The MSc in Social Policy and Social Research combines theoretical understanding of the policy process with advanced methodologically focused training, providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to work in complex and challenging policy contexts. This degree has ESRC 1+3 training recognition, meaning it stands alone as an MSc but will also prepare you for doctoral research.

Degree summary

Students are equipped with the theoretical and conceptual tools and empirical evidence necessary for investigating social policy and policy-making, including critical assessment of the role of research in policy development. Graduates will be able to apply this knowledge and understanding and analytical and methodological skills to conduct social research in different policy contexts.

The programme offers a unique opportunity to study how research, along with other forms of evidence and knowledge, connects with and impacts on policy-making and professional practice. It is structured to allow students to customise their degree according to their preferred area of study and future career plans.

The programme is located within the Department of Social Science, a research-intensive department with an outstanding international reputation.

Our central London location and network of partners and alumni gives us access to nationally and internationally prominent guest speakers who give insight into policy as it is formed.

A rich variety of teaching of methods are used, including lectures combined with seminars. In some modules, students are given the opportunity to develop presentational skills through group projects. The programme includes both face-to-face and online components. Assessment is through coursework assignments and a 12,000-word dissertation.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 4 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of three core modules (60 credits), optional modules (60 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits).

**CORE MODULES**
- Understanding the Policy Process: Theories and Issues
- Evidence for Policy and Practice
- Social Theory and the Study of Contemporary Social Problems

**OPTIONAL MODULES**
- Students select optional modules from the following list.
  - Introduction to Data Analysis
  - Introduction to Regression Analysis
  - Introduction to Qualitative Research
  - Systematic Reviews Design and Planning
  - Survey Design
  - Impact Evaluation Methods
  - Longitudinal Data and Analysis
  - Using STATA Efficiently and Effectively
  - Advanced Qualitative Methods
  - Systematic Reviews for Complex Policy Issues
  - Research Engagement, Participation and Impact
  - Systematic Reviews: Meta-Analysis, Qualitative Synthesis and Mixed-Methods Synthesis

**DISSERTATION/REPORT**
- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 12,000 words. Workshops and online resources help prepare students for the dissertation.
**Your career**

Graduates of this programme may find work in a broad range of areas, including as social policy researchers and advisers in government, NGO personnel, or as university and college lecturers and researchers.

**Employability**

Graduates from this MSc gain sought-after skills that allow them to pursue professional careers in academia and/or policy research, policy analysis, policy development and implementation, programme management, and policy advocacy within the public, private, or non-profit sectors.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelors’ degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard in a social science subject, such as sociology, psychology, social policy, economics, or history. If you do not meet these requirements, other considerations, such as relevant work experience, may be taken into account.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

// why you want to study Social Policy and Social Research at graduate level
// why you want to study Social Policy and Social Research at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
// how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this challenging programme
// where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

FEES AND FUNDING 2017/18 ENTRY

// UK: £7,925 (FT), £3,930 (PT)
// EU: £7,925 (FT), £3,930 (PT)
// Overseas: £17,190 (FT), £8,470 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Current Students website.

Fees for flexible, modular study are charged pro-rata to the appropriate full-time Master’s fee taken in an academic session.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 28 July 2017

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

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Telephone: +44 (0)20 7612 6271

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum

PDF Updated: July 28, 2017

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Graduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate

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