Course Overview

The Applied Social Science degree programme offers students the chance to engage in the core aspects of the social sciences, building on key themes from politics, economics and sociology to provide a degree attuned to understanding our complex world and researching social problems to offer practical solutions to real world issues.

In the modern world, businesses, welfare organisations, local government networks and voluntary sector organisations all need graduates with a combined understanding of social science knowledge and good quality applied research skills.

The programme has opportunities for work-based placements in research-based settings.

Entry Requirements

The standard offer level is 112 UCAS tariff points.
Year One

Understanding Society
This element of the course introduces students to the main social science disciplines, ensuring all students have a basic working knowledge of economics, politics and sociology.

Interpreting Society
This element looks at the variety of ways that evidence is gathered and presented to inform our understanding of the world.

Ways of Seeing
Looks at how various media – like theatre, music, film, fine art – can shine a light on a range of social problems and issues.

History of Social welfare
We trace the response of the state to problems of ill health and poverty from the ‘New’ Poor Law of 1834 up to contemporary legislation covering modern social welfare.

Contemporary social problems
This looks at competing debates over the causes (and consequences) of a range of contemporary social problems (such as poverty, homelessness, obesity, climate change, alcohol and drug misuse etc).

Year Three

Comparative social policy
This element looks at the development of welfare institutions in a range of countries, to ascertain what we can learn from their approach to dealing with common social problems.

Global social issues
Looks at a range of international social problems and the solutions offered by individuals, a range of networks and organisations, states, and supra-state organisations. Issues include: climate change, child labour, global poverty, migration, food policy etc.

Advanced project
All students will undertake a research based dissertation.

Social divisions
Looks at a range of social divisions (racism, sexism, homophobia, aging, disability) and the impact these divisions have of communities.

Researching the Social
Looks at a range of methods of undertaking real world research and has a built in, ‘hands on’ approach to undertaking research for a range of organisations.

Year Two

Theories of social policy
This element looks at the contributions of various theorists (from the political right and left) to our understanding of contemporary social welfare. Theorists considered include Hayek, Mark, Marshall, Tawney, Titmuss, Sen.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

There are a number of written assessments to complete throughout the year. These may include individual reports/analyses, group presentations supported by a report, in-class tests, and essays. There will also be two final exams at the end of each year.

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