

Social Policy

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

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2024/2025

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Social Policy explores the ways in which welfare provision is delivered in society, exploring who is eligible for support and who provides it. Our Social Policy degree is multidisciplinary in its approach and draws on ideas from sociology, economics, politics and geography. It explores a number of issues, child welfare, unemployment, homelessness, family policies, mental health, globalisation, crime and immigration.

Studying Social Policy at Liverpool Hope University allows you to explore the answers to questions such as should the state be the main provider of welfare and what roles should the private profit making or voluntary sectors have? How should scarce resources be allocated in society? How can we understand different approaches to welfare delivery across different historical periods in British society?

The degree draws on an experienced team of lecturers who are published in the social sciences and are experts in social policy. The School is also a member of the national network of Social Policy course providers and benefits from engagement with national subject debates. There are a number of fieldtrips to enhance your learning, and we also have annual research days where leading academics, civil servants and politicians come to talk about various social problems and social issues.

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 2024/2025 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you need approximately £100 to purchase core textbooks.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence:
www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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Social Policy Curriculum

Year One

Your first year provides you with introductory knowledge of the historical development of social policies and the contemporary politics of welfare with a focus on the United Kingdom.

The History of Welfare in the UK

This introduces the history of welfare provision in the UK, which has often emphasised dealing with the problem of 'poor people', rather than the problem of poverty.

Contemporary Social Policy

Study then progresses onto the contemporary politics of welfare provision with a focus on the dynamics of neoliberal and 'third way' influences on social policy.

Contemporary Social Problems

This block of study investigates contemporary social problems and questions the 'common sense' interpretations of mental ill health, addiction, homelessness, obesity, food poverty..

Year Two

In your second year, the focus shifts to the concepts and perspectives used to analyse social policies and their impact on society.

Theories and Methods in Social Policy

This explores the key thinkers and the theoretical ideas that have underpinned and changed the post-war welfare state, including social democratic, neoliberal and 'third way' thinkers.

Social Divisions

This block explores the key social divisions in society and their impact on people's lives. These include social divisions of class, gender, race, disability, age, and sexuality.

Year Three

In your third year, we move the focus to social policy at the international and global level and analyse the major challenges that human societies face in the 21st century.

Comparative Social Policy

The UK is one among many different welfare systems. This block compares the different ways in which social policies are delivered in different countries.

Global Social Issues

The focus of this topic is on understanding and analysing the way in which globalisation processes have presented huge challenges for social policies that have typically been implemented at the national level.

In addition to the above, in your third year, you will also choose two Advanced Research Courses from a range of options across the School of Social Sciences, allowing you to shape your learning to your own developing interests. The third year also includes a dissertation/research project.

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. There are a number of compulsory and optional fieldtrips, as well as guest lectures throughout your studies. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

For the Social Policy part of your Combined Honours degree, in your 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

Throughout your three years of study, you will have a number of assessments, including essays, tutorial portfolios, presentations and written exams.

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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