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Welcome to the Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology

The Department offers a range of social science undergraduate programmes to explore social issues and problems that impact on our daily lives and the 21st-century world around you. Comprising Social Policy, Sociology, Criminology and Policy, Politics and Economics, our interdisciplinary programmes offer an informed, engaging and innovative learning experience.

The Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology’s mission statement is ‘to understand the world – but also to change it’. We do this by carrying out high-quality research, which informs and shapes our teaching and our work with national and local government, the public sector, voluntary groups, communities and the media among others.

Guided by debates in social justice and social change, our curriculum provides you with core knowledge and skills as well as the flexibility to pursue the topics that interest you the most. As a student in the Department, you will be taught by lecturers who are leaders in their fields, influencing the thinking of politicians and policy-makers across a whole range of current debates.

Our innovative programmes not only draw together expertise from a range of social sciences to provide a diverse and engaging set of programmes, but are also founded on leading teaching practice. Drawing on contemporary pedagogical research, we continuously develop teaching and assessment practices while working with students to ensure that they not only enjoy their programme, but more importantly, go on to achieve their maximum potential.

We aim to equip you with academic knowledge in a range of social sciences research and analytical skills so that you too can understand the world and change it.
Which programme is right for you?

SOCIAL POLICY

Resting at the core of our programmes, Social Policy is for those who want to tackle inequality, pursue social justice and achieve social change. This degree allows you to analyse problems, consider solutions and evaluate the political debates that surround them. At the University of Birmingham, we combine the traditions of the discipline to explore social problems in the UK and beyond. The ambition is to improve human and societal welfare and well-being not only today, but for the future.

POLICY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (PPE)

Birmingham’s innovative approach to PPE brings together the strengths of our Social Policy, Politics and Economics departments, each of which is internationally recognised for its teaching and research excellence. An interdisciplinary programme, this degree will appeal to those who wish to critically engage with a wide range of social, political and economic issues relevant to today’s dynamic and changing world.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of how large-scale social dynamics (e.g., globalisation, inequalities, new technologies and more) are both made and experienced by individuals, groups and institutions. It explores social life, including analyses of individual identity, family, culture, politics, religion and the economy among others. Sociology at Birmingham is theoretically grounded, asking critical, ‘big picture’ questions about a rapidly changing world. But it is also ‘hands-on’ in providing the methodological toolkit to investigate society.

CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology as a discipline helps us to make sense of crime and related issues of punishment and victimisation. It will appeal to those who want to understand the complex causes of crime and how our societies should respond to pressing problems, such as domestic violence, knife crime, or drug related crime, as well as supra national issues like genocide, war crimes and transnational crime. At Birmingham, you will be encouraged to consider the social context in which crime and punishment takes place, and in doing so to challenge your preconceptions of ‘violence’, ‘harm’ and ‘justice’.

Teaching and Learning

All of our programmes are taught on a semesterised basis. This means that modules are delivered in either term one or term two. Typically, you will complete three modules in semester one and three modules in semester two.

Please note, however, that the Dissertation and Doing Justice module does operate across both semesters.
Social Policy BA

Ranked seventh in the UK by The Complete University Guide 2019, our programme offers quality teaching and research. If you are motivated by injustice and inequality and want to challenge the status quo, then social policy is the subject for you.

Social policy has influenced your life in many subtle ways and is an interdisciplinary degree, drawing on subjects such as sociology, politics, psychology, history, media studies and philosophy. From the provision of health care, education, housing and income support, social policy is the activity that ensures human welfare both individually and as a society.

Studying at the University of Birmingham offers you the chance to engage in this exciting and contemporary interdisciplinary subject. Our Social Policy programme is designed to ground you in the traditions of the subject while developing the research and analytical skills that can be used to investigate a whole series of social problems. Social Policy at the University of Birmingham examines social issues such as:

- The lived experience of poverty in the UK and the reliance on food banks
- The future provision of health and education
- The increased levels of homelessness

These and many other social problems are analysed to understand not just how they are defined, but more importantly, how they are responded to in the public and political spaces. You will evaluate the effectiveness of policy outcomes and devise alternatives.

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. Given that our programme is designed around several key themes, Social Policy students are afforded some flexibility to specialise in particular areas if they wish, or develop knowledge and expertise across several. This is particularly valuable if you have a particular career in mind.

Your first year consists of five core modules which represent the key themes of our curriculum, ensuring you have a strong grounding in the breadth of the subject prior to years 2 and 3. You also have the chance to engage in the Widening Horizons programme and engage in a subject outside of our discipline.

In your second year, you will consolidate and build upon this core knowledge base and skills. Expanding your research and analytic skills forms the central spine of the programme. This facilitates students’ capabilities of both conducting small-scale investigations of social issues, but also analysing existing policy and practice. This will, of course, provide you with a range of practical skills and knowledge needed in the wider world of work or postgraduate study after your degree.

By your final year, you will be prepared to conduct your own research project. You will have the opportunity to explore knowledge and policy in an area of your choice and particular interests.

Additionally, module options at this level draw upon the research expertise of the Department and its research centres, which brings contemporary policy debates and research directly into the programme and further enables you to benefit from excellent, world-leading, contemporary research.
School of Social Policy

Year 1 Year 2 Final Year

Modules in the first year offer an introduction to our key themes which shape our Social Policy degree:

Core modules
- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Science, Social Problems and Social Policy
- Social Research I
- Philosophies of Welfare
- Introduction to Social Divisions
- Widening Horizons Module

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
- Policy Analysis
- Social Research II

Choose a further four optional modules that reflect your particular interests:

Optional modules
- Comparative Social Policy
- Poverty, Class and Inequality
- Gender and Sexuality
- ‘Sociology of Race’ and Ethnicity – A Global Perspective
- Social Policy and Disability
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Contemporary Issues in Housing Policy
- Terror, Threat and Security
- Punishment in a Global Context
- Education, Policy and Social Justice
- Self and Society
- Media and Society
- Global Societies
- Doing Justice

In your final year, you will complete a dissertation. You will then choose a selection of optional modules.

Example optional modules may include:
- Prospects for Social Policy
- From Beveridge to May
- Quantitative Analysis I and Quantitative Analysis II
- Migration and Super-Diversity
- Your Money and Your Life
- Harmful Societies
- Sociology of Personal Life
- Divided Publics
- Crime and the City
- Sociology of Health and Illness
- Political Sociology
- Technology and Society
- ‘Freedom’, Control and Critique
- Professional Development Module

Programme structure

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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Core modules</td>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Introduction to Social Policy</td>
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<td>□ Prospects for Social Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Social Science, Social Problems and Social Policy</td>
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<td>□ From Beveridge to May</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Social Research I</td>
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<td>□ Quantitative Analysis I and Quantitative Analysis II</td>
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<td>□ ‘Freedom’, Control and Critique</td>
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<td>□ Professional Development Module</td>
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Individual modules are typically 20 credits (the dissertation is 40 credits). Students take 120 credits each year: six 20-credit modules in their first and second years and the dissertation plus four modules in their final year.

Please note that as with all degree programmes, not all optional modules will be available every year.

A full list of modules can be found online.

LEARN MORE

UCAS code: L400
Typical offer: BBB

Email: ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk
LAURA KITE
BA SOCIAL POLICY

‘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. The huge number of societies also really appealed to me as they provide endless opportunities to try new things and get involved with university life. Birmingham as a city is also a dream, from gigs at the O2 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 Birmingham, 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 Award. Whatever field I end up in, I know my time at Birmingham will have equipped me with all the skills I will need.’
Choose Sociology at Birmingham – ranked in the top ten of Sociology units in *The Complete University Guide 2019*. 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.

Among the questions Sociology asks are:
- What are the effects of globalisation on cultural, political and economic life? Who wins? Who loses?
- What new types of social inequality and division are appearing alongside those such as gender, ethnicity and social class?
- Do the forces of consumerism and individualism threaten social cohesion?
- What are the impacts of new technologies upon individual and collective life?
- What new forms of cultural identity and belonging are emerging? How shall we live together?
- What are the best theories and methods for researching these issues?

Answering questions such as these is the challenge of our era. Studying Sociology at Birmingham will provide you with the toolkit to form your own critical judgements.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching, not least because our staff are active researchers who want to share their enthusiasm for sociology with you. Consequently, we believe teaching and learning should be both challenging and stimulating, and involve our students in continually developing our activities.

As a Sociology graduate from Birmingham, you will be well-equipped for your chosen career or further study. In particular, you will have gained:
- Critical ability – to read, absorb and assess complex ideas and arguments about the contemporary world
- Research skills – practical experience of designing and conducting research, including interviews, questionnaires and developing core skills to understand information
- Presentational skills – to present your ideas and research in appropriate formats
- The capacity to work alone or in groups – you will have gained experience of independent study and research as well as working, solving problems and debating ideas with others

The programme has been carefully designed to advance your skills and knowledge each year: from broad, introductory-level modules in the first year to specialist options and a substantial piece of independent research in the final year. Each year, there is a balance between compulsory modules in the ‘core’ parts of the discipline (eg, theory and methods) and those which support you to develop your own pathway via a range of specialist choices.

Individual modules are typically 20 credits (the dissertation is 40 credits). Students take 120 credits each year: six 20-credit modules in their first and second years and the dissertation plus four modules in their final year. Please note that as with all degree programmes, not all optional modules will be available every year.

A full list of modules can be found online.
Programme structure

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<td><strong>Core modules</strong></td>
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<td>- Modern Sociological Theory</td>
<td>- Dissertation</td>
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<td>- Social Research II</td>
<td>- Contemporary Social Theory</td>
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<td>- Introduction to Social Divisions</td>
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<td>- Sociology of Everyday Life</td>
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<td><strong>Optional modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>At least one of the following must be taken:</strong></td>
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<td>Choose two from the following:</td>
<td>- Gender and Sexuality</td>
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<td>- Introduction to Social Policy</td>
<td>- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Introduction to Criminology</td>
<td>- Poverty, Class and Inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Philosophies of Welfare</td>
<td>- Choose your remaining credits from the following:</td>
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<td>- Social Science, Social Problems</td>
<td>- Self and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Social Policy</td>
<td>- Media and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Widening Horizons: an opportunity to take an introductory module from other disciplines across the University</td>
<td>- Global Societies</td>
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<td>- Disability and Social Policy</td>
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<td>- Comparative Social Policy</td>
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<td>- Managing Health and Social Care</td>
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<td>- Punishment in a Global Context</td>
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<td>- Changing Behaviours: A History</td>
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<td>- Education, Policy and Social Justice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Contemporary Issues in Housing Policy</td>
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**HANNAH BEASLEY**

**SOCILOGY GRADUATE 2015**

‘My time at the University of Birmingham as a Sociology student was very positive. I have gained so many important skills which have enabled me to progress into the teaching career path that I had always wanted. The dedication of lecturers who ensured that I developed the necessary skills to enter into my chosen career, has been vitally important in getting my place on a Post-Compulsory PGCE. From research methods to presentation skills, the University has prepared me to teach the next generation and enthuse them about Sociology, the way I have been enthused in the subject.’

‘After gaining a first-class honours degree in Sociology from the University, I have been able to undertake my PGCE and hope to begin my career by teaching Sociology in a college or sixth form. However, the University has also encouraged me to strive for my goal of becoming a university lecturer. The excellent support during my final year of study enabled my dissertation to be published, which has further sparked my interest in becoming a researcher and lecturer. I hope in the future to complete a Masters followed by a PhD and without the University of Birmingham, I never would have imagined such a career path to be possible.’

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**LEARN MORE**

**UCAS code:** L300

**Typical offer:** ABB

Email: ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Social Policy and Criminology
BA Joint Honours

Understand what social policy and criminology teach us about our societies. Learn how these subjects individually provide insights into social problems and harms and when studied together, offer an exciting lens on the world around us.

This Joint Honours programme will offer you an exciting opportunity to combine popular degree subjects that offer complementary insights into a range of ‘social problems’ and ‘social harms’ in order to try and make sense of the world of criminal justice. These will include critically engaging with such questions as:

- Do prisons do more harm than good?
- Why do less equal societies have higher rates of homicide?
- How do we know which are the most effective drugs policies?

Our Social Policy and Criminology programme will allow you to consider how different societies produce contrasting levels of ‘problems’ and ‘harms’. These might include addiction, homelessness, violence, pollution and workplace injuries among others. As a Birmingham student, you will be encouraged to not only consider the reasons why particular social problems or social harms are designated as being either ‘crimes’ or ‘social policy’ issues, but so too why they might be subsequently dealt with through contrasting ‘welfare’ or ‘criminal justice’ responses.

The programme aims to develop your understanding of both criminology and social policy in their own right, as well as gaining an understanding of the inter-relationships and conflicts that exist between the forms of knowledge and policy solutions offered by these respective fields. An interdisciplinary programme, it is suitable for students who are currently studying a range of different subjects and who have a particular interest in broad issues affecting contemporary society.

Our programme offers an exciting international curriculum with a broad range of optional modules. Carefully designed, the programme will help you develop appropriate knowledge and skills each year. Beginning with broad, introductory modules in both Criminology and Social Policy in your first year, you will advance your studies through a balance of compulsory and specialist modules in subsequent years. For those students who meet the requisite academic performance criteria, you will be offered the opportunity to undertake a specialist placement during the second year of your degree programme. This placement affords you an opportunity to apply your knowledge in a practice setting. In your final year, the dissertation allows you to explore topics which are of particular interest in order to produce a significant piece of independent research.

As a Social Policy and Criminology student at Birmingham, the core of your programme will follow our wider mission to not just understand the world, but to change it. You will be taught by leading academics in the field, benefiting from their expertise and the world-class research they are currently undertaking.

BETHAN GILMORE
BA SOCIAL POLICY AND CRIMINOLOGY

‘I chose to study Social Policy and Criminology at University of Birmingham because the course content seemed almost tailored to me in comparison to other universities. The modules being taught were very appealing and, in particular, the Criminology work placement in the second year was ultimately what sold this course to me – resulting in securing a researching position at a local prison in my second year. The staff are extremely supportive too, they always make themselves available when we need them; balancing friendship alongside academia. I am very proud and happy to be part of our University.’
The programme comprises a number of core modules designed to develop your knowledge and research skills and to support the progression to more independent forms of study.

### Core modules
- Introduction to Social Policy
- Social Science, Social Problems and Social Policy
- Social Research I
- Introduction to Criminology
- Violence in a Global Context
- Widening Horizons

### Core modules
- Policy Analysis
- Social Research II
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Punishment in a Global Context

### Optional modules
Students can choose either to apply for the 20-credit Doing Justice* Criminology module and 20 credits from the remaining options, or choose 40 credits from the following options:
- Comparative Social Policy
- Poverty, Wealth, Class and Inequality
- Gender and Sexuality
- ‘Sociology of Race’ and Ethnicity – A Global Perspective
- Social Policy and Disability
- Terror, Threat and Security
- Managing Health and Social Care
- Contemporary Issues in Housing Policy
- Self and Society
- Media and Society
- Global Societies

*This module is limited in terms of the number of placements and requires students to apply. Applicants must have secured 55% overall for their first year and successfully complete a pre-placement interview. Other placement opportunities are available via the Careers Service and volunteering through the Guild of Students.

### Core modules
- Dissertation

### Optional modules
To balance your Joint Honours you must then select two Criminology modules from:
- Harmful Societies: Crime, Social Harm and Social Justice
- Youth Crime and Justice
- Crime and the City

Plus two options from the following:
- Prospects for Social Policy
- From Beveridge to May
- Quantitative Analysis I and Quantitative Analysis II
- Migration and Super Diversity
- Your Money and Your Life
- Sociology of Personal Life
- Divided Publics
- Sociology of Health and Illness
- Political Sociology
- Technology and Society
- ‘Freedom’, Control and Critique
- Professional Development Module

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**LEARN MORE**

**UCAS code:** L673  
**Typical offer:** ABB  
**Email:** ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

A full list of modules can be found online.
Criminology
BA Honours

Criminology at the University of Birmingham is about understanding the social implications of crime – and its impact on local and global communities.

Criminology as a discipline helps us to make sense of crime and related issues of punishment and victimisation. A unique aspect of the University of Birmingham’s programme is the focus given on social harm to the study of crime. This provides you with the opportunity to think more broadly and critically beyond the confines of ‘crime’ that criminology traditionally offers.

As part of your study you will be asked to interrogate the traditional criminological questions from various standpoints. This contextualises the causes of crime within their societal context and to re-evaluate criminal justice responses on the basis of the harms caused. You will also engage in contemporary debates around harm and crime and be challenged to consider how our societies should respond to pressing problems, such as domestic violence, knife crime, or drug related crime, as well as supra national issues like genocide and transnational crime.

By studying Criminology at the University of Birmingham you will be confident in both applying and understanding:

- The key concepts and theories that explain the causes and societal responses to crime
- The development of the criminal justice institutions (police, prisons and courts) in the UK and a comparative context, as well as the inter-relationships between these systems, as mechanisms to respond to crimes and social harms
- Supranational policy and policing responses to crime and social harm
- How different social groups and individuals experience crimes and social harms, as well as the policies and regulatory responses that are purported to alleviate or ameliorate these issues
- The construction and representation of crimes and social harms, and of responses to these in policy making, mass/social media and public opinion
- The understanding and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in criminological research

Our BA Criminology has been carefully constructed to provide you with a unique opportunity to develop your skills in explaining complex social problems in terms of criminological theory and to be able to apply conceptions of human rights in order to evaluate efforts to prevent harm and ensure personal safety.

The first year provides an introduction to Criminology, within your second and final years you will have more options to tailor your degree. By your final year, you will be prepared to conduct your own research project. You will have the opportunity to explore knowledge and policy in an area of your choice and particular interests.

Additionally, module options at this level draw upon the research expertise of the Department and its research centres, which brings contemporary policy debates and research directly into the programme and further enables you to benefit from excellent, world-leading, contemporary research.

Throughout your degree, you will have the flexibility to tailor your options towards your career choice. During your second year you will have the opportunity to undertake an optional placement with a criminal justice agency/voluntary sector organisation.*

* This module is limited to eight placements and requires students to apply. Applicants must have secured 55% overall for their first year and successfully complete a pre-placement interview. Other placement opportunities are available via the Careers Service and Volunteering through the Guild of Students.
**Programme structure**

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<td>- Crime and Society</td>
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<td>- Optional modules</td>
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<td>- Youth, Crime and Justice</td>
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<td>- Crime and the City</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Widening Horizon Module</td>
<td>- Terror, Threat and Security</td>
<td>- Genocide and Mass Atrocities</td>
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<td>- Introduction to Social Policy</td>
<td>- Doing Justice*</td>
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<td>- Social Problems and Social Policy: Social Science in Action</td>
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<td>- Quantitative Data Analysis I and Quantitative Data Analysis II</td>
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<td>- Contemporary Issues in Policing</td>
<td>- Self and Society</td>
<td>- Divided Publics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Punishment in a Global Context</td>
<td>- Media and Society</td>
<td>- Your Money and Your Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Criminological Theory II</td>
<td>- Global Societies</td>
<td>- Sociology of Health and Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Optional modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional modules</strong></td>
<td>- Political Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Terror, Threat and Security</td>
<td>- Comparative Social Policy</td>
<td>- Technology and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Doing Justice*</td>
<td>- Contemporary Issues in Housing Policy</td>
<td>- ‘Freedom’, Control and Critique</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Comparative Social Policy</td>
<td>- Managing Health and Social Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Genocide and Mass Atrocities</td>
<td>- Self and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>- From Beveridge to May</td>
<td>- Media and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>- New Migration and Super Diversity</td>
<td>- Global Societies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This module is limited to eight placements and requires students to apply. Applicants must have secured 55% overall for their first year and successfully complete a pre-placement interview. Other placement opportunities are available via the Careers Service and volunteering through the Guild of Students.

Individual modules are typically 20 credits (the dissertation is 40 credits). Students take 120 credits each year; six 20-credit modules in their first and second years and the dissertation plus four modules in their final year. Please note that as with all degree programmes, not all optional modules will be available every year.

A full list of modules can be found online.

LEARN MORE

**UCAS code:** M901  
**Typical offer:** ABB

Email: ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Sociology and Criminology
BA Joint Honours

Sociology and Criminology are two distinct disciplines that when combined provide insights into the nature of social deviance, and this Joint Honours programme gives students an exciting opportunity to explore the inter-relationships between the two subjects.

Sociology offers a core social science perspective that can both enhance – and draw on – insights from Criminology. Sociology’s theoretically driven, macro focus on social structures, institutions and group actors offers a way of locating applied criminological topics in their social context. In addition, the ‘micro’ aspects of the sociological tradition (a distinctive feature of the programme that we offer here at Birmingham) have been a longstanding influence upon criminology research.

Criminology is the study of ‘crime’ and its causes, as well as providing ways to understand social responses to crime. It offers distinctive insights into the nature of social non-conformity, ‘harm’ and ‘control’ that challenge and energise traditional sociological approaches to topics such as stratification, integration, conflict and inequality. Students joining this programme have an exciting opportunity to develop not just an understanding of both fields of study in their own right, but also, perhaps more crucially, an understanding of the relationships and conflicts generated by these respective fields.

As well as understanding theoretical approaches in both fields, you will learn to find how patterns emerge across these topics socially, and how deviance, control and social harms are represented and responded to via policy-making, mass social media and public opinion. You will gain an understanding of the basic principles of social research, as well as looking into the strengths, weaknesses and uses of specific sources of data and research methods.
### Programme structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core modules</td>
<td>Core modules</td>
<td>Core modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Social Research I</td>
<td>☐ Modern Sociological Theory</td>
<td>☐ Dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>☐ Social Research II</td>
<td>☐ Contemporary Social Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Violence in a Global Context</td>
<td>☐ Criminal Justice Systems</td>
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<td>☐ The Sociological Imagination</td>
<td>☐ Punishment in a Global Context</td>
<td>Optional modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Introduction to Social Divisions</td>
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<td>☐ Harmful Societies: Crime, Social</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harm, Social Justice and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Youth, Crime and Youth Justice and/or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional modules</td>
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<td>☐ Crime and the City</td>
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<td>Students choose one of the following:</td>
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<td>☐ From Beveridge to May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Introduction to Social Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Prospects for British Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Social Science, Social Problems and Social Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ New Migration and Super Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Philosophies of Welfare</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Sociology of Personal Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Widening Horizons Module</td>
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<td>☐ Divided Publics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Your Money and Your Life: From Welfare State to Personal Finance</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Sociology of Health and Illness</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>☐ Political Sociology</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>☐ Technology and Society</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ ‘Freedom’ and Control</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If not taken as a core
** This module is limited to eight placements and requires students to apply. Applicants must have secured 55% overall for their first year and successfully complete a pre-placement interview. Other placement opportunities are available via the Careers Service and volunteering through the Guild of Students.

Individual modules are typically 20 credits (the dissertation is 40 credits). Students take 120 credits each year; six 20-credit modules in their first and second years and the dissertation plus four modules in their final year. Please note that as with all degree programmes, not all optional modules will be available every year.

A full list of modules can be found online.

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**LEARN MORE**

UCAS code: LM39
Typical offer: ABB
Email: ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Policy, Politics and Economics (PPE)  

An innovative approach to studying PPE, this interdisciplinary degree provides you with opportunities to engage with a wide range of issues relevant to the rapidly changing world around you. PPE gives you an opportunity to explore key social, political and economic challenges facing us in the 21st century.

Today’s world is increasingly globalised, fast-moving and complex. Our PPE degree gives you opportunities to explore many of the key issues and challenges that are vital to understanding this rapidly changing and dynamic environment.

Distinct and different, Birmingham’s innovative approach to studying PPE allows students to critically engage with a range of issues and themes that reflect the expertise evident in our Social Policy, Politics and Economics departments, each of which is internationally recognised for its teaching and research excellence.

These issues and themes speak to the local and national settings as indeed they do to the global also. While ever-changing, they are likely to include considering the role of financial markets and the distribution of wealth, investigating the different forms and function of government, and questioning what is meant by concepts such as society and citizenship in the 21st century.

Other issues and themes are likely to be more specific and might include:

- How do we understand the threat of global terror and its relationship with national security?
- What impact global financial crises have on national, regional and global economies?
- The extent to which we fully understand the political consequences of mass and ongoing migration
- The social, political and economic impact of war and conflict

Through working across traditional disciplines, you will be encouraged to develop new and unique insights into the social sciences, thereby comparing, contrasting and critiquing existing academic perspectives.

As part of Birmingham’s innovative approach to PPE, there will be opportunities for you to tailor your studies to match your own developing interests and needs. In addition, there is the option to include a year studying at a university elsewhere in the world and our Professional Development Module also.

If you are someone who is interested in the events and issues that are taking place around you, whether at the local, national or international levels, then the PPE degree is likely to appeal to you.

KIRBY FERRAN  

‘As soon as I started researching the different universities, the University of Birmingham instantly became my first choice! I had no idea how much the University had to offer from great career prospects, amazing sport and society options. 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 a highlight as I get to look at an issue in different ways and have the different skillsets from each. Also, the Social Policy department has been extremely helpful, especially as they are all very active in research so they can really help make lectures more interesting and current.’
## Programme structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core modules</td>
<td>Core modules</td>
<td>Core module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Social Policy</td>
<td>Global Issues: Perspectives from Policy, Politics and Economics</td>
<td>Dissertation (students can specialise their dissertation in any of the three areas of study)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Politics</td>
<td>Social Research II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
<td>Analysing Political Worlds or comparative politics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics for Economics OR</td>
<td>Macroeconomics A or Microeconomics A*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics for Economics OR</td>
<td>Macroeconomics A or Microeconomics A*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional modules</td>
<td>Optional modules</td>
<td>Optional modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>Select up to 40 credits from the options available:</td>
<td>Students should select 20 credits from each discipline as optional modules and a further 20 credits at their discretion:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>Managing Health and Social Care</td>
<td>Migration and Super-Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Research I</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Housing Policy</td>
<td>Harmful Societies: Crime, Social Harm and Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
<td>Comparative Social Policy</td>
<td>Prospects for British Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Poverty, Class and Inequality</td>
<td>From Beveridge to May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macroeconomics A</td>
<td>Terror, Threat and Security</td>
<td>Political Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(if not already taken as compulsory subject)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Technology and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microeconomics A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Divided Publics</td>
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<tr>
<td>(if not already taken as compulsory subject)</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Economics</td>
<td>Advanced Macroeconomics</td>
<td>Advanced Macroeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Economics</td>
<td>Advanced Microeconomics</td>
<td>Advanced Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>China and the World Economy</td>
<td>Advanced Behavioural and Experimental Economics</td>
<td>Advanced Behavioural and Experimental Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues in the UK Economy</td>
<td>Advanced Financial Markets and Institutions</td>
<td>Advanced Financial Markets and Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioural and Experimental Economics</td>
<td>Economics of the European Union</td>
<td>Economics of the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>History of Economic Thought</td>
<td>International Trade Theory and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Politics</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>Monetary Policy and Dynamic Macroeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative European Politics</td>
<td>International Trade Theory and Policy</td>
<td>Public Economics</td>
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<td>International Political Economy</td>
<td>Economics of the European Union</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutions, Politics and Policies of the European Union</td>
<td>History of Economic Thought</td>
<td>Macroeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Political Thought</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>Public Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics and Policy</td>
<td>International Security</td>
<td>Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Politics of East Asia</td>
<td>Understanding Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Contemporary International Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Security</td>
<td>Understanding Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Gender in World Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Foreign Policy</td>
<td>International Political Economy</td>
<td>The Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict</td>
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<td>Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Models</td>
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<td>Law, Politics and the International System</td>
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<td>New Media, Social Media, and International Politics</td>
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<td>Social Justice and Politics</td>
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<td>Power in Britain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy</td>
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<td>Topics in British Politics</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Professional Development Module</td>
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</table>

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A full list of modules can be found online.

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**LEARN MORE**

**UCAS code:** L990  
**Typical offer:** AAB

Email: ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Our Year Abroad Options

Enhance your experience of studying at the University of Birmingham by studying on one of our Year Abroad programmes.

Our undergraduate degree programmes offer a year abroad option. If selecting this option, your degree will follow the same programme as the standard BA in terms of Years 1 and 2. However, your third year will be spent abroad at a university in the EU or elsewhere in the world. After completing your year abroad, you will return for your fourth and final year to the same BA degree programme.

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 institutional partners worldwide. These include countries in which a variety of languages are spoken, including universities at which courses are taught in English.

In recent years, students in the department have taken their year abroad in Australia, Canada, Denmark and the United States, among others.

UCAS codes:

- BA Sociology and Criminology with Year Abroad: L39A
- BA Social Policy and Criminology with Year Abroad: L67A
- BA Sociology and Social Policy with Year Abroad: L34A
- BA Sociology with Year Abroad: L30A
- Social Policy with Year Abroad: L40A
- PPE with Year Abroad: 60L2
- Criminology with Year Abroad: M902
JUDAH CHANDRA
BA SOCIAL POLICY WITH YEAR ABROAD

‘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 of Birmingham runs where I had the fantastic opportunity of becoming an 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 the University of 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 well-being in society. As a course, it therefore looks at society’s deepest problems and ways in which they can be solved eg, the housing crisis, educational and income inequality, social exclusion, and poverty. It thus attracted me as I wanted to be a 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 kick-boxing. I also undertook an internship with Birmingham City Council and had study trips to 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.’

CERYS WAY
BA POLICY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS WITH YEAR ABROAD

‘Going on the year abroad gave me the chance to do things that I never thought I would get to do. Spending a year at another university taught me new ways to learn, improved my writing and helped me to be even more prepared for my final year. I made new friends that live across the world, travelled to places I’ve always dreamt of going to, and experienced a new culture in a way that just isn’t possible when you’re only visiting. This opportunity doesn’t come around very often, and I can honestly say that I would do it again in a heartbeat if I could.’
Social Policy and Sociology

BA Joint Honours

This interdisciplinary degree enables students to study a Joint Honours degree in the intertwined, and complementary, fields of social policy and sociology.

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 focus upon two key strands within the broader interdisciplinarity of the subject.

Sociology seeks to understand how social relations and structures influence all aspects of our lives. You will 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. The Social Policy and Sociology degree at the University of 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 signpost 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.

HARRY HALL
JOINT HONOURS SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIOLOGY

‘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 seven-minute ride away from the University’s own railway 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 and Sociology BA made sense. It can lead into so many industries, from law to health care 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, Russell Group university, which is the best in the country for employability. I couldn’t be happier with my choice.’
Other Joint Honours programmes

Political Science and Sociology BA
This degree 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.

Key data
UCAS code: LL32
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: AAB

Political Science and Social Policy BA
Our Political Science and Social Policy degree programme enables students to study two complementary subjects alongside each other. Joint Honours students take core modules from each subject area, and choose options from the range of modules available across the broad spectrum of political science and social policy.

Key data
UCAS code: LL42
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: AAB

Philosophy and Sociology BA
This Joint Honours programme offers a multidisciplinary approach to your studies. In your first year, your studies will include: knowledge and reality; the history of philosophy; logic; the individual and society; the sociological imagination; stratification and social divisions, and research design and methods among others.

Key data
UCAS code: VL53
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: ABB

Education and Sociology BA
This programme offers an opportunity to study these two disciplines in equal measure. This degree will include studying key issues facing contemporary societies with the study of education in a range of contexts and settings. The course has a practical focus on career development and employs a number of teaching and learning methods.

Key data
UCAS code: XL33
Duration: 3 years
Typical offer: ABB
**Entry requirements and how to apply**

### Key facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Typical Offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Honours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Criminology</td>
<td>M901</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Policy, Politics and Economics (PPE)</td>
<td>L990</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB 32</td>
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<td>BA Policy, Politics and Economics (PPE) with Year Abroad</td>
<td>60L2</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>AAB 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Sociology</td>
<td>L300</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB 32</td>
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<td>BA Social Policy</td>
<td>L400</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>BBB 32</td>
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<td>BA Social Policy with Year Abroad</td>
<td>L40A</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>BBB 32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Honours – see pages 21 for other subject combinations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Social Policy and Criminology</td>
<td>L673</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB 32</td>
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<td>BA Social Policy and Sociology</td>
<td>LL43</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>BBB 32</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Sociology and Criminology</td>
<td>LM39</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB 32</td>
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</table>

You can also find out about qualifications from your country or region at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country)

**How to apply**

Apply through UCAS at: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

**Fees**

Standard fees apply. For further information, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees)

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**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

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](http://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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx)

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**LEARN MORE**

**Contact details**

Director of Admissions for Social Policy
Programmes including Joint Honours
Programmes: Email: ugsocialpolicy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Widening Participation Officer:
Tina Hearn
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 2505
Email: t.hearn@bham.ac.uk

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

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**STEPHEN CRAIG, BA PPE**

I was immediately drawn to the PPE programme at the University of Birmingham by its diversity, the opportunity to combine three disciplines into one Single Honours degree programme was a big attraction to me. 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!

‘After graduation (June 2017) I started work in the asset management industry at Fidelity International after receiving an offer following my internship. However, I have a range of career goals and I wish to run my own business and to forge a career in politics in about 15 years’ time. For me, this is why PPE appealed as it is such a diverse course that has equipped me with skills that are applicable to a range of different roles. Technological change is transforming industries and therefore being able to adapt to changing circumstances is an integral part of the PPE course and I believe this has put me in good stead for the future.’
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 is ranked 5th in the country for graduate prospects in The Complete University Guide 2019.

Our 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.

We have the unique Personal Skills Award, which is the University of Birmingham’s recognised employability programme for undergraduate students. It enables you to develop, recognise and articulate your professional skills in preparation for real-world recruitment processes.

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: https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/careers.aspx

JOHN BAMFORD, BA SOCIAL POLICY

‘I currently work for part of a housing association that helps 16–25-year-olds who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. My degree in Social Policy allowed me to pursue my passions for social justice and politics to a higher, academic level. Through the course I learned how social problems and government solutions are created, how to research both problems and policy-making and how this can change the real world. I particularly enjoyed studying social housing and how charities provided welfare. It is great to work on the ground and see the welfare state I studied work in practice. What you put in to your degree you get out of it. It’s your choice to fully engage, and benefit from doing so. There are opportunities to do loads of extracurricular activities which, alongside my studies, helped secure my job helping young, homeless people.’
We support students’ employability throughout their programme. Some degrees offer an optional 20-credit final-year Professional Development Module, which includes a work placement and aims to bridge the gap between your academic studies and your future professional life. For other programmes we have placement options available which have more specific degree relevance. Not all students will want to take such formal options and we work closely with the Careers Network to promote additional work experience and placement opportunities to students.

**EXAMPLE**

- 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
- JOURNALIST
- BANKING SECTOR PROFESSIONAL
- COMMUNITY WORKER
- ASSET MANAGER

**RESEARCHER**

- LEARNING SUPPORT WORKER
- COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
- HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
- GRADUATE LAND BUYER
- FUNDING OFFICER
- YOUNG PERSONS SUPPORT MENTOR
- BENEFITS OFFICER
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONAL
- POLITICAL SECRETARY
- POSTGRADUATE STUDY
- POLICY ANALYST
- WORK IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**CAREER ROUTES**
Planning your life in Birmingham

As a student living in Birmingham, you’ll enjoy lower costs than many other cities in the UK. But of course the actual amount you will spend depends on your lifestyle, so we can only give you an approximate idea of how much you will need.

Budgeting for and securing your accommodation
When you are getting accustomed to an unfamiliar environment and meeting new people, it’s reassuring not to have to worry about where you are going to live. That’s why we guarantee a place in University accommodation to all EU/international students who are new to Birmingham, providing you meet the criteria detailed in our International Guarantee Scheme. You can find out more about this here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/accommodation/index.aspx

At Birmingham, we offer a fantastic range of accommodation, all of which provides a safe, secure and sociable start to your University experience.

Coming to Birmingham to study might be your first time living away from home, but our student accommodation will allow you to enjoy your new-found independence in safe, welcoming and sociable surroundings.

In each village, there is accommodation offering a self-catered option. At the Vale, students are also able to take advantage of the Meal Plan. If you opt for Meal Plan accommodation, you will have a weekly allowance for meals during term time at any of the University’s catering outlets.

Please view each village’s section for further details about the accommodation types, contract lengths and accommodation fees. We support students with disabilities and accessibility information for each hall is available on the accommodation pages on our website.

Take a look at how the University of Birmingham estimates the cost of living for a single student by visiting: www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/index.aspx
Birmingham: a great place to live and learn

The University campus offers a peaceful and tranquil haven, yet is right on the doorstep of the bustling city. So whether you are looking for some quiet downtime to study or fancy a big night out, you are never far from where you want to be.

Our campus
Striking architecture and 250 acres of parkland make for the stunning setting of our campus, which also boasts a whole range of amenities. You will 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 in the midst of one of the most transformational campus redevelopments since the first phase of building on our Edgbaston campus was completed in 1909 under the auspices of Sir Aston Webb. The development projects, worth £606 million in total, are creating outstanding new facilities for our students, staff and the local community.

Library
Our outstanding library provides state-of-the-art facilities for our students – incorporating new ways of learning and studying alongside the traditional. All study spaces allow students to work from multiple devices, and flexible training rooms have been 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 are all 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 spaces for a range of activities including ceremonial occasions, public performances, local markets and an outdoor cinema. Due for completion in 2019, it will feature and showcase some of the University’s extensive range of cultural collections and be a place for meeting and relaxing all year round.

Sports Centre
The £55 million University of Birmingham Sport & Fitness Club encompasses an array of facilities, including Birmingham’s first 50-metre swimming pool, a large multi-sports arena, six glass-backed squash courts, a ten-metre climbing wall, five activity studios and a gym which has almost 200 pieces of equipment and weights training space.
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 will 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, as Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with under 25s accounting for nearly 40% of its population. Easily accessible from and to the rest of the UK, Birmingham is under 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. From a weekly street food event in Digbeth to the Chinese Quarter or our world-famous Balti Triangle, there are multiple food options across the city centre and region to cater to all tastes and budgets.

In your leisure time, you will find a huge range of activities to keep you entertained and occupied. Shopping areas include the famous Bullring, the ever-growing Jewellery Quarter, independent shops at the Custard Factory and the Mailbox with its designer stores and upmarket restaurants. Birmingham also hosts a range of markets, including the famous Frankfurt Christmas Market from November to December.

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

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 work and social policy.

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 learning environment
Our cutting-edge teaching portfolio 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.
This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.