Sociology and social policy postgraduate study
Welcome

The School of Sociology and Social Policy is a vibrant and diverse centre for social science teaching and research. It links sociology, social policy, criminology, social work, public policy and public administration.

Our outstanding postgraduate teaching is underpinned by our world-leading research, which has a tangible impact on policy decisions.

Our research centres are unified by a common concern with social and global justice, and provide a basis for interdisciplinary and collaborative work that engages with the fundamental societal issues of our time.

The Centre for Social Work is a recognised centre for professional social work education. We also offer MA programmes and professional doctorates in public policy and management through the International Centre for Public and Social Policy.

We attract high achieving students from all over the world to study with us, in what is an intellectually stimulating and lively learning environment.

Professor Ian Shaw
Head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy

A university without borders

The University of Nottingham has campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia, and an outstanding reputation for ground-breaking research and teaching excellence.

Research at Nottingham generates discoveries, many of which have profound social, economic and cultural benefits and address major global challenges. Our postgraduate students make significant contributions to this pioneering work and can get involved in projects which have been rated internationally excellent.

Postgraduate study is challenging and, as such, we provide outstanding academic and pastoral support. Our experienced team are on hand to provide help and advice on issues ranging from your course to finance, wellbeing and career planning.

Once you have completed your studies, you will become part of our family of 270,000 alumni in all corners of the globe. You can enjoy benefits including invitations to exclusive events, lifetime access to our Careers and Employability Service and access to a network which may prove invaluable in your future career.

96.3% of sociology and social policy postgraduates secured work or further study within six months of graduation

Ranked as a world top 100 university
QS World University Rankings 2019

78% of our research is world-leading or internationally excellent
Research Excellence Framework 2014

nottingham.ac.uk/sociology
Find your future at Nottingham

Inspirational location
The School of Sociology and Social Policy is situated in the idyllic surroundings of the beautiful 300-acre University Park Campus – the hub of student life and the perfect location for studying and accessing first-class facilities.

Academic excellence
Tutored by academic experts within their respective fields, our postgraduate programmes attract graduates from all around the world, contributing to the vibrant research and learning culture that makes Nottingham a truly unique place to study. Each programme is highly specialised and strongly linked to the school’s research interests.

Research in the school is conducted through four research centres, which group together academic staff and postgraduate students with similar interests. Each of our research centres is aligned with one or more of the school’s eight research themes. These include:
- children and families
- social work and social care for adults
- health and well-being
- policy analysis
- identities
- mobilities and migration
- work and inequalities
- science, knowledge and society

A support network built around you
Students are at the heart of everything we do and the school is committed to ensuring you are fully supported.

The University of Nottingham provides a wide range of support services for postgraduate students. The Graduate School offers induction events, training opportunities, funding, careers support and social and sporting events. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/graduateschool

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Outstanding careers support

Postgraduate study develops vital skills and can give you a head start in the job market, enabling you to develop self-discipline and motivation that is essential for a variety of fields.

You will graduate with expertise and knowledge that will equip you for a range of roles, and our students have gone onto successful careers in their chosen fields. Our graduates are spread around the globe, working in a wide range of areas. Each year a number of our graduates enjoy their degree so much that they take further courses of study or research posts. Opportunities for further study within the school include taught postgraduate courses in global citizenship, identities and human rights, international social policy, public policy, and research methods.

Recent graduate destinations
Our postgraduate students move into an extraordinarily wide range of careers following their time in the school. Recent graduate destinations include:
- Stonewall
- Youth Movement for Reform Judaism and Zionism
- Nottingham Labour Party
- Ministry of Justice
- Mitsubishi
- Sky
- Taylor Wessing

“I am now working as project officer at DAAD regional office Jakarta for a new European Union funded project on the harmonisation of higher education in ASEAN. I am really living my dream!”

Agung Pamungkas, MA International Social Policy

Employability and average starting salary
96.3% of postgraduates from the School of Sociology and Social Policy who were available for employment secured work or further study within six months of graduation. £27,900 was the average starting salary, with the highest being £31,000.*

* Known destinations of full-time home postgraduates 2016/17.

Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.

Lifelong careers support
The University’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service offers specialist support and guidance while you study and for life after you graduate. They will help you explore and plan your next career move, through regular events, employer-led skills sessions, placement opportunities and one-to-one discussions.

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Agung Pamungkas, MA International Social Policy
MA/PGDip Public Policy

Focused on critical issues and key developments relating to public policy, this course examines globalisation, Europeanisation, governance and policy analysis and evaluation. With the current developments around the world, this is one of the most exciting times to be studying the public sector, governance and government, and the delivery of services to meet people’s needs. You will have the opportunity to study policy development, implementation and evaluation across a wide range of policy sectors (such as health, food, education) and countries. We aim to provide you with the skills, knowledge and tools to make sense of the world of public policy and management, so that you can critically analyse situations and problems, and use this to improve practice.

This course is designed to blend practitioner and academic perspectives on public policy, and the wide range of modules draw on examples from around the world. It features international curricula focusing on key public sector developments in the UK, EU, USA and other countries and is informed by world-leading research, reflecting the expertise of staff in the fields of public management, policy analysis and social policy.

Course details

Across the autumn and spring semesters, you will take 120 credits of core and optional modules. MA students will complete a 60-credit 15,000-word dissertation over the summer, and an appropriate dissertation supervisor will oversee your progress.

Career and professional development

If you have previously studied politics, sociology, law, geography, finance, economics or a science subject, this course enables you to further your knowledge for a career in the broad policy community. It is also suitable if you are already working in the public or not-for-profit sector and wish to enhance your career prospects. Graduates have pursued careers in the public and voluntary sector and wish to enhance your career prospects. It is also suitable if you are already working in the public or not-for-profit sector and wish to enhance your career prospects. If you have previously studied politics, sociology, law, geography, finance, economics or a science subject, this course enables you to further your knowledge for a career in the broad policy community. It is also suitable if you are already working in the public or not-for-profit sector and wish to enhance your career prospects. Graduates have pursued careers in the public and voluntary sector and wish to enhance your career prospects. It is also suitable if you are already working in the public or not-for-profit sector and wish to enhance your career prospects.

Providing broad-based training in social science research, this course will equip you with the skills to manage a successful research career and contribute to wider society in a number of ways. It is part of the Midlands Graduate School ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership, which recognises the importance of bringing cutting-edge expert knowledge to the heart of doctoral training. Core modules provide a comprehensive basis to progress to advanced training in research methods. You will be able to undertake advanced subject-specific training in our areas of expertise, providing a wide range of opportunities to deepen and broaden your skills.

Primarily aimed at students following an ESRC-funded pathway onto a PhD, this course may also be suitable if you are intending to apply for ESRC funding (to cover a PhD) and are interested in developing a wide range of social science research skills. It will also prepare you for research posts in academic, voluntary, private and third sector settings.

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This course will give you a thorough preparation for a challenging yet enormously rewarding career as a social worker.

We believe that the role of social worker is a position of privilege that enables you to collaborate with people who need your help, and to empower them to transform their lives. It therefore requires social work education of the highest standard to ensure you are fully prepared to register and practice when you graduate.

As a member of the D2N2 Teaching Partnership we contribute to the establishment of a social work academy of excellence, providing a holistic approach that not only gives you an essential broad-based, practical skillset, but also develops your deeper academic learning that will form the foundation of your practice.

Our teaching is delivered through the Centre for Social Work. You will learn from academics with years of expertise as practising social workers, and who have first-hand experience of working on the front line of social care.

Course details

The majority of academic teaching takes place in the autumn semester of each year and teaching methods include lectures, seminars, tutorials, case discussions and experiential exercises, designed to encourage the integration of theory and practice.

Placements

In February of your first year you will begin your first 80 day placement with a local social care agency, where you will be given a caseload appropriate to your level. You will be supported and guided by your Practice Educator – a fully experienced senior social worker with years of experience in the sector and who is specifically trained to enable your reflective practice in a safe environment. You will also undertake a 90 day placement in your second year, where you can develop your experience, skills and analytical thinking to an even deeper level.

Each placement will be assessed against the requirements of the Professional Capabilities Framework and the Key Skills Statements from the Chief Social Workers in England. You will also be fully supported throughout by your personal tutor, who will meet with you to monitor your learning development and wellbeing.

Career and professional development

Graduates of this course are eligible to register as qualified social workers with the Health and Care Professions Council.
Great minds grow together

The School of Sociology and Social Policy has a strong and vibrant community of postgraduate research students and we are dedicated to developing our students' research skills, expertise and career in a supportive and collegial environment.

We offer PhDs in:
- Criminology
- Public Policy
- Sociology
- Social Policy
- Social Work
- Science, Technology and Society

We also offer Professional Doctorates:
- Doctor of Public Policy
- Doctor of Public Management

Facilities and support

Our research students are offered excellent facilities and support, including:
- Two supervisors and additional support through membership of one of the school's research centres
- Dedicated workspace, equipped with a networked computer
- Generous photocopying and printing allowance
- Opportunity to apply for funding to attend workshops and conferences

Research training

Working closely with academic schools, the Graduate School's dedicated training team contribute to faculty specific and doctoral training programmes. They deliver core training in a vibrant and active research community, and will be supported by two academic supervisors.

PhD

Committed to teaching and research excellence, the School of Sociology and Social Policy is a dynamic centre for collaborative and interdisciplinary PhD study.

A PhD is the most advanced form of postgraduate study. It is awarded on the successful completion of supervised research, oral examination and final thesis.

This programme combines advanced research training with high-quality supervision and feedback. You will study within a vibrant and active research community, and will be supported by two academic supervisors.

Doctor of Public Policy DPP | Doctor of Public Management DPM

These programmes allow you to combine taught courses on public policy, public management and research methods, while carrying out a substantial piece of independent, doctoral-level research.

Professional doctorates are doctoral-level qualifications, equivalent to traditional PhDs. They are rigorous programmes of advanced applied study and research, specifically designed to meet the needs of practising professionals. They provide a framework for the integration of professional expertise and scholarly inquiry to explore specific areas of interest.

This programme provides critical reflection on public sector reforms, including evidence-based policy and practice. It supports creating greater capacity within the public and voluntary sectors to conduct, commission and evaluate research as a contribution to the achievement of public goals.

The School of Sociology and Social Policy undertakes cutting-edge local, national, international and cross-national research through its combination of staff that work within and across the disciplines of sociology, criminology, cultural studies, social and political science.

By bringing together and synthesising these disciplines around common interests and issues, we produce theoretically innovative and empirically robust knowledge that is valued by the academic community, policymakers, professionals and service providers.

Doctoral funding

We are part of the Midlands Graduate School ESRC and Midlands3Cities AHRC doctoral training partnerships, which offer funding opportunities for postgraduate students each year. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/phd-funding

How to apply

Tuition fees

For the most up to date fee information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/fees

Entry requirements

Taught courses

Entry requirements vary by course. For full entry requirements, please see individual course listings at nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

Research opportunities

DPP and DPM applicants typically require a 2.1 (or international equivalent) in any discipline and two years of work experience in a related field, while PhD candidates should have a masters with an average of 60% or above, plus 2:1 (or international equivalent) in any discipline.

For full entry requirements, please see individual course listings at nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

EU and international applicants

At Nottingham, our global community is made up of students from more than 150 countries. Staff regularly travel to meet prospective students, hosting events in China, Ghana, India, Malaysia and more. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/international/meetus

If you need a visa to study, the University can provide all the information and advice you need. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/student-visa

For country-specific information including entry requirements, contact details and representatives, see nottingham.ac.uk/go/yourcountry

English language requirements

For applicants whose first language is not English, we require IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element), except for MA Social Work, our MA Social Science Research degrees and our PhD, DPP and DPM, which require IELTS 7.0 (no less than 6.0 in any element). For more information and a list of the alternative English language requirements we accept, see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Academic English preparation and support

Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK, the University's Centre for English Language Education provides high-quality preparation and support. Our preessional courses take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to postgraduate study without retaking IELTS or equivalent.

Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

Equal opportunities policy

The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socioeconomic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

Home from home

We guarantee all new postgraduate students University-arranged, single-occupancy accommodation for one year to help make your move to Nottingham as simple and stress free as possible. To qualify for the guarantee, you must accept a place on one of our postgraduate courses and apply for accommodation by a specified date. Find out more about our accommodation, including the most up to date details of our guarantees at nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Funding your studies

Current funding opportunities are listed on the school website at nottingham.ac.uk/politics and can also be found on the Graduate School website at nottingham.ac.uk/graduateschool

A wide range of international scholarships are available for specific countries and regions. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/international-scholarships

For full entry requirements, please see individual course listings at nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/how-to-apply

nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/apply