

Childhood & Youth

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

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Childhood and Youth is an engaging, multidisciplinary field. You will explore various issues and challenges children and young people face today, both in the UK and around the world. This degree draws on sociology, politics, history, social policy, and cultural studies. It examines key questions about children, young people, and their social contexts.

Topics include:

- How children's roles in society have changed
- Children's rights and the UNCRC
- How social class, poverty, gender, ethnicity, and disability shape their lives

You will also study the role of risk in children's everyday experiences and how they shape their social worlds. You will also learn research methods. These methods help children and young people face their challenges.

With a strong focus on social justice and welfare, this degree will help you grow as a critical social scientist. You will value your role in the academic community at Hope. As graduates, you will apply your skills and knowledge to benefit your local community and society at large.

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 2026/2027 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 key issues and debates in the field of Childhood and Youth, providing a strong foundation for further study. The course is organised around the following themes:

Understanding Childhood & Youth

Explore the meanings of childhood and youth, and how these differ across time and cultures. Examine case studies showing how childhood and youth are socially constructed, and consider the impact on how we value, view, and work with children and young people today.

Contemporary Issues in Childhood & Youth

Study current issues affecting children and young people in the UK and globally. Topics may include child poverty, social media, mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and drug use, violent crime, climate change, war and conflict, and child migration.

Year Two

In your second year, you will revisit themes from Year One in greater depth, building more detailed knowledge and understanding. The year is organised around the following themes:

Children and young people's rights in context

Learn about children's rights and how they are applied in practice. Using UK and international case studies, examine tensions between different rights and how these influence work with children and young people.

Social theory and childhood and youth

Explore issues such as risk and crime, educational attainment, health and wellbeing, young people with

disabilities, and the transition to adulthood. Analyse these topics using key social theories, with a focus on social inequality and social justice.

Investigating children and young people's social worlds

Develop skills in research involving children and young people. Learn about surveys, interviews, focus groups, and visual methods, alongside research ethics.

Year Three

In your final year, you will develop a critical and in-depth understanding of the field by studying the following themes:

Children, young people, and social identities: issues and debates

Examine issues relating to social identities, including power, prejudice, discrimination, and social exclusion. Explore how these issues intersect with poverty, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, disability, and age.

Adversities in childhood and youth

Study research and debates on challenges faced by children and young people, including Adverse Childhood Experiences, domestic and relationship violence, poverty, mental ill-health, and child trafficking or modern slavery.

Independent Research Project / Dissertation

Undertake an independent research project or dissertation, applying your knowledge and skills to investigate a topic of your choice in depth.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree combines lectures for all students, small-group seminars, and tutorials. You will also have the opportunity for one-to-one meetings with your personal tutor.

For the Childhood and Youth part of your combined honours degree, first-year students have approximately 6 teaching hours per week, decreasing to around 5 hours in the second and third years.

In addition to classroom learning, you are expected to spend time on independent study each week and collaborate with peers on group assessments.

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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