



THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

Department of Social Policy & Social Work

The York Social Policy Masters Programme

MA COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY
MA SOCIAL POLICY
MRES SOCIAL POLICY

We offer three Masters level degree programmes designed for those looking for advanced study of social policy, drawing upon the research excellence and expertise within the Department.

Each programme provides an opportunity for you to explore some of the main social issues of the day in an intellectually stimulating environment, to develop theoretical tools for analysing policy and to gain research skills that will allow you to carry out your own social policy research.

Alongside compulsory training in social policy analysis, the York Social Policy Masters Programme allows you to choose between specialising in research training (MRes in Social Policy), comparative and international policy analysis (MA in Comparative and International Social Policy) or a mixture of the two (MA in Social Policy).

Graduates from the York Programme head into a variety of destinations, but most tend to go into one of three key occupations: policy analysts inside government agencies, NGOs or campaigning organisations; researchers in the same field; or, academic research, often following a further period of study at PhD level.

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The York Social Policy Masters Programme

MA COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY
 MA SOCIAL POLICY
 MRES SOCIAL POLICY

Course structure

Teaching and learning is provided through a combination of:

- » Lectures in groups typically no larger than 30 and often with fewer than 15 people
- » Group seminars and hands-on workshops
- » Strong pastoral support through a personal supervisor
- » A personal dissertation supervisor offering one-to-one support for your research
- » Written feedback on all assessed work
- » A continuous assessment process based mainly on essays, reports and a research based dissertation

Research focus

Reflecting York's position as a leading research university, each route through the York Social Policy Masters Programme features specialist research training. In addition, everyone completes an individual research based dissertation on a topic of their choice and under the supervision of an individual member of staff.

This strong research focus of the York Social Policy Masters Programme means there is a 50-50 balance between time spent on taught courses and your own specialist research project. This reflects the advanced nature of the programmes, which are designed to act as a pathway to careers in policy analysis or PhD level study.

Degree programme

Each degree is comprised of a structured series of modules, written specifically for the postgraduate programme.

In the Autumn Term you will explore key concepts and theories used for analysing social policies and will be given some initial research methods training.

In the Spring Term you will specialise in your chosen area: the MRes Social Policy allows you to undertake advanced quantitative and qualitative research training, the MA in Comparative and International Social Policy allows you to explore social policy issues from around the globe and the MA in Social Policy allows you to opt for any mix of the two.

In the Summer Term and over the Summer months, you will undertake your own research based dissertation and attend Graduate Dissertation Workshops.

Most people study full-time for 12 months, which is the route we describe above, but part-time study over 24 months is also possible. The programme runs from October to September each year.

	MA in Social Policy	MRes Social Policy	MA in Comparative and International Social Policy
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social Policy Analysis » Introduction to Social Research Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social Policy Analysis » Introduction to Social Research Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social Policy Analysis » Comparative & International Social Policy: Research Methods
Spring Term	Choose two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Advanced Quantitative Methods » Advanced Qualitative Methods » Globalisation & Social Policy » Comparative Social Policy: Governance, Management & Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Advanced Quantitative Methods » Advanced Qualitative Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Globalisation & Social Policy » Comparative Social Policy: Governance, Management & Delivery
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Graduate Dissertation Workshops » Dissertation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Graduate Dissertation Workshops » Dissertation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Graduate Dissertation Workshops » Dissertation



THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

Department of Social Policy & Social Work

Masters of Research in Social Work

MRES SOCIAL WORK

The MRes in Social Work is a Masters degree programme designed for those wanting to specialise in the advanced study of social work.

The programme provides you with the skills to appreciate, analyse, and research contemporary social issues, the nature of social need and social work responses to them. You will do this in an intellectually stimulating environment that will allow you to develop research skills enabling you to carry out your own social work research and critically assess and utilise the research of others in the social work field.

The programme is aimed at social work graduates, social work practitioners, those who wish to pursue a career in social work research in the UK or internationally (including prospective MPhil/PhD students), and those who wish to explore research methods in relation to social work, human services and social care.

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Masters of Research in Social Work

MRES SOCIAL WORK

Course structure

Teaching and learning is provided through a combination of:

- » Lectures in groups typically no larger than 30 and often with fewer than 15 people
- » Group seminars and hands-on workshops
- » Strong pastoral support through a personal supervisor
- » A personal dissertation supervisor offering one-to-one support for your research
- » Written feedback on all assessed work
- » A continuous assessment process based mainly on essays, reports and a research based dissertation

Research focus

Reflecting York's position as a leading research university, the MRes in Social Work features specialist research training. In addition, everyone completes an individual research based dissertation on a topic of their choice and under the supervision of an individual member of staff.

This strong research focus means that there is a 50-50 balance between time spent on taught courses and your own specialist research project. This reflects the advanced nature of the programme, which is designed to act as a pathway to careers in social work analysis or PhD level study.

Degree programme

In the Autumn Term, you will explore key concepts and theories used in social work research and you will be given some initial research methods training.

In the Spring Term, you will undertake advanced quantitative and qualitative research training, as well as a module on evidence, understanding and justice in social work research.

In the Summer Term, and over the summer months, you will attend the graduate dissertation workshops and undertake your own research based dissertation.

Most people study full-time for 12 months, which is the route we describe above, but part-time study over 24 months is also possible.

The programme runs from September to September each year.

MRes Social Work

Autumn Term

- » Introduction to Social Research Methods
- » Domains of Social Work Research

Spring Term

- » Advanced Qualitative Methods
- » Advanced Quantitative Methods
- » Evidence, Understanding and Justice in Social Work Research

Summer Term

- » Graduate research workshops
- » Dissertation research project

July-September

- » Dissertation - submitted by mid-September



THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

Department of Social Policy & Social Work

MPA Comparative Applied Social and Public Policy, Evaluation and Research (CASPPER)

CASPPER is a 21-month MPA programme specialising in social and public policy analysis and social research that builds on the University of York's successful and well established MPA, social research and comparative analysis programmes.

CASPPER is aimed at mid-career professionals who currently work as or who intend to become: policy advisors and analysts; project leaders; policy consultants; policy researchers and evaluators.

The curriculum has a strong comparative cross-national and international focus, and places a particular emphasis on the analysis of policy development and policy lessons from within OECD member states.

The programme draws on our expertise in a wide range of social science subjects (including social policy, public policy, political science, public management, policy analysis and sociology) and draws on the extensive networks connected to the Department of Social Policy and Social Work. In addition to staff within specialist policy research units, we have developed relationships with local, national and international bodies, including analysts based within local and national government, NGOs, the OECD and WHO.

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MPA Comparative Applied Social and Public Policy, Evaluation and Research (CASPPER)

Course structure

Teaching and learning is provided through a combination of:

- » Lectures in groups typically no larger than 30 and often with fewer than 15 people
- » Group seminars and hands-on workshops
- » Strong pastoral support through a personal supervisor
- » An applied policy research placement with supervision from a learning mentor offering one-to-one support
- » Written feedback on all assessed work
- » A continuous assessment process based mainly on essays, reports and a research based dissertation

In Year One you will undertake modules focusing on comparative social policy and public management and also complete a series of specialised master classes that explore issues such as research communication and systematic reviewing of evidence. You will be assigned a 'learning mentor' to assist you in tailoring a programme of training activity to your needs and will begin an applied policy research placement over the summer months.

In Year Two you will undertake advanced research skills training and, under the guidance of your individual mentor, complete the placement element of the programme. Drawing on work completed during the placement you will complete a policy focused systematic review project in the final months of the degree.

Applied Policy Research Focus

The Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York is one of the largest centres for policy research in Europe with around 80 academic staff. It is home to two specialist research units: the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and the Centre for Housing Policy (CHP).

The Department's research is highly regarded. The most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) rated the majority of staff as either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' and SPRU was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2009.

The CASPPER programme builds directly on our applied policy research expertise, both in the taught modules which draw heavily on our own research and in the placement elements that provide the opportunity to participate in ongoing policy research projects.

	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social Policy Analysis » Comparative & International Social Policy Research Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Introduction to Social Research Methods » Applied Policy Research Placement Report
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Globalisation and Social Policy » Comparative Social Policy: Governance, Management & Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Advanced Quantitative Methods » Advanced Qualitative Methods
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Applied Policy Transfer Project » CASPPER Master Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Placement Linked Systematic Review Report
Summer Vacation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Placements commence over vacation 	



UNIVERSITY *of* York

Department of Social Policy & Social Work

MA Social Work

L508

Our MA in Social Work is a Masters degree programme and a professional qualification in social work. Hence, at the same time as working for your MA, you will be training as a social worker and gaining the knowledge and skills needed for effective professional practice. On qualifying you will be able to apply for registration as a social worker.

Our programme has a strong focus on practice and learning from practice, and is delivered by the University in partnership with a number of agencies in the region that provide practice learning opportunities in a wide range of settings and with a range of service user groups.

We aim to equip you with the knowledge, skills, values and critical ability to make a high quality contribution to social care and welfare agencies in the UK and beyond.

Postgraduate social workers from York are in high demand and you will be well placed in terms of employment prospects.

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MA Social Work

Postgraduate qualifying social work programme

L508

Learning and teaching

You will learn through a blend of classroom- and practice-based activities, including:

- » Lectures, seminars and workshops
- » One-to-one tutorial and pastoral support
- » Continuous assessment and examination
- » Two practice placements of 70 days and 100 days each
- » Placement supervision and assessment
- » Independent learning

Your lectures, seminars and tutorials will be delivered by enthusiastic and knowledgeable academic staff who are experienced practitioners. Guest speakers with specialist expertise, including service users from the Department's Service User and Carer Participation Advisory Group, will also contribute to modules across the programme.

You will develop your knowledge and understanding with focused and guided reading, group work and, for some modules, online activities to support your learning beyond the classroom.

Application

Application is through UCAS, using course code L508 and institution code Y50. Admission to the course is by an interview.

You should familiarise yourself with the entry requirements which are available on our website.

Financial help

Information on the NHS Social Work Bursary is available online via the links on our webpages:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/undergraduate/fees-and-bursaries/>

Degree programme

In the first year you will study a series of modules designed to provide you with a solid foundation to undertake your first practice placement. Some modules are taken together with students on the BA Social Work programme, but your assessment and engagement with lecturers will be at postgraduate level.

First year modules:

- » Readiness for Practice
- » Knowledge for Social Work
- » Context for Social Work
- » Developing Practice
- » International Context for Social Work

In your second year, in addition to your second practice placement, you will choose to follow a more specialised academic pathway in one of the following areas:

- » Children and Families Social Work
- » Health and Disability Social Work
- » Mental Health Social Work
- » Youth Social Work

You will also take a module looking at Current Debates in Social Work and complete Social Work Research 2, your dissertation module.

Considerable time will be spent on your dissertation in a subject of your choice. You may choose from a variety of methods and data collection in carrying out the work. The dissertation may be literature based or it might involve a combination of research methods. Examples of recent dissertation titles are available on our website.