

Course Specification

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| Published Date: | 11-May-2023 |
| Produced By: | Multi Type Usr Record For All Personnel |
| Status: | Validated |

Core Information

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| Awarding Body / Institution: | University of Wolverhampton | | |
| School / Institute: | School of Social, Historical and Political Studies | | |
| Course Code(s): | SL013T01UV | Full-time | 4 Years |
| | SL013T31UV | Part-time | 8 Years |
| UCAS Code: | L303 | | |
| Course Title: | BA (Hons) Sociology and Social Policy with Foundation Year | | |
| Hierarchy of Awards: | Bachelor of Arts with Honours Sociology and Social Policy Bachelor of Arts Sociology and Social Policy Diploma of Higher Education Sociology and Social Policy Certificate of Higher Education Sociology and Social Policy University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit | | |
| Language of Study: | English | | |
| Date of DAG approval: | 01/Sep/2017 | | |
| Last Review: | 2020/1 | | |
| Course Specification valid from: | 2009/0 | | |
| Course Specification valid to: | 2026/7 | | |

Academic Staff

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|----------------------------|------------------|
| Course Leader: | Dr Sam Pryke |
| Head of Department: | Dr Stephen Gregg |

Course Information

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

Entry Requirements:

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:

- At level 3 you can develop the skills and knowledge that you need to study at undergraduate level, building on your strengths and working on your weaknesses, so that you can feel confident that by the end of the first year that you are ready to commence a degree course, and to apply the skills to undertake the directed and independent learning which will help you to achieve your potential.
- This is a dynamic programme which focusses on the relationship between social policy and society, making links between the personal and the social, allowing you to draw on your own experience of the social world.
- This course develops your knowledge and skills through theoretical and evidence-based practice, applying important sociological and policy tools to investigate contemporary topics, such as migration and poverty.
- The course considers how social processes impact differently on individuals and groups and how these differences impact on both society and the subsequent construction of policy.
- This course encourages community-based learning through advocacy and placements in not-for-profit agencies and organisation. The University of Wolverhampton have been pioneers of accredited volunteering in the UK and these modules are embedded in the course as an accredited part of the student learning experience.
- Graduate employability is embedded throughout the degree programme at The University of

Wolverhampton, 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:

The Sociology and Social Policy programme aims to critically examine the relationship between individuals and society, within the UK and beyond. Exploring how individuals and groups are enabled to participate in society – and the processes by which some groups and individuals are socially excluded - is critical to understanding the dynamics of the social world. Social movements such as Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter illustrate how citizen involvement can be critical in bringing about policy – and societal - change. Nonetheless some ‘voices’ are more valued than others. Therefore, the Sociology and Social Policy programme critically examines how social problems are identified, talked about and articulated, by politicians, by the media and by UK citizens, and how this is translated into social policy.

The UK welfare state is changing, with the increasing role for the voluntary and the private sectors. At the same time there is growing evidence that welfare services are failing to meet the needs of our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable in society. This is underpinning increasing levels of social inequality and exclusion in our society. Therefore, during your studies, you will encounter important concepts, theories and methods to enable you to develop a critical understanding of the range of institutional conditions, cultural processes and social relations that impact on social policy in areas such as housing, health and the environment.

The course will also focus on the interconnections between local, regional, national and global processes. These connections are particularly poignant in relation to the issue of sustainability. The uneven impact that globalisation and climate change are having on the poorest in the UK – and across the globe – is not only an environmental issue but one of social justice. The programme will critically examine how theories such as sustainable development and inclusive growth could lead to better outcomes for disadvantaged groups and individuals in the UK and across the globe.

In addition, this exciting joint programme will equip students with expertise in employer-identified skills for the workplace. These skills are embedded through the programme. At each level of study, students are given the opportunity to undertake advocacy or accredited voluntary work for, and with, not-for-profit agencies and organisations in the local community – an experience that embeds learning and further enhances opportunities for graduate employment.

The Foundation Year will introduce you to studying at university. You will develop your academic and study skills alongside studying modules that introduce you to the disciplines offered by courses across the Faculty. The Foundation Year will therefore provide a springboard for successful study at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

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 |
| 2023/4 | H | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2023/4 | Overseas | Full Time / Sandwich | £14450.00 |

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|------|
| 3GK012 | Preparing for Success at University | 40 | SEM1 | Core |
| 3GK014 | Wolverhampton and its People | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 3GK013 | Project-Based Learning | 40 | SEM2 | Core |
| 3GK015 | Contemporary Social Issues | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---------|--------|------|
| Group 2 Min Value: 40 Max Value: 40 | | | | |
| 4SA014 | Advocacy in Action | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 4SA012 | Living with Poverty | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 4SL012 | Media, Culture and Society | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 4SA008 | Social Policy Now | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4SL005 | The Sociological Imagination | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4SL009 | Introduction to Classical Social Theory | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| Group 01 Min Value: 20 Max Value: 20 | | | | |
| 4SA015 | Citizenship and Social Inequalities | 20 | SEM1 | |
| 4IR001 | Introduction to International Relations | 20 | SEM1 | |

September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|--------|--|---------|--------|------|
| 5SA015 | The Role of Community in Policymaking | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 5SL005 | Issues and Debates in Sociological Thought | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 5SL009 | Research methods | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 5SA017 | Community Engagement and Social Change | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

Group 5 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|------|--|
| 5SL001 | Racism, Diversity and Difference | 20 | SEM1 | |
| 5SA016 | The Future of Work | 20 | SEM1 | |

Group 1 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

| | | | | |
|--------|---|----|------|--|
| 5SL008 | Volunteering in Action | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 5SL002 | Contesting Gendered Differences and Sexualities | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 5CJ011 | Environmental Crime | 20 | SEM2 | |

September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|--------|--------------------|---------|--------|------|
| 6SA011 | Sustaining Welfare | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

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|--------|---|----|------|--|
| 6SL018 | Connecting Sociologies Across the Globe | 20 | SEM1 | |
| 6SL011 | The Sociology of Migration | 20 | SEM1 | |

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

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|--------|--|----|------|--|
| 6SA009 | Responses to Social Inequalities | 20 | SEM1 | |
| 6SA010 | International NGO's, Policymaking and Change | 20 | SEM1 | |

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

| | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|----|------|--|
| 6SL016 | Nations and Nationalism | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 6SL014 | Body and Society | 20 | SEM2 | |

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

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----|------|--|
| 6SA012 | Independent Project Social Policy | 40 | YEAR | |
| 6SL017 | Independent Project in Sociology | 40 | YEAR | |

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

September (Full-time)

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|--------|--|---------|--------|------|
| 6SA003 | Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 6SL012 | Qualitative Research Methods | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 6SA008 | Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|----|------|--|
| 6SL011 | The Sociology of Migration | 20 | SEM2 | |
|--------|----------------------------|----|------|--|

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

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----|------|--|
| 6SA005 | Policy-Making in Britain | 20 | SEM1 | |
| 6SL013 | The Global World | 20 | SEM1 | |
| 6SL014 | Body and Society | 20 | SEM1 | |

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

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----|------|--|
| 6SL003 | Independent Project in Sociology | 20 | SEM2 | |
| 6SA004 | Independent Project in Social Policy | 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 Quality Benchmark Statement Social Policy 2019

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

| Learning Outcomes | Modules |
|---|---------|
| FY01 Articulate your understanding of a range of facts and theories relating to the subjects studied. | |
| FY02 Complete tasks and address problems that, while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine. | |
| FY03 Interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas. | |
| FY04 Describe key academic skills and conventions, appropriate to the level of study, and apply them to your work . | |
| CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with Social Policy and Sociology, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study. | |
| CERTHE02 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with Social Policy and Sociology, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study. | |
| CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving social problems. | |
| CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments. | |
| CERTHE05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility. | |
| DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of Social Policy and Sociology, 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. | |
| 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 an external organisation working to solve social problems . | |
| DIPHE03 Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in Social Policy and Sociology, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving social problems in the policymaking environment and how that relates to the dynamics of social change. | |
| 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. | |
| DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non- | |

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.

BHONSN01 1. Critically understand a range of theoretical and methodological approaches in Social Policy and Sociology and comprehend the distinctive character of the policy environment .

BHONSN02 2. Critically understand a range of theoretical and methodological approaches in Social Policy and Sociology and comprehend the distinctive character of the policy environment.

BHONSN03 3. Critically evaluate the distinctiveness of quantitative and qualitative research communicate findings to a range of audiences using appropriate technologies in digitally literate ways.

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.

BHONSN05 5. Analyse the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in your outlook towards, and relationships with, others.

BHONSN06 6. Justify the importance 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 Sociology and comprehend the distinctive character of the policy environment.

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

BHONS03 3. Critically evaluate the distinctiveness of quantitative and qualitative research and 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 the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in your outlook towards, and relationships with, others. 7. Work independently by directing, managing and reflecting upon your learning

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Teaching Activities

Staff at the University of Wolverhampton are at the forefront of andragogic practice and have developed expertise in Blended and flipped learning techniques. Therefore teaching activities will include:

Lectures

Seminars

Workshops

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

The Sociology and Social Policy team are part of a Student Union project, drawing upon University of Leicester's Inclusivity Toolkit, aimed reducing the attainment gap through a more structured approach to assessment unpacking and assignment feedback.

Programmes and modules are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the changing nature of the subject. In exceptional circumstances, a course or programme may cease to exist or a provider may no longer be able to teach a programme or an aspect of a programme to a specific group of students

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 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

Putting on 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.

Assessment feedback will be provided through the VLE and students will also be offered one to one tutorials.

Assessment Methods:

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:

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.

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/. If you have any questions, need help or advice then ASK@WLV is there for you: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/.

Course Specific Support

Students are allocated an academic coach in their first year to support their transition to higher education and thereafter will be allocated a personal tutor that will support with academic and pastoral enquiries. Students are supported in their academic achievement with one-to-one and group tutorials and through assessment unpacking sessions and detailed feedback on their work, including audio-visual feedback.

Employability in the Curriculum:

As a result of engagement with employers, key employability skills and attributes identified by employers have been embedded throughout the Sociology and Social Policy programme at The University of Wolverhampton. This includes hard skills, such as knowledge about public administration, the ability to read and interpret data and digital literacy, and soft skills such as empathy, enthusiasm and being able to engage and communicate with a range of disadvantaged individuals and groups. These skills will be embedded in the variety of assessment offered on the course, such writing BLOGS, designing posters, designing an event and creating podcasts. In addition, students will encounter a range of worldviews, through visits, placements and guest speakers from not-for-profit organisations. For example, the core module, Advocacy in Action, will require students to engage with a real social problem, working with local not-for-profit organisation to co-design an event to raise awareness and propose solutions for that social problems. Accredited volunteering opportunities will enable students to gain skills for the workplace experience as well as having the

opportunity to put their knowledge into practice.

Sociology and Social Policy will equip graduates with the skills, knowledge and competencies to work in a broad range of public, voluntary and private organisations. Graduates from Sociology and Social Policy have been employed in a range of vocations including as neighbourhood development officers, volunteer management, family support workers, social care workers, housing officers, social inclusion workers and care managers. In addition graduates are well equipped to pursue a post-graduate professional qualification in Education or Social Work or to continue their academic studies through a Masters Course.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY