

MA Social Policy



Programme Overview

Interested in social change? Students on our programme explore the politics and economics of welfare capitalism in order to re-imagine how we live and interact with society.

Our engaging modules examine the ideologies and political-economic projects that underpin different stages of welfare development, and possible future changes for the welfare state. In particular, the course examines how social policies can reinforce and reproduce marginalisation and oppression in society for women, deprived communities, ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled people and older people.

Not only do we encourage students to understand policies in a global context, we also provide research training which covers the key philosophical issues and traditions in social science and the uses and strengths of the range of methods and methodological approaches. Finally, the programme enables participants to develop a range of dialogical and transferable skills, which will maximise their potential for employment and equip them with the knowledge and awareness of changing global social dynamics, necessary in order to pursue leading and managerial positions in various fields, including education, business, media and governance.

Key Information

Award: MA Social Policy

Study Mode: Full-time; Part-time.

Duration: 12 months full-time; 27 months part-time.

Intake: September and January

Entry Criteria: A minimum of a Second-Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline awarded by a UK university, or an equivalent higher education qualification..

For students whose first language is not English there is a language requirement of IELTS 6.0 overall (reading 5.5, writing 5.5). In addition to this, we also accept a wide range of International Qualifications.

Fees and Funding: For tuition fee information, please go to the Student Finance pages at www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding

How to Apply: For details on the application process visit: www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply

School: Social Sciences.

Contact Details:

Student Recruitment,
courses@hope.ac.uk

Disclaimer: Information is correct at time of print, however programme details can change.



**LIVERPOOL
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Curriculum

The programme consists of four modules and a dissertation (final research project) totalling 180 credits. Assessment methods will vary and may include academic essays, reports, presentations and examinations, research proposals and a research dissertation.

- **Advanced Social Theory (30 credits):** You will engage with, evaluate and critically analyse a range of classical and contemporary social theory, with a focus on theoretical explanations of social change in the areas of economic relations, political ideologies, and patterns of political domination.
- **Advanced Research for Social Change (30 credits):** This module adopts an innovative pedagogical approach, which combines a study of research philosophies with practical exercises, thereby providing insights into strategies and experiences acquired by social scientists at Liverpool Hope. On this course, you will learn about a diverse range of innovative research techniques and become equipped with the skills to design a high-quality research dissertation.
- **Transformations in the UK welfare state (30 credits):** This part of the course explores the key issues in social policy in the UK from historical and contemporary perspectives. We investigate the relationship between social policies and the wider political economy, unpicking and critically analysing recent changes such as privatisation, marketization and austerity. The course is grounded in applying theoretical perspectives such as Marxist, feminist, and postcolonial approaches to empirical evidence. It analyses changes in the welfare state in relation to politics, economics and social inequalities in class, race and gender.
- **Global Social Policy (30 credits):** This part of the course broadens the scope to situate, both theoretically and historically, some of the major global social issues that the world faces in the early 21st century. The focus is on how global social problems manifest in policy choices, and impact on the welfare and wellbeing of different groups in society on a global scale. The module takes in the colonial roots of modern processes of globalisation and examines different accounts of the nature of global inequality. It examines

the role of International Organisations in setting global social and economic policies in order to understand the new forms of global social and economic development, exploitation, inequality and injustice. A succession of global social problems are also explored; including climate breakdown, work and exploitation, migration and bordering, social reproduction, global public health inequalities, and the responses of social justice movements to these tendencies.

- **Dissertation/Research Project (60 credits):** The focus of the research project will be on an issue of relevance to the study of social policy. The study can involve the collection of primary data or a literature-based dissertation.

Why choose Liverpool Hope?

- **Ability to shape own studies** - You will have the possibility to develop your own ideas and research interests, collect and analyse original data and participate in small group work and presentations. This work culminates in the opportunity to produce a final original dissertation project.
- **Expert teaching and learning** - Liverpool Hope University's academic faculty has vast teaching and research experience both in the UK and internationally. You will benefit from the knowledge of academics, professionals and practitioners within the discipline.
- **Focused learning in small class settings** - Students will have the benefit of focused teaching from dedicated specialists in a small group setting.
- **Exciting new programme based on latest developments in the discipline** - Liverpool Hope University's MA Social Policy has been written with a contemporary curriculum in mind ensuring that you gain the most up-to-date knowledge. This is a vibrant and exciting new post-graduate development in a research-focused department.
- **Career development** - Liverpool Hope University is renowned for its first class student support and career development. You will have a dedicated tutor available for one-to-one guidance on learning, academic writing and career planning.

Teaching and Research

All classes are held at Liverpool Hope University's main campus, Hope Park. The campus is situated just four miles from the city centre and offers superb academic and support facilities, including on-campus library, free computer and wi-fi access, and a careers service for advice on parttime work opportunities and poststudy careers.

The School of Social Sciences is an exciting new development at Hope. It brings together, and provides synergies between, a wide range of disciplines - including Sociology and allied specialisms such as Criminology, Social Policy, Disability Studies, Childhood & Youth, Social Work, and Health & Wellbeing/Social Care.

We are a growing School with a diverse and enthusiastic team of staff who are research active and have published on a wide variety of topics. For more information about the School and the research interests of its staff, please visit our webpages at: www.hope.ac.uk/socialsciences/

Future Career Opportunities

The MA in Social Policy will enhance the career development and prospects of entering occupations such as social work, public sector welfare work, probation service, teaching, journalism, local and national government, social research, charity/voluntary sector, campaigning and non-governmental organisations. Graduates will also have developed the skills in research and communication and in critical and flexible thinking that are sought after by a wide range of employers. This post-graduate qualification would enable graduates to embark on a research degree or PhD programme.



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