The MSc Social Policy and Social Research combines a theoretical understanding of contemporary social problems, social policy and intervention, and policymaking processes across a range of different sectors and countries, with advanced research methods training. The relationship between research and policy is a key programme theme. This degree has ESRC 1+3 training recognition, meaning it stands alone as an MSc but can also prepare students for doctoral research.

**Degree summary**

Students are equipped with the conceptual tools and empirical evidence necessary for investigating social policy and policy-making, including critical assessment of the role of research evidence in policy development and implementation. 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 social policy and the ways in which research, along with other forms of evidence and knowledge, connects with and impacts on policy-making and professional practice. Training is also provided in social research methods relevant to people working in a policy or academic context. 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. It is taught by an interdisciplinary team, all with specialist expertise across a wide range of policy areas.

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 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 (e.g. written essay or research proposal), unseen examinations and a 12,000-word dissertation.

**Degree structure**

**Mode:** Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 5 years

**Location:** London, Bloomsbury

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

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

**COMPULSORY MODULES**

Students take four compulsory modules (60 credits in total):

- Understanding the policy process
- Social problems and intervention
- Evidence for Policy and Practice
- Comparative social policy

Each of the four compulsory modules is offered as both a campus-based module and a fully-online module. The online version of each module does not require attendance on campus, providing greater flexibility for students combining study with work, particularly those taking the programme over two to five years.

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

Students select four optional modules (60 credits in total) from the following.

Several of the optional modules are offered as both a campus-based module and a fully-online module. In making their selection of four optional modules, students may select a maximum of two of the following three modules: Systematic Review Design and Planning; Systematic Reviews for Complex Policy Issues; Research Engagement, Participation and Impact.

- Introduction to Data Analysis
- Introduction to Regression Analysis
- Introduction to Qualitative Research
- Systematic Review Design and Planning
- Survey Design
- Impact Evaluation Methods
- Longitudinal Data and Analysis
- Using STATA Efficiently and Effectively
- Advanced Qualitative Methods
- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Research Engagement, Participation and Impact
- Systematic Reviews for Complex Policy Issues
- Ethnography

Visit the UCL Institute of Education website for more information, including module descriptions, which can be seen by clicking on the module title.

**DISSERTATION/REPORT**

- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 12,000 words (60 credits). Workshops and online resources help prepare students for the dissertation.

The purchase of books many constitute an additional cost, but there is no requirement to purchase any book as part of the programme. If fieldwork is conducted for the dissertation, this is also at your own expense and should be estimated according to the type and length of fieldwork proposed. Fieldwork is not compulsory to complete a dissertation. Printing and binding final copy of dissertation (up to £50).
Your career

As a graduate of this programme you will be equipped to work in a broad range of roles, such as social policy researcher, advisor to government, or as NGO personnel. You will also have the methodological background to move into doctoral research.

Employability

Graduates from this MSc programme have gained sought-after skills that allowed them pursue professional careers in academia 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.

There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. Further information can be found at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

// UK: £10,440 (FT), £5,275 (PT)

// EU: £10,440 (FT), £5,275 (PT)

// Overseas: £21,790 (FT), £11,060 (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 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. Further information: https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 26 July 2019

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/brexit

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