



School of Social Sciences Postgraduate Taught Programmes

Contents



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Welcome to Cardiff University's School of Social Science



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Cardiff University and to the School of Social Sciences. Our School is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for high quality teaching and research in the social science disciplines.

We offer the opportunity to be part of a vibrant and dynamic social science community. We provide teaching and learning experiences that relate to current events and enable our students to understand and contribute to contemporary debates in an informed way. You will be taught and supported by leading academic researchers who are international experts in the fields of sociology, criminology, education, social analytics, social policy, and the social sciences.

Our teaching is underpinned by world class research that has had a direct impact on policy and practice. Many of our faculty act as advisers to international organisations, the Westminster and European parliaments, and the Welsh Government, as well as to public and private sector organisations. This means that our students have the opportunity to learn from scholars who are at the forefront of policy debates at international, national and local levels. Students benefit from our academic collaborations with major universities in Europe, the USA, Canada, and South East Asia.

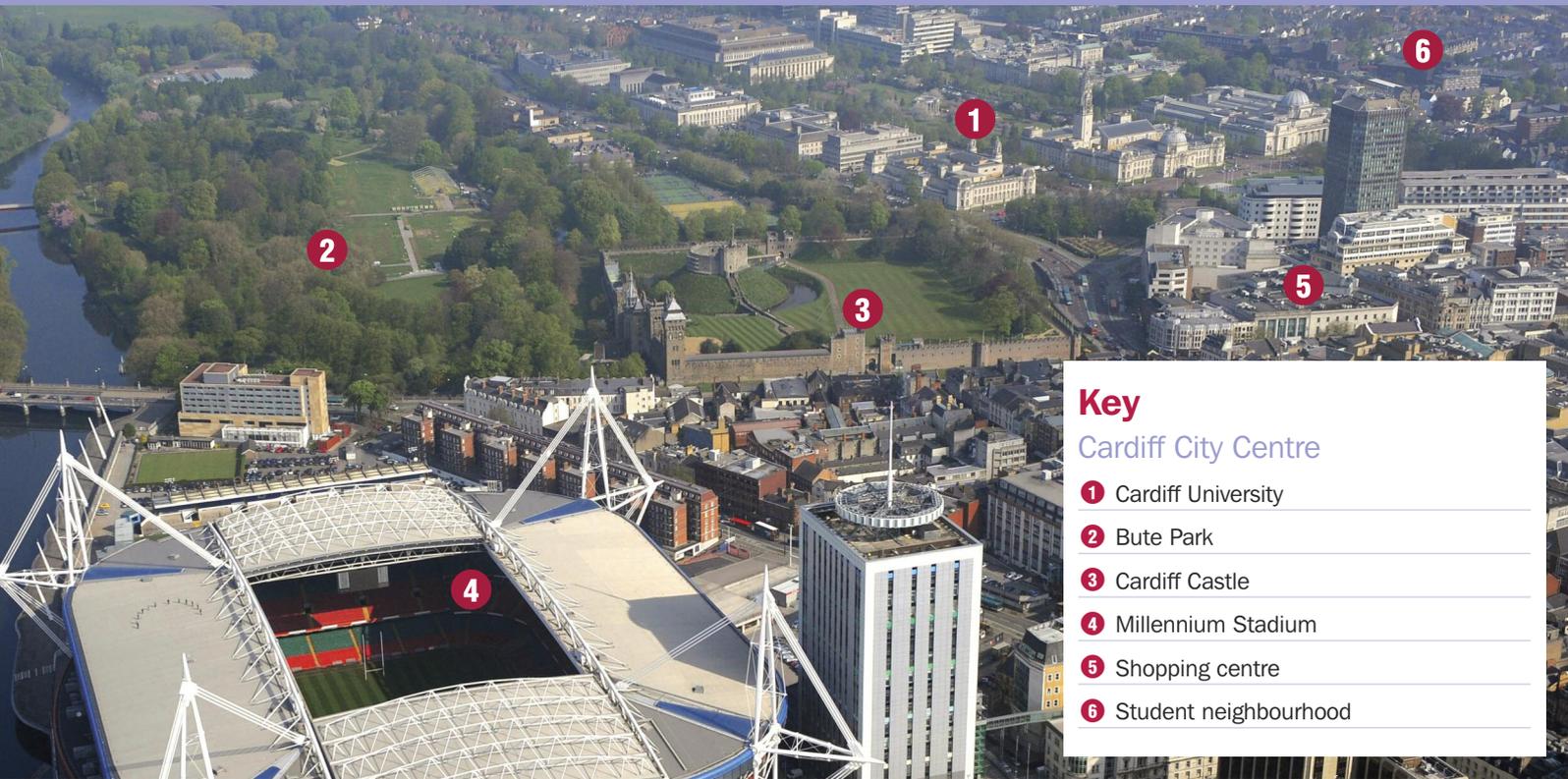
The School of Social Sciences is based in the prestigious Glamorgan Building on the University campus and has excellent access to the city centre and all our student support services. The school is friendly and welcoming, and students are valued for the important role that they play within our community. We host many events throughout the year - from public lectures to conferences and workshops - and students have the opportunity to participate in the life of the school.



I look forward to welcoming you personally when you arrive at Cardiff University. I am sure you will find your studies here rewarding.

Professor Amanda Coffey
Head of School

Cardiff: the Capital City of Wales



Cardiff is a thriving and attractive city which is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live and study.

Location

Cardiff is located on the coast of South Wales, which has beautiful national parks and beaches only 30 minutes away. Cardiff is approximately 230km (145 miles) west of London and is easily accessed by train in about two hours. Cardiff has excellent transport links (it is ranked 1st in the UK for the most transport friendly city) with an international airport that has flights to many cities in Europe.



The perfect student city

Cardiff is a small city with a population of about 340,000 people. Approximately 20% of the population are students, which makes it safe, friendly and affordable (see pages 6-7). Cardiff, is also a capital city with all the culture, sports, shops, entertainment, work opportunities and atmosphere you would expect of a modern European metropolis.





With its distinctive character, high quality of life, and growing national and international reputation, Cardiff hosts many high-profile sporting and cultural events, including international rugby, soccer, cricket, motor sport, and Cardiff Singer of the World. It is also home to the biannual Artes Mundi exhibition and prize (the UK's biggest art prize).

Home to the world-renowned Welsh National Opera, Cardiff boasts prestigious concert venues such as the Wales Millennium Centre, St David's Hall and the Motorpoint Arena, as well as the iconic Millennium Stadium, the National Museum and Gallery of Wales, several theatres and the historic Cardiff Castle.

Cardiff is the location for award-winning television productions, including Doctor Who, Sherlock, Torchwood and Casualty,

and the Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff Bay is a popular new attraction.

Living in Cardiff means you get a small inexpensive city you can easily walk around, but also an exciting city where there is always something to do. To find out more about the city of Cardiff visit: www.cardiff.ac.uk/postgradlife

A diverse, international city

Cardiff was one of the UK's first multi-cultural cities and an estimated 94 languages are spoken here. This is a real benefit for international students because many of the food and ingredients you use in your country are also sold in Cardiff. You can also be assured that there are many religious and cultural facilities across the city, including mosques, synagogues, churches and temples.



10 Facts About Cardiff

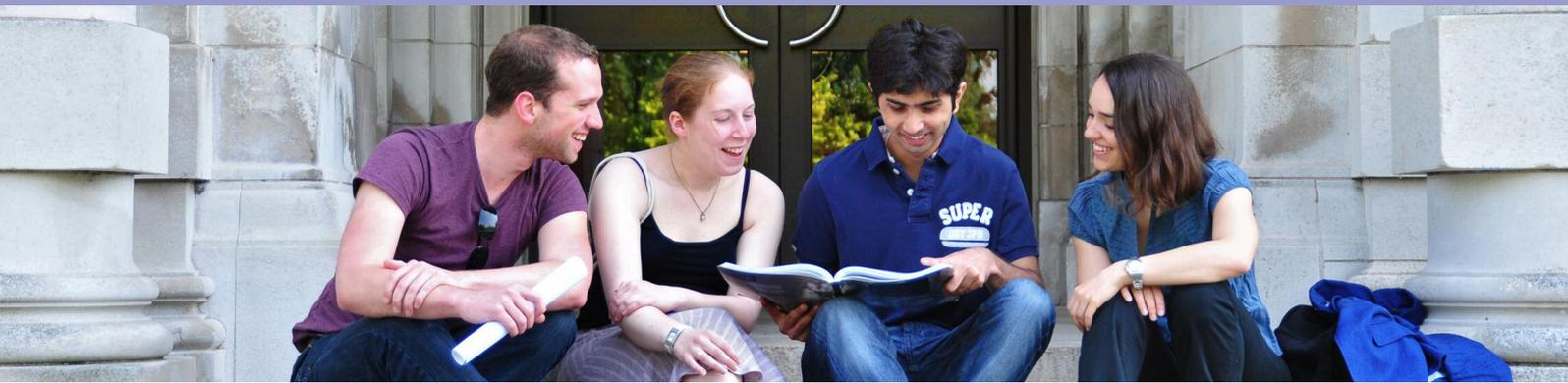
- ▶ Cardiff University is in the city centre of Cardiff.
- ▶ Cardiff Airport has more than 30 flights a day to UK and European cities.
- ▶ Cardiff is only 2 hours from London by train.
- ▶ Cardiff has a 70,000 seated stadium, an international sports village and a football league soccer club: Cardiff City FC.
- ▶ Cardiff has more than 330 parks and gardens.
- ▶ Residents voted Cardiff one of the best cities to live in Europe (Urban Audit Sponsored by the European Commission).
- ▶ The popular TV shows Doctor Who and Torchwood are filmed in Cardiff.
- ▶ Selected as the European Capital of Sport for 2014.
- ▶ Named as 6th best shopping destination in the UK, Cardiff has a new £675 million shopping centre in the city centre.
- ▶ Welsh is Europe's oldest living language and is spoken by 20% of the population.



Weather in Cardiff

The average temperature in Cardiff in Winter is 7°C, and in Summer temperatures can reach up to 30°C. With four seasons, the weather in the UK is generally unpredictable and can vary considerably; however, Cardiff experiences less rainfall than other areas of Wales and is consistent with the rest of the UK.

Cardiff: the University



Cardiff University has an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, built on a history of service and achievement since 1883, and recognised by our membership of the Russell Group of leading research-led universities.

A History of Achievement

The University was founded in 1883 when it was granted its own Royal Charter. Today, we are a member of the Russell Group, the UK's top 24 research-intensive universities. We attract students from more than 100 countries and our research funding from the Research Councils, public bodies, industry, commerce and other sources exceeds £100m annually. We have celebrated a number of achievements during the past few years. Notably Cardiff University was ranked 5th amongst UK universities when judged on research quality and second when judged on its impact in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, a prestigious national assessment exercise carried out periodically by the UK funding councils. This has confirmed our place as a world-leading centre of research excellence. Our leading academic researchers are international experts in the fields of sociology, criminology, education and social work and include outstanding professionals such as a fellow of the British Academy and a winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the British Sociological Association.

In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework our research in Sociology was ranked 3rd in the UK for quality and our work in Education was ranked 5th. In both areas, over 80% of our work was classed as internationally excellent or world leading.

We actively pursue collaborations which will help us to deliver social and economic benefits for Wales, the UK and the world.

We collaborate with major universities and scholars internationally and enjoy excellent links with local businesses, public and third sector organisations, policy makers and practitioners. We are partners in the ESRC What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, host the Wales Institute for Social and Economic Research, Data & Methods and lead the Centre for Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHER). Looking to the future, further partnerships and collaboration are central to our mission to be a world-leading university; both internally – through interdisciplinary teams – and externally, through links with organisations of all types, nationally and internationally.

Location

Our Cathays Park campus is located in and around the impressive Portland stone buildings, parks and wide tree-lined avenues that form Cardiff's attractive civic centre. The majority of academic schools are located here - just a few minutes' walk from the city centre. The four academic schools offering healthcare courses (excluding Optometry and Pharmacy) are based at the Heath Park campus, approximately one mile away, which is also home to the University Hospital of Wales.

The School of Social Sciences is located in the historic Glamorgan building and lies within a few minutes walking distance of the main University buildings and Cardiff city centre's amenities.

Facilities

The Glamorgan building, once home to Glamorgan county council, now boasts excellent teaching and learning facilities, including two large computer labs, lecture theatres with the latest audio-visual technology, and a suite of tutorial rooms. Extensive resources and support are available to our students in the University's Bute Library and Arts and Social Studies Library. The School also has a friendly and informal coffee bar where students and staff can meet and relax.

Facilities and Services for Postgraduates

We are committed to providing high quality facilities and services to meet the specific needs of our postgraduate community.

The Graduate Centre

Our Graduate Centre is dedicated to meeting the needs of postgraduate students, through provision of a wide range of study and social resources and services, exclusive to postgraduates, which complement those offered by our academic schools. The Centre provides a focal point for the broader taught and research postgraduate community, giving you the opportunity to meet and socialise with others in a friendly and relaxed environment. A smaller facility is located in the Main Hospital for postgraduates based at the Heath Park Campus.



10 Facts About Cardiff University

- ▶ We came 5th in the UK based on research quality (REF 2014), and top 1.5% in the world (QS World Ranking).
- ▶ We are a member of the elite Russell Group of top 24 UK research-led universities.
- ▶ We have more than 28,000 students from more than 110 countries.
- ▶ Employment rates for our students are higher than the UK average (HESA 2012/13).
- ▶ Accommodation in University residences is guaranteed for most international students and is within walking distance of the University.
- ▶ We have 18 libraries, 28 IT suites, a Wi-Fi enabled campus and more than 1.5 million books.
- ▶ The University is on two campuses at the very centre of Cardiff, the capital city of Wales. Cardiff is only two hours from London by train.
- ▶ Our teaching was given the highest possible award in the last UK Government review. Our degree programmes are also recognised by more than 40 professional bodies.
- ▶ The University generates more than £100m annually from research grants and contracts.
- ▶ University Professor Sir Martin Evans FRS is a Nobel Prize winner for Medicine.

Study Facilities

There is wireless access to the University's computing network throughout the Graduate Centre and a dedicated computer room with 35 networked terminals, printers, scanner and photocopier. Five meeting rooms provide space for study and project groups, training workshops, seminars, presentations and meetings. A reading room offers individual quiet study space for up to 35 people. The Lounge provides an informal space for group study, as well as additional computing. At Heath Park, there is a study room which is also equipped with a projector and a whiteboard, so it can be booked by postgraduates for seminars or meetings. Wifi access and computers for student use are available across the campus.

Social Venue & Activities

The Graduate Centre hosts a programme of social events specifically for postgraduates, to give you the opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow students. These include two weeks of welcome events for new students in October, plus film nights, quiz nights during the autumn term, a summer party in June and other one-off events throughout the year. We also run a programme of coach trips with excursions to various UK destinations such as Oxford, Stonehenge, Longleat Safari Park and more. The Café Bar is modern and cosy, providing space for postgraduates to relax with friends,

watch TV, play on the Wii, and take a break from their studies. It can also be booked free of charge for postgraduate-led events. At Heath Park, the social space also includes a TV, BluRay player and Wii console. There is a licensed bar service, run by the Students' Union, which is open some weeknights and for special events.

The University Graduate College

The University Graduate College supports the work of our academic Schools and supervisors and enhances the experience of postgraduate research students by:

- ▶ Fostering an intellectually stimulating environment through encouraging postgraduate research students to become part of the wider research community;
- ▶ Providing a comprehensive, integrated skills development programme for research students;
- ▶ Ensuring a quality research experience by working with Schools, supervisors and postgraduate research students to provide information and guidance based on the University's Code of Practice for Research Degrees;
- ▶ Developing the facilities and services for postgraduate researchers.

The formal training available to postgraduate research students is known as the University Graduate College Programme for Postgraduate Researchers.

Looking to the future, further partnerships and collaboration are central to the University's mission to be a world-leading university . . .

Accommodation

Your Guarantee of Accommodation
International/EU postgraduate students are guaranteed a single-occupancy place in University residences for the full duration of your studies.
This is provided you apply through the normal admission and allocation process, and re-apply for residences each year through the overseas returners process.



We know that where you live is very important to you. You will want to settle quickly and live in a secure, well-located, sociable location that is also a suitable study environment.

This is why Cardiff University provides all international/EU postgraduate students guaranteed accommodation in one of our highly-ranked University residences.

We have numerous residences, each with different facilities, in different locations and at different costs. All international/EU postgraduate students are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University residences for the duration of their studies providing you submit an online application and make a pre-payment by the specified deadline.

Living in a University residence provides an opportunity to meet and get to know students from a variety of backgrounds, studying a range of different subjects.

Your choices include:

- ▶ single or mixed gender accommodation.
- ▶ private or shared bathrooms. About 70% of University residences have private bathrooms ('ensuite').
- ▶ self-catered, part-catered or fully catered (with vegetarian options).
- ▶ a variety of social and sporting facilities.

There is a very limited supply of residences suitable for couples and families. We are therefore unable to guarantee this type of residence and priority in the allocation process is given to students coming from overseas for their first year of study. You should not bring your family to Cardiff until suitable accommodation has been secured.

Close to the School

Cardiff's residences are very well located, with many residences being a short distance from the School. The majority of students are able to walk or cycle easily to their lectures every day.

Safe and supportive

One of the advantages of University residences is the support you are offered. Each residence has a network of administrative staff, student wardens and security staff that provide 24-hour assistance. Only students, guests of students and staff are allowed on University residences sites. This makes them safe and secure.

What do University residences provide?

A typical apartment in University residences could include six study bedrooms. Six occupants would share a kitchen. Every student has their own bedroom. Each room has a bed, desk, chair, wardrobe and storage. You won't need to buy additional furniture. Also Halls of Residence bedrooms are connected to the University network and highspeed internet. In your flat you will have access to a shared kitchen/dining room. This area includes a cooker, refrigerator, sink, table and chairs. If you choose 'ensuite' you will have your own bathroom with shower.

How much do University residences cost?

The cost of residences depends on several factors, including the residence you choose, length of stay, meal options and whether you want private bathroom facilities. University residences are very good value as the cost includes water, electricity, security, furniture and internet access. As everything is included in one price, it helps you more easily budget.

For the 2014/15 year self-catering residences ranged from £82 – £115 a week. Part/fully catered residences ranged from £99 – £119 a week. Rooms with private bathrooms are generally more expensive than rooms with shared bathrooms.

Private Sector Accommodation

For UK students and any international or EU students who wish to rent privately owned accommodation, there is a great choice of accommodation available for rental in the city – including a good variety within walking distance of the University and city centre.

The University's Residences Office can help by providing you with lists of properties that are currently available to rent. Detailed advice on tenancy agreements and other aspects of living in private sector accommodation is available via the University's Student Support Centre or the Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre. The Students' Union also runs a letting agency, details of which can be found at:

www.cardiffstudentletting.com

If you are looking for private accommodation you should arrange to visit Cardiff before the start of term as it is not advisable to arrange such accommodation either by post or telephone. When you come to Cardiff for this purpose, you can take advantage of low cost accommodation in our halls provided your visit is outside term-time and that you arrange this with us in advance. Details can be found at:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/summer

House Hunting Event

The University organises an annual House Hunting Event that usually takes place during August aimed at new and current Cardiff University postgraduate students who are looking for shared rented accommodation for the next academic year. Further details here:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/postgraduate/House hunting](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/postgraduate/House_hunting)

How does Cardiff compare with other places?

Cardiff has many advantages which make it a cheaper place to study than other university cities. These include:

- ▶ Cardiff is a compact city and the University is in the middle – therefore you won't have far to travel between the University, city centre shops and your accommodation.
- ▶ Cardiff is also very flat, making it easy to walk or cycle around. You won't need to spend money on buses or taxis.
- ▶ Cardiff council runs bicycle and car sharing schemes. This will make it even easier for you to get around without large extra costs.

Living Expenses

We estimate that a single student in Cardiff would need £800 a month. These estimates are based on the actual experiences of students living in Cardiff. This means that a postgraduate student (September – June) needs £9,573 a year. These estimates include accommodation, bills, food, books, clothes, travel, telephone and social expenses.

If you are intending to bring family members such as a spouse or child, you will need to have at least an extra £400 a month for each family member.



About the School of Social Sciences



The School of Social Sciences is a thriving centre for teaching and research in the social sciences, with an excellent reputation in all areas.

Around 300 undergraduate and 100 postgraduate students join us each year to follow degrees in our interdisciplinary centre of study.

The building and facilities

The School of Social Sciences is located in the historic (Grade 1 listed) Glamorgan Building in Cardiff's prestigious Civic Centre, overlooking the scenic Cathays Park. Not just architecturally spectacular, the building is also a popular filming location for BBC series, including Doctor Who and Sherlock.

It is within a few minutes walking distance of the main University buildings and the Students' Union, as well as being convenient for Cardiff city centre's amenities, shops, and transport links.

The Building, once home to Glamorgan County Council, now boasts excellent teaching and learning facilities, including two large computer labs, lecture theatres with the latest audio-visual technology, and a suite of tutorial rooms. Extensive resources and support are available to our students in the University's Bute Library and Arts and Social Studies Library. The School also has a friendly and informal coffee bar where students and staff can meet and relax.

Postgraduate Taught Programmes



Our range of postgraduate taught programmes provides opportunities for students to engage in advanced study in a research-led, interdisciplinary environment.

In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework our research in Sociology was ranked 3rd in the UK for quality and our work in Education was ranked 5th. In both areas, over 80% of our work was classed as internationally excellent or world leading.

We offer modular degree Master's programmes that allow students to pursue focussed studies relevant for developing academic interests and expertise, engaging in informed democratic public debate and activism, as well as entering into a range of vocations across the public and private sectors.

Postgraduate students are taught by leading scholars who are recognised for their substantive, theoretical and methodological expertise both nationally and internationally; students benefit from a breadth of substantive, theoretical and methodological expertise.

Teaching methods and assessment

The School prides itself on research-led teaching; the content of all courses is based on key research carried out by staff within the School and the international academic community. Our curriculum is regularly updated to reflect the cutting edge of each subject area. Teaching is mainly delivered through lectures and discussion-based seminar groups.

Our students take primary responsibility for their own learning with encouragement and support from school staff. Students can take advantage of the opportunities to succeed through learning provided in lectures, seminars, tutorials, feedback and during supervision, but private or independent study is also crucial for developing research skills and knowledge of social science. This includes background reading, preparing for seminars, conducting research, completing assignments and revising.

Graduate Destinations

Graduates from the School of Social Sciences have pursued a wide range of careers in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Students in our postgraduate programmes are often already working, or go on to find work in graduate and professional occupations in fields such as education, health and social care, family policy, youth and community work, justice, international development, charity work, workforce development and skills training, public relations and the media, cultural work, government policy making and administration, academic research, and business planning and management.

MSc in Childhood and Youth

The MSc in Childhood and Youth offers a unique opportunity to study in one of the UK's leading centres for childhood and youth based research.

The aim of the programme is to help you develop the ability to critically analyse dominant understandings of childhood and youth, learn about methodological approaches to research with children and young people, and consider the impact of childhood and youth policies and practices through a sociological lens.

This programme offers you the exciting opportunity to work in a truly interdisciplinary social science environment and to benefit from a breadth of substantive, theoretical and methodological expertise with leading childhood and youth scholars. It is suitable for students wishing to work in child and youth-focused research, policy and advocacy roles in the private, public and voluntary sector, both nationally and internationally.

Course Structure

The MSc in Childhood and Youth is organised around a sequence of three specialist modules in education, two modules in social science theory and research methods, and one supervised dissertation.

Specialist modules:

- ▶ **Contemporary issues in childhood and youth studies:** Focusing on core theoretical approaches to understanding childhood and youth in culture and society from a number of disciplines, as well as considering a range of substantive issues and areas of contemporary research in children and youth studies
- ▶ **Childhood, youth and policy:** Enabling students to learn about and critically evaluate selected public policies and professional practices affecting children and young people in Wales, the UK and internationally (taught in two 2-day workshops)

- ▶ **Research with Children and Young People:** Introducing and developing knowledge and understanding of a range of methodological approaches to researching with children of all ages across a variety of social and cultural contexts (taught in two 2-day workshops)

All students are required to take Contemporary issues in childhood and youth studies and at least one of the other two specialist modules. (In some cases, you may opt to substitute one of these two modules with an alternative specialist module).

Social science theory and research methods modules:

- ▶ **Principles and practices of research design:** Providing an introduction to the principles and practice of social science research design and methods, and to the main data collection methods used in social sciences
- ▶ **Critical perspectives in social science:** Introducing students to, and advancing their understanding of, some of the leading theoretical perspectives and concepts in the social sciences

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a 20,000 word dissertation on a childhood and youth topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching methods

The teaching on the MSc Childhood and Youth Programme is research-informed and led by internationally renowned researchers and scholars. The modules employ a diverse range of teaching including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, and independent guided study.

You will have the opportunity to develop and practice advanced oral and written communication through formative tasks such as presentation of preparatory reading, group problem-based learning tasks, group presentations and substantive assessment including essays, project reports and poster presentations.

Most of the modules involve weekly meetings over the course of a three month academic semester, except for two of the modules on the programme, which are taught as a cluster of day-long workshops, each focusing on cutting-edge policy and research issues.

Careers and employability

Graduates from this programme will have a theoretical, methodological and substantive foundation from which they can critically evaluate how contemporary social structures, institutions, media, policies and practices impact upon children and young people's everyday lives.

It provides a good foundation for those wishing to go on to further training in a variety of professional fields involving work with children and young people, such as education, health and social care, family policy, youth work, justice, international development and charity work. The programme will also be attractive to individuals already working with children and young people in a range of different roles and professions.

MSc in Crime, Safety and Justice

The overall aim and distinctive quality of this MSc is to produce postgraduates capable of ‘problem-solving’ in the field of Crime, Safety and Justice.

The course structure is based on the ‘SARA’ mnemonic (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) which is familiar in policing and crime prevention practice as well as in the academy and in applied as well as in basic criminological research. The programme also develops research skills by providing training in research methods and aims to maximise career prospects by providing transferable skills.

The MSc in Crime, Safety and Justice is informed by the priorities of the UK College of Policing as well as by a dialogue with members of the School of Social Sciences’ external advisory group, including representatives from the police, local government and other regulatory agencies with an interest in issues of crime and community safety.

The programme often includes guest lectures from analysts concerned with issues of community safety in outside agencies such as the police, local government, commercial security and other relevant organisations.

Course Structure

The MSc in Crime, Safety and Justice is organised around a sequence of two specialist modules in criminology, two modules in social science theory and research methods, and one supervised dissertation on a criminological topic of your choice.

Specialist modules:

- ▶ **Researching crime, safety and justice:** Equipping students with an understanding of what sources of data are available to social researchers from secondary and primary sources, including the internet and the increasing importance of social media communications, and what analytical approaches can be used to interpret these sources
- ▶ **Responses to crime, safety and justice:** Focusing on the responses implied by the scanning and analysis of problems of crime, safety and justice considered in the other compulsory module for this degree and debates

over the appropriate assessment of these responses in outcome and process evaluations

- ▶ **Optional module:** Selected from a list of optional modules from postgraduate programmes in and outside of the School of Social Sciences (including: Criminal Justice in Europe and Legal Theory offered by the School of Law and Politics)

Social science theory and research methods modules:

- ▶ **Principles and practices of research design:** Providing an introduction to the principles and practice of social science research design and methods, and to the main data collection methods used in social sciences
- ▶ **Critical perspectives in social science:** Introducing students to, and advancing their understanding of, some of the leading theoretical perspectives and concepts in the social sciences

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a 20,000 word dissertation on a criminological topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching Methods

The teaching on the MSc Crime, Safety and Justice is varied across modules. Modules 1 – 3 will each be taught over 11 weeks via two hour sessions. This will enable the module to be attended by part time students and professionals taking these modules on a free standing basis, where there may be a need to take time out from ongoing work commitments. Teaching will be varied and include lectures, group discussions, group problem-based learning and student presentations

of preparatory and classroom based work. You will be required to undertake preparatory reading for each session. Modules 4 and 5 will each be taught over 11 weeks through two hour sessions and in accordance with the teaching methods adopted for modules 1-3. In addition, students on these two modules will attend 5 two hour seminars relating general theories and research methods in social science to the criminological subject matter of the MSc in Crime, Safety and Justice. You will begin planning your dissertation in the Autumn Semester with supervision commencing in the Spring Semester through to submission. All students are invited to join the joint School of Social Sciences and School of Law and Politics monthly Centre for Crime, Law and Justice research seminars.

Careers and employability

The general shift from subject-centred to problem-oriented learning reflects, in part, the interests of prospective employers in graduates with the skill set to apply subject specific knowledge about crime, safety and justice to the analysis of, and response to, particular instances of these problems in the public, voluntary and commercial sectors. There is also an increasing demand for graduates with evaluative skills to assess the outcomes not just the outputs of the responses made by prospective employers to these problems. In this regard, it is anticipated that the career prospects for graduates from this programme could include the following:

Job Roles: crime analysts, security managers, crime prevention partnership co-ordinators, community safety managers, pressure group campaigners, loss prevention officers.

Public Sector: police, local authorities, environment agencies, food standard agencies, health and safety executive, public health organisations, offender management services.

Voluntary Sector: retail companies (e.g. clothing stores, electronic goods, supermarkets), financial services, commercial security organisations.

MSc in Education, Policy and Society

The focus on both interdisciplinary social science theory and research to re-think and re-imagine educational practices and principles is central to the MSc in Education, Policy and Society.

The MSc in Education, Policy and Society aims to help you develop the ability to critically analyse dominant educational ideologies, policies and practices; to understand the forces that are driving them, their shortcomings and likely outcomes; and most importantly, to discover and engage with alternative models of education, training, teaching and learning, at the early childhood, primary, secondary and post-secondary levels, and in nonformal and informal contexts outside the formal education system.

This programme is unique as it is one of the few Master's level courses focusing on education that is offered by an interdisciplinary School of Social Sciences; the approach to education here is shaped by a strong belief in the value of interdisciplinary social science theory and research for enhancing our collective ability to re-think, re-imagine and enhance educational practices, policies and principles, whether at the local, national or global level.

The MSc in Education, Policy & Society is designed for students wanting to develop the capacity to critically analyse educational practice, policy and ideology, to develop a more clear "big picture" understanding of the broader structures and forces that are affecting schools, universities and education systems today, and to find out about and deepen their understanding of alternative ways of thinking about and doing education. This may include those who have recently completed undergraduate courses of study as well as individuals currently working as practitioners.

Course Structure

The MSc in Education, Policy and Society is organised around a sequence of three specialist modules in education, two modules in social science theory and research methods, and a supervised dissertation on an educational topic of your choice.

Specialist modules:

- ▶ **Global educational alternatives:** developing students' knowledge and understanding of educational practices, pedagogies, theories and research, drawn from across the global North and South, that seek to provide alternatives to the prevailing neoliberal model of marketised, vocationalised, credentialist and hierarchical forms of schooling
- ▶ **International and comparative skills systems:** developing students' knowledge and understanding of skills and skills systems in different national contexts, and exploring the impact of growing internationalisation on skill development, labour mobility and inequality
- ▶ **Social contexts of education:** providing students with a set of theoretical frameworks and critical analytical tools that are helpful for examining and understanding questions of power, politics, ideology and inequality in a broad range of educational practices, structures, policies and discourses

All students are required to take at least two of these three specialist modules. In some cases, you may opt to substitute one of these modules with an alternative specialist module from one of the School's other postgraduate programmes. These may include specialist modules such as: Changing Modes of Professionalism; Contemporary Issues in Childhood and Youth Studies; Debates in Educational Research; Research with Children and Young People; Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century; Visitor Studies.

Social science theory and research methods modules:

- ▶ **Principles and practices of research design:** Providing an introduction to the principles and practice of social science research design and methods, and to the main data collection methods used in social sciences

▶ Critical perspectives in social science:

Introducing students to, and advancing their understanding of, some of the leading theoretical perspectives and concepts in the social sciences

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a 20,000 word dissertation on an educational topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching methods

Modules on the MSc in Education, Policy and Society are delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and independent guided study, and offer extensive opportunities for small group learning. All of the modules involve weekly meetings over the course of a three-month academic semester, except for Social Contexts of Education, which is offered as an intensive three day learning event. Modules are assessed by a combination of essays, reports, reviews and presentations. There are no examinations.

Careers and employability

The programme is designed to be of use and interest to individuals who are already working or are hoping to find future roles in a wide range of occupations involving education, teaching and learning, including in primary, secondary, further and higher education; workforce development and skills training; youth and community work; and public, private and third sector programme development and administration.

MSc Social Science

This distinctive programme provides a unique opportunity to tailor your studies drawing from a range of modules across the School of Social Sciences. You will work in a truly inter-disciplinary social science environment and benefit from substantive, theoretical and methodological expertise.

The MSc in Social Science is one of the few courses available in the UK that provides you with the freedom to piece together your own programme of study drawing from a number of different fields such as childhood and youth studies; crime, safety and justice; education; social and public policy. As such, each student will experience the course in a very different way, depending on the modules selected.

The programme is distinctive because it offers exciting opportunities to work in a truly inter-disciplinary social science environment and to benefit from a breadth of substantive, theoretical and methodological expertise with leading scholars. You will also have the opportunity to develop your expertise in social theory and research methods and design through the core modules offered on the programme.

You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of social scientific theory and research methods alongside more specialist material from a selection of fields within the School of Social Sciences.

Course Structure

The MSc in Social Science is organised around two modules in social science theory and research methods, a supervised dissertation on a social scientific topic of your choice, and three specialist modules taken from other postgraduate programmes offered by the School of Social Sciences.

Specialist modules

You will be required to take three specialist modules from other postgraduate courses offered at the School of Social Sciences.

Available modules will vary from year to year but may include the following:

- ▶ **Changing modes of professionalism**
- ▶ **Childhood, youth and policy**
- ▶ **Contemporary issues in childhood and youth studies**
- ▶ **Debates in educational research**
- ▶ **Democracy, politics and institutions**
- ▶ **Global educational alternatives**
- ▶ **International and comparative skills systems**
- ▶ **Research with children and young people**
- ▶ **Responses to crime, safety and justice**
- ▶ **Social contexts of education**
- ▶ **Teaching and learning in the 21st century**
- ▶ **Visitor studies**

You also have the opportunity to take a 'negotiated study' module as one of your choices if you wish. This module involves negotiating and engaging in a field of study outside of the set modules offered by the School in order to develop a particular interest or area of expertise.

Social science theory and research methods modules:

- ▶ **Principles and practices of research design:** Providing an introduction to the principles and practice of social science research design and methods, and to the main data collection methods used in social sciences
- ▶ **Critical perspectives in social science:** Introducing students to, and advancing their understanding of, some of the leading theoretical perspectives and concepts in the social sciences

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a 20,000 word dissertation on a social scientific topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching methods

The MSc in Social Science modules employ a diverse range of teaching including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, and independent guided study. You will have the opportunity to develop and practice advanced oral and written communication through formative tasks such as presentation of preparatory reading, group problem-based learning tasks, group presentations and substantive assessment including essay, project report and poster presentation.

Most of the modules involve weekly meetings over the course of a three-month academic semester, but a few are taught as clusters of day-long workshops, often taking place at weekends. Your timetable depends on the modules you select.

Careers and employability

The programme is suitable for anyone wishing to enhance their academic record and employability profile, providing a range of transferrable skills for the workplace, as well as a foundation for those wishing to go on to further training in a variety of professional fields.

MSc in Science, Media and Communication

The MSc in Science, Media and Communication is offered jointly with the School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies and Techniquest, a science discovery centre based in Cardiff.

The programme offers knowledge and expertise relating to the organisation and funding of scientific research, the reporting of scientific innovation and controversy, and the role of citizens, experts and the media in decision making. You will receive practical, hands-on training in presenting science via news media or directly to audiences ranging from school children to the general public.

This is an innovative, interdisciplinary degree based on collaboration between internationally respected academics and a leading science discovery centre with strong links to a wide range of media and science organisations including the national museum of Wales, Wales Gene Park, local and national media, science communication centres, and policy makers in regional, national and European institutions.

Course Structure

The MSc in Science Media and Communication is organised around a sequence of five specialist modules, one optional module and a supervised dissertation.

Specialist modules:

- ▶ **Principles and practices of research design:** Providing an introduction to the principles and practice of social science research design and methods, and to the main data collection methods used in social sciences
- ▶ **Introduction to science, technology and society:** introducing students to a range of social science perspectives and methodologies for exploring and understanding the contemporary importance of science and technology in modern society
- ▶ **International news production 1:** giving a general orientation and clear understanding of best principles and practice in print, broadcast and online journalism before students choose whether to follow a broadcast news (+ online), documentary, newspaper (+ online) or magazine (+ online) skills pathway
- ▶ **Visitor studies:** providing a critical understanding of the role of museums and visitor centres in communicating science, examining the core assumptions, concepts and techniques adopted by museum communicators
- ▶ **Media, science and health:** examining the production, content and reception in health and science reporting, whether it involves 'moral panics' about the threat of climate change, fears about genetically modified food, or concerns about cloning

Optional modules

You will be required to take one module in addition to the specialist modules. Indicative options include:

- ▶ **Presenting science (Delivered by Techniquest)**
- ▶ **International news production 2**
- ▶ **Citizen media**
- ▶ **International relations for journalists**
- ▶ **Media, activism and participation**

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a 20,000 word dissertation on a relevant topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching methods

Modules on the MSc in Science, Media and Communication are delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and independent guided study, and offer extensive opportunities for small group learning. Modules are assessed by a combination of essays, reports, reviews and presentations. There are no examinations.

Careers and employability

The course is particularly suitable for professionals and others pursuing careers in Science Communication. This includes careers in political parties, public relations, government agencies, statutory and voluntary organisations, 'think tanks', museums and the media.

MSc in Social and Public Policy

The MSc in Social and Public Policy equips students with the theoretical, conceptual and analytical tools to examine contemporary social and public policies in both national and international contexts.

It will enable you to draw on theories and concepts and interpret a range of forms of evidence in analysing policy developments and their social impacts. You will conduct your own analyses and present these in written work and oral presentations.

The MSc in Social and Public Policy is one of the few courses offered by an interdisciplinary School of Social Sciences. As such, the approach to social and public policy offered here is shaped by a strong belief in the value of interdisciplinary social science theory and research and the importance of understanding the relationship between social and public policy and the other social sciences.

This is an ideal programme for students who want to develop their capacity to analyse social and public policies nationally and internationally. It will enable you to deepen your understanding of the major aspects of social and public policy, including competing conceptions of citizenship and how these inform social policy; contemporary forms of governance and public policy implementation, and the use of theories and research evidence to analyse and explain social and public policy change.

Course Structure

The MSc in Social and Public Policy is organised around a sequence of three specialist modules, two modules in social science theory and research methods, and one supervised dissertation on a social or public policy topic of your choice.

Specialist modules:

- ▶ **International and comparative social and public policy:** examining social and public policies in an international and comparative context, focusing on a number of thematic areas such as welfare state change, climate change, and equal opportunities
- ▶ **Participative citizenship:** exploring the concept of citizenship and analysing policies which seek to grant and expand citizenship rights
- ▶ **Democracy and governance:** exploring the concept of governance and its implications for policy-making with reference to issues including representation, accountability, and legitimacy. Attention centres on the twin notions of 'multi-level' and 'inclusive' governance

Social science theory and research methods modules:

- ▶ **Principles and practices of research design:** Providing an introduction to the principles and practice of social science research design and methods, and to the main data collection methods used in social sciences
- ▶ **Critical perspectives in social science:** Introducing students to, and advancing their understanding of, some of the leading theoretical perspectives and concepts in the social sciences

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a 20,000 word dissertation on a social or public policy topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching methods

Modules on the MSc in Social and Public Policy are delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and independent guided study, and offer extensive opportunities for small group learning.

International and Comparative Social and Public Policy involve weekly meetings over the course of a three month academic semester, while Participative Citizenship and Democracy and Governance are offered as intensive three-day learning events.

Modules are assessed by a combination of essays, reports, reviews and presentations. There are no examinations.

Careers and employability

The course is suitable for students who have recently completed undergraduate courses of study, as well as those working in the community and voluntary sector, think-tanks, as researchers, or at different levels of government.

MSc in Social Science Research Methods

The MSc in Social Science Research Methods aims to provide advanced training in research methods across the full range of the social sciences.

You will be provided with a thorough theoretical and practical knowledge of how to construct effective research studies, of the variety of data collection methods available to the social scientist and of the principal methods of analysing social scientific data. You will also be introduced to the political and ethical frameworks within which social science research is conducted, and to some of the ways in which the results of social science research are disseminated.

The course pathways have Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) recognition and each provides the appropriate training basis for proceeding to a PhD. These programmes provide extensive opportunities for interdisciplinary study, the application of social research expertise for occupational career development, and the pursuit of substantive areas of interest at Master's level.

Course Structure

The MSc takes one year to complete on a full-time basis, and usually takes two years if studied part-time.

Taught modules are divided into five core modules.

- ▶ **Research Applications:** critically exploring the various applications of research to different settings. Students tailor their learning by selecting from a menu of options
 - ▶ **Quantitative Research Methods:** introducing students to the systematic collection and analysis of quantitative data, including a broad range of commonly used statistical techniques
 - ▶ **Qualitative Research Methods:** providing knowledge, training and practice in the collection, analysis and representation of qualitative data
 - ▶ **Core Competencies for PG students:** introducing students to essential postgraduate social science survival skills. The module ends with an end-of-year Student Conference
- ▶ **Foundations in Social Science Research:** introducing philosophical/theoretical concepts alongside practical issues of research method choice and design
- You will also study one specialist module depending on the pathway you choose from the following:
- ▶ **Business and Management Studies**
 - **Banking, Finance and Accounting (Cardiff Business School)**
 - **Human Resource Management (Cardiff Business School)**
 - **Logistics and Operations Management (Cardiff Business School)**
 - **Marketing and Strategy (Cardiff Business School)**
 - ▶ **Criminology (School of Social Sciences)**
 - ▶ **Education (School of Social Sciences)**
 - ▶ **Environmental Planning (School of Planning and Geography)**
 - ▶ **International Relations (School of Modern Languages / Politics and International Relations)**
 - ▶ **Politics (School of Modern Languages / Politics and International Relations)**
 - ▶ **Psychology (School of Psychology)**
 - ▶ **Science and Technology Studies (School of Social Sciences)**
 - ▶ **Social Policy (School of Social Sciences)**
 - ▶ **Social Work (School of Social Sciences)**
 - ▶ **Socio-Legal Studies (Cardiff Law School)**
 - ▶ **Sociology (School of Social Sciences)**

Dissertation

You will be required to produce a dissertation (max, 20,000 words) on a relevant topic of your choice. The dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project.

Teaching methods

Taught by research-active staff, including internationally renowned scholars in qualitative and quantitative methods, the Social Science Research Methods programme offers an excellent environment in which to exchange ideas and experiences across disciplinary boundaries within the social sciences.

Careers and employability

The programmes provides knowledge and expertise suitable for careers in research and development, business, market studies, public agencies at international, national and local levels, education, teaching and other public services work, and voluntary organisations.

MSc in Skills and Workforce Development

Taught by leading international experts, the part-time MSc in Skills and Workforce Development aims to equip students with the latest ideas and analysis in the field of skills, workforce development and employment.

This innovative Master's programme has been designed by Cardiff University in partnership with the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL), Singapore and is targeted at professionals working as policy advisors, managers, researchers and practitioners in the field of skills formation, workforce planning, enterprise development and labour market analysis in Singapore and the East Asian region.

In this exciting new programme, you will explore pressing contemporary issues such as sustainable economic development, the future of work, inequality and social inclusion. By bringing together different disciplines and comparative policy debates, you will have the opportunity to examine the latest theories and research evidence and consequently apply them to national, sector and workplace settings. In addition, you will gain essential knowledge and analytical skills for tackling challenges in the workplace, accessing future opportunities or pursuing a doctoral qualification.

This part-time programme has been designed to fit around your professional commitments. Modules will be delivered by Cardiff University faculty through a combination of intensive learning events in Singapore and high quality on-line resources and remote learning activities.

Course Structure

The programme is completed over two years with a combination of five-day evening and weekend learning events in Singapore and online interactive learning. The programme comprises four taught modules and a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice.

Each of the four taught modules is designed to be completed over four months. At the start of each module you

will have access to module materials via the virtual learning environment which provides.

- ▶ **An overview of the module and its intended learning outcomes;**
- ▶ **An introduction to the key content and concepts underpinning the module;**
- ▶ **Resources and tasks to support independent learning;**
- ▶ **Information regarding the assessment of the module**

Taught modules

You will also study one specialist module depending on the pathway you choose from the following:

- ▶ **Skills and Performance in the Workplace:** based around a 5-day learning event at the IAL, this module focuses on the organisational level and explores the patterns and distribution of skills in the workplace
- ▶ **Workforce Development Policy and Competitiveness:** taught through a variety of on-line and remote learning activities, focusing on developing knowledge and understanding of the challenges for national skills policy in delivering economic performance
- ▶ **Globalisation and the Future of Work:** taught through an intensive learning event at the IAL, this module critically assesses different theories of globalisation, new technologies and the future of work, examining the changing relationship between skills, jobs and incomes in a context of intense global competition for high skilled work
- ▶ **Research Methods and Techniques in Context:** supported by five days teaching at the IAL, the final taught module develops the knowledge and rigorous techniques relevant to researching skills, labour markets and workforce development in a range of national and globalised contexts

Dissertation

The 12,000 word dissertation involves a small scale independent piece of research, enabling you to develop your interests in a substantive area related to the programme, and to put into practice the knowledge and skills developed through participation in the taught modules. You will be allocated a personal dissertation supervisor for the duration of the project. Other support is provided through a variety of e-resources.

Teaching methods

Modules are delivered through a combination of intensive 5-day learning events including lectures, seminars and workshops in Singapore, combined with innovative on-line and remote interactive learning. The 5-day learning events include three evenings (Wednesday to Friday) and full days on Saturday and Sunday.

Teaching in Singapore will be conducted by Cardiff University faculty. Additional academic support is provided before and after intensive learning events through on-line provision and local guest lectures. Modules are assessed by a combination of essays, reports and reviews.

Assessment takes the form of coursework only, with no written examinations.

Careers and employability

A key aim is to contribute to individual career advancement and build the next generation of senior policy makers, divisional directors, researchers and other professionals. The MSc also provides a basis for students to undertake further study such as a research degree (PhD).

Research Programmes

We offer PhD and Professional Doctorate opportunities. Research students join a vibrant academic and research environment, with supervision by leading experts in their field.

Overview

The School of Social Sciences is committed to theoretically informed empirical research. We collaborate with major universities and international agencies around the world, and local policy makers and practitioners. Interdisciplinary research training is a strong feature of our PhD Programme. All research students have an opportunity to pursue their studies in an interdisciplinary way.

Research in the School is shaped and supported by a range of research centres, including the Cardiff Centre for Crime, Law and Justice (CCLJ), the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE), the Centre for the Study of Knowledge, Expertise and Science (KES) and the Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD).

Outside academia, our research has positive impacts on people's lives, such as protecting victims of domestic violence, promoting better treatment of employees with disabilities, and improving community policing. We also provide expert advice that informs national and international policy debates on a wide range of topics including equality, sustainability, skills, and employment.

Research Programmes:

PhD in Social Sciences

Our PhD programmes are influenced by a strong focus on research training and are committed to theoretically informed research with a clear policy focus. The PhD can either be studied as a 1-2 years MPhil, 3 years full-time or 5 years part-time PhD.

Applicants from a range of different areas of study are welcome. These include sociology, social policy, social work, education and criminology. With these backgrounds, our staff and students focus their research on a number of different interdisciplinary themes:

- ▶ Crime, Security and Justice (PhD/MPhil)
- ▶ Culture, Transformation and Subjectivity (PhD/MPhil)
- ▶ Health, Wellbeing and Social Care (PhD/MPhil)
- ▶ Methods and Methodology (PhD/MPhil)
- ▶ Knowledge, Science and Technology (PhD/MPhil)
- ▶ Education, Work and Globalisation (PhD/MPhil)

Professional Doctorate

The Professional Doctorate is a part-time doctoral research degree that integrates academic and professional knowledge in new ways. The scheme is designed to develop the capabilities of individuals to work within a professional context. At the School of Social Sciences we offer a Professional Doctorate scheme within which education, health, social work and social policy professionals engage together in integrated learning for some of the taught modules. This inter-professional learning allows students to reflect on what is shared across professional boundaries and what is distinctive to their own occupational traditions.

The scheme is aimed at managers and practitioners who are experienced and who are working at senior and middle levels of their professions and organisations.

It offers the opportunity to examine contemporary leading theories and research evidence and to apply these within the professional context. The four pathways that can be taken include:

- ▶ Education (EdD)
- ▶ Social Work (DSW)
- ▶ Health Studies (DHS)
- ▶ Social and Public Policy (SPPD)

Each of the degrees consists of two major elements:

Part One

completion of eight taught modules, each with a 4,000 word assignment or equivalent task

Part Two

research thesis of 50,000 words maximum in length

Taught module topics include:

- ▶ Social Contexts of Education
- ▶ Health, Medicine and Society
- ▶ Social Policy
- ▶ Advanced Social Work
- ▶ Public Sector Management
- ▶ Research Design and Methods

Each taught module is delivered over the course of a single weekend. This means that module teaching starts on Thursday evenings and continues throughout Fridays and Saturdays.

Research Environment

Postgraduate research students are encouraged to take full part in the School's academic and research environment. This includes a wide range of active research groupings, seminar series, working paper publications and informal study groups. The School's PGR Café – a student-led initiative – provides a unique intellectual forum and support network. There is a bespoke study space for all full-time PhD students. Each student has their own work station, networked computer and storage facility.

Further Study Options



Postgraduate Research Programmes

The School is committed to theoretically informed empirical research. Interdisciplinary research training is a strong feature of our research degrees. All research students have an opportunity to pursue their studies in an interdisciplinary way. We welcome applications for postgraduate research study from across the disciplines of:

- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Criminology
- ▶ Social and public policy
- ▶ Social work and social care
- ▶ Science, technology and innovation

There are four different options of study:

- ▶ 1-2 years MPhil
- ▶ 3 years full-time PhD
- ▶ 5 years part-time PhD
- ▶ 5-7 years part-time Professional Doctorate, which includes a taught component

There is provision to follow a PhD programme that involves a one-year MSc in Social Sciences Research Methods, followed by 3 years of PhD research.

Assessment

PhD/MPhil: assessment is by submission of a thesis of circa 80,000 words for PhD or circa 50,000 words for MPhil, which also entail a viva voce examination.

Professional Doctorate: These part time routes are designed for students in professional occupations. Candidates on this scheme are required to complete eight taught modules and to submit a research thesis of 50,000 words in length. This too entails a viva voce examination. As the Professional Doctorate degrees include a taught research training component, it is not a compulsory requirement for candidates to have background research training.

Application information

PhD/MPhil: candidates should have an excellent academic background in the social sciences, holding a 1st or upper 2nd class degree. Candidates will also usually hold a Master's degree (preferably an ESRC recognised Master's or equivalent background research training). Work experience will also be taken into consideration when assessing an application.

Professional Doctorate: candidates must possess a good first degree and usually have completed a Master's degree. They should also have two or more years' professional experience in a field appropriate to their chosen degree. Much of the module learning and associated assignments aim to support applied professional development and applicants are expected to have access to professional settings in a field appropriate to their doctoral degree.

For overseas candidates the minimum qualifications will include a good first degree, equivalent to a 2:1 degree at a UK university, and a certificate of competence in English. A score of 7.0 on IELTS is required where English is not a first language, or for those who have not had a substantial part of their education taught in the English language.

Application to all research degrees must be supported by a research proposal. Please contact the School in the first instance on graduateoffice@cardiff.ac.uk

Alumni Testimonials



Cerys Furlong

MSc Social Science and Research Methods

My MSc has been hugely beneficial to my career. In the early stages it gave me the confidence to undertake research, to write and to develop ideas. I believe that people often lack the confidence as researchers, fearing a lack of academic credibility holds them back.

However, I have always felt that with a good foundation in research methods, I was confident to participate in academic discussion, to contribute to articles and papers, to present my analysis and views in a variety of ways.

While studying for the MSc full time and working part time was challenging I really enjoyed it. It exposed me to a range of methods and approaches, as well as to a variety of academics and subjects. It enabled me to clarify what I wanted to do.

Ed Bridges

BSc in Social Policy and PhD

I fell in love with Cardiff straight away, not least because of its excellent live music scene and thriving nightlife! It's a small city and easy to get to know very quickly – but it also has that 'buzz' of a capital, with all the cultural, political and civic focus that goes with it. It also has a lot to offer students because of the career opportunities which go hand-in-hand with the city being the seat of the Welsh Government and all the attendant organisations around it.

Cardiff is now my adopted home; I've been a local councillor in the city for ten years, my son was born here, and I can't really imagine living anywhere else.

The School of Social Sciences was a fantastic place to study, and one I'd definitely recommend. There are some superb minds in the department, and a real focus on supporting students. Make the most of the opportunities it offers, and also the wealth of Welsh policy fora on the doorstep in Cardiff.



International Students (Non-EU Countries)

As an international student you have access to a personal and dedicated service from the International Office to help with your application, and make the transition to studying at Cardiff.

Supporting International Students

The University has a long tradition of welcoming international students and prides itself on providing a supportive environment. Some of the benefits for international students studying at Cardiff University include:

▶ Guaranteed accommodation

Cardiff is one of few universities that guarantees accommodation to single international students for the duration of your course, as long as you apply through the normal admissions cycle and appropriate allocations process. The accommodation is in a variety of high quality student residences which are close to campus. You can find out more on the web:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences

▶ Help before you arrive

The International Office will send you detailed information on how to apply for your visa, travelling to Cardiff and the other necessary arrangements you will need to make to prepare for studying in the UK.

▶ The induction programme

In September and January each year the International Office organises a comprehensive orientation programme for new students. In September this includes free collection from Cardiff and Heathrow (London) airports.

▶ International student advisors

In addition to the support provided by your School, the University has specially trained international student advisors to provide you with assistance on any issues including visas and finances.

▶ International student societies

The Students' Union is home to more than 20 international student societies. The societies run social and cultural events and organise the annual Go Global international culture festival.

There is also space within the Students' Union for students to meet and relax.

▶ International careers advice

The University's Careers Service has a Careers Consultant for International Students, and provides resources to help you research career paths and opportunities.

Meet the International Office in your Country

Staff from the International Office also travel to more than 30 countries each year so you can meet University staff and discuss your study options in person. Look at the International Office website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/international for more details of where we are travelling, and sign up to receive notifications of visits.

Help Making an Application in your Country

In addition to help provided by the International Office, you can get assistance from the University's network of educational advisors. To find out whether we have an educational advisor near you, visit the International Office website and select your country:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/international

English Language Requirements

All students must have a standard of written and spoken English that will enable you to benefit fully from lectures, seminars and tutorials. The English Language qualifications accepted by the University include IELTS, and the minimum standards required are listed on the website. You are advised to check the website for the most up-to-date information:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/postgradapply

The Postgraduate taught programmes offered by the School of Social Sciences require a minimum IELTS overall score of 6.5 in writing and 5.5 in the other sub-sections. The exceptions are the MSc

Science, Media and Communication and the MSc Skills and Workforce Development. For PhD study, a score of band 7.0 on IELTS is required where English is not a first language or for those who have not had a substantial part of their education taught in the English language.

English Language Support

Our English Language Programmes are available to full-time International and EU (non-UK) students studying or intending to study at Cardiff University. Language and Skills courses are offered throughout the year and last from eight weeks to nine months. They are designed to improve your general and academic English.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/elt

Applying to Cardiff University as an International Student

To apply to Cardiff as an international student you follow the standard procedure as outlined on page 22. You do, however, have access to additional support from the International Office.

The International Office

As an international student you have access to a personal and dedicated service from the International Office to help with your application, and make the transition to studying at Cardiff. Please contact us, we are here to help.

Further Information:

Email: international@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4432

Skype: [cardiffuni_international](https://www.skype.com/username/cardiffuni_international)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cardiffinternational

Web: www.cardiff.ac.uk/international

Funding and Scholarships

Securing funding for postgraduate study is an important consideration for most students. Most funding sources are highly competitive and are subject to various application deadlines.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees vary depending on the course you decide to study and whether you are classified as a home, EU or international student. You should check our course listing online for detailed fee information for your course. To make it easier to manage your finances you can pay in three instalments each year.

Cardiff University Postgraduate Studentships

Each year Cardiff University offers a wide range of funded, competitive studentships. Funding sources for these studentships include awards made by individual Academic Schools, the UK Research Councils, collaborations with charities and trusts, industry and businesses, government departments and other bodies. Studentships become available throughout the year and are published on our website when they become available. There is no uniform application deadline and you are encouraged to follow us on Facebook or Twitter for the latest funding opportunities or sign up to our funding email newsletter. Awards can range in value from partial funding to full tuition fee support and a stipend to cover living costs. You should check your eligibility for specific studentships carefully; some are restricted to UK/EU applicants and others are open to non-EU applicants

Funding for International Postgraduates

Cardiff University's highly prestigious International Scholarship Fund is designed to attract and reward the most deserving and exceptional students to the University. A range of Postgraduate scholarships and bursaries are available. We also advise international students to investigate funding opportunities offered by their own country, and to check with the British Council. Cardiff University is a participating institution in the US Government Federal Family Education Loan Programme

(FFELP). US students seeking Federal Stafford Loans for overseas study can study at Cardiff University.

Charities, Foundations and Trusts

There are many charities, foundations and trusts that may contribute to your study costs. You will need to apply to these individually and often after having received an offer to study. Many of these are listed in publications such as The Grants Register, the Directory of Grant Making Trusts and the Graduate Prospects Postgraduate Funding Guide.

Loans

Professional and Career Development Loans are the most common loans for vocational postgraduate degrees, but are only available to UK and EU students who have lived in the UK for at least three years before the course starts and plan to work in the UK, EU or European Economic Area (EEA) after the course. The loan is a deferred repayment bank loan to support further education or training that is interest free up to one month after the end of your course when you start repaying it with interest. You can borrow between £300 and £10,000. You should apply for your loan up to three months before your course starts.

Cardiff University's Learning Provider Number is 8655.

Working alongside full-time study

If you intend to undertake some paid employment while pursuing full-time study, one option is to register with the Unistaff Jobshop. The Jobshop is run by the Students' Union, and features casual employment opportunities in the University and surrounding area. Most international students can work up to 20 hours during term-time and full time during the holidays. The University does not recommend you work the full 20 hours

during the term because postgraduate study intensive and you will need to make sure you have enough time to complete all your coursework and reading.

Heading for this?

We have a number of bursaries and studentships available across the full-range of our programmes. For PhD funding, the School holds a large number of Wales-DTC ESRC studentship awards which we recruit to through an annual competition. We also advertise a number of funded doctoral projects throughout the year across a range of disciplines: education, criminology, sociology, social work & social care, social policy and science & technology studies. Please see our website for up-to-date information on what funding is available and closing dates.

Funding may also be available for your PhD through a studentship. We are delighted to be part of the Wales Doctoral Training Centre (Wales DTC), funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Each year we are able to offer a number of ESRC funded awards. Some of these studentships are funded in partnership with public, private and third sector organisations.

Occasionally, we also have opportunities for other studentships available from a range of other funding sources, such as the Dawes Trust and the Academic Social Care Research Collaboration (ASCC).

Making your Application



To be considered for entry onto one of our degree programmes you should apply online via courses.cardiff.ac.uk

We try to host two School open days which applicants will be invited to attend. All Open days give students the opportunity to learn more about the School and our programmes, as well as to meet and talk with students and staff in an informal setting. There is also the chance to take a short guided tour of the School and university campus. We strongly encourage you to attend an open day so you are in a much better position to decide if the School of Social Sciences is the place for you. There are also university open days held throughout the year, where you have the opportunity to visit various academic Schools, residences, the Students' Union and sports facilities. (This does not apply to the MSc in Skills and Workforce Development which is hosted in Singapore).

Equal Opportunities

The University conducts its student recruitment, selection and assessment procedures on an equal opportunities basis. It is committed to ensuring that all applicants, students and employees are treated fairly, regardless of their colour, race, ethnic or national origins, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, family responsibilities, physical or sensory disabilities, or their political or religious beliefs.

Disabilities/Special Needs

All offers to study at Cardiff University are made solely on the basis of academic merit. Where applicants have specific requirements that relate to a disability or medical condition, they are encouraged to discuss these with relevant staff in order that appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure the University provides an accessible environment. Specifically, applicants are invited to contact the Disability Adviser who can provide information about the applications procedure, course delivery and access to the physical environment. Where appropriate, informal visits can be arranged in which applicants can view accommodation and meet academic staff.

The Disability Adviser can be contacted at:
Student Support Centre
50 Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT
disability@cardiff.ac.uk
+44 (0)29 2087 4528

Entry Requirements

Applicants should normally hold, or be close to completing a first or second-class undergraduate degree in a social sciences or humanities subject. The MSc in Skills and Workforce Development requires two years of relevant work experience.

Other applicants will be considered if they can demonstrate, through recent and relevant experience, that they have the ability to undertake the course.

Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to obtain a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 (or equivalent) with at least 6.5 in writing and 5.5 in the other sub-sections. The exceptions are the MSc Science, Media and Communication, where applicants require an IELTS score of 7 (or equivalent) with at least 6.5 in writing and 6 in the other sub-sections, and the MSc Skills and Workforce Development, which requires an IELTS score of 7 (or equivalent). For PhD study, a score of 7.0 on IELTS is required where English is not a first language or for those who have not had a substantial part of their education taught in the English language.

Further Information:

The Admissions Tutor
Cardiff School of Social Sciences
Glamorgan Building
King Edward VII Avenue
Cardiff CF10 3WT

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5122

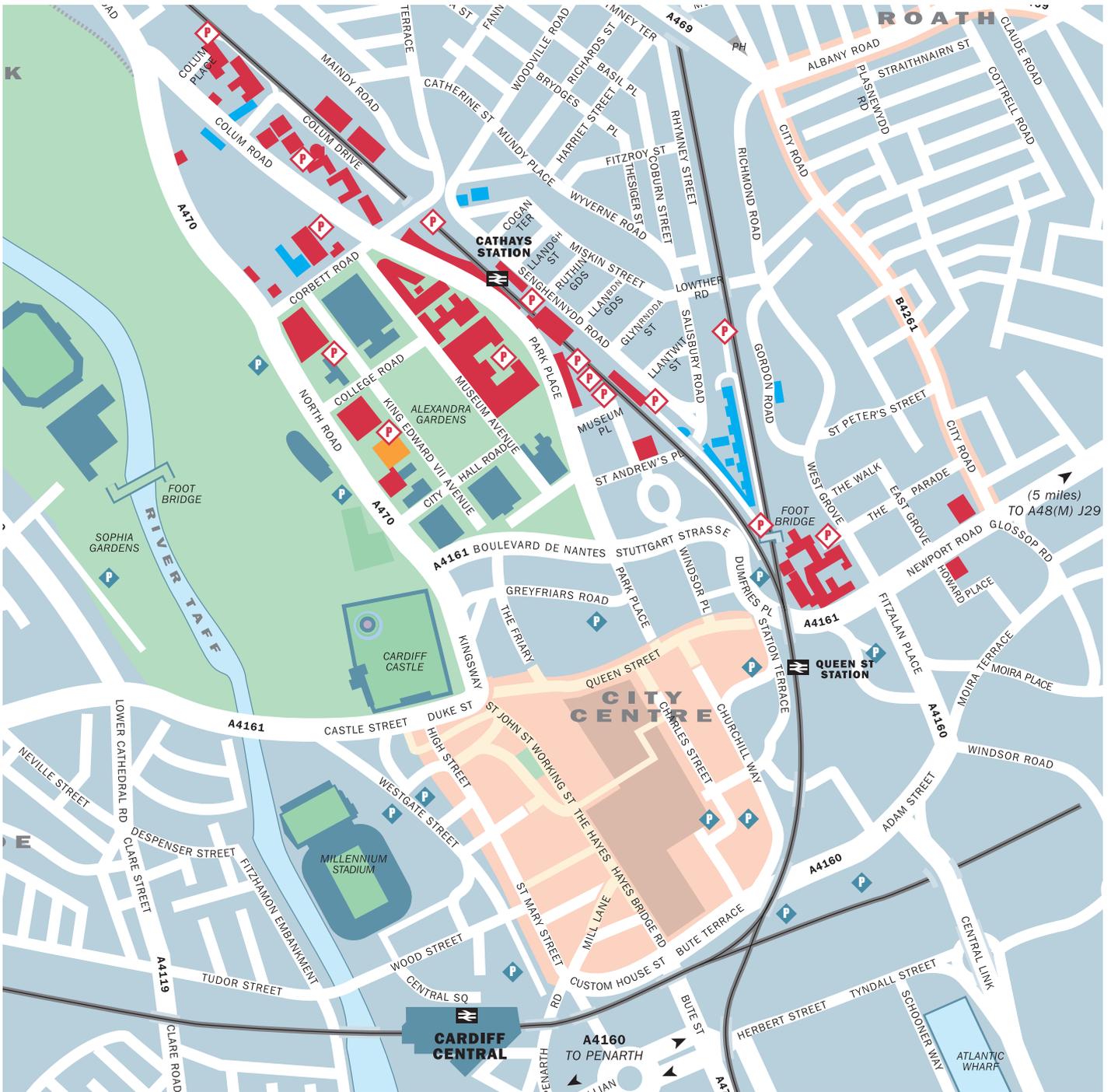
Fax: +44 (0)29 2087 4175

Email:

postgradenquiries@cardiff.ac.uk

www.cardiff.ac.uk/social-sciences

How to find us



Key

- School of Social Sciences
- University Buildings
- Student Residences

How to find the School

The School of Social Sciences is located in the Glamorgan Building which sits at the heart of the Cathays Park Campus, a short walk from the city centre.

The Glamorgan building is close to the Cathays railway station and is easily accessible from many of the University's Halls of Residence.



Terms and Conditions

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School of Social Sciences

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