

Childhood & Youth

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

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2025/2026

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

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2025/2026 are £9,535 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



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Childhood & Youth Curriculum

Year One

Your first year introduces you to a range of issues and debates providing you with a solid grounding in the field of childhood and youth. The course is organised around the following themes:

Contemporary Issues in Childhood and Youth

You will study current issues affecting children and young people today such as: child poverty, social media, health and wellbeing, drug-use and violent crime, and climate change. These topics will be linked to wider debates about the nature of childhood and youth in today's society.

Social Construction of Childhood and Youth

You will explore the meanings of childhood and youth and how these vary over time and between cultures. You will explore case studies that show how childhood and youth have changed, and explore the impact this has on how we view, treat, and work with, children and young people in today's society.

Understanding Children and Young People's Everyday Lives

You will be introduced to research methods that are concerned with exploring children and young people's everyday lives. You will examine research studies that show how research on, with and by children and young people, can help us to better understand their everyday lives, and can help to shape social policy and practice.

Year Two

In your second year, you will revisit several of the themes introduced at 1st Year, examining these in greater detail, and developing more in-depth knowledge and understanding. This year is organised around the following themes:

Social Theory and Childhood and Youth

You will explore important issues such as: risk and crime, educational attainment, health and wellbeing, young people with a disability, and becoming adult. These will be examined using relevant theoretical approaches with an emphasis on understanding how they connect to social inequality and social justice.

Investigating Children and Young People's Social Worlds

You will deepen your knowledge and understanding of research on, with, and by children and young people. You will learn about a range of research methods, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and visual methods. You will also learn about research ethics and how to design and undertake your own research project.

Children and Young People's Rights in Context

You will learn about children's rights and how these are used in practice. Using case studies from the UK and other countries, you will examine the tensions between different rights, and how these inform the work we do with children and young people.

Year Three

In your third year, you will develop critical and in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject by studying the following themes:

Children, Young People and Social Identities: Issues and Debates

You will examine a range of issues relating to children and young people's social identities. In particular, you will look at issues of power, prejudice, discrimination, and social exclusion as they relate to, for example, poverty, gender and sexuality, 'race' and ethnicity, disability and age, as well as the inter-connections between these.

Adversities in Childhood and Youth

You will explore research and debates related to various challenges faced by children and young people in their everyday lives, including topics such as: Adverse Childhood Experiences, relationship and domestic violence and abuse, austerity and poverty, mental ill-health, and child trafficking and modern slavery.

In addition, you will study two Advanced Research Courses chosen from a programme provided by the School of Social Science, and you will undertake either an independent Research Project or 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 assessments. 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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