Social and Policy Studies
Welcome

Welcome to Social and Policy Studies at Loughborough University – a dynamic unit committed to the highest quality of teaching, research, social impact and student support.

Our students benefit from the world-renowned expertise of our academic staff, all of whom are dedicated to high quality, research-informed teaching that maximises the student experience.

We pride ourselves on supporting our students to fulfil their potential and to graduate as confident, capable and adaptable individuals ready for life after Loughborough.

I hope you take the opportunity to explore what we have to offer and I know that you will find studying with us a fantastic experience. The remainder of this brochure contains more details about our specific courses. The most up-to-date information about our teaching and research is available on our website: www.lboro.ac.uk/social-policy

Professor Stephen Case
Head of Social and Policy Studies

Contents

Research that matters 03
Criminology and Sociology BSc 04
Criminology and Social Policy BSc 06
Sociology BSc 08
Sociology and Media BSc 12
Placements 12
Study exchange 13
Inspiring graduates 14

Research that matters

The research conducted in Social and Policy Studies is multidisciplinary and covers a wide variety of topics within the social sciences. Our aim is to produce both fundamental and applied research of exceptional quality. The real-world impact of our research is impressive, with our researchers providing advice and expertise to government and professional bodies, public sector organisations, charities and private companies.

Every few years, the quality of universities’ research in all subject areas is independently assessed. The latest assessment, known as the Research Excellence Framework (REF), was undertaken in 2014. In REF 2014, our School consolidated its position in the premier league of social science research. We were ranked 6th in the UK for Research Impact in the Social Work and Social Policy category, with 100% of our research being rated as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ and 90% ‘world-leading’.

What this means for you

Our academic staff use their research experience to create our ground-breaking programmes of undergraduate study. Students on our undergraduate degree courses benefit from the knowledge and expertise of our world-leading and internationally excellent researchers at every seminar and lecture they attend. Being taught by internationally renowned experts at the forefront of research in the social sciences means that our students are receiving instruction at the cutting-edge of academic thought in social sciences, which is grounded in the most up-to-date social issues.

Case study: A Minimum Income Standard

Our Centre for Research in Social Policy has identified a minimum socially acceptable income standard in the UK, based on detailed consultation with the general public. Close engagement with the public and with organisations promoting social welfare has helped to establish an accepted national benchmark that has been used directly by charities to distribute money equitably and by wage negotiators and campaigners to identify a living wage.

The research brought together the two leading approaches to compiling minimum household budgets – expert-led research and consensual deliberation among panels of members of the public. Means-tested benefits were found to be much too low for a minimum living standard for working age households, but about right for pensioners. The research also identified that the minimum wage is too low for most working households to reach an acceptable standard of living, and that minimum household costs have been rising faster than average prices – and much faster than typical household incomes – since 2008.

Case study: A Minimum Income Standard

Our Centre for Research in Social Policy has identified a minimum socially acceptable income standard in the UK, based on detailed consultation with the general public. Close engagement with the public and with organisations promoting social welfare has helped to establish an accepted national benchmark that has been used directly by charities to distribute money equitably and by wage negotiators and campaigners to identify a living wage.

The research brought together the two leading approaches to compiling minimum household budgets – expert-led research and consensual deliberation among panels of members of the public. Means-tested benefits were found to be much too low for a minimum living standard for working age households, but about right for pensioners. The research also identified that the minimum wage is too low for most working households to reach an acceptable standard of living, and that minimum household costs have been rising faster than average prices – and much faster than typical household incomes – since 2008.

Case study: A Minimum Income Standard

Our Centre for Research in Social Policy has identified a minimum socially acceptable income standard in the UK, based on detailed consultation with the general public. Close engagement with the public and with organisations promoting social welfare has helped to establish an accepted national benchmark that has been used directly by charities to distribute money equitably and by wage negotiators and campaigners to identify a living wage.

The research brought together the two leading approaches to compiling minimum household budgets – expert-led research and consensual deliberation among panels of members of the public. Means-tested benefits were found to be much too low for a minimum living standard for working age households, but about right for pensioners. The research also identified that the minimum wage is too low for most working households to reach an acceptable standard of living, and that minimum household costs have been rising faster than average prices – and much faster than typical household incomes – since 2008.

Case study: A Minimum Income Standard

Our Centre for Research in Social Policy has identified a minimum socially acceptable income standard in the UK, based on detailed consultation with the general public. Close engagement with the public and with organisations promoting social welfare has helped to establish an accepted national benchmark that has been used directly by charities to distribute money equitably and by wage negotiators and campaigners to identify a living wage.

The research brought together the two leading approaches to compiling minimum household budgets – expert-led research and consensual deliberation among panels of members of the public. Means-tested benefits were found to be much too low for a minimum living standard for working age households, but about right for pensioners. The research also identified that the minimum wage is too low for most working households to reach an acceptable standard of living, and that minimum household costs have been rising faster than average prices – and much faster than typical household incomes – since 2008.

Case study: A Minimum Income Standard

Our Centre for Research in Social Policy has identified a minimum socially acceptable income standard in the UK, based on detailed consultation with the general public. Close engagement with the public and with organisations promoting social welfare has helped to establish an accepted national benchmark that has been used directly by charities to distribute money equitably and by wage negotiators and campaigners to identify a living wage.

The research brought together the two leading approaches to compiling minimum household budgets – expert-led research and consensual deliberation among panels of members of the public. Means-tested benefits were found to be much too low for a minimum living standard for working age households, but about right for pensioners. The research also identified that the minimum wage is too low for most working households to reach an acceptable standard of living, and that minimum household costs have been rising faster than average prices – and much faster than typical household incomes – since 2008.

Case study: A Minimum Income Standard

Our Centre for Research in Social Policy has identified a minimum socially acceptable income standard in the UK, based on detailed consultation with the general public. Close engagement with the public and with organisations promoting social welfare has helped to establish an accepted national benchmark that has been used directly by charities to distribute money equitably and by wage negotiators and campaigners to identify a living wage.

The research brought together the two leading approaches to compiling minimum household budgets – expert-led research and consensual deliberation among panels of members of the public. Means-tested benefits were found to be much too low for a minimum living standard for working age households, but about right for pensioners. The research also identified that the minimum wage is too low for most working households to reach an acceptable standard of living, and that minimum household costs have been rising faster than average prices – and much faster than typical household incomes – since 2008.
This course brings together the strong expertise in both Sociology and Criminology in Social and Policy Studies. The course combines the two subjects, giving you the unique opportunity to gain both a broader understanding of how individual lives are shaped by social structures and processes and a more specific expertise in causes and prevention of crime and social problems.

About the course
The foundation of the course consists of core modules in Sociology and Criminology, giving you a solid understanding of social and criminological theories and concepts and key issues, such as social change, gender, globalization, crime prevention and policing. The optional modules allow you to pursue your own special interests and include topics such as, race and racism, sex work and sex industries and forensic psychology.

Year 1
Compulsory modules
Sociological Imagination; Introducing Criminology; Crime and Social Welfare; Identities and Inequalities; Understanding Social Policy; Global, Social and Cultural Change; Foundations in Social Sciences; Introducing Research Methods

Optional modules
Introduction to Communication & Media Studies; Self and Identity; Ideas and Controversies in Psychology

Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin

Year 2
Compulsory modules
Crime Prevention; Social Theories; The Criminal Justice System in England and Wales; Advanced Research Methods

Optional modules
Women and Crime: Victims, Offenders and Survivors; Religion and Society; Inequalities Across the Life Course; Media, Culture and Crime; Digital Lives and Society; Political Psychology; Psychological Disorders in Society; The Media in Global Context; Political Communication

Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin

Final Year
Compulsory modules
Youth Justice: The Individual and Society; Rehabilitation and Recovery; Consumption, Culture and Everyday Life; Sociology/Criminology Project Dissertation

Optional modules
Gender, Sex and Society; Race and Racism; Sex Work and Sex Industries; Operational Policing; Forensic Psychology; Green Criminology: Environmental Crimes and Harms; Health, the Body and Culture; Poverty, Pay and Living Standards; Social Psychology of Everyday Life

Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin

Please note that modules are subject to availability and timetable scheduling.

“I enjoy the range of modules that are offered. The core modules give me fundamental knowledge but the optional modules allow me to pick modules that I want to know more about. This includes modules that might be outside my course but indirectly related such as politics, psychology and media. This makes the university experience more enjoyable as it’s almost as though the course is tailored to me.”

— Stephanie
Criminology and Sociology BSc
Criminology and Social Policy BSc

Criminology and Social Policy is the study of crime and deviant behaviour, why it happens, and how criminal justice policy is created and implemented. You will learn about current issues faced by policy makers and practitioners in relation to a range of contemporary social policy and crime control issues; including, crime prevention and policing, courts and sentencing, punishment and rehabilitation, as well as the changing role of social welfare policy in tackling the problem of crime and reducing reoffending behaviour.

About the course

The course seeks to inform and challenge perceptions over existing and potential social problems. It offers students the opportunity to:
- Understand crime, its causes and prevention
- Explore the links between crime and inequalities
- Develop knowledge of the police, the courts, prisons and other criminal justice systems
- Evaluate current policies and strategies addressing issues and problems such as teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, poverty, immigration, equal opportunities and human rights
- Understand the policy process in criminal justice and social policy

Typical offers

A level: ABB (General Studies accepted)
IB: 34 (6,5,5 HL)
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma: DDM

Placement opportunity

Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin.

Final Year

Compulsory modules
- Youth Justice; Rehabilitation and Recovery: Criminology and Social Policy Project Dissertation

Optional modules:
- Green Criminology: Environmental Crimes and Harms;
- Operational Policing: Sex Work and Sex Industries;
- Poverty, Pay and Living Standards; Gender, Sex and Society;
- Race and Racism; Health, the Body and Culture;
- Forensic Psychology; Social Psychology of Everyday Life

Please note that modules are subject to availability and timetable scheduling.

Entry requirements correct at the time of print. Please check our website for the latest version and other qualifications.

*BPS/DIntS: Diploma in Professional Studies/ Diploma in International Studies.

Student quote:

“I knew from the outset that I wanted to pursue a career within the criminal justice system and the modules that were covered at Loughborough really interested me.

I worked at a Category B Male Prison as a Resettlement Case Manager on my placement year. From day one, I was given so much responsibility. My placement provided me with invaluable experiences, and exceeded my expectations. It was eye-opening in terms of the current state of the Criminal Justice System, as well as giving me an insight into future career options.”

— Harriet

Criminology and Social Policy BSc
Sociology BSc

Sociology offers you a thorough understanding of theories and methods to understand how individual identities, behaviours and lives are shaped by social, historical processes and structures, such as sense of belonging, gender, inequalities, technological change and globalization.

During the course you will explore in depth a variety of social phenomena, such as migration, gender, social class and inequalities, consumption and culture, implications of race and racism, health and digital media and social change. You will also learn to study the social world with classical and cutting-edge research methods from social surveys and interviews to visual methods and online ethnography.

About the course
The Sociology course helps you to ask and answer interesting key social questions, such as:

- How do societies change? How are these changes related to processes of globalization, migration, shifts in gender roles and religious beliefs, digital technologies, social movements and economic and cultural transformations?
- How do social theories help us to understand complex processes, such as how power operates in society? How do different understandings of power translate into different societies, policies and ways of regulating intimate relations?
- How can we analyse society, its structures, people’s beliefs and experiences? How do different research methods capture different aspects of social reality from correlations between social class and educational opportunities or cultural taste or emotional effects of social media?

Year 1
Compulsory modules
Sociological Imagination; Identities and Inequalities; Global, Social and Cultural Change; Self and Identity; Ideas and Controversies in Psychology; Foundations in Social Sciences; Introducing Research Methods.

Optional modules
Introducing Criminology; Introduction to Communication & Media Studies; Understanding Social Policy; Geographies of Global Economic Change; Geographies of Identity

Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin

Year 2
Compulsory modules
Social Theories; Globalisation and its Consequences; Digital Lives and Society; Advanced Research Methods

Optional modules
Religion and Society; Women and Crime: Victims, Offenders and Survivors; Inequalities Across the Life Course; Media, Culture and Crime; Political Psychology; Psychological Disorders in Society; The Media in Global Context; Political Communication

Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin

Final Year
Compulsory modules
The Individual and Society; Gender, Sex and Society; Consumption, Culture and Everyday Life; Sociology/Criminology Project Dissertation

Optional modules
Race and Racism; Sex Work and Sex Industries; Health, the Body and Culture; Forensic Psychology; Poverty, Pay and Living Standards; Social Psychology of Everyday Life; Green Criminology: Environmental Crises and Harms; Media, Memory and History; Producing the News

Please note that modules are subject to availability and timetable scheduling.

Placement opportunity
Study Abroad
Additional Award
Accredited course

“"The variety of modules to study is great here and they are all really interesting. The staff are extremely helpful and very knowledgeable in the topic they are teaching as many are researchers as well as lecturers. Lectures are more like seminars, interacting with students, creating debates, and discussions.”

— Brad Sociology BSc
Our Sociology and Media degree combines two vibrant subjects to provide students with a detailed knowledge of the way that societies and individuals understand, represent and communicate about themselves and how understanding such issues requires a thorough consideration of power, identity and diversity.

About the course

By giving students the opportunity to study a broad, multidisciplinary curriculum which covers the main theories, concepts and practices of sociology and media studies, this degree teaches students to understand and explain the role of media and communication in the organisation of everyday life, social identities and belief systems. Our students learn to critically examine the prominent role played by media and digital communications in the representation of society and social life and to explore the way media and communication processes and institutions inform and influence public understandings of identity, diversity and inequality.

By providing a thorough training in sociological theories and methods, students will learn to examine and explain complex social issues in relation to inequality, globalisation and social change. Students also explore the role played by the media in the way in which social issues are represented and discussed and learn about key developments in digital media, press, film, broadcasting and advertising. You will become adept at using classical and contemporary research and debates to explain some of the most pressing social and cultural issues.

Year 1

**Compulsory modules**

- Identities and Inequalities; Sociological Imagination; Introduction to Communication & Media Studies: Contemporary Trends & Issues; Foundations in Social Sciences; Global, Social and Cultural Change; Introduction to Communication & Media Studies: Historical Themes & Perspectives; Language and Society; Introduction to Research Methods.

Optional modules

- Self and Identity; Media Landscapes; Students can also choose language options, including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin.

Year 2

**Compulsory modules**

- Social Theories; Media, Identity and Inequality; Media and Social Change; Digital Lives and Society; Advanced Research Methods.

Optional modules

- Women and Crime: Victims, Offenders and Survivors; The Media in Global Context; Religion and Society; Promotional Culture; Critical Viewings: Film; Media, Culture and Crime; Globalisation and its Consequences; Political Communication; Plus language options.

Final Year

**Compulsory modules**

- The Individual and Society; Contemporary Media Debates; Consumption, Culture and Everyday Life; Digital Media and Society; Sociology/Communication & Media Studies Dissertation.

Optional modules

- Gender, Sex and Society; Critical Viewings: Documentary; Critical Viewings: Television; Media, Memory and History; Producing the News; Sex Work and Sex Industries; Health, the Body and Culture.

Please note that modules are subject to availability and timetable scheduling.
Placements

Students on all of our courses have the opportunity to spend a year either in the UK or overseas gaining valuable work experience before they graduate. It is a great chance at the end of your second year to take on a professional role with a company or organisation. Many of our students have been successful in securing permanent jobs with their placement companies post-graduation.

Students who choose to do a placement work towards a qualification in addition to their Degree – the Diploma in Professional Studies (DPS).

Why do a placement year?
- A fantastic opportunity to ‘test-drive’ a career for a year
- Gain valuable work experience in a position of responsibility and enhance your CV
- Develop greater self-confidence and a more mature outlook
- Typically improved performance in final year of studies
- Students who have done a placement are more likely to be offered a higher salary in a graduate role
- Additional qualification – Diploma in Professional Studies

What help and support will I get?
Although it will be your responsibility to secure your own placement, the University provide comprehensive guidance to assist you including tailored advice, employer presentations, skills sessions and talks. We also offer:
- A dedicated School Placements and Study Exchange Team who will support you throughout the process, sending you opportunities, subject-specific social media and provide CV and application advice.
- Support via the University’s Careers Network and dedicated Careers Consultants who organise employer presentations, skills sessions, employer fairs and mock interview/assessment centre practice.
- Students are made aware of placement opportunities throughout their studies and have the opportunity to attend presentations from students returning from work placement.
- Placements are monitored by a Visiting Academic Tutor who supports you with your DPS assessment and monitors your progress through the year.

What work placements do students undertake?
In recent years our students have done placements with BP, Volkswagen, Melon Coors, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Samsung Electronics, Bosch, Confederation of British Industry, PwC, National Grid, Renault, Department of Work and Pensions, Food Standards Agency, Bedfordshire Police, Instron and Sky.

Students have undertaken roles such as Logistics Manager, Marketing Intern, Management Consultant, Social Research Officer, Community Safety Hub Team Assistant, Corporate Finance Analyst, Sports Data Researcher, MR, PR & Social Media Intern and Corporate Affairs.

What does it cost?
As a placement year is part of your academic studies, you will pay a tuition fee. Placement year fees are set at 20% of the yearly full-time fee for UK/EU students and £3,500 for international students taking placements in the 2020/21 academic year.

Study exchange

Students who choose to study abroad for a year work towards an additional qualification – the Diploma in International Studies (DIntS). There is also the option to study abroad for one semester and undertake a shorter work placement (25 weeks), which would also lead to the award of a DIntS upon successful completion of all components.

Why study abroad for a year?
- Get ahead in the job market
- A different and new study outlook
- Meet an international network of friends
- Improve your ability to establish relations with people from different cultural backgrounds
- Gain an international perspective
- Additional qualification – Diploma in International Studies

What does studying abroad for a year involve?
Typically, you will study a range of modules at the equivalent of second or final-year level. Classes at our partner universities can be taught in the foreign language and/or English dependent upon your choice of institution. You will be encouraged to take language classes prior and during your time abroad.

Where can I go?
There are many Erasmus+ study exchange opportunities with European universities and present University-wide international exchanges include Australia, Japan, Singapore, and the USA. For the most up-to-date list of our partner universities and which School/Study areas they partner with, please visit: https://www.lboro.ac.uk/erasmus/outgoing/locations

What help and support will I get?
- A dedicated School Placements and Study Exchange Team who will support you throughout the process.
- Students are made aware of study abroad opportunities throughout their first and second year of study, with the opportunity to attend presentations from students returning from studying overseas.
- Online Linguistic Support (OLS) Tool: The OLS Tool offers Erasmus+ exchange students the opportunity to assess and improve their competency in the foreign language(s) relevant to the country in which they are studying. For further information please visit: www.lboro.ac.uk/international/erasmus/outgoing/language-support

What does it cost?
Students on Erasmus+ and international exchanges currently pay reduced fees to Loughborough University and are not liable for tuition fees at their chosen overseas university. For further information please visit: https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/overseas-exchange/outgoing/before-you-leave/finance

If you take part in an Erasmus+ study you are eligible to apply for an Erasmus+ Mobility Grant which acts as a financial contribution towards living costs abroad.
Inspirying graduates

A degree in the social sciences from Loughborough sets you up for a bright and rewarding future. The School has an excellent record in terms of its students' academic development and career progression; our graduates enter a variety of interesting professions thanks to the diversity of skills they gain from their degrees. 93% of our recent graduates are in work or study six months after graduation* [DLHE 2017].

We work closely with the University's Careers Network to ensure that our students get the right skills and encouragement when planning for life after Loughborough. We have a dedicated Placements Officer and Careers Consultant who ensure that our personal and practical help to all students is available and I thought it would be a great place to explore the subject further.

My mother is a business psychologist and I had always been interested by her work and the way the human mind worked. I studied Psychology at A-Level and this only piqued my interest further. When I started looking into doing a psychology degree, I noticed all the modules I was most interested in were the ones that fell more into the Criminology and Sociology categories. I had never heard of Criminology before this! So that’s how I landed on Criminology and Social Policy. Loughborough had the best mix of modules available and I thought it would be a great place to study.

I loved the diversity of modules on offer at Loughborough. I studied topics you’d expect from the degree like the History of Social Policy or Crime and Social Welfare, but then also had the opportunity to study Human Sexualities, Women and Crime, Health & Illness, and so many more from the Social Sciences.

My time at Loughborough developed me as an individual more than I ever expected. I was launched out of my comfort zone, moving a few hours away from home with no friends. Living in halls (Cayley – the best!) and having to be bold and make friends out of nowhere really helped prepare me for moving to Sydney knowing no one all over again! I became a much more confident person because everyone at Loughborough was so welcoming, so enthusiastic and just as excited as I was to be there!

My advice to students considering studying Criminology and Social Policy would be do it! It’s a really worthwhile degree and will keep you interested throughout. Be prepared for some confronting content though! When I was researching for my dissertation on sex trafficking in the UK there were times when I wondered why I’d chosen such a topic. But educating myself on the issue resulted in me volunteering with a fantastic charity when I arrived in Sydney and that’s an experience I’ll be forever grateful for!

After graduating I worked in real estate in London for about 18 months. I loved the fast-paced nature of the job and learnt some crucial skills in negotiation and sales. However I had always wanted to live in Australia for a year and when I decided it was time for a career change I thought it might be a good time for a location change too! By the end of my first year in Australia I had decided that Sydney life was for me and being offered a permanent role at an international recruitment agency was the push I needed to decide to stay on for a little while longer. I worked for that agency for 2 years before being offered an internal recruiter role at Macquarie. Less than a year into that role I was offered a secondment in the Graduate Recruitment Team which turned into a permanent placement. After a little over a year and a half hiring graduates and interns into Macquarie I took a big leap into the project space and am now a Change Manager looking after our Client Lifecycle Management team within Market Operations.

I have been in my current role for about 8 months now and I am absolutely loving it. It was a real challenge at the beginning, and continues to be so, but I quite thrive in challenging environments so it’s suiting me quite well so far! I am responsible for the coordination and communication surrounding significant business change and ensuring our staff and stakeholders are well informed, appropriately trained and prepared for the upcoming changes. Working for an international investment bank means that there is almost always change happening around us, so I am kept very busy! I love working for Macquarie. They are an exceptional company to work for. They’re incredibly innovative in their approach to business, they encourage their staff to act boldly, work collaboratively and constantly embrace a learning mindset. I feel inspired by the people I’m surrounded by and the work that they do every day, which makes coming into work much more a joy than a chore!

Charlotte Wheeldon
Change Manager
Macquarie Group, Sydney, Australia

Graduate roles and destinations include:

- BBC – Press Office Runner
- British Sky Broadcasting – TV Production Junior
- Bupa – Authorisation Adviser
- Christian Aid – East Midlands Regional Coordinator
- Deutsche Bank – Graduates Trainee
- European Regions Airline Association – Coordinator, Corporate Communications
- Fulham Football Club – Marketing Assistant
- Goldman Sachs – Human Capital Management Analyst
- Ipsos Mori – Trainee Research Executive
- Macmillan Cancer Support – Telephone Campaign Coordinator
- Ministry of Justice – Offender Manager
- National Autistic Society – University Support Worker
- National Offender Management Service – Psychology Assistant
- NHS – Assistant Psychologist
- Nottinghamshire Police – Community Support Officer
- Opinion Panel Research – Trainee Research Executive
- Publicis London – Account Manager
- Your Sanctuary – Women’s Safety Support Worker

*Full-time UK degree students available for work or study 6 months after graduation.

Social and Policy Studies

Charlotte Wheeldon
Change Manager
Macquarie Group, Sydney, Australia
This brochure was written several months in advance of the academic year to which it applies (2020). Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within is accurate at the time of publishing, but updates (for example to course content) are likely to occur due to the time between publication and the course start date. It is therefore important to visit our online prospectus at www.lboro.ac.uk/study before applying to check for any updates, as this will be the most up-to-date repository of information.