

## Course Specification

<b>Published Date:</b>	24-Jan-2023
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<b>Status:</b>	Validated

## Core Information

<b>Awarding Body / Institution:</b>	University of Wolverhampton		
<b>School / Institute:</b>	School of Social, Historical and Political Studies		
<b>Course Code(s):</b>	SA003J01UV	Full-time	3 Years
	SA003J31UV	Part-time	6 Years
<b>Course Title:</b>	BA (Hons) Politics and Social Policy		
<b>Hierarchy of Awards:</b>	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Politics and Social Policy Bachelor of Arts Politics and Social Policy Diploma of Higher Education Politics and Social Policy Certificate of Higher Education Politics and Social Policy University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English		
<b>Date of DAG approval:</b>	17/May/2017		
<b>Last Review:</b>	2021/2		
<b>Course Specification valid from:</b>			
<b>Course Specification valid to:</b>	2027/8		

## Academic Staff

<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Alan Apperley
<b>Head of Department:</b>	Dr David Hussey

# Course Information

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<b>Location of Delivery:</b>	University of Wolverhampton
<b>Category of Partnership:</b>	Not delivered in partnership
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	University of Wolverhampton
<b>Open / Closed Course:</b>	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

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## Entry Requirements:

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Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

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240-280 UCAS points with a minimum of 180 points from at least 2 A levels.

BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade MMM; BTEC QCF Diploma grade DD.

Access to HE Diploma.

English Language requirements are normally IELTS 6.0 equivalent with a minimum of 5.5 in each area (unless otherwise stated) or equivalent accepted qualification <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/international-academy/english-at-the-international-academy/language-entry-requirements/>

We accept the Wolverhampton English Proficiency Exam (WEPE), our own exam for candidates. Please see <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/international-academy/english-at-the-international-academy/english-language-pathway-courses/wolverhampton-english-proficiency-examination-we/>

If you do not have the level of English required, you can also do our Preessional. See <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/international-academy/english-at-the-international-academy/english-language-pathway-courses/english-language-pre-sessional-courses/>

## Distinctive Features of the Course:

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- This is a dynamic programme which focusses on the relationship between the political and policy environments, making links between the personal and the social, allowing learners to draw on their own experience of policy.
- This course develops students' knowledge and skills through theoretical and evidence-based practice, applying important political and social policy tools to investigate contemporary topics, such as migration and poverty.
- The course considers how different individuals and groups relate to the world of politics, and how these differences impact on the construction of policy.
- This course encourages community-based learning through advocacy and placements in not-for-profit agencies and organisations, to embed learning and encourage civic responsibility.
- Graduate employability is embedded throughout this joint degree programme, developing expertise in a range of key employer-identified skills that prepare our students for the workforce of the future.
- The teaching team are all active researchers engaging in social research which strengthens the links between research and teaching, enhancing the learning environment.

## Educational Aims of the Course:

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The course has been designed in line with the University of Wolverhampton Inclusivity Framework and the framework for curriculum design. These have been used to shape the educational aims of the Politics and Social Policy award and in the design of the assessment. The aims of the Politics and Social Policy degree are to examine and to critically investigate how citizens respond to the world they inhabit through advocacy, campaigning and protesting to try to effect social change and how they articulate these attempts. The award will examine the relationship between government, society and citizens, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable in society. Policy making does not exist in a vacuum; all aspects of policy are informed by political ideas, concepts and language. Competing conceptions and articulation of rights, citizenship, democracy and justice, fundamental to the study of Politics, implicitly or explicitly, inform attempts to reproduce or change how social policy is designed and delivered in areas such as housing, health and the environment. Therefore, the programme will examine how some voices within society come to dominate the policy environment, and the impact this privilege has on the design and implementation of policy.

It will analyse how the welfare state has fared after experiencing over a decade of austerity measures. It will explore possible futures of welfare provision, tracing the increasing role of voluntary and private providers. The course will look at critical challenges to society, such as migration, affordable housing, climate change and persistent poverty, and explore how – and whether – policymakers have the ability and political will to address these challenges.

Whilst the events, experiences and case-studies that will be drawn on through the course will often reflect the UK context, this world view will be critiqued through the lens of historical and contemporary international influences, for example the legacy of colonialism and imperialism on British social policy or the limitations and challenges wrought by globalisation and climate change. Therefore the course will highlight the interconnections between local, regional, national and international/global, and the impact these connections have on decision-making in UK society.

#### Intakes:

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September

#### Major Source of Funding:

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Office for Students (OFS)

#### Tuition Fees:

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Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12950.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

## January (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
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### Group 16 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

You may only study the following modules once: 6WL001, 6WL002, 6SA004, 6SA007, 6PO004, 6HS013.

6SA008	Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets	20	SEM2	
6SA005	Policy-Making in Britain	20	SEM2	

### Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SA004	Independent Project in Social Policy	20	SEM2	
6PO004	Project (Politics)	20	SEM2	
6PO003	Political Theory	20	SEM2	Core

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

## January (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
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**Group 15 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

You may only study the following modules once: 6WL001, 6WL002, 6SA004, 6SA007, 6PO004, 6HS013.

6PO005	Security and Integration in the New Europe	20	SEM1	
6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM1	
6SA003	Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion	20	SEM1	Core

**Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

6SA005	Policy-Making in Britain	20	SEM1	
6HS015	Humanitarianism and Protest: Campaigning for Change in Modern British History	20	SEM1	

## September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
<b>Group 02   Min Value: 20   Max Value: 20</b>				
4SA014	Advocacy in Action	20	SEM2	
4IR002	Current Issues in International Relations	20	SEM2	
4SA008	Social Policy Now	20	SEM1	Core
4SA012	Living with Poverty	20	SEM2	Core
4HS005	Britain and the World	20	SEM2	Core
4PO008	Issues in Contemporary British Politics	20	SEM1	Core

**Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

4IR001	Introduction to International Relations	20	SEM1	
4SA015	Citizenship and Social Inequalities	20	SEM1	

## September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
<b>Group 07   Min Value: 20   Max Value: 20</b>				
5WR007	Political Violence	20	SEM1	
5SL001	Racism, Diversity and Difference	20	SEM1	
5SA016	The Future of Work	20	SEM1	

**Group 08 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

Select 5SL009 if you intend to take a Social Policy Project.  
 Select 5HS014 if you intend to take a Politics Project.

5SL009	Research methods	20	SEM2	
5HS014	Research in Action	20	SEM2	
5PO003	Contemporary Political Ideologies	20	SEM1	Core
5SA017	Community Engagement and Social Change	20	SEM2	Core
5SA015	The Role of Community in Policymaking	20	SEM1	Core

**Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

5IR002	World Politics	20	SEM2	
5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

## September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
<b>Group 15   Min Value: 20   Max Value: 20</b>				
6PO005	Security and Integration in the New Europe	20	SEM1	
6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM1	

**Group 16 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

6SA008	Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets	20	SEM2	
6DF006	Welfare and campaigning	20	SEM2	
6PO003	Political Theory	20	SEM2	Core
6SA003	Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion	20	SEM1	Core

**Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

6SA005	Policy-Making in Britain	20	SEM1	
6HS015	Humanitarianism and Protest: Campaigning for Change in Modern British History	20	SEM1	

**Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20**

6SA004	Independent Project in Social Policy	20	SEM2	
6PO004	Project (Politics)	20	SEM2	

## September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
<b>Group 15   Min Value: 0   Max Value: 40</b>				
Politics Route only: select 2 modules.				



6SA009	Responses to Social Inequalities	20	SEM1
6SA010	International NGO's, Policymaking and Change	20	SEM1
6PO005	Security and Integration in the New Europe	20	SEM1

**Group 16 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Social Policy Route only : Select 6PO008 (core)

6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM2
6PO009	Political Concepts and their use	20	SEM1      Core

**Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 40**

Social Policy Route: Independent Project for the Social Policy route only.

6SA012	Independent Project Social Policy	40	YEAR
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**Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Politics Route only: Select one module

6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM2
6SA011	Sustaining Welfare	20	SEM2
6SL016	Nations and Nationalism	20	SEM2
6SL015	Environment and Society	20	SEM2

**Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Social Policy Route only: select one module

6SA010	International NGO's, Policymaking and Change	20	SEM1
6PO003	Political Theory	20	SEM1

**Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Politics Route only: Select 6PO004 (core)

**Group 02 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

Social Policy Route only : Select one module

6SA011	Sustaining Welfare	20	SEM2
6SL015	Environment and Society	20	SEM2
6SL016	Nations and Nationalism	20	SEM2

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Academic Regulations Exemption:

None.

### Reference Points:

[UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)

[Qualifications and Credit Frameworks](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010)

QAA Social Policy Quality Benchmark Statement 2019

QAA Politics Quality Benchmark Statement 2019

### Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with Social Policy and Politics, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study.	
CERTHE02 Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of Social Policy and Politics.	
CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to Social Policy and Politics.	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work	

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**CERTHE05** Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

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**DIPHE01** Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of Social Policy and Politics, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.

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**DIPHE02** Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context .

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**DIPHE03** Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the Social Policy and Politics, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study.

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**DIPHE04** Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.

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**DIPHE05** Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively.

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**DIPHE06** Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.

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**BHONSN01** 1) Critically understand a range of theoretical and methodological approaches in Social Policy and Politics and comprehend the distinctive character of Political thought as well as the policy environment.

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**BHONSN02** 2) Critically review, synthesise, analyse and evaluate a wide range of appropriate evidence in relation to a variety of social and political theories, and to mobilise a reasoned, informed argument .

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**BHONSN03** 3) Understand the distinctiveness of quantitative and qualitative research and how to communicate findings to a range of audiences using appropriate technologies in digitally literate ways.

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**BHONSN04** 4) Demonstrate a wide range of conceptual and practical skills that make positive contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of communities and are commensurate with graduate employability.

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**BHONSN05** 5) Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in your outlook towards, and relationships with, others

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**BHONSN06** 6) Demonstrate an understanding of individual, collective and global responsibility for sustainability. 7) Work independently by directing, managing and reflecting upon your learning activities, and engaging cooperatively with

others in the planning, preparation and execution of independent research.

**BHONS01** 1) Critically understand a range of theoretical and methodological approaches in Social Policy and Politics and comprehend the distinctive character of Political thought as well as the policy environment.

**BHONS02** 2) Critically review, synthesise, analyse and evaluate a wide range of appropriate evidence in relation to a variety of social and political theories, and to mobilise a reasoned, informed argument .

**BHONS03** 3) Understand the distinctiveness of quantitative and qualitative research and how to communicate findings to a range of audiences using appropriate technologies in digitally literate ways.

**BHONS04** 4) Demonstrate a wide range of conceptual and practical skills that make positive contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of communities and are commensurate with graduate employability .

**BHONS05** 5) Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in your outlook towards, and relationships with, others.

**BHONS06** 6) Demonstrate an understanding of individual, collective and global responsibility for sustainability 7) Work independently by directing, managing and reflecting upon your learning activities, and engaging cooperatively with others in the planning, preparation and execution of independent research

## Modules

4PO002 Introduction to International Relations  
4PO003 Introduction to British Politics  
4PO005 Campaigning and Citizenship: Women in Britain and Empire 1790s-1970s  
4SA007 The Development of the Welfare State: 1945-2010  
4SA008 Social Policy Now  
4SL010 The Media and the Manufacture of Deviance  
6DF006 Welfare and campaigning  
6HS015 Humanitarianism and Protest: Campaigning for Change in Modern British History  
6PO004 Project (Politics)  
6SA003 Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion  
6SA004 Independent Project in Social Policy  
6SA005 Policy-Making in Britain  
6SA008 Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets  
5PO006 Contemporary Britain  
5SA007 Paying for Welfare  
5SA009 Communities in Social Policy  
5SA014 Families, Children and the State  
5SL007 Doing Quantitative Research  
5SL008 Volunteering in Action  
6DF006 Welfare and campaigning  
6HS015 Humanitarianism and Protest: Campaigning for Change in Modern British History  
6PO004 Project (Politics)  
6SA003 Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion  
6SA004 Independent Project in Social Policy  
6SA005 Policy-Making in Britain  
6SA008 Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets

## Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

### Teaching Activities

Staff at the University of Wolverhampton are at the forefront of andragogic practice and teaching activities include, but are not limited to:

Lectures

Seminars

Multimedia resources

Peer based learning

Independent and guided study

Collaborative and individual online activities

Community-based learning through advocacy activities, volunteering, and work placements

### Assessment Methods

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support, test and embed your learning and progress. The modes of assessment are aimed at developing your knowledge of politics and social policy and how that links to social change. It will also focus on skills for the workplace, as identified by local employers in our employability forum, such as communication skills, team-working and research skills. Your course will may include a variety of assessment activities which includes, but is not limited to:

Digital media creation

Oral, video and poster presentations – individually and as a group

Essays

Case Studies

Research activities

Applied research

Reports

Portfolios

Blogs

Organising an event

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, you are expected to write an independent project, which can be desk-based, primary or applied (working with an external not for profit organisation) research.

Feedback on all modules will be provided through the VLE and individual student tutorials.

### Assessment Methods:

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At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)

Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)

Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

## Student Support:

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### General University support:

University Learning Centres are the key source of academic information for students. Learning Centres provide physical library resources (books, journal, DVDs etc.) and offer a range of study areas to allow students to study in the environment that suit them best: Social areas, quiet and silent areas. Learning Centres also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases. Learning Centres also provide students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students on campus can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Students can access a range of online skills material at:

[www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills).

The University also has a host of other services to support you, please take a look at the Student Support website: [www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/). If you have any questions, need help or advice then ASK@WLV is there for you: [www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/).

## Employability in the Curriculum:

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As a result of engagement with employers in the not-for-profit sector, where the majority of our graduates find employment, key skills and attributes for the workplace were identified. Employers require hard skills such as digital literacy, the ability to read and interpret data and knowledge of public administration, and soft skills such as empathy, experience working with people with a range of world views, and inter-personal skills. As a result we have embedded these key skills and attributes throughout this joint programme. This includes the introduction of a range of assessments, some of which relate directly to experience within an external organisation, through placements, visits and guest speakers. The assessment strategy includes a range of activities, such writing BLOGS, letter writing, scoping exercises and creating podcasts). For example, the module 'Advocacy in Action' requires students to engage with local not-for-profit organisations to develop an event or activity to raise awareness around an important social issue, thus enhancing their research skills, their organisations skills and their advocacy skills. In addition, accredited volunteering opportunities will enable students to gain practical experience putting Social Policy and Politics into practice. This strategy aligns with the University of Wolverhampton Graduate Attributes Framework.

Social Policy and Politics enables graduates to enter a range of multi-vocational professions and will equip our graduates with the knowledge and capability to work in a broad range of private, public and not-for-profit organisations. Recent graduates have been employed in a range of vocations including as neighbourhood development officers, volunteer management, family support workers, housing officers, policy officers, project workers and care managers. Graduates are also well equipped to continue their post-graduate studies in Social Work, Teaching and in Social Science post graduate courses to continue their academic studies.

