of the two care for people with long term needs? Who should be responsible for the health care costs of people with drug, alcohol dependencies or eating disorders? How do we protect the vulnerable in our society whilst upholding their right to have control over their lives?

Programme Overview
Our Social Policy: Health and Social Care Pathway Degree Programme will provide you with the opportunity to actively engage in the analysis of these and further cutting edge issues and debates and therefore your degree will comprise a highly contemporary, dynamic and grounded programme of study. Your degree will provide you with a specialist module, a specialist placement, optional placements, an opportunity to undertake a specialist research project and extensive careers and employability support, providing you with a route into a range of careers and professional pathways.

Programme Structure
First year
The ambition of a social policy degree is to create critically aware and engaged students who are able to analyse and evaluate political and policy objectives and implementation. This requires the gradual development of students by first introducing students to key topics, concepts and problems facing the UK in a contemporary global context. Your first year is designed to help you find your feet and get up to speed with the subject through the study of some of the main disciplines that are relevant to social policy. These include:

- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Issues and Social Policy
- Researching Policy and Society

You can also choose a further three optional modules which reflect your particular interests from a range of subject areas such as:

- Introduction to Criminology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- History
- Politics
- International studies

Taken together, your core and optional modules will provide you with opportunities to develop and consolidate your understanding of social policy, and the space to explore new areas of academic study.
Second year
In your second year you will consolidate and build upon the knowledge base and skills gained in your first year. You will enhance your understanding of Health and Social Care policies through dedicated modules and a placement. This immerses you in Health and Social Care policies whilst your other core modules focus upon both developing your appreciation of the broader policy context. Your work in your second year will also support you in developing your research and analytical skills so that you have the capability of conducting your own small scale investigations of social issues and Health and Social Care policy of your own choosing, undertaken in your final year of study. This provides you with a range of practical skills and knowledge needed in the wider world of work after your degree. As such there are four core modules in year two.

In your second year you will consolidate and build upon the knowledge base and skills gained in your first year. Core modules are:
- Social Research Methods
- Policy Analysis
- Social Policy Pathway Placement
- Managing Health and Social Care

You can also choose one 20 credit module from the following:
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Equalities and Diversity
- Comparative Social Policy
- Social Theory and Social Policy
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality
- Third Sector and Social Enterprise

In your second year you can also choose to study modules from other departments if you wish to such as Urban Studies, Politics or Sociology, providing you with opportunities to focus upon developing areas of interest and so further personalise your degree.

Placement Opportunities
Health and Social Care Pathway students will undertake a specialist placement during their degree programme. However, it is possible for you to gain further experiences if you wish and there are many opportunities to do so. We also have our own specialist internship and careers advisors who provide students with a wide range of advice, support and contacts for work experience, placements and internships.

Third year
By your final year you will be prepared to conduct your own research project (or extended essay) providing you with the opportunity to select a topic in the area of Health and Social Care which is of particular interest to you and explore knowledge and policy within that policy area. As such your core module is a choice between a research-based dissertation or an extended essay.

If you choose to do the dissertation (40 credits) as your core module then you can select four optional modules.

If you choose to do the extended essay (20 credits) you can choose five optional modules.

Optional modules include:
- Prospects for Social Policy
- Migration and Super Diversity
- Doing or Not Doing God
- From Beveridge to Cameron
- Your Money and Your Life
- Harmful Societies
- Sociology of Health and Illness

You can also choose to study modules from other departments to reflect specific interests which you have developed over the course of your programme and to broaden your understanding of the social and political context of health and social care issues and policies.

Birmingham social policy is designed to facilitate student learning in key aspects of the discipline, not just so that they can just understand policy, but also to encourage them to seek out and pursue change. Students study the tools and methods of social research alongside theories of policy making, evidence-based policy and different policy analysis techniques and applies to this issues such as drug abuse, body work, homelessness, poverty and domestic violence in order to both analyse and evaluate existing policies and also explore alternative possibilities.

The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may change and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

Health and Social Care Pathway students have the benefit of our close links with the Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), a national centre of excellence in research and education in health and social care. HSMC is also based in the School of Social Policy; you can find blogs, research papers and more at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/hsmc
BA Social Policy Housing and Communities Pathway

Housing matters to people and has a high profile in policy debates. Where you live affects most aspects of your life, your neighbours, personal safety, local schools and public services. Housing is also a major store of personal wealth affecting consumption, loan security and retirement income.

Programme Overview
Our Social Policy: Housing and Communities Pathway Degree will provide you with the opportunity to actively engage in the analysis of cutting edge social issues and debates - therefore your degree will comprise a highly contemporary, dynamic and grounded programme of study. Your degree programme will also provide you with specialist modules, a placement, further optional placements, an opportunity to undertake a specialist research project and extensive careers and employability support; thus providing you with a route into a range of careers and professional pathways.

Programme Structure
Modules available within your Housing and Communities Pathway Degree will enable you to acquire a range of skills which are valued by employers, including: critical enquiry; analytical skills; problem solving; research competencies; workload planning and management; convening working parties; team working; presentations; writing policy reports and producing briefing papers. You will also be able to choose optional modules such as the Personal Skills Award, which can provide you with the opportunity to develop further employment specific skills, for example, in leadership and project management. Optional modules are also available which provide opportunities to visit organisations and agencies and there are further opportunities to gain a wide variety of placement experiences.

Modules in the first year
Core modules in your first year are designed to help you find your feet and get up to speed with the subject through the study of some of the main disciplines and themes which are relevant to social policy. These include:
- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Problems and Social Policy
- Researching Policy and Society
- Introduction to Criminology

You can also choose a further two optional modules which reflect your particular interests from a range of subject areas such as:
- Psychology
- Sociology
- History
- Politics
- International studies

Taken together, your core and optional modules will provide you with opportunities to develop and consolidate your understanding of social policy, and the space to explore new areas of academic study.

Second year
In your second year you will consolidate and build upon the knowledge base and skills gained in your first year. Core modules are:
- Policy Analysis
- Social Research Methods
- Housing and Communities
- Placement Module

You can also choose one 20 credit module from the following:
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Equalities and Diversity
- Housing and Communities
- Social Theory and Social Policy
- Comparative Social Policy
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality
- Third Sector and Social Enterprise

In your second year you can also choose to study modules from other departments if you wish to such as Urban Studies, Politics or Sociology, providing you with opportunities to focus upon developing areas of interest and so further personalise your degree.

Placement Opportunities
Housing and Communities Pathway students will undertake a specialist placement with a housing organisation during their degree programme. This is a 40 contact hour observational and reflective placement supported by the Pathways module to enable you to get the most out of the placement. However, it is possible for you to gain further experiences if you wish and there are many opportunities to do so. We also have our own specialist internship and careers advisors who provide students with a wide range of advice, support and contacts for work experience, placements and internships.
Third year

By your final year you will be prepared to conduct your own research project (or extended essay) providing you with the opportunity to select a topic in the area of Housing and Communities which is of particular interest to you and explore knowledge and policy within that policy area. As such your core module is a choice between a research-based dissertation or an extended essay.

If you choose to do the dissertation (40 credits) as your core module then you can select four optional modules.

If you choose to do the extended essay (20 credits) you can choose five optional modules. Optional modules include:

- Prospects for Social Policy
- Migration and Super Diversity
- Doing or Not Doing God
- From Beveridge to Cameron
- Your Money and Your Life
- Harmful Societies

You can also choose to study modules from other departments to reflect specific interests which you have developed over the course of your programme and to broaden your understanding of the social and political context of issues and policies in the area of Housing and Communities.

Birmingham social policy is designed to facilitate student learning in key aspects of the discipline, not just so that they can just understand policy, but also to encourage them to seek out and pursue change. Students study the tools and methods of social research alongside theories of policy making, evidence-based policy and different policy analysis techniques and applies to this issues such as drug abuse, homelessness, poverty and domestic violence in order to both analyse and evaluate existing policies and also explore alternative possibilities.

The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

‘Social Policy allows students to have a greater understanding about the world around them: including topics such as housing, healthcare, diversity and crime. The opportunity to specialize in Housing and Communities gives me an insight into issues within the private rented sector, the social sector and home ownership. Further to this, I was able to complete a compulsory placement within the Private Rented Sector team and the Research and Strategy team within Birmingham City Council’s housing department, which gave me further understanding of the way policy is made and implemented. Following my placement within Birmingham City Council, I am interested in pursuing a career within a council housing department, and ideally, within the Private Rented Sector team.’

VERITY SAYERS, BA Social Policy (Housing and Communities Pathway)
Today’s world is increasingly globalised, fast-moving and complex. Our Policy Politics and Economics (PPE) undergraduate degree programme gives you opportunities to engage with many of the key themes and issues that are integral to this rapidly changing and dynamic environment. Unlike traditional single or joint honours degrees, PPE does this from an innovative multidisciplinary perspective, enabling you to explore various different concepts, approaches and methods by bringing together the strengths of our Social Policy, Politics and Economics departments, each of which is internationally recognised for its teaching and research excellence.

By working across these disciplines, you will develop unique insights into the social sciences, comparing, contrasting and critiquing competing academic perspectives. As part of this innovative approach, you will also have the opportunity to tailor your studies to match your own developing interests through a programme that is wide ranging and encourages choice and specialisation. If you are attracted to PPE you are likely to be interested in the events and issues that are taking place around you, whether at the local, national or international levels.

The PPE programme will give you opportunities to examine and evaluate a wide range of social, political and economic questions. At the broadest, these issues might include considering the role of financial markets and the distribution of wealth, investigating the different forms and function of government, or questioning what such concepts as society and citizen might mean in the 21st century.

Other issues are likely to be more specific, for example:
- The threat of global terror and its relationship with national security
- The Occupy movement and forms of political protest
- Mass migration and its impact on localised economies
- The provision of welfare and the tackling of Inequalities

Studying these issues will enable you to build upon the learning gained during your advanced studies.

The Policy, Politics and Economics degree offers you the opportunity to critically engage with and consider a range of contemporary real-world issues. Unlike traditional single honours degrees, the PPE programme enables you to encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods from the three disciplines of social policy, politics and economics. This offers you the opportunity to build a bespoke degree, drawing on the excellent research and teaching skills of three Schools within the College of Social Sciences.

‘The PPE programme will provide you with a broader educational experience that will help prepare you for living and working in the 21st century’
BA PPE

YEAR 1
Students undertake compulsory introductory modules in all three of the social science disciplines: social policy, politics and economics. In doing so, students establish a good social sciences foundation upon which subsequent year modules build. Example modules include ‘Introduction to Social Policy’, ‘Foundations of Politics’ and ‘Principles of Economics’.

YEAR 2
A compulsory module, ‘Global Issues: Perspectives from Policy, Politics & Economics’ is at the core of the second year of studies. This interdisciplinary module enables students to consider a range of important global issues and the responses to them at the international, regional and local levels. Indicative examples of such issues include risk and terror, ethics in policy and practice, climate change and technology amongst others. Alongside this, students are required to take one module from each of social policy, politics and economics. Students can also begin to tailor their learning to their developing interests, choosing from more than fifteen optional modules, including ‘Comparative European Government’, ‘Business Law’, ‘Crime, Victims and Society’, ‘New Migration and Superdiversity’ and ‘International Politics of East Asia’.

YEAR 3
There are two key aspects to the third year of study: one is the dissertation, the opportunity to create a bespoke learning programme. For the dissertation, students will undertake a 10,000 word research-based project on a contemporary theme which includes elements of the three main disciplines of the programme. Students choose from a substantial range of optional modules whilst meeting the requirements to undertake at least one module from each discipline. The choice includes modules such as ‘Employment and Business Development and Policy in the EU’, ‘International Ethics’, ‘Gender in World Politics’, ‘Knowledge, Innovation and Global Business’, and ‘Politics and The Media’. This flexibility enables the student to gain a broad education at the same time as developing in-depth knowledge in a specific discipline.

If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a ‘Professional Development’ module as part of your optional module choices.

Students undertake their dissertation and then choose from a substantial range of optional modules, whilst meeting the requirements to undertake at least one module from each discipline. The dissertation will offer the student an opportunity to undertake a 10,000 word research-based project on a contemporary theme which includes elements of the three main disciplines of the programme. This will encourage the student to have both a broad education and in-depth knowledge in a specific discipline.
BA PPE with Year Abroad

This course follows the same programme as the standard BA for Years 1 and 2. You will then complete your third year abroad and return for your fourth and final year to the same BA programme.

Year Abroad
In your third year, you will spend a year abroad at a university in the EU or elsewhere in the world. There are a wide range of countries and universities from which you can choose. As well as a range of European universities, you may also choose from a range of current partners worldwide. These include countries in which a variety of different languages are spoken, including universities at which courses are taught in English. After completing your year abroad, students will return to Birmingham to complete the final year of their studies.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/studyabroad

‘Despite having my heart set on law, I decided to choose BA Policy, Politics and Economics with Year Abroad for a range of reasons. Firstly, being able to study all three disciplines has given me the skill to analyse issues with a range of perspectives in mind. Secondly, the year abroad opportunity really appealed to me as it meant I could use these skills and apply them to a different country and culture. Thirdly, I fell in love with the campus when visiting on an open day. It’s so beautiful and you have everything you need such as shops, cash machines and restaurants—as well as the train station. Overall, my time in Birmingham has been fantastic and I wouldn’t change a thing’

SAHAR JAMFAR, BA PPE With Year Abroad
‘I was immediately drawn to the PPE program at Birmingham by its diversity, the opportunity to combine three disciplines into one single honours degree program was a big attraction to me. As in the highly complex globalised world that we live in today, there is rarely a straightforward answer to any question and the ability to critical analyse issues from an interdisciplinary perspective is a highly regarded skills by employers. Birmingham is a fantastic city, and by living on a campus within a city you get the best of both worlds. You get the community feel of a campus university, yet the city centre of Britain’s second city is just 10 minutes away. At Birmingham, I was one of the founders of the PPE Society and the advice I always give to prospective students is to get involved with as much as possible at university!’

STEPHEN CRAIG, BA PPE

‘As soon as I started researching the different universities to apply to Birmingham instantly became my first choice! Until I began looking into it I had no idea how much the university had to offer from great career prospects, amazing sport and society options, lots of guest speaker appearances and of course the beautiful red brick campus which really stood out compared to other universities when I visited. I chose the PPE course because I knew I was very interested in the current issues in the news but wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted to go into. Getting to study all three perspectives, policy, politics and economics has definitely been the highlight of university as I get to look at an issue from three different perspectives and have the different skillsets from each. Also the social policy department have all been extremely helpful, especially as they are all very active in research so they can really help make lectures more interesting and current. The career prospects from my course are looking really good as well with people going into a wide range of careers from it. Myself, I would ideally like to go into politics, particularly health or security, both of which I find really interesting and my course has helped me learn so much more about how they work. Finally, I would have to say one of the other great things about the university is its location. Being in the leafy area of Edgbaston makes it a really appealing campus yet it is just down the road from the city centre where there is always so much going on including the Bullring for shopping and the great nightlife!’

KIRBY FERRAN, BA PPE
Social Policy and Criminology Joint Honours

Social Policy and Criminology offers an exciting opportunity to combine popular degree subjects that offer complementary insights into a range of social problems and social harms. Students will consider the ways that different societies produce contrasting levels of ‘problems’ and ‘harms’, such as drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, homicide, workplace injury and so on.

Students will also be encouraged to consider the reasons why particular ‘social problems’ or ‘social harms’ are designated as being either ‘crimes’ or ‘social policy’ issues and therefore are dealt with through contrasting ‘welfare’ or ‘criminal justice’ responses. These issues strike at the heart of many contemporary political and media debates: Do prisons do more harm than good? What is the relationship between poverty and crime? Why do less equal societies have higher rates of homicide?

Programme Overview
The Joint Honours is an interdisciplinary programme suitable for students who are currently studying a range of subjects at A-level and who have a particular interest in a wide range of topic areas such as poverty, homelessness, crime, prisons, drugs and alcohol addiction. The programme is located in the School of Social Policy and is led by academics who are specialists in social policy as well as crime and criminology.

Programme Structure
The programme comprises of a number of core modules designed to develop student’s knowledge and research skills and to support the progression to more independent forms of study. Optional module choices particularly in Years Two and Three, alongside the dissertation module enable students to specialise to enhance future career opportunities.

Modules in the first year
The programme comprises a number of core modules designed to develop student’s knowledge and research skills and to support the progression to more independent forms of study.

Core modules are:
- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Issues and Social Policy
- Researching Policy and Society
- Introduction to Criminology
- Violence in a Global Context

Plus one optional module of up to 20 credits.

Modules in the second year
Core modules are:
- Policy Analysis
- Social Research Methods
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Punishment in a Global Context

Students can choose either:

Students can choose two optional modules from a list below:
- Comparative Social Policy
- Social Theory and Social Policy
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Equalities and Diversity
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality
- Third Sector and Social Enterprise
- Housing and Communities
- Doing Justice*

*this module has limited to 8 placements and requires students to apply for this module. Applicants must have secured 55% overall for their first year but successfully complete a pre-placement interview, other placement opportunities are available via the Careers Service and Volunteering through the Guild of Students.

Modules in the third year
Core modules are:
- Dissertation: Crime, Harm and Society
- Harmful Societies: Crime, Social Harm and Social Justice
- Youth Crime and Justice

Plus one option from the following list:
- Prospects for Social Policy
- Migration and Super Diversity
- Doing or Not Doing God
- From Beveridge to Cameron
- Your Money and Your Life

The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available, we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.

Placements
Social Policy and Criminology students who meet the requisite academic performance criteria will be offered the opportunity to undertake a specialist placement during the second year of their degree programme.

However, it is also possible for you to gain further experiences if you wish and there are many opportunities to do so. For example, our Careers Network provide placement opportunities, which students find helpful, both to consolidate their academic studies, and to demonstrate the range of their practical experience when they apply for jobs.
BA Social Policy and Sociology Joint Honours

Social Policy is an interdisciplinary degree, drawing on subjects such as sociology, politics, psychology, history, media studies, and philosophy. Our Social Policy and Sociology joint honours degree programme enables students to take a specific focus upon two key strands within the broader interdisciplinary of the subject.

Sociology seeks to understand how social relations and structures influence all aspects of our lives. Join us and explore the dynamic, unprecedented social changes reshaping the world today. We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching. Our staff are active researchers who want to share their enthusiasm for sociology and social policy with you. We believe teaching and learning should be both rigorous and enjoyable, and seek to involve students in continually developing our activities. The Social Policy and Sociology degree at Birmingham presents a balanced view of the subject. You will be given a broad grounding in the major approaches to both disciplines, with emphasis on the cultivation of research skills. Your degree will culminate in a dissertation on a topic of your choice.

This programme provides the knowledge and skills to critically engage with key issues facing contemporary societies including:

- 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 sign post key social issues and dynamics. We place a strong emphasis on developing social science research skills – so valued by employers – with research methods training in each year.

This culminates in a final year dissertation where you research and write an extended piece on a topic of your own choice, with the support of an expert supervisor.

‘When I first came to the University of Birmingham on an open day, I instantly fell in love with both the university and the city. The campus is more like a small town with all the facilities, and is absolutely beautiful. The city is only a 7 minute ride away from the campus’ own train station and always has something to do. It has been amazing for me to come from a small town where nothing ever happens to a huge city where there’s always something to do, the transport networks make it easy to get around, and the shops are always open.

I change my mind quite often about what I want to do with my future. Because of this, taking the Joint Honours Social Policy/ Sociology BA made sense. It can lead into so many industries, from law to healthcare to business to advertising. Having such a broad scope made it perfect for me. Even better, over 50% of my degree is coursework based, meaning I don’t have to sit through as many exams. To put the cherry on top, this is all at a well-respected, multi-award winning Russell Group university, which is the best in the country for employability. I couldn’t be happier with my choice.’

HARRY HALL, Joint Honours Social Policy and Sociology
Modules in the first year
Core modules are:
- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Issues and Social Policy
- Social Divisions
- Social Worlds and the Sociological Imagination

Optional modules:
- Introduction to Criminology
- Researching Policy and Society
- Research Skills and Literacy
- Sociology of the Self and Everyday Life

Modules in the second year
Core modules are:
- Social Research Methods
- Social Theory and Social Policy
- Modern Sociological Theory A
- Modern Sociological Theory B
- Global Societies

You can choose 20 credits from the following Social Policy modules:
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Comparative Social Policy
- Policy Analysis
- Equalities and Diversity
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Poverty, Wealth and Inequality
- Third Sector and Social Enterprise
- Housing and Communities

You can choose 20 credits from the following Sociology modules:
- Data Analysis and Research Design
- Gender and Sexuality
- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

Modules in the final year
40 credits - Dissertation (Social Policy and Sociology)
20 credits - Contemporary Social Theory A & B

You can choose 20 credits from the following Social Policy modules:
- Prospects for Social Policy in the UK
- Migration and Superdiversity
- Doing or Not Doing God
- From Beveridge to Cameron
- Your Money and Your Life
- Harmful Societies

Sociology (20 credits each):
- Environment, Politics and Society A / Environment, Politics and Society B
- Family, Institution, Relationship and Myth A & B
- Political Sociology A / Political Sociology B
- The Public Domain A / The Public Domain B
- Sociology of Success and Fame
- Sociology of Film
- Technology and Society
- Sociology of Health and Illness
- Global Capitalism, Migration and the changing face of Europe
- Issues in Cross Cultural Studies
- Professional Development Module

Our Professional Development Module
To complement the academic inputs to this optional third year module, our dedicated Placements Team utilise their extensive links with industry and third sector organisations to work with you to secure the right work-related role for you. This might be work experience with a commercial company or public sector organisation, summer internship, voluntary opportunities or as a research support for one of our leading academic research teams.

The optional modules listed for this programme may unfortunately occasionally be subject to change. As you will appreciate key members of staff may leave the University and this necessitates a review of the modules that are offered. Where the module is no longer available we will let you know as soon as we can and help you make other choices.
Why Study at Birmingham?

Be part of a vibrant community of students and staff making real-world impact by addressing past, current and future challenges in the fields of social policy, criminology, policy, politics and economics.

The research-led teaching on our flexible degree courses ensures an inspirational and enquiry-based learning environment in the lecture theatre, seminar room, and on placement. You will graduate as a highly employable, independent global citizen with a broad range of transferable skills.

You will study on one of the most attractive and heritage-rich campuses in the country only a few minutes from the centre of Birmingham; the only UK city featured in the Rough Guide top 10 cities in the world to visit.

The Learning Environment
Our cutting-edge teaching programme is built on a foundation of over a hundred years of research and teaching excellence. You will shape your own intellectual development with us through a range of study methods. The learning experience extends way outside of the lecture theatre. Fieldwork, both in the UK and overseas, is an essential element of our degree programmes. As well as tutorials and practical classes you will have access to extensive educational facilities across the School and University including our brand new £60million library resources, state-of-the-art sports and IT facilities.
Our City

Birmingham is an exciting destination with a long cultural and intellectual heritage. Choose Birmingham for a warm welcome in one of the most diverse cities in the UK.

As England’s second city, Birmingham is a thriving, vibrant place to live. Multicultural, commercial and contemporary, it also boasts a rich history and heritage.

When you study here, you’ll find it’s not just the perfect base for your work – it’s also the perfect place to begin your career and set down the foundations for a successful future.

Easily accessible from and to the rest of the UK, Birmingham is just two hours from London by train, and Birmingham Airport is around half an hour away from the city centre.

Birmingham highlights

All tastes are catered for in Birmingham. In the city centre alone, more than 200 restaurants serve food from 27 countries. Over 100 Balti houses attract more than 20,000 visitors each week while Chinatown offers tasty cuisine from across Asia.

In your leisure time, you’ll find a huge range of activities to keep you entertained and occupied. Shopping areas include the famous Bullring, the ever-growing Jewellery Quarter, and the Mailbox with its designer stores and upmarket restaurants. Birmingham also hosts a range of markets, including the famous German market at Christmas.

If you are looking for some culture, then you’ll find plenty of art galleries – including the Birmingham Museum and art Gallery – theatres, cinemas and music arenas, such as the National Exhibition Centre and the National Indoor Arena.
Our Campus

The University campus offers a peaceful and tranquil haven, yet is right on the doorstep of the bustling city. So whether you’re looking for some quiet downtime to study or fancy a big night out, you’re never far from where you want to be. Striking architecture and 250 acres of parkland make for the stunning setting of our campus, which also boasts a whole range of amenities. You’ll find bars, shops, travel agents, opticians and major banks, as well as an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site. Plus there is the added benefit of a full-time security team. The University is investing £300 million over five years in new facilities for students and researchers.

In the past year, we have opened a new student hub in our Aston Webb Building, a brand new hall of residence, Chamberlain, in the vale village and an Institute of Translational Medicine, to ensure pioneering research is transformed into medicines and treatments for patients. Some of the projects in the pipeline are detailed here.

Library
Our outstanding new library will provide state-of-the-art facilities for our students – incorporating new ways of learning and studying alongside the traditional. All study spaces will allow students to work from multiple devices, and flexible training rooms are being incorporated in the design to allow the development of academic skills training and to support all modes of independent self-study. Desks in the light and airy new building will all be near windows and benefit from stunning views across campus.

Green Heart
The green heart will be a vast landscaped park at the heart of our historic campus, with a range of spaces for activities ranging from ceremonial occasions to public performances. It will feature and showcase some of our extensive range of cultural collections and be a place for meeting and relaxing all year around.

Sports Centre
When the new sports facility, home to 360 Sport and Fitness, opens its doors in 2016, it will feature an exceptional range and quality of facilities for everyone from beginner to elite athlete. It is the University’s biggest investment in sport to date and underlines the University’s commitment to sport at all levels. There has never been a more exciting time to get involved with sport at the University.
Where will your degree take you?

There are a number of job paths for you to take after graduating. There are graduate schemes in managing welfare services in health care, the third sector and local government which can be popular choices with our graduates. Since a degree in social policy is based upon how policy is made it is a great degree for working in the civil service, local government or for think tanks. Our graduates also gain students many transferable skills such as critical thinking, written and verbal communication and teamwork which give them the flexibility to go into a wide range of employment opportunities.

- NHS management trainee scheme
- Planning officer
- Charity coordinator
- Marketing project manager
- Social enterprise coordinator
- Campaign manager for an MP
- Youth worker
- Graduate training scheme in the prison service
- Human resources manager
- Researcher
- Learning support worker
- Communications officer
- Health care professional
- Graduate land buyer
- Funding officer
- Young persons support mentor
- Benefits officer
We are recognised for our commitment to supporting you throughout your studies and beyond. This has been possible with a multi-million pound investment into our student employability services and national award-winning internships and placements both in the UK and overseas. The University of Birmingham was named University of the Year for graduate employment in The Times and The Sunday Times ‘Good University Guide 2015-16’.

Careers Network works with a range of partners to ensure that professional and skilled roles are advertised to our students and graduates, with links to the world’s top graduate recruiters. We host over 200 major events each year, which include industry-specific careers fairs and individual employer presentations. You can also take part in our skills series programme, giving you the opportunity to enhance your skills through workshops with key employers.

The Personal Skills Award (PSA) is the University’s award-winning employability programme for our undergraduate students. Celebrated by the Association of Graduate Recruiters and supported by a range of graduate employers, the PSA will enable you to develop, recognise and articulate your skills effectively in preparation for graduate employment.

We have developed a range of internships and funded work experience placements that will enhance both your professional and personal skills while giving you the practical experience that is required by almost all graduate employers. In addition to funding and support, we offer unique opportunities to help you to rise above the competition, with global internships and placements available.

Mentoring is a unique opportunity that allows students to receive one-to-one advice from a professional working in an area they are interested in. This can be a great way to understand how to succeed in this area and be better prepared for the workplace as well as receive practical advice on employability.

For more information, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/careersmentoring](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/careersmentoring)
‘I knew I would enjoy studying on the truly beautiful campus at the University of Birmingham, as its red buildings and greenery really stood out to me. The university has an excellent reputation and after some research I realised that it also offers staff who truly are experts in their fields and for a subject like Social Policy, this is really important. The huge numbers of society’s also really appealed to me as it provides endless opportunities to try new things and get involved with university life. Birmingham as a city is also a dream, from gigs at the 02 Academy and Barclaycard Arena to club nights at Snobs, whatever you’re into it’s sure to be happening.

As someone who is passionate about helping people, particularly groups that are disadvantaged in society, Social Policy is the ideal degree for me. The first year modules provide a brilliant grounding in the key social issues, opening up to more choice and room for exploration in second and third years. This means that you can quickly find particular areas you’re interested in and investigate them further, even make them the focus of your third year dissertation! The range of teaching styles is also fantastic as it keeps things fresh and stops the routine becoming too monotonous, and the staff go above and beyond to make sure you get any help you need.

During my second year at UoB I held the role of President of the Social Policy Society, and it was one of the best things I did while at university as I got to organise and run several extremely successful film events which had up to 90 people attend!

As far as the future is concerned, a degree in social policy opens so many different doors the possibilities are almost endless. Currently I am definitely interested in further study, be that a Masters or maybe doing my PGCE to become a primary teacher, which is something I have always wanted to do. The University of Birmingham offers lots of different ways to enhance your CV, through the Careers Network and Personal Skills Awards. Whatever field I end up in, I know my time at UoB will have equipped me with all the skills I will need.’

LAURA KITE, BA Social Policy
'I chose the university as I enjoyed the open day and the feel of the campus. Moreover, there were a number of flagship schemes that the University runs where I had the fantastic opportunity of becoming a HSBC scholar. The scheme is a joint partnership with the University and HSBC where they cover the full cost of my tuition fees. This led to me making Birmingham my first choice.

I chose the course as I wanted to do something challenging but also contemporary at the same time. In social policy, you look at social issues and how to improve wellbeing in society. As a course, it therefore looks at society’s deepest problems and ways in which they can be solved e.g. the housing crisis, educational and income inequality, social exclusion, and poverty. It thus attracted me as I wanted to be person of societal change and the degree fully espoused my values.

Alongside my degree I have had an active role in societies such as: acapella, Social Policy society, and kickboxing. I also undertook an internship in Birmingham city council and had study trips in India and Denmark that truly enhanced my learning. I am also proud to state that I was the very first student from the department to go on a year abroad in Copenhagen which was a fantastic and enriching experience.

Four years on, I am on track to graduate this year. I am currently at the final stage of entering a local government graduate scheme called the National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP). It is a popular two year scheme that enables graduates to take a front-line role in the council that they choose to work in. After these two years I hope to use my experience and progress into a more senior position in local government.'

JUDAH CHANDRA, BA Social Policy with Year Abroad
Entry Requirements & How to Apply

Key Facts

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Studies accepted. For entry requirements please refer to the table above. If you have different qualifications or are looking to come to university from non-traditional routes you are encouraged to contact us regarding your eligibility.

Additional Information

Other qualifications are considered. For more information, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements

International Students

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx

LEARN MORE

Admissions Tutor for BA Social Policy, Pathways, Joint Honours Programmes:
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You can also find out about qualifications from your country or region at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at: www.ucas.com

Fees

Standard fees apply. For further information, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees