

# BSc(Hons) Social Policy (UHSP-AFB32)

## Course and Award Details

<b>Course title</b>	BSc(Hons) Social Policy
<b>Route(s)</b>	BSc(Hons) Social Policy
<b>Awarding body</b>	University of Bath
<b>Award</b>	Undergraduate Degree with Honours
<b>Award name</b>	Bachelor with Honours
<b>Course mode of delivery</b>	Full time
<b>Course length</b>	3 years
<b>Entry point</b>	September 2024
<b>Main location of study</b>	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
<b>Course-owning school/department</b>	Social & Policy Sciences

## Course Description

**Course Summary** Explore social justice and welfare issues to understand the key questions and challenges society faces around rights, equality and distribution of resources.

**Course Description** On this course, you'll learn about the social and political foundations of policies that affect people's lives. You'll study the impact social policy has on identity, political organisations, social justice and human rights.

You'll explore the origins and evolution of state-run institutions, and their relationship with the economy and third sector in the UK and beyond. This will increase your understanding of contemporary social welfare issues at local, national and international levels.

Year 1 is your introduction to becoming a social scientist. You'll explore social change and how social issues become constructed as policy problems. You'll also learn about the major social, political and economic factors shaping equality and welfare in modern Britain.

In Year 2, you will focus on key policy areas such as the family, poverty, social inequality, and analysis of the policy process. You'll learn how to evaluate data and information to develop your own arguments for different audiences. You'll also choose from a range of social science optional units.

In your final year, you will do your dissertation, and study the relationship between social research, policy making and governance. You'll also choose from a range of optional units from across the social sciences. These will allow you to build upon the theoretical understanding you'll gain during Years 1 and 2 and apply it to contemporary sociological issues.

The flexibility of this course will allow you to create a degree that's tailored to your interests and potential future career.

Informed teaching to advance your learning

You'll learn from teaching staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise in social policy. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to give you the foundation

to become a critical-minded social scientist.

Develop your professional skills

We work to provide you with the skills and support to prepare you for employment and further study. These include:

- data analysis
- using a range of methods to produce data
- communication and presentation skills.

## Contact hours

Contact hours

Timetabled contact hours, which may be made up of laboratory sessions, lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops, vary throughout your course and between courses but are typically around 10 hours a week in your first year.

Our teaching for this course is delivered through in-person learning on campus, supported by high quality online provision. A small proportion of these contact hours may be delivered online, with the significant majority taught on campus. This may be supplemented by additional activities such as a small number of online learning sessions (not live), skills development sessions, and personal tutorials.

The amount of timetabled sessions on campus in later years may vary based on the options you choose, with a greater emphasis on independent learning. Project and dissertation units will generally have fewer scheduled sessions to allow you time for your independent work - this may also mean the number of hours of timetabled sessions each week will vary within a year.

Independent learning

In addition to timetabled contact hours, you are expected to undertake independent learning and assessment activities. Typically, this might be around 25 to 30 hours per week in your first year, and include individual and group projects, preparing coursework assignments, presentations, or revising for exams. After your first year, the emphasis on independent learning becomes greater, for example, you may do a final year project in the final year. You'll be expected to work both on your own and as part of a group.

## Delivery methods

Laboratory sessions  
Lectures  
Seminars  
Tutorials  
Workshops

## Assessment summary

You will be assessed in a range of methods designed to develop and test your skills and knowledge.

10% to 25% of your course will be assessed through examinations.

75% to 90% will be assessed through essays, reports, and presentations.

The final degree classification is determined by your second and final year marks and each contributes 32% and 68% respectively.

You will primarily be assessed as an individual, but may also be assessed as part of a group.

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

Report  
Examinations  
Presentations  
Essay

## Placement/Study Year

We also offer this course with a professional placement(/courses/undergraduate-

**Abroad details**

2024/sociology-social-policy-and-social-sciences/bsc-social-policy-with-professional-placement/) in Year 3. This allows you to take advantage of our links with a range of organisations in different sectors.

A professional placement is a great way to get insights into the career path you want; contribute to projects and services; have fun, make friends and build your professional network; and even earn some money or experience a new culture.

**Careers and professional development**

Prepare for your future career

Many of our social sciences graduates have gone on to work as social and policy researchers, civil servants, international consultants, journalists, and accountants.

They've gone on to work in:

- government departments
- social enterprises and charities
- European and international agencies and organisations
- Social care and family services
- international development
- public policy consultancy

## Course Assessment Regulations

<b>Applicable Assessment Regulations</b>	Undergraduate assessment regulations - <a href="https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/undergraduate-assessment-regulations/">https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/undergraduate-assessment-regulations/</a>
<b>Exemptions from Regulations</b>	N
<b>Weighting of each Study Year</b>	Stage 1: 0% Stage 2: 32% Final Stage: 68%
<b>Is this Course Standalone or Co-Existent?</b>	SA

## 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	SP12002	The making of modern society	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
AY	SP12003	Social problems, social change and the state	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
S1	SP12001	Becoming a social scientist 1	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
S1	SP12009	Understanding social change	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
S2	SP12010	Becoming a social scientist 2	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	

**FHEQ level 4 - Title** Year 1 Options

**FHEQ level 4 - Total credits in this study yr** 10

**FHEQ level4 - Overview of options in this study yr** In Year 1, you will study 10 credits of optional units in semester two. You will select one of two 10 credit criminology options, or two 5 credit international development options.

## Year 2

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	SP22027	Policy making: politics and practices	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	20	
S1	SP22019	Qualitative analysis: the power of immersion	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	
S2	SP22020	Quantitative data analysis: the power of statistics	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	

**Title** Year 2 Options

**Total credits in this study yr** 20

**Overview of options** You will study a total of 20 credits of optional units. This will consist of either all-

**in this study yr**

year 10 credit options or single semester 5 credit options. Topics will cover a range of areas within criminology, sociology, social policy and international development such as:

- social inequalities
- conflict and security
- race and racism
- poverty and population

You'll also be able to choose from a broad range of units covering topics such as politics, education or psychology.

**Year 3**

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	SP32039	Social policy dissertation	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	20	
AY	SP32043	Policy analysis for professional practice	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	10	

**Title** Final Year Options

**Total credits in this study yr** 30

**Overview of options in this study yr** In your final year, you will study a total of 30 credits of optional units. These can either be all-year 10 credit options or single semester 5 credit options. Topics will cover a range of areas within criminology, sociology, social policy, international development such as:

- conflict and human rights
- humanitarianism
- lobbying
- experts and evidence

You'll also be able to choose from a broad range of units covering topics such as politics, education or psychology.

You'll study these optional units alongside your dissertation.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

	Knowledge and Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Professional and Transferable Skills	Study Year Placement	Study Year Abroad
Apply and assess a range of political, economic and sociological concepts and theories to examine contemporary social	✓	✓			

contemporary social problems and social policy responses to them.			
Explain and discuss the origins and development of welfare institutions across the UK and across the globe, including the broad variety of social and demographic contexts in which they have operated.	✓		
Apply a variety of approaches and tools of analysis to the study of social problems and social policy in a range of areas, such as: population change, family and ageing, poverty and inequality, disability, crime, migration, employment.	✓	✓	✓
Explain and critique theories of social policy making processes and related governance structures in national and international polities.	✓	✓	
Explain and appraise how social policies are organised through state, market, Third Sector and families/households as well as supra-state and civil society actors in different political economies across the world.	✓	✓	
Explain and evaluate the roles of different organisations and actors in shaping collective goals and socio-economic outcomes of social policies.	✓	✓	
Undertake individually and/or collaboratively investigations of social policy questions, issues and problems by employing different techniques of collecting and handling data and using appropriate software.		✓	✓
Explain and articulate the strengths and limitations of appropriate social enquiry and social research		✓	✓

and social research methods, by selecting and applying a range of appropriate quantitative and qualitative social research techniques to social policy issues and questions.

Develop and practice argumentation and problem-solving techniques, using imagination, flexibility and critical reflection to seek and evaluate alternative solutions to social policy issues.

✓

✓

✓

Recognise and assess the ethical implications of social policy practice and research by developing sensitivity to the values and interests of others, including in wider international and global contexts.

✓

✓

✓

Design and execute an independent research project contributing to social policy knowledge.

✓

✓

Communicate social policy issues, findings and proposals through diverse formats and media suitable for a range of audiences.

✓

✓

### Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

**Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards**

This course has no designated alternative course (DAC).  
Exit awards:  
Diploma of Higher Education  
Certificate of Higher Education