Cardiff University
School of Social Sciences

WORLD LEADING
research

ACADEMIC excellence

HIGH EMPLOYABILITY

Transferable SKILLS

www.cardiff.ac.uk/social-sciences
89% of our graduates were in employment and/or further study six months after graduating.

Insider Information – Find out more...
Want to know what life at Cardiff is really like?
Our insiders are real students studying a range of subjects. You can read their blogs, post comments and message them on Facebook and Twitter.
To find out more go to: www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders
Discover the **Cardiff Experience**

**A leading university . . .**

- You’ll be part of a Russell Group university - one of the UK’s world-class universities.
- You can choose from more than 350 degree programmes. The Cardiff University degree is known and respected worldwide with a substantial number accredited by the professions and other external bodies.
- You’ll benefit from outstanding teaching in a research-led environment - Cardiff is ranked in the UK’s top 5 universities for research quality.
- Staff include a Nobel Laureate and numerous Fellows of the Royal Society and other prestigious institutions.

**in an outstanding city . . .**

- You’ll live in a friendly, compact and safe city with all your study, living and leisure needs within walking distance.
- Your money will go further at Cardiff with capital city attractions at provincial prices - Cardiff is amongst the most affordable/cost effective student destinations in the UK.

**with able and motivated students . . .**

- You’ll be at a first choice university where demand for places is strong.
- You’ll be studying in an environment with able and motivated students who have high grades at A-level or equivalent.
- You’ll be at an international university with students from more than 100 countries.
- You’ll be in demand - Cardiff is among the top 25 universities targeted by employers seeking high calibre graduates.

**who have excellent career prospects.**

- You can be confident of your future prospects - typically, 94.1% of our students were employed or had entered further study within six months of completing their studies.
- You’ll be in demand - Cardiff is among the top 25 universities targeted by employers seeking high calibre graduates.

**Notes**

1. Research by HSBC 2015, NatWest 2016
2. HESA Destination of Leavers Survey 2015
3. High Fliers Research The Graduate Market 2016

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**CardiffConnected**

[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

- [@cardiffuniug](https://twitter.com/cardiffuniug)
- [facebook.com/Cardiffuniug](http://facebook.com/Cardiffuniug)
- [instagram.com/cardiffuni](http://instagram.com/cardiffuni)
- [youtube.com/user/cardiffuni](http://youtube.com/user/cardiffuni)

**Contact us**

For students from the UK and EU:
Tel: 029 2087 4455
Email: enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk

For students from the rest of the world:
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4432
Email: international@cardiff.ac.uk
Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Cardiff University and to the School of Social Sciences. We take great pride in our student community and are committed, as a school, to ensuring that all our students enjoy a rewarding learning experience.

Programmes of study in the school enable an academic and applied understanding of social life, and provide the intellectual tools – knowledge, analysis, argument, judgement – with which to engage with current social and public debate. We offer undergraduate degrees in Sociology, Criminology, Education, Social Analytics, Human and Social Sciences, Social Policy, and Social Science. Our programmes are led and supported by leading academics, all of whom are experts in their fields of study.

Teaching in the school is informed and underpinned by research and scholarship. Our research is recognised as internationally excellent, and as having a direct impact on policy and practice.

Many of our staff act as advisers to international organisations, 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 contributing to policy debates at international, national and local levels.

Our students also benefit from our many academic collaborations with universities in Europe, the USA, Canada, and South East Asia. We offer opportunities for placements and work experience in the UK and overseas.

I look forward to welcoming you to Cardiff University and to supporting you throughout your time here with us.

Dr Tom Hall
Head of School

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This brochure will provide you with more details of our programmes. We hope that they will give you more than just a flavour of what we have to offer you. However, we are always ready to answer any questions you may have, by post, telephone or email, or when you come to Cardiff for a visit. You will find the appropriate contacts at the end of this brochure.

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2018 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in June 2017. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk] before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at Cardiff University is subject to terms and conditions, which can be found on our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk/offertersms] and which you are advised to read before making an application. The terms and conditions set out, for example, when we might make changes to your chosen course or to student regulations. It is therefore important you read them, and understand them.

If you are not able to access information online please contact us:
Email: enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: 029 2087 4455

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.
Cardiff: A capital city

“Cardiff is one of Europe’s youngest capital cities – small enough to be friendly and big enough to offer the best of living in a major city.”

The Complete University Guide 2016
Cardiff is a thriving and attractive city, which is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live and study. It combines all the advantages of a compact, friendly and inexpensive location, with the cultural and recreational facilities of a modern capital city.

Cardiff offers everything from the excitement of the city to the peace and tranquillity of the nearby coast and countryside. With its distinctive character, good quality of life, and growing national and international reputation, it hosts many high-profile cultural and sporting events, including international rugby, soccer, cricket and motor sport.

When it comes to entertainment, Cardiff is well-equipped to satisfy student needs. There is a multitude of cafés, pubs and nightclubs. The city is home to the world-renowned Welsh National Opera, it boasts prestigious concert venues such as the Wales Millennium Centre, St David’s Hall and the Motorpoint Arena, as well as the iconic Principality (Millennium) Stadium, the National Museum Wales, several theatres and the historic Cardiff Castle.

Don’t just take our word for it . . .
“Cardiff is a popular student city, relatively inexpensive and with a good range of nightlife and cultural venues”
The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015

Come and see for yourself . . .
Cardiff benefits from excellent road and rail links with Britain’s other major towns and cities. London, for example, is two hours by train, and the M4 links both the West and South of England, as well as West Wales. Travel to the Midlands and to the North is equally convenient. The journey by road from Birmingham, for example, takes only two hours. The main coach and railway stations are both centrally placed, and Cardiff also benefits from an international airport.

“Cardiff seems to have it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars and venues just a short hop from lovely countryside.”
Guardian University Guide 2016
Cardiff: A leading university

“Cardiff University is one of Britain’s leading teaching and research universities.”

Telegraph Guide to UK Universities
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.

With attractive and compact campuses, excellent student accommodation, and a hugely popular Students’ Union, all within easy walking distance of each other in a thriving city, it is not surprisingly that Cardiff is a first choice university for many.

We admit approximately 5,000 undergraduate entrants each year, the majority of whom are school and college leavers, and have high grades at A-level or equivalent. While competition for entry is strong, Cardiff is an inclusive university with a good record on widening participation and fair access, and we welcome applications, irrespective of background, from everyone with the potential to succeed at Cardiff University.

The University’s 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 three 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.

Although dating from 1883, Cardiff is focused on the 21st century, and has modern state-of-the-art buildings and facilities. The University has invested substantially in its estate in recent years and continues to do so today. Most academic schools have benefited from major refurbishment, including new and well-equipped laboratories, lecture theatres, libraries and computing facilities.

International opportunities are available via our Global Opportunity Centre. These include study, work and volunteering placements in 27 EU countries as well as international exchange opportunities. All students also have the opportunity to study a language, in addition to their degree, through the University’s Languages For All programme.

The University takes its environmental, safety and security responsibilities very seriously. It has comprehensive policies in place which are making great savings in energy consumption and, to support the safety and security of all members of the University community and their property, there is 24-hour security cover throughout the campus.

What the Guides say...

“Cardiff University is among the best in the UK for preparing graduates for the workplace.”
Times Higher Education – Global University Employability Ranking 2016

“The University is as confident and forward-looking as the city it’s located in, and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching and research.”
Guardian University Guide 2016
Living in Cardiff

As a fast developing capital city, Cardiff is a great place to be a student. It’s large enough to offer you an exciting variety of activities and entertainment, but small enough for you to feel comfortable in.
Accommodation

Cardiff offers guaranteed University accommodation of good quality and value, and a range of residences to suit individual preferences and budgets. All undergraduates who accept their offer of a place from Cardiff, on a firm basis, are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University residences during their first year of study.

Please see our website for full details of our accommodation guarantee and associated deadlines: www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences

The University is continually investing in its student residences, and the views of students are taken into account at the design stage. Unusually for a civic university, most of our residences are within easy walking distance of lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories, the Students’ Union and city centre.

There are 15 different residences, providing more than 5,500 study bedrooms and students can apply for the residences which best suit their preferences, interests and budgets. Some 70% have en-suite shower and toilet facilities and all halls of residence have computer network connection points and access to Wi-Fi.

Fees depend on the facilities included and whether catered, part-catered or self-catered, but prices compare very favourably with those of other UK universities. Besides managing University property, the Residences Office maintains close links with the private sector and provides assistance to students seeking to rent or share houses or flats.

Student Life

The Students’ Union

Cardiff Students’ Union is one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain. A multi-million pound investment has been made in Union facilities in recent years, which has included a new venue called Y Plas, which at night becomes a nightclub. Hosting live music, club nights, stand-up comedy, fashion shows and awards ceremonies, there’s lots to keep you entertained from your first day to your last.

Other facilities include a food court, a bank, a print shop, a hair salon and a bookshop. The Lounge offers IT and Skyping facilities, meeting rooms and a “chillout” area, as well as snooker tables and multi-faith prayer room. The Union also has its own letting agency and an Advice and Representation Centre. In addition, it is home to CU TV and Xpress Radio (the students’ own TV and radio stations) and more than 200 cultural, political, religious, social, sporting societies and clubs.

Jobshop

Jobshop is the Union’s own student employment service and provides casual, clerical and catering jobs around the University to hundreds of students.

What the Guides say . . .

“Cardiff is one of the best UK cities for young adults because of its low cost of living, good job opportunities and decent wages.”

The Complete University Guide 2017

“Cardiff is amongst the most affordable/cost effective student destinations in the UK.”

Research by HSBC 2015, NatWest 2016

“Cardiff has one of the biggest, best and most active students’ unions in the UK and is currently benefitting from a multi-million pound investment.”

The Complete University Guide 2017
The School

The School of Social Sciences is a thriving centre for teaching and research in the social sciences. Each year we are joined by over 300 new undergraduates to follow degrees in Criminology, Education, Human and Social Sciences, Social Analytics, Social Policy, Sociology and Social Science.
The Building and Facilities
The School of Social Sciences is located in the historic, Grade 1 listed Glamorgan Building in Cardiff’s Civic Centre, overlooking Cathays Park. Not just architecturally spectacular, the building is also a popular filming location for BBC series, including Doctor Who and Sherlock. We are a few minutes walking distance from the main University buildings and the Students’ Union, as well as being convenient for Cardiff city centre’s amenities, shops and transport links.

The Glamorgan Building houses teaching and learning facilities to support your studies, including a student support hub, ICT suites, lecture theatres with the latest audio-visual technology, and a bank of seminar rooms. Extensive resources and support are also available to our students in the University’s libraries and student support services.

The Glamorgan Building also has a friendly and informal coffee bar where students and staff can meet and relax.

Student Experience
We take student experience very seriously here at the School of Social Sciences. We invite all new students to join our Facebook group in the weeks before they arrive so that we can introduce them to the School and help with any questions. The School also runs a mentoring programme which will pair you up with an existing student in the School who will be glad to show you around and give you advice.

Lucy O’Callaghan
BSc Sociology
“The Glamorgan Building is beautiful and really well located to explore the rest of campus and Cardiff city centre. It was a privilege to be based in such an iconic building throughout my studies and is one of the reasons I’m so glad I chose Cardiff for my course. Now I love pointing it out to people when I spot it on TV!”

Student-staff relations and student societies
The School is keen for students to play an active role in all aspects of university life. Our system of small-group teaching allows you to form good working relationships with your tutors and fellow students. We place great value on student participation in teaching and learning – our students give feedback on all courses and our Student-Staff Panel encourages the fruitful exchange of ideas. For non-academic activities, the student-run Social Science Society organises highly successful social events throughout the year. There are also opportunities to participate in a range of sports and societies within the University.
Undergraduate Degree Programmes

All of our degree programmes are designed to teach the foundations of their respective disciplines alongside the theoretical and methodological principles that underpin the social sciences.

Many of our programmes provide students with opportunities to tailor their studies by selecting modules related to their academic or professional interests. Depending on your chosen degree programme, you will typically study a number of core modules along with a range of optional modules each year. Advice is always available from staff, especially your personal tutor, to ensure that you make informed choices.

Single Honours Degrees
The School offers single honours degree programmes in Criminology, Education and Sociology. The School also offers three interdisciplinary single honours programmes in Social Science, Social Analytics, and Human and Social Sciences (accredited by the British Psychological Society).

Joint Honours Degrees
Joint Honours degrees offer you the opportunity to combine complementary subjects both in the Social Sciences and other academic Schools. A range of combinations can be taken including Social Policy, Education, Criminology, Sociology, Journalism, Welsh, History and Politics. We also offer LLB courses in Law and Sociology and Law and Criminology. Please see the table on page 23 for the full list of choices available.

Social Policy is only available as a Joint Honours subject.

Sandwich Degrees with a Placement
Many of our Single and Joint Honours programmes offer the opportunity for you to extend your degree to four years with a third year spent on a professional placement. We have strong links with external organisations and our students have an excellent record of winning one year internships with organisations such as the Welsh Government. You will have the opportunity to apply for a professional placement in the second year of your degree. The full list of programmes offering sandwich years is on page 23.

Year One
Your first year will equip you with the essential skills to flourish in your chosen discipline. You will follow a range of modules, some which are core to your chosen discipline and others which are essential for all the social sciences, such as key ideas and research methods. You will learn what it means to be a social scientist and how to manage the transition into higher education whilst developing your study skills. You will also meet regularly with your personal tutor in small groups.

Year Two and Year Three
With the essential skills from year one, you will start to specialise in your chosen discipline. Depending on your choice of degree, you may study a mix of core and optional modules throughout your programme. Programmes with module options will give you the opportunity to study a range of topics across the social science disciplines.

During their second year, our students participate in practical, research-led activities to consolidate their theoretical learning. Some of our degree programmes also enable students to select a credit-bearing work placement as part of their second year programme of study.

Supervised dissertations are undertaken in the final year of many of our degree programmes which allow students to carry out an independent research project under the supervision of a member of staff.

Sophie Adams
BSc Criminology

"Not only did my degree provide instrumental knowledge of the prison system it also provided me with the opportunity to undertake a research placement within HMP Cardiff in my final year. The training, experience and insight I gained from this placement secured me a job after graduation."
Teaching Methods and Assessment

Teaching mainly takes place through lectures and discussion-based seminar groups. Our programmes cover key theories and debates, research methods training, and feature research carried out by academic staff within the School. Our teaching staff include a number of internationally-renowned experts who contribute to the undergraduate curriculum.

You will typically study six modules each year, with your programme of study featuring a mix of core and optional modules. Along with lectures and seminars, students will also have opportunities to succeed through learning provided in tutorials, feedback, workshops, labs, and during project supervision.

Independent study is also crucial for deepening understanding, developing research skills and expanding your knowledge of social science. This includes background reading, preparation for seminars, conducting research, completing assignments and revision work.

Our degree programmes are carefully designed so that students will experience a range of assessment methods, including examinations, coursework, practical work, individual and group projects and presentations.

Opportunities to Study Abroad

The School of Social Sciences has links with universities around the world. Study Abroad programmes are currently in operation with universities in North America, Europe and Hong Kong, with new partnerships with other countries in development. Many students have the opportunity to apply to spend part or all of their second year studying abroad.

Summer Placements

The School offers placement opportunities as part of your degree, or non-credit-bearing summer placements in the UK and abroad. Read more about placement opportunities on p22.

Graduate Destinations

Graduates from the School of Social Sciences have pursued a wide range of careers in public and private sectors. Read more about our graduate careers on p21.

As a result of the high calibre of student attracted to Cardiff University, as well as the training in research methods that is core to our degrees, around a sixth of our students go on to postgraduate studies. Among the most popular postgraduate courses are teacher training degrees, law conversion courses, social work and social science research methods.

Vikki Lee

BSc Sociology and Criminology

"Highlights of teaching for me were writing a hypothetical research proposal for the Welsh government, partaking in ethnographic observations, visiting Cardiff prison, carrying out breaching experiments, and becoming competent with SPSS software. I really enjoyed writing my dissertation in my third year as I was able to have flexibility to study something I was interested in, and work closely and learn from my tutor and leading academics in that field."
This interdisciplinary programme allows you to study across the social science spectrum, encompassing Sociology, Criminology, Education, Social Analytics, Social Policy and Psychology. It provides an excellent opportunity for you to pursue an interdisciplinary degree, allowing you to combine the theories and methods of different disciplines to increase knowledge and understanding.

In the first year you will be introduced to a range of social science perspectives and methods in order to develop a sound foundation. In subsequent years, you will build on this foundation by choosing modules that reflect your own academic and career interests.

**Course Structure**

This is a single honours programme. It is characterised by a core interdisciplinary foundation at year one and a minimal number of core modules in years two and three, allowing you the flexibility to pick-and-mix optional modules from across the other undergraduate programmes in the School of Social Sciences.

The unique flexibility of this programme means that you can sample a broad mix of topics from across the wide range of available options, or you can organise your studies thematically and gain a more holistic perspective by examining the same topic (such as gender, ethnicity, attainment and inequality) from a number of different approaches.

This flexibility allows you to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of a topic that interests you, and you are able to focus on and develop your personal strengths.

**Year One**

You will lay the foundations for later specialist study, studying a range of core modules which will introduce you to social science research and key ideas in social science alongside helping you to develop the skills necessary to transition into higher education. Alongside your core modules, you can select an optional module from fields across the School such as Criminology, Education, Sociology, Social Policy, Social Analytics and Human and Social Sciences.

**Year Two**

All students will continue to study research methods and a methodological specialism. In this year you have a substantial number of optional modules to choose from with which you can create your own thematic pathway. Alternatively you may wish to pursue an interdisciplinary approach by continuing to study a range of topics.

**Year Three**

In your final year you will continue to study a range of optional modules from those offered across Criminology, Education, Sociology, Social Analytics, Human and Social Sciences, and Social Policy, tailoring your choices to your preferred theme of study.

All final year students will have the opportunity to undertake a dissertation project in which they will be able to design and conduct a small-scale research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff.

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**Emily Lowthian**  
BSc Social Science

“The staff were incredible at Cardiff University! I was overwhelmed with the amount of support and guidance, for careers, study and postgraduate, that was offered by the staff - it was all extremely useful and definitely aided my career. The feedback offered by the School was in-depth and helped to develop and improve my academic ability.”
The study of Criminology investigates how social groups or behaviours are defined as ‘criminal’ or ‘anti-social’; how different approaches to criminal justice policy balance protection, rehabilitation and control; and how victims are affected by their experiences.

Criminology draws on a range of social science disciplines including Sociology, Social Policy, Law, Psychology, Political Science, History, and Anthropology.

This programme provides an excellent opportunity to study Criminology as an interdisciplinary degree, combining the theories and methods of these distinct disciplines to increase knowledge and understanding of crime and control.

Our BSc in Criminology focuses on developing the ‘criminological imagination’ within the social sciences, beginning by examining how to approach problems of crime, justice and control as a social scientist before applying these research-driven disciplinary skills to real world issues and debates.

During the course, you will have the opportunity to build up a range of skills and substantive knowledge related to Criminology. In addition, you will also develop a specialised appreciation of criminological research and the operation of criminal justice and crime control processes. You will learn from leading criminologists with strong links to police, probation and prisons, as well as local authorities, and Welsh and UK government institutions.

Course Structure
This programme may be studied as either a Single or Joint Honours degree. Students following both routes will be expected to take a number of core modules in each year. Single honours students will then study a number of optional modules from a selection of those taught on the Social Policy, Sociology, and Social Analytics programmes. Joint Honours students typically split their modules evenly between their two subjects and usually have a greater number of core modules that they must study before choosing any additional modules.

Criminology core modules focus on developing your capacity to think about problems of crime, justice and crime control as a social scientist. A strong emphasis is placed on introducing the research methods involved in gathering criminological data and the relationships between this evidence and the theories developed within criminology.

As you progress through the degree these core skills are developed through more specialised modules, interactive styles of learning and the critical interrogation of theory, method and evidence in specific policy domains.

Year One
Compulsory modules include an introduction to the key features of criminology as a field of study, key ideas in social science, and an introduction to social science research. Optional modules provide the opportunity to study a selection of social science disciplines, which are strongly complementary to Criminology, including Social Analytics, Sociology, and Social Policy. Students taking a Joint Honours LLB course with Law will study key ideas in social sciences and the foundations of criminology along with four Law modules.

Year Two
In year two, students build on the foundations laid in the previous year, and will receive comprehensive training in key areas of Criminology. Students will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of offending and victimisation, and of organised responses to crime by the state, private sector and communities.

Year Three
Year three includes studying a wider range of Criminology modules which draw on the research specialisms of teaching staff. Previous themes of study have included prisons, policing theory and criminal justice. You will be encouraged to concentrate on a specialist area of study by doing your own research dissertation, which is compulsory for single honours students.

Joint Honours
Joint Honours programmes are available for a variety of subjects. Combinations of Criminology with Social Policy, Sociology and Law are offered. For full information, see the table on p23.

Bethan Davies
BSc Criminology

“My experience of being a student at SOCSI was great, and I wouldn’t change it for the world. Cardiff was always my first choice, mainly because of its reputation and position within the Russell Group, and it was by far the best choice I could have made. Besides the fact I loved my course, we got to enjoy plenty of social activities organised by the SOCSI Society, and I have made friends for life along the way.”
Your study will be informed by our research in the field of Education and the latest developments in policy and practice, encompassing aspects of culture and identity, childhood and youth, gender and ethnicity, and social justice and inclusion.

We have close links with policy makers, as well as local schools, colleges, and other education and training organisations. You will have opportunities to actively engage with educators and practice to develop your own experience, and to apply theory and practice to real life situations.

Course Structure

The core modules of this programme are aimed at developing a deep understanding of the social, historical, political, economic and developmental contexts of education in Wales, the broader UK and internationally. In this way, you will be encouraged to consider education in a comparative and global context.

Having a broad-based understanding of Education provides you with an essential basis for challenging many of our common sense beliefs about education and society. This approach will enable you to play a crucial role in helping to transform and improve how we think about practice education – not just in schools, colleges and universities but within informal learning environments, such as the workplace and broader community too.

Year One

Your first year will provide a solid foundation in core concepts and methods relating to Education, key ideas and concepts in the social sciences, and social science research. Optional modules provide the opportunity to study a selection of topics in the social science disciplines including Social Policy, Sociology, Social Psychology and Social Analytics.

Year Two

The themes introduced in your first year will be developed in more detail as you move on to more independent and critical thinking about the application of concepts and methods in specific contexts. You will be able to tailor your path of study to your academic interests and intended career path, such as childhood studies if you are interested in working with children or school focussed modules if you are interested in a career in teaching.

Year Three

Third year students will continue to tailor their intended study through a mixture of optional modules, expanding on the themes and concepts studied in their first two years. All final year students have the opportunity to undertake a dissertation project in which they will be able to design and conduct a small-scale project under the supervision of a member of academic staff.

Joint Honours

Joint Honours combinations with Sociology and Welsh are offered. For full information, see the table on p23.

Rebecca Lobb
BA Education

“The course has provided me with a wealth of knowledge about child development, the education system, British politics, and all sorts which will be hugely beneficial in my teaching career. However, the course still leaves you open to choose a number of different careers. I have friends who want to be teachers, social workers, educational psychologists and workers in social justice and equality schemes.”
The study of Social Policy provides a critical understanding of the challenges of responding to human need and managing the provision of social services. It examines policies in a wide variety of areas, including social security, education, health, housing and personal social services, as well as policies seeking to address new challenges such as tackling global warming and promoting environmental sustainability.

You will study debates about the goals of policy: how we decide what human needs are, whose responsibility it is to meet human needs, and what we mean by ‘social justice’. A degree with Social Policy provides you with a thorough grounding in key debates and theories regarding the state, society and well-being. You will learn how to evaluate and interpret evidence, apply theories and examine policies in an objective fashion.

Course Structure

This course is only available as a Joint Honours subject, studied alongside Criminology or Sociology. The interdisciplinary nature of our joint programmes offer the opportunity to link theoretical analysis with empirical enquiry, to explore underpinning assumptions and to investigate the research basis of contemporary policy and practice. This course invites you to explore the historical, sociological and political dimensions of social policy. Both theory and method are central to this joint degree. Modules draw upon a wide range of qualitative, observational, statistical, historical and comparative data and methods to investigate a range of policy challenges, from UK poverty to promoting social justice and environmental sustainability.

Joint Honours students typically split their modules evenly between their two subjects and will have a number of core modules in both subjects that they must study, before selecting additional optional modules in years two and three.

Year One

Core modules will allow you to develop an excellent foundation in social and public policy, social scientific theories, and social research methods. You will also study a range of additional modules linked to your chosen partner subject.

Year Two

You will progress to study more specialised modules in both social policy and your chosen partner subject. Building on the foundation gained in year one, you will study how society has responded to human need over time, evaluate the success – or otherwise – of contemporary social policies, and study poverty and social security in the UK. Students will also take a range of optional modules, on topics such as the role of the private and voluntary sectors, in addition to the state, in providing welfare services, and the impact of devolution on policy-making in the UK.

Year Three

Third year students will be able to tailor their study to an intended career path or academic interests. You will select a range of optional modules, on topics such as differences in social policy between countries and the study of policing. All students will have the option to undertake a dissertation project which involves carrying out and reporting on an extended investigation.

Joint Honours

Social Policy is only available as a Joint Honours subject, studied alongside Criminology or Sociology. For full information, see the table on p23.

Social Policy is the study of how societies respond to human need and seek to promote the wellbeing of their members.

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Tom Jordan
BSc Social Policy and Criminology

"I would definitely recommend doing a Joint Honours; it was a nice mix between politics and sociology, I really enjoyed it. The teaching is great; everywhere you’re taught is fantastic."
Sociology

Learn the methods and ideas needed to make your own contribution to understanding and improving society.

Sociology is dedicated to the study of social life as found in groups, institutions and societies. A degree in Sociology provides critical tools for handling the analysis of all aspects of social conduct, from the intricacies of face-to-face interaction to the ways in which individual actions and beliefs shape, and are shaped by, the social world around them.

Sociology at Cardiff University is characterised by rigorous theoretically-informed empirical research. Our expertise includes childhood, youth and ageing, the study of sexuality, health and the body, the construction and reconstruction of identities, the rise of consumer culture, and the profound transformations to social, culture and private life which economic and technological globalisation have delivered.

Course Structure

The programme is built up from three main elements: a broad foundation in core sociological theories and concepts; a comprehensive understanding of the research methods needed to understand social relations; and a range of specialist modules addressing problems and issues which are at the forefront of public and academic debate.

Modules reflect our diversity and excellence across a range of sociological concerns and approaches, such as education; work and globalisation; urban and everyday life; social media, culture and consumption; health; risk and the environment; the sociology of gender; migration and ethnic relations.

Year One

All Sociology students complete core modules that will provide the foundation for your later studies and introduce you to the important contemporary debates in the discipline. Remaining modules will be comprised of further optional modules, or core modules from a second subject for Joint Honours students.

Year Two

As you progress through your degree you will take increasingly focussed and specialised modules, which will encourage you to engage with contemporary debates in a national and international context, and to develop a critical appreciation of the research methods through which sociological explanations are developed.

Year Three

Most Sociology students choose to complete a dissertation in their final year, which involves designing and conducting a small-scale research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff. The rest of your third year will be comprised of optional modules. Previous topics of study have included digital society, the sociology of health, illness and medicine, and the study of policing.

Joint Honours

Joint Honours programmes are available for a variety of subjects. Combinations of Sociology with Politics, Law, Social Policy, Education, Criminology, History and Journalism are offered. For full information, see the table on p23.

Jamie Tinto-Cradick
BSc Econ Sociology

“I chose Sociology because I wanted to study a subject that examined human behaviour and social organisation from ‘outside the box’. I was gripped from my first introductory lecture, and was blown away by the breadth and diversity of the modules throughout.”
Human and Social Sciences

A unique opportunity to combine psychology with another social science discipline of your choice.

This course allows students to build up a range of skills and knowledge whilst developing a critical understanding of psychology as a social science in a range of issues such as social change, gender, class and ethnicity. This course provides an integrated perspective on psychology, which emphasises its social, conceptual and historical aspects, along with a core of social research methods.

The only course of its kind currently on offer in the United Kingdom, this course is recognised by the British Psychological Institute (BPS) as the basis for graduate membership of the society. This eligibility is the first-step to a career in psychology.

In addition to core modules in psychology and social research methods, you will be able to study a wide range of modules in Criminology, Education, Sociology, and Social Analytics.

Course Structure

The flexibility of this programme means that, in addition to the core modules that you must study each year, you can choose to tailor your optional modules to a particular pathway with specific career options in mind. Alternatively you may wish to pursue an interdisciplinary approach by studying a range of topics and debates from across the social sciences.

Year One

You will take a number of core modules, which help to introduce psychological perspectives, key social science theories, and social science research. An optional module is chosen from a selection that provide introductions to Sociology, Criminology, Education, and Social Analytics.

Year Two

Core modules will further explore the themes introduced in the first year, looking at current issues and debates in social psychology, human development, cognition and its biological basis as well as more detailed study into research methods. Additional modules will be chosen from a selection across the social sciences on subjects such as Education, Social Analytics and Sociology.

Year Three

You will take core modules in social and cultural psychology, and identity as well as undertaking a dissertation project. This project involves designing and conducting a small-scale research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff. You will study a range of additional modules which you can either tailor according to a desired career path, or continue with an interdisciplinary approach across the social sciences.

BPS accreditation

Human and Social Science graduates awarded 2:2 or higher and who have passed their dissertation will be eligible to apply for the Graduate Basis for Chartered (GBC) Membership of the British Psychological Society (BPS). Completing a BPS accredited degree is the first step towards a career as a professional psychologist. Eligibility for BPS membership enables you to carry out further study or training at a postgraduate level to become a Chartered Psychologist. Postgraduate study and supervised training, normally lasting a further three years, are required in order to obtain employment as a professional psychologist.
Social Analytics

Combine social science modules with cutting-edge training in quantitative research methods and a guaranteed work placement.

This unique degree has been developed to address the growing demand from employers for quantitatively literate and competent social science graduates. It is characterised by a focus on the critical consumption, analysis and production of quantitative research and data within the social sciences. Students will be trained in scientific method, the quantitative analysis of new social media, and data manipulation, and will develop their employability and transferable skills through a collaborative work placement within an external organisation.

You will explore social issues through the analysis of quantitative social data and the study of the methods used to capture such data. These social issues might include educational attainment, migration, poverty, crime rates, voting behaviour or a wide range of other topics.

Course Structure

Modules are selected from a bespoke pathway, allowing you to combine a thorough grounding in research design with modules from across the social sciences which reflect your own academic and career interests.

A defining feature of the Social Analytics programme is the compulsory placement module in year two, where you will have the opportunity to work with an external organisation. Recent placement organisations include the Welsh Government and Agored Cymru.

Year One

You will take a number of core modules designed to provide a solid foundation in core concepts and methods, including studying social science research methods, how data is misrepresented in the media, and the philosophical underpinnings of the social sciences.

Year Two

You will continue to study the key concepts of social sciences along with learning the knowledge and practical skills to conduct, analyse and interpret research. All second year students will undertake a placement module during which you will work on a research project with an external organisation. You will gain practical experience in design, preparation, and execution of a research project in collaboration with an external organisation.

Year Three

Final year students will undertake a quantitative dissertation project in which they will be able to design and conduct a small-scale independent research study under the supervision of a member of academic staff. As well as undertaking a dissertation, third year students will continue to study core modules along with optional modules which can be selected from other social science programmes in the School.

Jodie Luker

BSc Social Analytics

"Studying BSc Social Analytics was the best decision I ever made! The guaranteed work placement in my second year was something I was particularly drawn to, as I thought that this would aid my future career considerably. The teaching staff are very supportive and my favourite first year module - Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics - taught me a lot of skills that I can transfer into my later studies and future career. I would highly recommend this course to students that want the freedom to choose a mix of social science subjects while also gaining specific analytical skills that are valued by employers."
Careers and Employability

Our degree programmes are designed to increase your employability, helping you to flourish in your chosen career. Skills such as intellectual self-reliance, the ability to process information and make considered judgements, constructive criticism and a willingness to seek solutions will be learned, alongside transferable skills such as communication, team working, problem solving, time management and information and communication technologies.

Placement Opportunities

The School of Social Sciences has a number of placement opportunities which can be credit-bearing and count towards a part of your degree, or a non-credit-bearing summer placement. The School currently works with over 40 different organisations providing credit-bearing placements including the British Council, Institute of Welsh Affairs and the NSPCC. Previous placement roles have included Communications, Data Analyst, Human Resources, Marketing and Social Research. Non-credit-bearing UK-based summer placements are offered as part of the Cardiff Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (CUROP). The School also offer a number of international summer placements with partners in countries including New Zealand, China, Spain, New York, Germany, Canada and many others.

Katie Whalley
BSc Social Science

The path I followed was engaging and allowed for specialisation in the areas of the social sciences that I found most interesting. The lecturers are passionate about their subject areas, and their research generated enthusiasm carries through in lectures and seminars. I loved my three years at Cardiff University and I will take many of the skills I have learned from my time in the School of Social Sciences with me into future study and my career. I am now about to start a postcompulsory PGCE and look forward to developing my knowledge gained during my time at university in the position of a psychology teacher.

Our Graduates

Turning theory into practical application and providing experience of the working world are important facets of what we offer. We encourage our students to think about life beyond University from day one, offering modules and support to give you a competitive advantage on graduating.

The results of the Destination of Leavers of Higher Education Survey (2014/15) showed that 89% of our students (who were available for work), had secured employment and/or further study within six months of graduation.

Our graduates choose a variety of career paths including the police service, probation service, social work, welfare and housing services, youth work, teaching, community development, counselling and advocacy work, administration and human resource management. Many of our graduates also find work in the private sector, including finance and marketing, tourism, retail, journalism, advertising, and public relations.

Opportunities to pursue further studies in the School

The School of Social Sciences has approximately 200 students studying for a PhD, MPhil or Professional Doctorate. We also run a range of postgraduate taught opportunities in education, social work, social policy, criminology, and research methods.
Applications
Degree Programme Choices

To be considered for entry onto one of our degree programmes you should apply online via the UCAS website. To use this facility you need to log onto www.ucas.ac.uk/apply. The website will provide you with information on how to apply and explains the UCAS procedure.

Open Days

All applicants who are made an offer will be invited to attend one of the School’s four Open Days, which run from January to April each year. 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.

Equal Opportunities

Cardiff University is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission. The University aims to establish an inclusive culture which welcomes and ensures equality of opportunity for applicants of all ages, ethnicities, disabilities, family structures, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, races, religious or other beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds. This commitment forms part of the Equality and Diversity Policy which is available at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/cocom/equalityanddiversity/index

Entry Requirements

A-Levels: The School usually requires three A-Levels (or their equivalent) in subjects other than General Studies. Our current standard A-Level entry requirements range from AAB-BBB depending on degree programme. AS level subjects will not be accepted as contributing to the entry requirements.

GCSE: English at Grade C or its equivalent is required and maths is desirable.

Other: Applications are welcomed from mature-age applicants and those offering qualifications other than A-Levels, e.g. International Baccalaureate, Welsh Baccalaureate, BTEC, accredited Access courses.

Each application is examined on its merits, but demonstration of active and formal study within the last two years is desirable.
Applicants with Disabilities/Specific 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 Student Advisory Service
50 Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT
Tel/Minicom: +44 (0)29 2087 4844
Email: disability@cardiff.ac.uk

Deferred Entry

The School has no objection to the possibility of deferred entry provided the intervening year is spent in a positive and worthwhile way. Application is made through UCAS in the usual way, although the UCAS application must show the deferred year of entry.

Tuition Fees and Financial Assistance

The University charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by applicants not currently registered. Please note charges for accommodation in University Residences are additional.

Scholarships and Bursaries

For more information please visit the following website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/scholarships

Useful websites for information about tuition fees and financial assistance:
Student Support Centre website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/financialsupport/index.html
Welsh Assembly Student: Finance web pages: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
Student Finance England: www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk
Student Loans Company: www.slc.co.uk

There are a range of opportunities to visit the University
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.
To find out more about the School of Social Sciences please visit our website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/social-sciences

Got questions about student life?
Get them answered at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders

Some of our current students are sharing their experiences online through their Facebook pages, so if you want to know what life as a student at Cardiff is really like, then you can find out now. There is also lots of information about what is happening in Cardiff, including articles written by our students, videos, and much more.