

Social Policy

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2018/19

International students can apply



Course Overview

Social Policy explores the ways in which welfare provision is delivered in society, exploring who is eligible for support and who provides it. Our Social Policy degree is multidisciplinary in its approach and draws on ideas from sociology, economics, politics and geography. It explores a number of issues, child welfare, unemployment, and homelessness.

Studying Social Policy at Liverpool Hope University allows you to explore the answers to questions such as should the state be the main provider of welfare and what roles should the private profit making or voluntary sectors have? How should scarce resources be allocated in society? How can we understand different approaches to welfare delivery across different historical periods in British society?

The degree draws on an experienced team of lecturers who are published in the field of social policy/social welfare and are experts in particular fields of the discipline. The Department is also a member of the national network of Social Policy course providers and benefits from engagement with national subject debates. There are a number of fieldtrips to enhance your learning, and we also have annual research days where leading academics, civil servants and politicians come to talk about various social problems and social issues.

Entry Requirements

The standard offer level is between BBB-BBC from A levels or DDM-DMM from BTEC, or 120-112 UCAS tariff points.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2018/19 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you need approximately £100 to purchase core textbooks.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence:
www.hope.ac.uk/halls



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Social Policy Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Social Policy

This theme examines the history and development of the welfare state since the Industrial Revolution. It explores how different groups and behaviours in society have been constructed as problematic and explores how social problems and their proposed solutions have been framed across time. Key to the theme is to get you to begin to think differently about what are often taken-for-granted social issues.

In relation to welfare policy, you examine policy shifts through four main phases of development: the liberal era (1800-1880); the interventionist period (1880-1940); the era of the classic welfare state (1940-1976) and the current neoliberal regime (1976-present). Consideration is given to what are social problems and how they are defined and conceptualised; how 'problem communities' are identified and regulated and the historical development of state 'anti-poverty' strategies.

Year Two

Explorations in Social Policy

Your second year explores the core social divisions in late capitalist society. We look at four main divisions in the context of UK society: gender, race, disability and age. We focus on how social, economic and political processes play a role in the creation

of these divisions. For each of the divisions we explore how it is related to wealth and poverty, looking at how disablement or gender are associated with lower wages, unemployment or insufficient benefit payments. We then examine some of the theories which can help to understand why certain groups are marginalised.

Finally, we link welfare state policies to the marginalisation and exclusion of certain groups. When looking at age, for example, we show how insufficient pensions, exclusion from the formal labour market and lacking care services actually create the marginalisation of elderly populations. You are also introduced to research methods in the social science and undertake a research project which looks at the welfare needs of one of the marginalised groups discussed.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Social Policy

At the advanced level we start to look at a range of global social problems such as global poverty, climate change, human rights, and a range of international and national state policy developments to address such issues. We also undertake comparative study and look at how other countries meet their health care, child care or social service needs. You also have the opportunity to undertake an individual project dissertation reflecting your particular social policy interest.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups of around 15-20 students, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. There are a number of compulsory and optional fieldtrips, as well as guest lectures throughout your studies. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

For the Social Policy part of your Combined Honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments that you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study, you will have a number of assessments, including essays, tutorial portfolios, presentations and written exams.

You will be given written feedback on your assessments, and you will have the opportunity to discuss this with your tutor in more detail.



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