

MRes Social Policy (THSP-AFM48)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MRes Social Policy
Route(s)	MRes Social Policy
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Masters Degree not mainly by Research
Award name	Masters - Postgraduate Taught
Course mode of delivery	Full time
Course length	1 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Social & Policy Sciences

Course Description

Course Summary

Develop in-depth knowledge and research skills in social policy. You'll enhance your ability to identify insights from data using advanced analysis techniques.

Course Description

You'll combine the study of major social policy issues and trends with developing your understanding of in-depth methods and approaches to quantitative and qualitative research. This will help you to gain the essential skills needed to progress your studies or become a working social policy researcher.

You'll enhance your understanding of the techniques used in the analysis of large-scale data and how to effectively present key insights and findings.

This course is designed to provide high-quality training to potential doctoral students, as well as essential research skills that are desirable in a number of private and public sector roles.

>South West Doctoral Training Partnership

>This MRes is recognised by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) (<https://esrc.ukri.org>), specifically, as part of the larger South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP)(<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk>). It can be taken as a course in its own right, or if you hold an SWDTP studentship(<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/>) you can take the 1+3 (MRes + PhD) pathway.

>If you wish to be considered for a 1+3 SWDTP studentship, then you must apply for your preferred PhD route and not the stand-alone MRes. You should follow our [how to apply\(/guides/how-to-apply-for-doctoral-study\)](/guides/how-to-apply-for-doctoral-study) guidelines.

>For those holding a 1+3 SWDTP studentship, progression from the MRes to the MPhil or PhD stage is dependent on an acceptable level of achievement.

>Read more about other funding that you may be eligible for(</campaigns/find-funding-for-doctoral-research/>).

Learn from experts in their field

You'll learn from experts in social policy. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

Gain important career skills

We work to provide you with the tools and support to prepare you for employment and further study.

This includes advanced quantitative and qualitative research skills, and bibliographic skills; and the use of appropriate technology to undertake tasks that use these skills.

Graduate prospects

There is increasing demand for high-level quantitative and qualitative research skills from a wide range of private and public sector recruiters.

Many firms and government departments are now committed to data-driven decision-making, making use of the increased availability of big data.

This course will equip you with a hybrid skill set that combines quantitative, computing and analytical skills with an understanding of social policy research and enquiry.

This MRes also equips you to go into further study at PhD level.

Our graduates generally go on to work in a wide variety of organisations and roles, such as:

- social research in universities and research institutes, government, business, voluntary organisations and international organisations
- public policy analysis at local, national and international levels
- public information provision and campaigning within organisations concerned with wellbeing, sustainability and social justice

Contact hours

You are expected to spend approximately 35 hours per week studying, with around 8-10 of those hours being structured classes.

This will be made up of a combination of lectures and seminars.

Delivery methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the learning and teaching methods used on the course:

- Lectures
- Seminars

Assessment summary

You will experience a range of different forms of assessment designed to support your professional development. This will include coursework, project work, examinations, and a dissertation.

We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities. Take a look at our Disability Service's pages(/professional-services/disability-service/) for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:

- Coursework
- Dissertation
- Examinations
- Project output (other than dissertation or report)

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of textbooks. Some courses involve visits away from campus and you may be required to pay some or all of the costs of travel, accommodation and food and drink. If you're on a placement, you're responsible for your own travel, accommodation and living costs. You should also consider the financial implications if you go on an unpaid or overseas placement.

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	Not specified
Course Progression Requirements	Not specified

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	SP00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	HS52009	Dissertation	Part 4 Project/Diss Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	40	
AY	HS52015	Principles of social sciences research	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	HS52008	Digital methods and data skills for MRes	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S1	HS52016	Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	MRes Soc Pol FT S1 optional units CT					Select 1 module from this group in this period
	SP52092	Comparative public policy and social welfare: cross-national, European and global perspectives?	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	SP52121	AI as social and political practice: technology, society and politics	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	SP52115	Research for policy: concepts, methods and values	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	

Unit						
S2	MRes Soc Pol FT S2 optional units CT					Select 10 credits from this group in this period
HS52010	Independent research essay	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5		
SP52105	Knowledge, data and our digital social world	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5		
ZZ02002	Director of Studies approved option S2	Part 4 Taught Optional	Non-credit (FHEQ level n/a)	5		
S2	MRes Soc Pol methods choice CT					Select 1 module from this group in this period
HS52002	Advanced qualitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5		
HS52003	Advanced quantitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5		
Additional rules for module selection						
None						

Year 2

No units found

The availability of optional units is subject to constraints such as staff availability, minimum and maximum group sizes, and timetabling factors, as well as a student's ability to meet any pre-requisite rules.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge and Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Professional and Transferable Skills	Placement	Study Year Abroad
Review systematically, and evaluate critically, alternative approaches, methodologies and paradigms of research in social and educational	✓				

enquiry				
Review systematically, and evaluate critically, the application of these approaches in the specific areas of social and educational enquiry in which students are specialising	✓			
Identify and investigate original questions within an active research community	✓	✓		
Develop skills to contribute to research projects using any of the main methodologies of the social sciences	✓	✓	✓	
Critically review the key concepts and theories of welfare, the state and policymaking/implementation	✓	✓		
Critically review the origins, development, current activity and organisation of the UK's social welfare institutions	✓	✓		
Develop a comparative understanding of social policy - both in historical and cross-national terms	✓	✓		
Appraise the role of research in the policy-making process		✓		
Develop skills in applying and using research to inform professional knowledge and practice in social policy				✓
Develop skills in informing policy debates and policy formation in social policy				✓
Appreciate the values and interests of others				✓
Critically analyse some of the established theories and concepts of social policy to analyse social needs and particular policy problems and issues				✓

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit

Exit awards:

Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma

For further information see <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/>

For information on possible named exit awards, please contact your Director of Studies

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