

A photograph of three students in a lecture hall, looking towards the left. The student in the foreground is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue textured cardigan over a white top. Behind her to the left is a woman with glasses and a blue top. To the right is a man with short dark hair, wearing a light pink shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing a red wall and a white wall.

School of
Social Sciences
Postgraduate Programmes

www.cardiff.ac.uk/social-sciences

Welcome

Top 100 in
the world for
Social Policy

(QS World Rankings by
Subject 2019)

Rated 3rd
in the UK for
our research
in Sociology

(Research Excellence Framework
2014)

Home to
world-leading
research
centres



An internationally recognised centre of **high-quality teaching and research**

Producing research which has **visible positive impact** on people's lives



Rated 5th in the UK for our research in Education

(Research Excellence Framework 2014)



Contents

Choose Cardiff	2
About the School	4
Our research	6
Our programmes	8
• MSc Education	10
• MSc Social and Public Policy	12
• MA Social Work	14
• Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Post-Compulsory Education and Training (PCET)	16
• MSc Social Science Research Methods	18
• PhD Opportunities	20
• Professional Doctorate	22
Cardiff: a capital city	24
Why Cardiff University?	25
Entry requirements	26
Next steps	27



Choose Cardiff

As Head of School, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Cardiff University and the School of Social Sciences.

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. While this description holds good across all studies in the School, the leading edge is most certainly found in our postgraduate provision.

Postgraduate taught programmes are informed by the latest scholarship and research, and most teaching staff are active contributors to contemporary developments in their fields of study and practice. Advanced learning at postgraduate level is intensive and challenging, and in my experience hugely rewarding for staff and students alike; I trust that this will be your experience too.

The same leading edge – contemporary research and latest developments – can be found across our postgraduate research programmes, only this time it is students themselves who are taking knowledge forward in the course of their own, original academic enquiries. The School has a very strong track record of expert and specialist supervision of postgraduate research studies and it gives me a lot of pleasure to wish those of you embarking on research degrees the very best of luck with your studies.

Luck will have little to do with it, of course. Even so, this is a message I'd like to share with all of you, on taught and research programmes alike: all the very best of luck with your advanced postgraduate studies. I look forward to welcoming you in person, given the opportunity, and to supporting you throughout your time here with us.

Professor Tom Hall

Head of the School of Social Sciences

About the School

The School of Social Sciences is a dynamic, interdisciplinary and innovative School, with experts in areas including education and childhood, social and public policy, criminology, sociology and research methods.

Courses

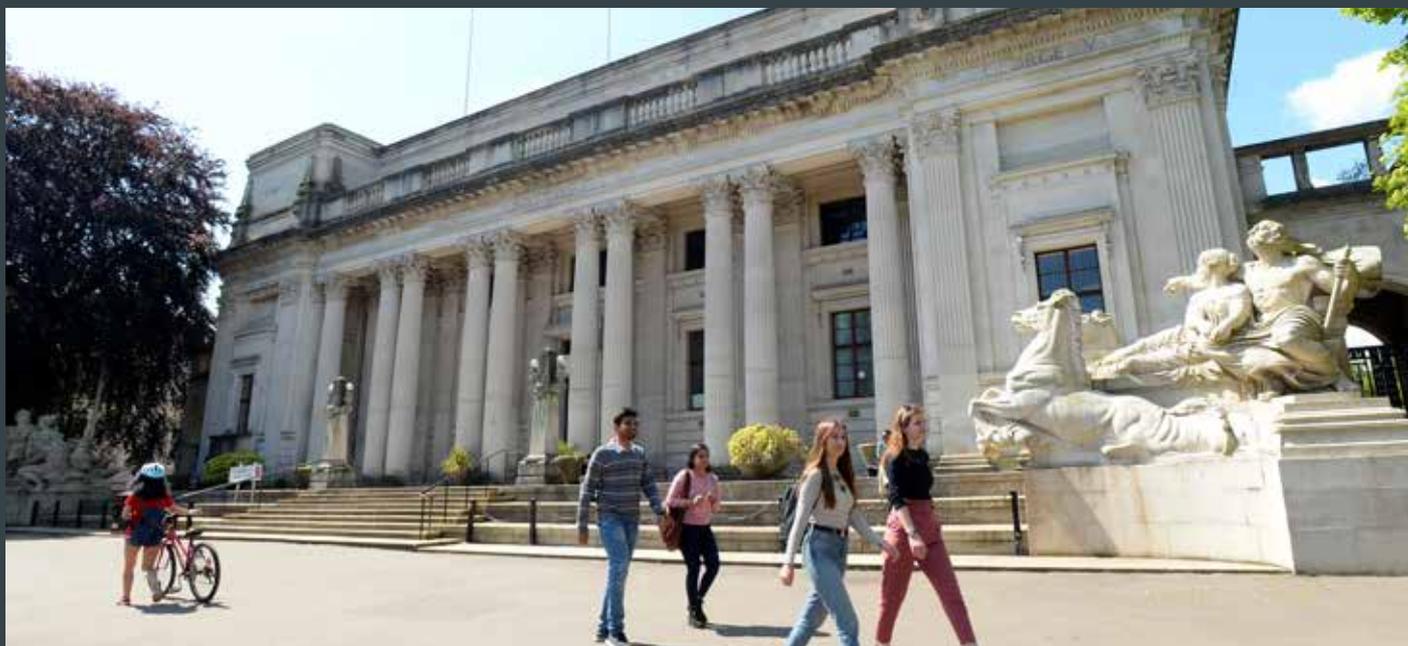
We have a broad postgraduate offering including taught master's, professional programmes and research degrees.

Our modular degree master's programmes allow you to tailor your studies for a range of vocations across the public, private and third sectors.



Location

Based in the historic Grade 1 listed Glamorgan Building, we are at the heart of Cardiff's Civic Centre, moments from Cardiff's Crown Court, City Hall, Welsh Government administrative headquarters and Cardiff's Central Police Station.





Take part

Postgraduate students in our School are encouraged to fully participate in the School's academic and research environment. This includes a wide range of active research groups, seminar series and informal study groups. Our students host a regular Postgraduate Research Café, providing a unique intellectual forum and support network.



World-leading teaching

Our degrees are taught by researchers at the forefront of their subjects, whose expertise and insight inform governments and policy makers regionally, nationally and globally.



Collaborate

Our close proximity to organisations such as Cardiff's Central Police Station and the Welsh Government allows for fruitful relationships and collaborations with our staff and students.



Our research

We are an internationally recognised centre of high-quality teaching and research. We are committed to theoretically informed research with a clear policy focus. Our research is interdisciplinary, innovative and has impact.



We collaborate with major universities and international agencies around the world, as well as local policy makers and practitioners.

Our areas of research excellence fall under the following themes:

- ▶ **Crime, Security and Justice**
- ▶ **Education and Education Policy**
- ▶ **Health and Social Care**
- ▶ **Inequality, Labour and the Future of Work**
- ▶ **Science, Technology and Risk**
- ▶ **People, Place and Policy**

We are home to numerous research centres and groups, including the Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD), the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE) and the Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer).

The School is part of the Wales Doctoral Training Partnership (Wales DTP), funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Each year we are able to offer a number of ESRC-funded awards.

Ranked 3rd in the UK
for research in Sociology.

Ranked 5th in the UK
for research in Education.
(2014 Research Excellence Framework)





CASE STUDY

AGENDA

Professor EJ Renold is the creator of AGENDA, a free toolkit that helps children and young people to learn about topics including healthy relationships, sexuality, activism and digital culture. It has been launched in primary and secondary schools in the UK and USA. Professor Renold was awarded the ESRC's 2018 Outstanding Impact in Society award for her work.



CASE STUDY

Social Data Science Lab

The Social Data Science Lab brings together crime, social, computer and statistical scientists with a mission of democratising access to big social data among the academic, private, public and third sectors. The Lab developed the COSMOS software that provides free access to social media data for social science researchers.

CASE STUDY

Multidimensional Poverty

Dr Shailen Nandy and Dr Marco Pomati have been collaborating with researchers in Uganda and Brazil to identify levels of multidimensional poverty and deprivation. They have also been working to expand and improve research capacity in Uganda, with aims to increase availability of reliable data on poverty and deprivation in order to identify the country's developmental challenges.



Post grad waste

Our programmes

Our postgraduate programmes provide opportunities to engage in advanced study in a research-led interdisciplinary environment.

MSc Education	10	MSc Social Science	
MSc Social and Public Policy	12	Research Methods	18
MA Social Work	14	PhD Opportunities	20
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Post-Compulsory Education and Training (PCET)	16	Professional Doctorate	22

Pre-master's programme

Cardiff University International Study Centre offers a pre-master's programme which prepares international students for a range of postgraduate degrees. Our tailored pathways provide a combination of English language preparation and subject-specific content.

For more details about the pre-master's programme and the range of progression degrees, please visit www.cardiff.ac.uk/isc



MSc Education

Explore key challenges and developments in education in today's global context.

The world of education is facing unprecedented challenges in the search for excellence, relevance, efficiency and inclusion. To overcome these challenges, we need innovative thinking and open minds.

This programme is suited to those who have an interest in education practice, organisation, or research. This includes those who have little or no professional experience of education-related work to mid-career professionals engaged in teaching, educational leadership and organisation or other education-related activities.

You will study the connections between education practices, and their social context to tackle complex education problems and make a positive impact.

You will explore areas such as curricular design, planning for teaching and learning in a rapidly changing world, the effects of globalisation on educational ideas and practices, and the future of education.

Graduates of this programme will be suited to working in education-related roles within formal or non-formal education organisations, government departments and regulators, foundations and think-tanks, charities, the media or social entrepreneurs in the area of education.

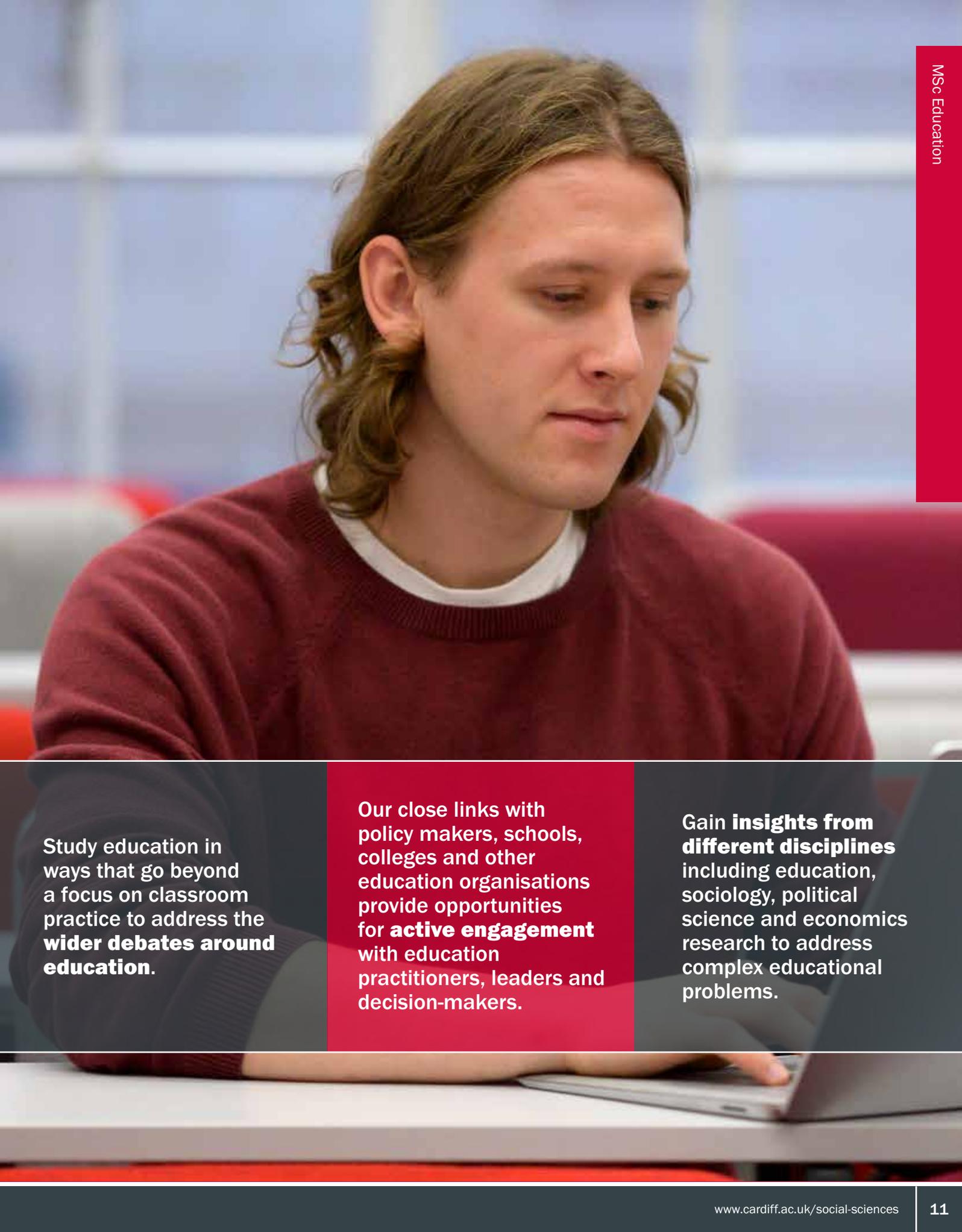


“

This programme gives students exposure to a broad range of perspectives to develop unique insights into education. You will study the latest developments from a variety of disciplines in ways that will transform how you understand educational challenges and solutions.

Professor Manuel Souto-Otero, Programme Director

”



Study education in ways that go beyond a focus on classroom practice to address the **wider debates around education.**

Our close links with policy makers, schools, colleges and other education organisations provide opportunities for **active engagement** with education practitioners, leaders and decision-makers.

Gain **insights from different disciplines** including education, sociology, political science and economics research to address complex educational problems.

MSc Social and Public Policy

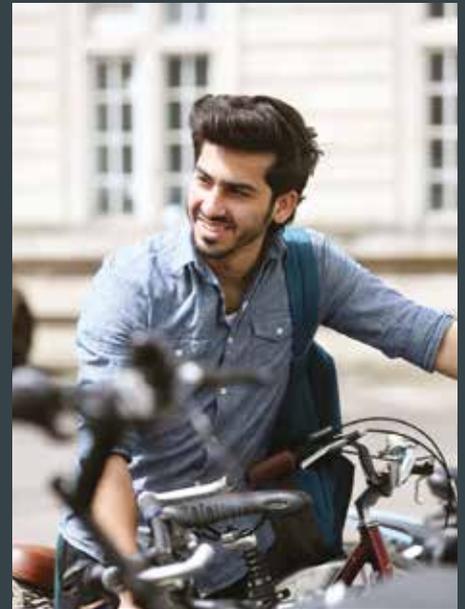
Study how policy is designed around the world to meet human needs and increase wellbeing.

This programme focuses on understanding the causes of, and potential solutions to, a range of important social issues. These include challenges such as poverty, increasing economic and social inequalities, and international development agreements.

A distinctive feature of this programme is the deep integration between both social and public policy. We will equip you with the theoretical, conceptual and analytical tools needed to examine and critique social and public policies around the world.

You will 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. You will also study the use of theories and research evidence to analyse and explain social and public policy change.

Our students have gone on to a range of destinations including further postgraduate study, local and national governments, and international development donor agencies.



This programme helped me to understand extensively how and why decisions are made by both government and non-government institutions and the impact these have. The modules were relevant to current national and international issues of concern, and I enjoyed learning and understanding how different countries with different ideologies address similar issues, such as pension, economic depression, democracy and citizenship.

Agnes Mwangoka, MSc Social and Public Policy





Our approach is shaped by a strong belief in the value of **interdisciplinary social science theory and research**.

Modules and teaching are informed by our **internationally-recognised research and expertise** in social and public policy.

We value our **international student population** from as far afield as east and south Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, north and south America, Europe and the Middle East.

MA Social Work

Build upon existing academic and occupational experience and achieve a professional qualification in social work.

This challenging and engaging two-year programme offers strong tutorial support, teaching informed by research and practice, and access to a range of placement opportunities in specialist fields.

With the principles of human rights at its core, this programme is situated within the broader environment of the social sciences. It provides an informed and critical approach to the acquisition and appreciation of knowledge about the social context within which social work is practiced.

On this practical programme, each year you will spend 100 days in formal study and 100 on practical learning placements.

Upon successful completion of this programme you will be awarded a master's degree and a professional qualification in social work, allowing you to assume the title and practice as a Registered Social Worker.

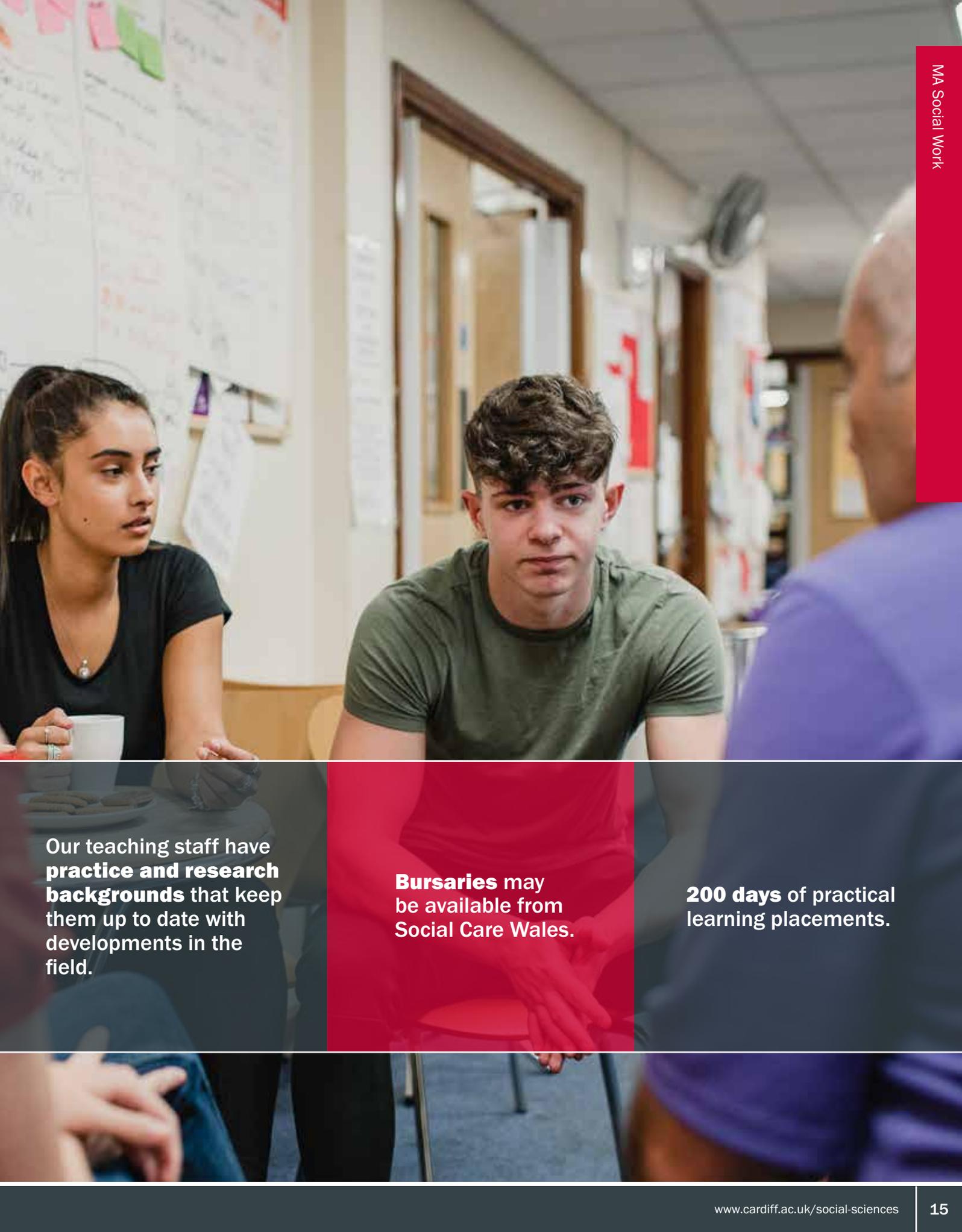


“

This programme is intensive but greatly enriching. It has provided me with knowledge, skills and values and is true to life, with direct bearing on society. Every student can tick off new skills and knowledge acquired from the very first day. The emphasis on evidence-based practice puts theories and research at the heart of every practice action of social workers from Cardiff University.

Patrick Ogbemor, MA Social Work

”



Our teaching staff have **practice and research backgrounds** that keep them up to date with developments in the field.

Bursaries may be available from Social Care Wales.

200 days of practical learning placements.

Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Post-Compulsory Education and Training (PCET)

A professional qualification designed for those wanting to teach in post-compulsory education and training contexts.

This initial teacher education programme is designed for those wanting to teach in areas such as higher, further, adult and community education, prison education, training and development, and vocational education and training.

Designed to meet the needs of the post-compulsory education and training sector, this programme will provide you with a strong entry point into the profession and the capacity for contributed professional learning throughout your career.

This programme will challenge you intellectually by drawing on a range of theories surrounding teaching and learning which you will then apply in professional practice on a placement.

Theory-informed practice is a key and core theme of this programme of study, and you will be required to engage in reflective practice in order to grow, challenge and develop as a professional in the post-compulsory education and training sector.

Graduates from this programme have gone on to work in a range of education, training and learning establishments throughout the UK and overseas.



“

This programme covers a diverse range of topics and has a great blend of academic study and practical teaching. You get to learn your craft at the same time as learning the skills and theory you need to teach. The lecturers are knowledgeable, warm and supportive and provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment. They are very committed to their students and are all industry experts.

Helmine Botes, PGCE PCET

”

Please note, this programme is not suitable for those wanting to teach in primary or secondary schools and does not offer Qualified Teacher Status.



Undertake a **practical learning placement** at one of our partner colleges, universities or training providers.

Learn how to **plan lessons** in your subject; how to **teach, engage and assess** learners; and how to use **theory and research** to improve your teaching.

Modules draw on expertise from the fields of **psychology, sociology and policy.**

MSc Social Science Research Methods

Advanced training in research methods
preparing you for PhD study.

This programme offers a number of pathways, allowing you to choose one which is best suited to your area of academic interest.

You will be provided with a thorough theoretical and practical knowledge in how to construct effective research studies; the variety of data collection methods available to the social scientist; and the principal methods of analysing social scientific data.

This programme provides extensive opportunities for interdisciplinary study, the application of social research expertise for occupational career development, and the pursuit of substantive areas of interest at postgraduate level.

Pathways on this programme have ESRC recognition and each provide the appropriate training basis for proceeding to a PhD.

An MSc in Social Science Research Methods provides knowledge and expertise suitable for a career in research and development, business, market studies, education, teaching and at public agencies at international, national and local levels.

Pathways

- Criminology
- Educational Studies
- Environmental Planning
- International Relations
- Management and Business Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Science and Technology Studies
- Social Policy
- Social Work
- Social-Legal
- Sociology



“This programme allowed me to pursue my research interests in educational research. One particular highlight was the Foundations of Social Science module, wherein I was able to delve into the philosophy of social science. The teaching was very good and the content I learnt has been significant in the design of my PhD research. Studying at the School has been so rewarding and has provided so many opportunities, from studying in Beijing to presenting research at the Palace of Westminster.”

Ross Goldstone, MSc Social Science Research Methods



You will be supervised by staff with **considerable expertise** in their chosen fields.

You will be encouraged to attend and participate in the activities of the School's **research groups**.

Choose a pathway that is suited to your key area of interest.

PhD Opportunities

Research students join a vibrant academic and research environment, with supervision by leading experts.

We offer supervision on a range of research themes, representing the School's main areas of expertise, as well as opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

Research carried out by our staff and students covers sociology, education, criminology, social work, social policy and science and technology studies.

Doctoral students are supervised by two qualified, experienced academic staff. The supervisory team will guide and advise you through regular meetings and support you through the University's academic processes and procedures.

We have a large, bespoke study space for all PhD students, allowing for socialising and collaboration between students. This space includes personal storage and computing facilities with information available on disciplinary-specific research applications and resources.

There are opportunities for PhD students to contribute to teaching in the School's undergraduate courses and, with additional training and mentoring, students may work towards Higher Education Academy (HEA) Associate/Fellow status.



I have always had an interest in alternative forms of schooling. Having spent several years as a practitioner, I wanted to carry out research to understand schooling more broadly, and to study it from the perspective of young people. I enjoyed being able to spend time in a school, having the opportunity to use different research methods, and learning from professionals in the field. The staff in the School of Social Sciences were always very welcoming, supportive and friendly. They went out of their way to make time for me if I ever had a problem or needed advice. The Postgraduate Research Café, organised and run by PhD students, is a great social and supportive space for students to talk about our work or challenges we had.

Philip Smith, PhD Education





PhD students participate in the School's **research community** and attend research groups, seminar series and informal study groups to introduce them to – and with opportunities to act as leaders in – contemporary debate and expert opinion in their field.

Each year the School is successful in obtaining many **funded study awards** from public, private and third sector organisations that provide financial and other support to PhD students.

PhD students have access to a suite of **excellent training opportunities** (including research skills and methods) to support their studies and prepare them for the next stage of their career.

Professional Doctorate

Integrating academic and professional knowledge in new ways.

The Professional Doctorate is a 5-7 year part-time doctoral research degree fully equivalent to a PhD. It is strongly professionally-orientated, focussing on applied rather than pure research.

The Professional Doctorate programme is ideally suited to the career needs of practising professionals. It is aimed at experienced managers and practitioners who are working at senior and middle levels of their professions. The programme enables you to make an original contribution to knowledge that develops from, and takes forward, a selected aspect of your professional life.

There are four pathways of study that can be followed:

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

Each module is delivered over the course of a single weekend: teaching starts on Thursday evenings and continues throughout Friday and Saturday. Professional Doctorate teaching is carried out through lectures and smaller seminars and workshops where the emphasis is on discussion. Teaching also places emphasis on directed independent study.

You will engage with fellow students on taught modules, allowing you to reflect on what is shared across professional boundaries and what is distinctive to your own occupational traditions.

By following taught modules in the first two years before progressing to the thesis stage, you will learn how to bring a critical understanding to bear on your professional practice and, in turn, use this to inform your doctoral thesis.

This is an ideal opportunity for developing an advanced understanding of professional contexts and practices through the medium of research.



“

Undertaking the Professional Doctorate has had a huge impact on me. I have learnt so much and developed skills which I am now using directly every day in my role as a Headteacher. It has definitely enhanced my ability to do my job effectively. As I work full-time the structure of the Professional Doctorate has enabled me to fit my study around my work and balance the pressures and demands of both.

Suzanne Sarjeant, Professional Doctorate

”



The Professional Doctorate offers **flexible part-time study** where taught modules are delivered over the course of a single weekend.

This programme is **unique** in enabling you to follow a doctoral programme of study whilst continuing to work and reflecting on your professional practice as your studies progress.

Our School is **recognised nationally and internationally** as a leading centre for theoretically informed, empirical research, combining interdisciplinary impact on policy and practice, and innovative methodological approaches, both qualitative and quantitative.



Cardiff: a capital city



Dynamic. Friendly. Affordable.

Contemporary, welcoming and easy to get around, Cardiff is a city with character, heritage and ambition. Bursting with culture, cuisine, architecture, entertainment and history, Cardiff is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live, work and study. The city is also budget-friendly: Cardiff was recently ranked as the UK's most affordable university city (Natwest Student Living Index 2019).



“

With an exhilarating mix of heavyweight cultural sights, exciting regeneration projects, world-class sport, a prolific music scene and some seriously banging nightlife, it's easy to see why Cardiff now ranks alongside London and Edinburgh as one of the UK's most compelling destinations.

ROUGH GUIDES, 2018

”

Why Cardiff University?



World-leading research

Cardiff is in the top tier of Britain's research universities and is a member of the prestigious Russell Group. We're ranked second nationally for research impact, and in the top 5 universities for research excellence in the UK.

95%

The most recent DLHE* survey shows that 95% of our postgraduate research students and 93% of our postgraduate taught students progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduation.

*Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (2016/17)

£600 million

We're undertaking our biggest campus upgrade for a generation by investing £600m to improve and develop our facilities and infrastructure.

Teaching excellence

We have a long history of providing outstanding research-led teaching. We're ranked among the top 40 universities in Europe for teaching excellence (Times Higher Education Europe Teaching Rankings, 2019).

An international community

With over 7,900 international students from more than 130 countries, you'll be part of a vibrant community that celebrates its diverse culture.

7

We've been awarded seven Queen's Anniversary Prizes, which recognise world-class excellence in UK Higher Education. We're also home to a large cohort of distinguished staff, including two Nobel Prize winners and 13 Royal Society Fellows.

Entry requirements

Postgraduate taught programmes

Applicants should normally hold, or be close to completing, a first or second class undergraduate degree in a social sciences or humanities subject. Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to obtain a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 (or equivalent).

PhD

Candidates should have an excellent academic background in the social sciences, holding a first or upper second class degree. Candidates will also usually hold a master's degree (preferably an ESRC-recognised master's or equivalent background research training).

Applicants whose first language is not English or those who have not had a substantial part of their education taught in the English language, are usually required to obtain a minimum overall IELTS score of 7.0 (or equivalent).

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.

Applicants whose first language is not English or those who have not had a substantial part of their education taught in the English language, are usually required to obtain a minimum overall IELTS score of 7.0 (or equivalent).

For details on individual programmes, please visit:
www.cardiff.ac.uk/social-sciences



Next steps

When to apply

Applications will be considered throughout the year. However, early application is advisable especially if you are seeking funding. Some funding opportunities have early deadlines and you may be required to secure an offer from your chosen institution prior to applying for funding.

Submitting your application

Postgraduate programmes start in September each year, but applications are considered as they arrive throughout the year. You can submit your application directly using our online application service, which allows you to save your progress and return at a later time. You can track the progress of your application in our online applicant portal.

International students

The University recognises qualifications from all over the world. To know if you would be considered for entry you can visit our website www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international. We have a dedicated section for many countries, international agents and contact details for further information. When accepting your offer, you'll need to pay a deposit to secure your place.

Your offer

There are two types of offer:

- **Conditional:** you have been offered a place but you'll need to submit additional evidence such as qualification certificates when available.
- **Unconditional:** you have been offered a place – congratulations!

Equality and diversity

We are committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all of our practices and activities. We aim to establish an inclusive culture free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect. We recognise the right of every person to be treated in accordance with these values.

We are committed to advancing equality on the grounds of age, disability, gender, reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation and to fostering good relations between different groups.

For further information, please visit: www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity

Funding

A variety of funding options are available for our postgraduate courses.

For more information, please visit:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/funding

Important Legal Information

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this brochure is correct at the time of going to press in January 2020. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to and processed by Cardiff University.

Please check our website at 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.

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

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855.

Further information

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4208

Email: socialscienceadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

To find out more about the
School of Social Sciences
please visit our website:
www.cardiff.ac.uk/social-sciences

Contact us

Tel: **029 2087 4208**

Email: socialscienceadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

School of Social Sciences
Cardiff University
Glamorgan Building
King Edward VII Avenue
Cardiff CF10 3WT

Stay in touch

 [cardiffsocsi](https://www.facebook.com/cardiffsocsi)

 [@CUSocSci](https://twitter.com/CUSocSci)

This brochure is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this brochure and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard. When you have finished with this brochure it can be recycled. Thank you.

This document can also be made available in large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD. To request an alternative format, please contact Postgraduate Marketing:

Email: postgradmarketing@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: **02922 510776**

