The Systematic Reviews for Social Policy and Practice MSc equips students to work with the increasing number of national and international organisations committed to evidence-informed policy and practice. Students learn alongside early career and experienced researchers, policymakers and practitioners from a diverse set of policy sectors and disciplines.

**Degree summary**

The programme will enable you to plan and appraise a systematic review of research in any policy area, to develop a critical appreciation of the full diversity of review approaches and types of research use, and equip you with understanding and skills to help ensure perspectives from the public, practitioners, policymakers and researchers are all considered in research and policy development.

- This multidisciplinary programme is unique in the way that students study methods for reviews of both qualitative and quantitative data, and a full range of research designs.
- The programme can be taken entirely at a distance, or on campus, and attracts students from across the globe, many of whom are already working for research-focused or policy-making organisations.
- You will learn from research-active tutors based at the IOE’s EPPI-Centre, which is recognised worldwide for its development of methods for diverse kinds of systematic review, for the production of policy-relevant research, and for research into perspectives and participation.

This programme can be studied completely online and at a distance or by taking face-to-face seminars or workshops on campus with online learning. It is assessed by coursework assignments and a 10-12,000-word dissertation.

**Degree structure**

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 5 years  
Location: London, Bloomsbury  
Modules delivered online may extend beyond term times  
Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of five core modules (90 credits), one to two optional modules (30 credits), and a dissertation (60 credits).

### CORE MODULES
- Systematic Review Design and Planning (15 credits)
- Systematic Reviews for Complex Policy Issues (15 credits)
- Research Engagement, Participation and Impact (15 credits)
- Evidence for Policy and Practice (15 credits)
- Social Theory and the Study of Contemporary Social Problems (30 credits)

### OPTIONAL MODULES
Students must take 30 credits and can select from the following modules
- Systematic Reviews: meta-analysis, qualitative synthesis, and mixed methods synthesis (30 credits)
- Introduction to Data Analysis (15 credits)
- Introduction to Regression Analysis (15 credits)
- Introduction to Qualitative Methods (15 credits)
- Survey Design (15 credits)
- Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis (15 credits)
- Using Stata Efficiently and Effectively (15 credits)
- Impact Evaluation Methods (15 credits)
- Advanced Quantitative Methods (15 credits)
- Advanced Qualitative Methods (15 credits)
- Randomised Control Trials in the Social Sciences (15 credits)
- International Comparisons in the Social Sciences (15 credits)
- Understanding the Policy Process (15 credits)
- Understanding Research (30 credits)

Some optional modules have pre-requisites and not all are available for study at a distance.

### DISSERTATION/REPORT
- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a 10,000 to 12,000 word dissertation on one of the following: a) A systematic review in a social policy area of your own choice, including a critical discussion of that review. b) A critical appraisal of the active involvement of stakeholders in research, or in evidence-informed policy development in an area of your choice.
Your career

Graduates of this programme are currently working across a broad range of areas, for example one is a project director in mobile technology for learning, while another is a social research manager advising national government. Another graduate works as a senior editor of systematic research reviews. Others have gone on to doctoral studies.

Employability

Students completing the programme are equipped with enhanced critical thinking skills and, in particular, skills for research design and appraisal, spanning a full range of research purposes and problems.
Entry requirements

Normally a minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required.

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 Systematic Reviews for Social Policy and Practice at graduate level
// why you want to study Systematic Reviews for Social Policy and Practice 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.

Applicants may be eligible to apply for funding from the Economic and Social Research Council via the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership. The MSc provides Master’s-level postgraduate training which can constitute the first year of ESRC 1+3 postgraduate PhD studentships.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 31 August 2017

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

CONTACT

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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