

Childhood & Youth

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

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2021/2022

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Childhood and Youth is an exciting, multidisciplinary subject in which you will explore a range of issues and challenges faced by children and young people in contemporary society, both here in the UK and on a global level. Drawing on key ideas from sociology, psychology, politics, history and geography, the degree examines important questions about children and young people and the social contexts in which they live.

Topics studied include: how children and young people's place in society has changed over time; how social class, poverty, gender, ethnicity, disability, social policy and so on impact children and young people's lives; the role of risk and risk-taking in children and young people's everyday lives and; how children and young people make sense of and help to shape their social worlds. In exploring such issues, you will also look at various political debates and policy initiatives, as well as learning about various ways of researching with children and young people that aim to help them overcome the many challenges that they face.

With its strong emphasis on social justice and welfare, the degree will enable you to develop as critical social scientists who value their role within the academic community at Hope and who, as graduates, will be able to use their skills and knowledge to the benefit of their local community and society more broadly.

Entry Requirements

The standard offer level is 112 UCAS tariff points.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2021/2022 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

Along with your tuition fees, you also need to consider the cost of any core textbooks that you need. This will be approximately £200. The School currently pays for any fieldtrips, but you may be required to pay a small, refunded deposit of £5 to secure your place on a trip. If there are any fieldtrips which would require you to pay, you would be notified of this well in advance.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation whilst you study at university. Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls



**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY**

1844



CONTACT

T: +44 (0)151 291 3000

E: enquiry@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk

Childhood & Youth Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Childhood and Youth

In your first year, you will begin by exploring contemporary children and young people's everyday lives, looking at issues such as, for example, social media, cyber-bullying, exam pressures, alcohol and drug-use, knife-crime and mental health and wellbeing. Such topics will be explored in light of the question: 'is childhood and youth in crisis? You will then examine the concepts of childhood and youth and explore how these vary across different historical periods and cultures. This will be followed by looking at how changing ideas of childhood and youth are reflected in changes in practice and policy, for instance, in the fields of child protection and youth work. The final part of the year will introduce you to key ideas related to how we generate knowledge about children and young people's everyday lives, focusing on research *on, with and by* children and young people.

Year Two

Explorations in Childhood and Youth

You will examine research methods and social theory as they apply to childhood and youth. You will learn further about how changes in the ways children and young people are perceived by society have led to a shift in focus from research *on* to *with and by* children and young people. You will also develop a range of research skills including: how to design research, which methods to use, ethical dilemmas and data analysis. You will also learn more about the wider social context in which children and young people live and the relationship with, for example, education, health and wellbeing, crime and risk-taking practices, use of social media and youth-to-adult transitions. These issues are examined through a theoretical lens

with a key focus on the causes and consequences of social inequalities and the questions that are raised in seeking social justice. Finally, you will examine more critically the concept of children's rights and the difficulties practitioners face in ensuring these are met when the interests of the state, the family and the child conflict.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Childhood and Youth

You will explore more critically and in greater depth a number of contemporary issues facing children and young people. You will investigate issues of power, prejudice, discrimination and social exclusion as they relate to gender and sexuality, 'race' and ethnicity, disability and so on. The course will then explore some of the major trials and tribulations faced by children and young people in their everyday lives including, for instance, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); relationship and domestic violence and abuse; austerity and poverty and; physical and mental ill-health. The focus will be on the harm that such issues can cause: but also on the work that can be done by practitioners to support individuals and promote social justice, and the resilience and positive action shown by children and young people as they seek to manage and overcome such challenging situations.

In addition, you will study two Advanced Research Courses in which you will focus on an area of research specialism within the School of Social Science. You will undertake either an independent Research Project or an Integrated Dissertation.

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. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one weekly meeting with your tutor.

For the Childhood & Youth part of your Combined Honours degree, in the 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

In each year of study, you will have a number of essays and end of year exams. You may also be asked to give a presentation, present an academic poster and produce a portfolio. In your second year, you will be required to submit a research proposal in preparation for a research project or dissertation in your final year.

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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