Welcome

This guide is designed to provide you with information to assist you in your course choices. It will provide you with additional information as to the content of optional courses, along with details of assessment methods and teaching terms.

This information is intended as a guide only, is not exhaustive and is subject to change. The School’s online course guides should be consulted for the most up to date information.

The number of courses required to be taken as a part of your programme and the number of options you have available to you to choose at your discretion are detailed in your relevant programme regulations.

You can find the online course guides and confirmation of your programme regulations using the School Calendar:

lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar

Details of teaching terms can be found using the online timetable, which is updated for the next academic year during the preceding summer:

lse.ac.uk/school/timetables
## Postgraduate courses

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Postgraduate courses

Click here to view the graduate course guide online
The course provides a detailed and critical introduction to the study of criminal justice institutions, practices and participants. It begins with an introduction to the nature of crime and contemporary criminal justice policy.

It then examines the main elements of modern criminal justice systems (police, courts, prisons, probation, the media, and private security). Special emphasis is given to current issues such as restorative justice and increasing rates of incarceration. The course combines up-to-date empirical work with theoretical perspectives and also emphasises the role of historical and comparative perspectives in understanding current trends. Focus will be primarily on developments in England and Wales, but will also look beyond this jurisdiction to developments elsewhere.

The course analyses the purposes, design and impact of social security policies, meaning policies that protect and support household income at times when income from the labour market does not suffice. The need for social security arises both from demographic factors that affect nearly everyone during their life course – childhood, parenthood, old age – and from risk factors that will end up affecting only some – unemployment, sickness and disability.

The course takes a comparative approach, examining differences in the design of social security policies across welfare regimes and drawing on examples from different countries. The focus is largely on industrialised countries, but the course also touches on issues arising in delivering social protection in other parts of the world.
This course addresses the emergence, maintenance and dynamics of social advantage and disadvantage in different areas of life across different societies and across different social groups. It explores inequalities in income, poverty and wealth, labour market position, family resources, education, crime, and life chances, with reference to social groups defined according to their gender, class, ethnicity, citizenship and migration status, disability, and country or neighbourhood of residence.

Topics addressed on the course may include – changes in inequality and their causes; the theoretical and empirical issues provoked by the “underclass” debate; family change and disadvantage; long term unemployment and welfare-to-work; area segregation, housing and “welfare ghettos”. It pays specific attention to intersectional, cumulative and relational processes in the reproduction of inequalities.

The course equips you with transferable research design skills, including the design of policy evaluations, and an in-depth understanding of the role of different types of research in the social policy-making process. Lectures are given by leading academics engaged in research using the methods under consideration, many of whom have achieved substantial policy impact. Students are encouraged to critically assess applications of a wide range of research methods to contemporary national and international social policy questions.

Topics include: the uses and abuses of quantitative and qualitative research, mixed methods, policy evaluation (including Randomised Controlled Trials); innovations in research; longitudinal analysis; micro-simulation techniques; systematic reviews, meta-analysis and meta-ethnographies; and small area, geographical and internationally comparative research. The relationship between research and policymaking is a theme that runs throughout the course.
Course Code: SA481

Course Title: Population Analysis: Methods and Models

Value: 0.5 unit  
Teaching Term: MT  
Assessment Method: Exam

This course provides an introduction to the key concepts and methods required for population analysis. The course will explain the dynamics of population change and enable students to learn basic methods for measuring population structure and the determinants of population size and change (fertility, mortality and migration). The course will also provide an introduction to population projections and describe and evaluate how demographic data are collected and used. Emphasis is placed on the understanding and interpretation of demographic data, as well as methods of population analysis.

Pre-requisites: Students should have basic numeracy, but the course does not require advanced mathematical knowledge. Some practical sessions will involve use of the spreadsheet EXCEL.

IT Training provides numerous self-paced student supervised workshops on EXCEL and downloadable course guides. Students with no prior experience of EXCEL are advised to attend one of these workshops before the course.

Course Code: SA4AA

Course Title: International Social and Public Policy

Value: 0.5 unit  
Teaching Term: MT  
Assessment Method: Exam and Essay

This course engages with the social and public policy challenges facing states and citizens across the world. It introduces students to core issues, concepts, actors and debates shaping our understanding of social and public policy, its drivers and impacts.

It outlines the questions raised by efforts to ensure a healthy, educated and productive population, to protect those without other means of support, and to reduce inequalities of e.g. gender, class, and ethnicity. It discusses diverse policy approaches to these issues, their ideological underpinnings, and the varying configurations of actors involved in the policy process – the state, the market, civil society, the family, and international organisations.

The course explores applications to a range of policy domains, such as education, urbanisation, health, family, social care, migration, inequality and redistribution, and to varied country contexts. The course is informed by an international and comparative approach that considers both rich and poor country contexts and international dimensions and locates these within a historical understanding of both national and global processes.

Click here to view the [graduate course guide online](#).
The course aims to provide an understanding of issues associated with the research process in the context of MSc in International Social and Public Policy dissertations. It includes an examination of philosophical issues underpinning research methods in social policy, the place of different research methods (qualitative and quantitative) in international social and public policy, the use of research and the role of evidence in informing social and public policy, and the process of writing a social policy dissertation.

This course is not available as an option to students on any programmes other than MSc International Social and Public Policy.

This course will explore the boundaries of race and ethnicity in different countries, and will introduce students to key conceptual issues which surround the study of ethnicity, race, and social policy. It will also examine the tensions in approaches which privilege group rights and those which favour individual rights and how different nation states have adopted or rejected multicultural policies.

The course will critically review patterns and explanations of ethnic inequalities in labour market experiences and education outcomes and in relation to ethnic disproportionality in prison populations around the world, exploring the various explanatory frameworks for these persistent disparities.

Finally, the course will review the role of the state in responding to ethnic inequality and legislative attempts to combat racial inequality and discrimination and consider the place of minority perspectives in improving policy formulation and service delivery.
**Course Code** SA4B9  
**Course Title** Education Policy, Reform and Financing  
**Value** 0.5 unit  
**Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Exam and Essay

This course considers education policy, reform and financing across a range of countries. It uses concepts and tools from a number of academic disciplines – social policy, sociology, economics, politics and philosophy – to scrutinise education. Throughout the course, there is particular focus on equity, social justice and the distribution of resources. Issues to be addressed include: the impact of social characteristics on educational outcomes (class, gender and race and ethnicity, with a cross-cutting focus on special educational needs and ideas of "inclusion") and related policy reforms; accountability and market-oriented reforms in education; privatisation and the changing role of the state; power and the politics of educational policy making; global policy transfer in education; early years education; school-based education and post-compulsory education.

Priority entry for this course will be given to social policy students with a specific interest in education policies in developed countries.

**Course Code** SA4E6  
**Course Title** Rural Development and Social Policy  
**Value** 0.5 unit  
**Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Essay

This half-unit course will review rural development theories, policies and strategies from a social policy perspective, linking both macro- and micro- perspectives on key themes relevant to wellbeing in rural areas in developing countries. The main focus is on the analysis of both mainstream and alternative forms of rural development ideas and policies and the possibilities for strengthening rural livelihoods within sustainable local, national and international contexts. The course will approach the subject of rural development through a "social policy" lens that emphasises concepts of wellbeing within agrarian transformation. It will take an "actor-oriented" perspective that draws on work from anthropology and sociology, linking this with a broader political economy ideas rather than neoclassical economics. The course will incorporate a range of cross-cutting rural development themes including livelihoods, gender, power and globalisation.
**Course Code** SA4F1  
**Course Title** Migration: Current Research, Critical Approaches  
**Value** 0.5 unit  
**Teaching Term** MT  
**Assessment Method** Essay  

This interdisciplinary course addresses contemporary global migration issues with reference to both developing and developed country contexts; international migration patterns and forms of migration; migration and inequalities; migration, transnationalism and the transformation of welfare systems. Teaching across the course integrates critical theoretical approaches to migration with applications using different migration-related research methods.

Course outline: Global migration trends and processes; Defining migrants and migration; Citizenship, migration policies and the unequal movement of people; Migration motivations, types and processes; Gender and migration; Researching migration; Migration, transnationalism and welfare; The impacts of migration; What does migration mean for social and public policy.

SA4F1 is a compulsory course on the ISPP (Migration) specialism.

**Course Code** SA4F8  
**Course Title** Behavioural Public Policy  
**Value** 0.5 unit  
**Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Project  

The aim of the course is to explore ways of changing behaviour to achieve the aims of public policy. One half of the course will be concerned with the behaviour of professionals who work in public services. The second half of the course explores ways of changing individuals’ and households’ behaviour in areas of policy concern such as smoking, obesity, and the environment.

The course will draw on recent developments in behavioural economics, motivational and behavioural studies in psychology, and the philosophy of paternalism, including libertarian paternalism and the “nudge” agenda. It will discuss evidence from a wide range of areas of public policy, but especially health care, education and social care, using illustrations and evidence from Europe, North America and Australasia.
Course Code SA4F9
Course Title Housing, Neighbourhoods and Communities
Value 0.5 unit  Teaching Term MT
Assessment Method Exam and Essay

This course introduces MSc students to the links between housing, neighbourhoods and social and public policies, in the context of housing systems in the UK, Europe and North America.

It examines: how housing and neighbourhoods have evolved in UK and Europe, and contrasts in the USA; the rise of mass housing estates, the role of government and housing management; housing markets – supply, demand, need and affordability; owner-occupation and taxation; sustaining neighbourhoods through upgrading, and dangers of segregation and gentrification; housing wealth and assets, inheritance and polarisation; private renting, housing benefits and regulation; social housing, subsidies, rents and affordability; community-led and community-based housing; sustainable housing solutions, retrofit, fuel poverty and energy saving. The course uses live case studies to illustrate the main themes.

Course Code SA4G8
Course Title Social Movements, Activism and Social Policy
Value 0.5 unit  Teaching Term LT
Assessment Method Exam

The course begins by examining theories of social movements, collective action, and contentious politics. It then moves on to examine how social movements engage with the policy process and the ways in which social movement activism informs social policy formulation and implementation.

It examines the nature, past and present roles of social movements and their potential capacity in shaping social policy in developed and developing countries, and in democratic, hybrid, or authoritarian regimes. The course covers theoretical arguments and examines empirical examples and case studies.

The course examines the following topics: the role and impact of social movement activism in identifying and meeting needs; the role of grassroots mobilisations and solidarity; how movements are affected by regulatory frameworks; how and when movements achieve their objectives; movements relations with other actors (including, NGOs, trade unions, political parties, etc.); populism.
### Course Code SA4H7

**Course Title** Urbanisation and Social Policy in the Global South  
**Value** 0.5 unit  
**Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Exam and Essay  

The course focuses on concepts, practice and policy relating to urban social development in cities in developing and transitional countries. It examines the social, economic and political challenges in urban areas in developing and transitional countries from various conceptual perspectives, and the policies and planning practices aimed at addressing them.

Some of the themes explored in the course are: theoretical perspectives on the city; urbanisation and social change; migration; the rural-urban interface; urban poverty and livelihoods; labour markets and housing; urban social movements; urban basic services; and urban management and governance. State and non-state actors are a cross cutting element of the course.

### Course Code SA4H9

**Course Title** Non-Governmental Organisations, Social Policy and Development  
**Value** 0.5 unit  
**Teaching Term** MT  
**Assessment Method** Exam  

The course focuses on the specialised field of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within the field of social policy and development, and considers theoretical and policy issues. Main topics include the history and theory of NGOs; the changing policy contexts in which NGOs operate; NGO service delivery and advocacy roles in policy; NGO relationships with other institutional actors including government, donors and private sector; challenges of NGO effectiveness and accountability; NGO organisational growth and change; and conceptual debates around civil society, social capital, social movements and globalisation.

SA4H9 is a compulsory course on the ISPP (NGOs) specialism.
Course Code SA4J9
Course Title States, Social Policy and Development
Value 0.5 unit  Teaching Term MT
Assessment Method Exam

This course provides the analytical tools needed to understand and critically evaluate the key practical challenges of social development. A wide range of development contexts will be discussed using empirical research and case studies.

Key themes include: linking social policy theory, implementation and practice; making social protection effective; managing sector reform processes; projects and programmes, including design and evaluation; participation and community development; gender analysis; the impact of corporate social responsibility and social enterprises on poverty reduction.

SA4J9 is a compulsory course on the ISPP (Development) specialism.

Course Code SA4K2
Course Title Sexuality, Everyday Lives and Social Policy in Developing Countries
Value 0.5 unit  Teaching Term LT
Assessment Method Essay

This course aims to analyse and understand the way social policies deploy sexuality categories in regulating everyday life in developing countries, both in its public and private manifestations. It aims to consider social policy and particular interventions in their historical contexts, as a way of unpacking the construction of sexuality in the intersection of colonialism, gender, race, class and international policy frameworks in developing countries.

The course also aims to interrogate the relationship between particular social policy prescriptions developed in most industrialised welfare societies and the way some of these are transferred to developing countries. The major concern of the analysis is to bring out the perceptions of sexuality that underwrite these policies and how these interact with existing perceptions of sexualities and their performances (identities, desires and bodily practices) in multiple developing country contexts.
Postgraduate courses summary

**Course Code** SA4L6

**Course Title** Illegal Drugs and Their Control: Theory, Policy and Practice

**Value** 0.5 unit  **Teaching Term** MT  
**Assessment Method** Essay

This multi-disciplinary course draws on sociology, psychology, criminology and law to examine the place and meaning of illegal drug use in late modern societies and associated policy responses. It begins by considering drug use and subcultural formations; the “normalisation” of drug use; drug tourism; the role of addiction; and the organisation of drug markets.

It then goes onto consider the making of drugs policy; drugs, policing and the law; treatment and harm reduction and drugs as a development and human rights issue.

Lastly the course will critically explore depenalisation and decriminalisation options and alternatives to prohibition as exemplified in case studies such as the U.S and Uruguay.

**Course Code** SA4L7

**Course Title** Policing, Security and Globalisation

**Value** 0.5 unit  **Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Coursework and Essay

The sub-discipline of police studies is now well-established and is flourishing. Whilst much traditional policing scholarship has focused on policing within particular societies, increasingly attention is being drawn to both international and comparative matters. Indeed, the social and economic changes associated with globalisation have affected policing as all else.

This course will focus on transnational public and private policing, and on the issues and challenges raised by globalisation: from the policing of transitional societies and emergent democracies, the problems of drugs control and the policing of migration, to new social movements and the policing of public order.
**Course Code** SA4L8  
**Course Title** Punishment and Penal Policy  
**Value** 0.5 unit **Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Essay and Presentation

This course will explore punishment and penal policy from a range of comparative perspectives. Focusing on Anglophone jurisdictions and the rest of the world in equal measure, the course will consider in depth a wide variety of historical and international comparative studies of punishment and penal policy, both from the field of criminology and beyond.

In so doing, the course will critically examine theoretical frameworks and empirical research on such issues as: the forms state punishment has assumed over time and in different national and regional contexts; the array and relative significance of the reasons why punishment and penal policy may develop, qualitatively as well as quantitatively, in particular ways at given historical junctures and in different jurisdictions; the relationship between political systems and punishment, with particular reference to processes of democratisation; the role of punishment in society as explained through psychosocial theories and research.

**Course Code** SA4M1  
**Course Title** Politics of Social Policy: Welfare and Work in Comparative Perspective  
**Value** 0.5 unit **Teaching Term** LT  
**Assessment Method** Essay

The course explores the politics of social policy in advanced political economies. In the first part of the course, the main analytical approaches for the cross-national analysis of welfare states are introduced (such as the industrialism thesis, the power resources model, new institutionalism, feminist theory and the globalisation thesis). These will be examined in the context of the rise of modern welfare states and their transformations since the end of the “Golden Age” in the mid-1970s.

These analyses and the theoretical approaches to cross-national study of welfare states will be harnessed in the second part of the course when the focus shifts towards more recent policy developments since the 1990s. The empirical focus is on the welfare-and-work nexus. The course analyses the development of labour market and family policies in Nordic countries, Continental Europe, Anglo-phone countries and East Asia.
This course focuses on urban or collective violence, or what more colloquially tend to be referred to as “riots”. The course will consider the various approaches that have been taken to this subject - via history, psychology and sociology – and, focusing on particular examples, the course will examine some of the core issues in the field including: the causes of riots; psychological versus sociological explanations; the role of race/ethnicity; the impact of traditional and new social media on the nature and organisation of rioting; the role and changing nature of the policing of urban disorder; and how riots might be understood both historically and comparatively.
Postgraduate Programme Team

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