

Studying in the Department of Social Policy at LSE



Professor David Lewis

Undergraduate Departmental Tutor

Teaching and research about international development, civil society, NGOs and the voluntary sector, the policy process.



Dr Tania Burchardt

BSc Programme Director

Teaching and research about
health and social care policy;
poverty and inequality; research
methods



Dr. Sunil Kumar

Chair, BSc ISPP Exam Sub-board
(2021-22 onwards)

Teaching and research about
urbanisation, internal migration,
urban poverty, informal labour
markets, and social policy and
development.



Dr Amanda Sheely
Departmental Tutor, BSc ISPP
programmes (2021-22 onwards)

Teaching and research about
mothers and government
supervision; poverty and
employment; research methods



Overview



What is Social
Policy?

Why Social
Policy at LSE?

Spotlight on
Research
(Case Study 1)

Spotlight on
Research
(Case Study 2)

Teaching and
assessment

Career
destinations

Q & A

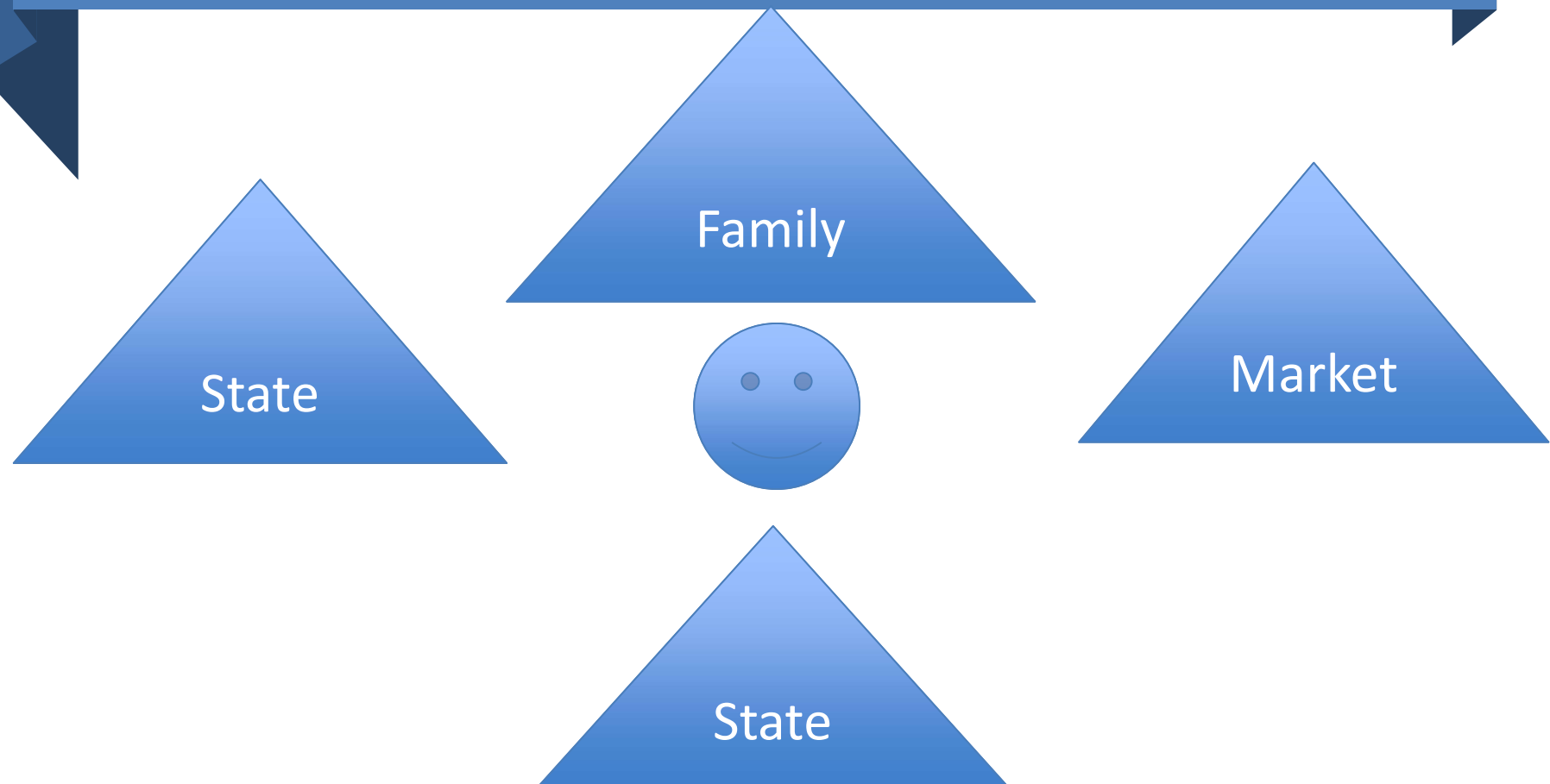
What is Social Policy?

“The study of the social systems needed for human wellbeing.”

William Beveridge's 'Five Giants'

- Want (an adequate income)
- Disease (health)
- Ignorance (education)
- Idleness (employment)
- Squalor (housing)

Welfare – but not just the state



What we focus on: (1) welfare state pillars (These are all previous UG dissertation titles)



- Health:
 - What are the consequences of public-private partnerships in delivery of health and social care in Britain?
- Education:
 - Evaluating the emergence of private schools in Tanzania
- Housing:
 - Are rent controls effective in improving housing quality and affordability? The case of Berlin
- The welfare state as a whole:
 - Do current social policies in Brazil measure up to the principles of the 1988 Constitution?

What we focus on (2) Wider state activity that affects 'the good life'



- Health behaviour:
 - Will the sugar tax reduce the rate of obesity in the UK?
- Work and wages:
 - How far has the aim of the Equality Act of 2010 (equal pay for equal work) been achieved with regard to gender?
- Drug policy:
 - A history of the policing of recreational drug use at music festivals in Britain
- Foreign aid:
 - Do foreign aid policies improve the prospects of children's lives in Sub-Saharan Africa?

What we focus on (3) Addressing social problems



- Acting tough on sleeping rough: State action and inaction in alleviating the conditions of rough sleepers
- The over-representation of African American women in incarceration in the USA
- The refugee crisis in Germany: A qualitative study on perceptions of immigrants in Neumarkt

A multidisciplinary approach

- **Economics**
- **Politics**
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Demography
- Criminology
- Development studies
- Gerontology
- History
- Anthropology

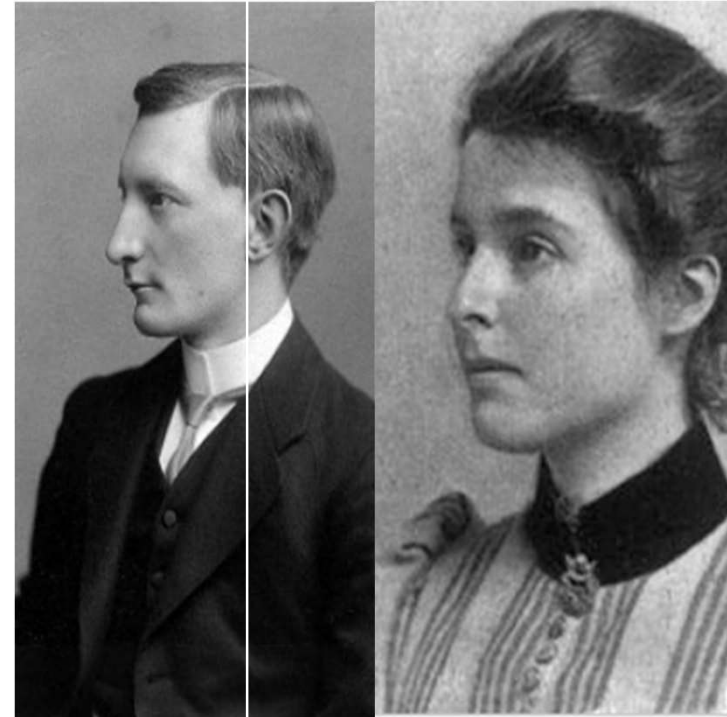
“By the study of anthropology, sociology, psychology and such elements of social and political economy as are relevant, we try to work out our correct principles to guide us in our approach to the social problems of the time. Nevertheless, the application of those principles to a given situation is an art.”

[Aneurin Bevan, 1952]

Why Social Policy at LSE?

The oldest social policy department in UK

- Sidney and Beatrice Webb: social reformers and co-founders of the LSE
- Beatrice Webb's minority report on the Poor Laws in 1909 outlined a welfare state which would:
 - “secure a national minimum of civilised life ... open to all alike, of both sexes and all classes... nourishment and training when young, a living wage when able-bodied, treatment when sick, and modest but secure livelihood when disabled or aged”
- William Beveridge: Director of LSE 1919-1937, and founder of the modern welfare state in UK



Why Social Policy at LSE?

Exposure to external speakers and LSE-wide events

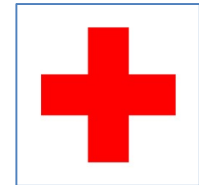
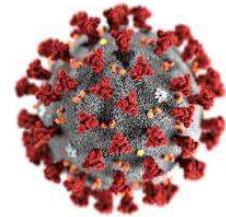


Why Social Policy at LSE?

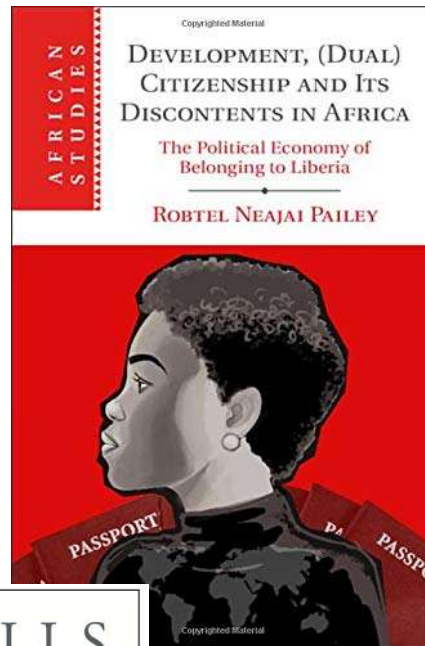
A policy active department

For example -

- Prof Platt is a member of the UK government's advisory body on the pandemic (SAGE sub-group on ethnicity)
- Dr Exley engaged with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on higher education reform
- Dr Oliver was an expert witness in a legal case in Canada on public and private healthcare
- Dr Stewart's interventions helped to secure the future of measures to hold the UK government to account on child poverty
- Dr Shiner's research influenced operational practices reducing discriminatory use of the Metropolitan Police's Gang Matrix



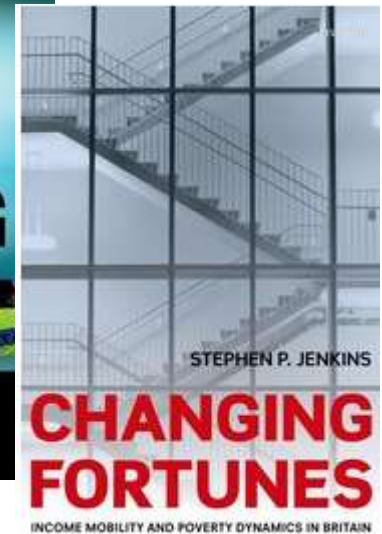
Some recent books by members of the department



OXFORD

SOCIAL ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE

EDITED BY
HARTLEY DEAN
AND LUCINDA PLATT



CITIES FOR A SMALL CONTINENT

International handbook of city recovery



POLICY IN A COLD CLIMATE

POLICIES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES SINCE THE CRISIS

EDITORS:
RUTH LUPTON, TANIA BURCHARDT, JOHN HILLS,
KITTY STEWART AND POLLY VIZARD

AN EQUAL START?

Providing quality early education and care for disadvantaged children



Spotlight on research

Case Study 1 – Dr Sunil Kumar

The Urbanisation-Construction-Migration Nexus

A 6-page briefing note: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/64169/>

For the full report:

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/Project/61261/Default.aspx>

My main research focus is on disenfranchised and marginalised humans in the so-called urban Global South.

I am interested in the economic, political and social processes that lead to their exclusion, exploitation and devaluing.

In sum, an **'ethics'** of **care**.

Building Back Differently:

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Events/LSE-Festival/Post-Covid-World/Shorts/20200302/build-back>

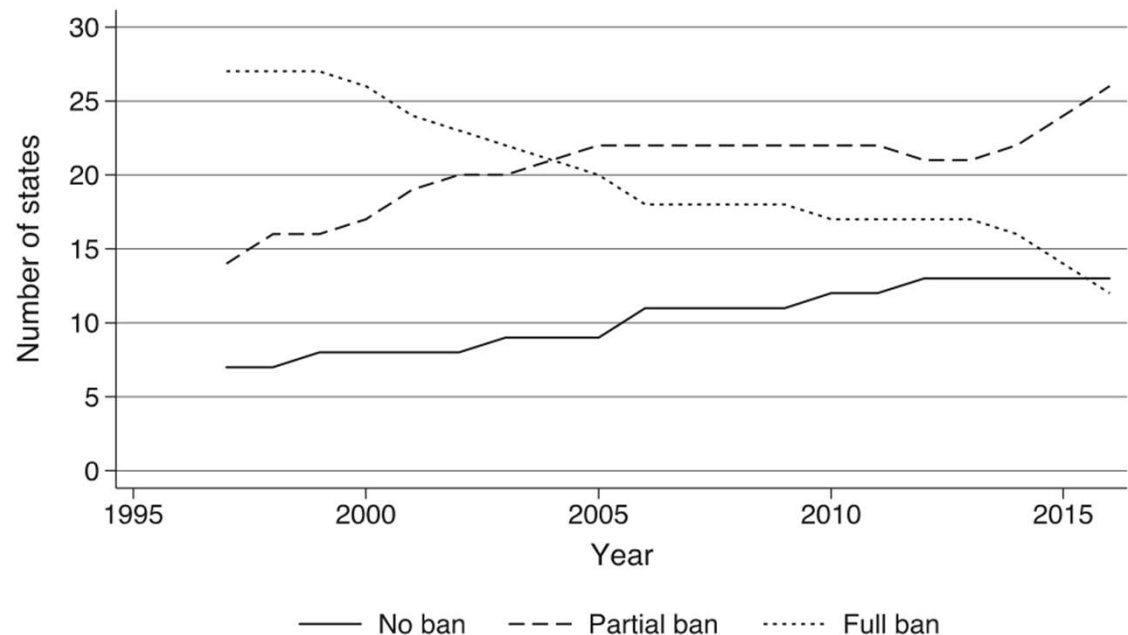


Spotlight on research

Case Study 2 – Dr Amanda Sheely

Government Supervision of Poor Mothers

- My main research focus is on government supervision of poor women and mothers.
- Poor mothers face the potential for supervision in social assistance, criminal justice and child welfare systems.
- All combine coercion with care.
- Interested in the extent to which supervision leads to improved economic outcomes.



BSc International Social and Public Policy

First year

- Understanding International Social and Public Policy
- Foundations of Social Policy Research
- Plus two courses from:
 - Social Economics and Policy
 - Sociology and Social Policy
 - Politics of Social Policy Making

Does social media use affect young people's mental health?

Second year

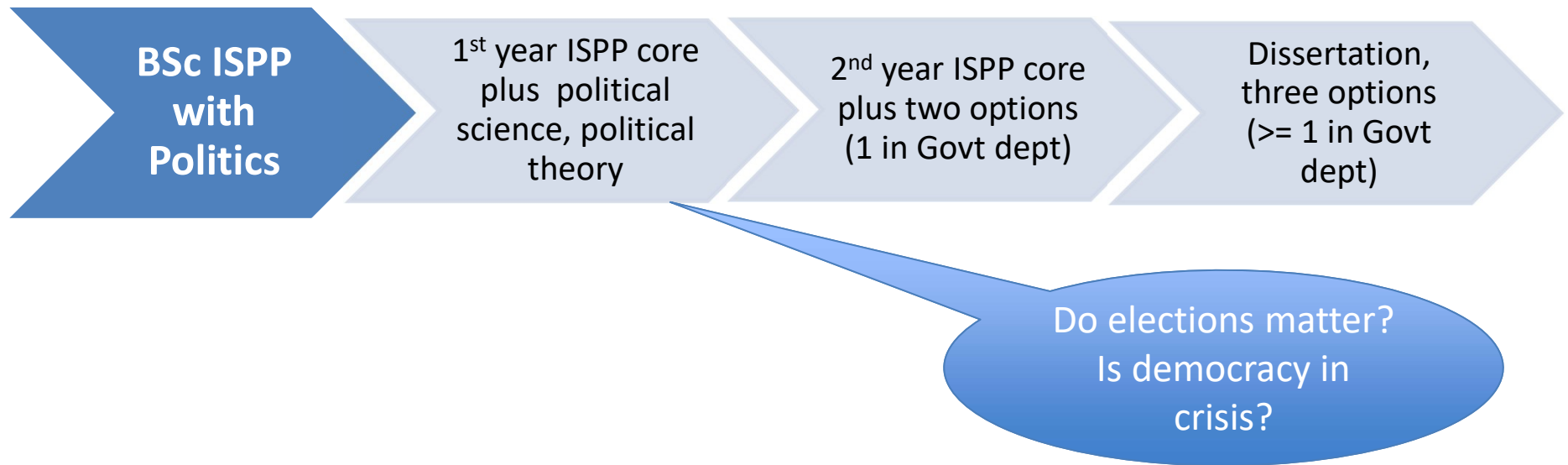
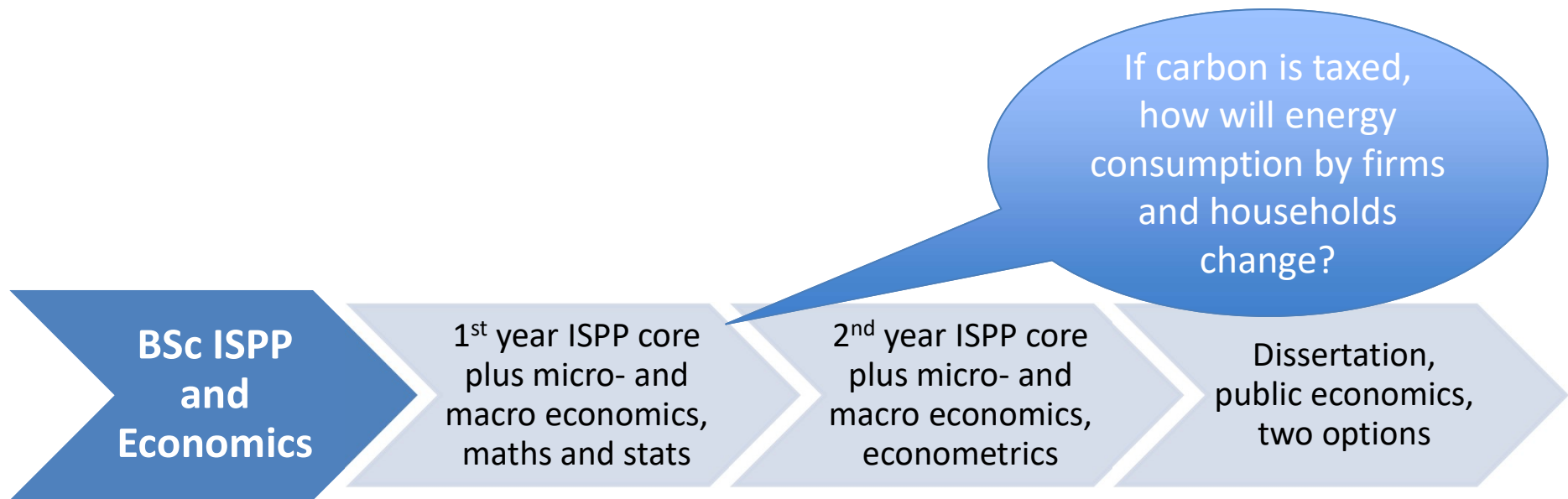
- Comparative and International Social and Public Policy
- Research Methods for Social Policy
- Two optional courses

Education policy; Health policy; Poverty and inequality; Psychology of crime; Sexuality and social policy; Migration; Riots and urban disorder

Third year

- Dissertation
- Three optional courses

Your own project!



Teaching, assessment and well-being

Lectures plus Q & A with lecturer – usually 1 to 2 hours per course per week

Classes – usually 1 to 1.5 hours per course per week: max 15 students, student-led, teacher-facilitated

Study groups and group projects

**Quizzes, posters, blogs, videos, book reviews
essays, problem sets, group presentations...**

Academic mentor – one-to-one at least twice a term
Lots of feedback and support - with study skills, life, mental health and well-being



Student opportunities

- ❖ **Student Events Committee:** join a team to plan inclusive social and academic events for your fellow students
- ❖ **Social Policy Research Blog:** act as Student editors or add your contributions.
- ❖ **Student Academic Representation (SSLC) :** Represent your student community's views by being part of one of the most important bodies in the School ensuring LSE is working effectively for everyone.
- ❖ **SAM: Student Academic Mentorship Scheme:** Sign up to this LSE Life run programme to receive a student mentor from the 2nd year in Social Policy, to help guide you as you figure out LSE and the Department.
- ❖ **Changemakers Research Projects:** Get paid to investigate, innovate, and lead on the enhancement of student education and experience across LSE through independent research.
- ❖ The videos [here](#) explain more about some of these opportunities





After LSE, what might you go on to do?

Practitioner in public services in the UK or other countries:

- teachers, social workers, housing officers, youth workers...

International, national or local civil service or government:

- World Bank, United Nations, researcher for an MP, Home Office, Department of Energy and Climate Change...

Further academic study:

- MSc, PhD, Law...

Think tanks, charities, campaign groups:

- Howard League, Child Poverty Action Group, Oxfam...

Other graduate destinations

- journalism, finance, accountancy ...

What an Admissions Tutor looks for on your UCAS application

✓ **Meets standard offer requirements:**

- AAB (for BSc ISPP and Economics including A in A Level Maths)
- GCSE Maths, *preferred* Grade B or above
- International Baccalaureate: Diploma with 37 points including 6 6 6 at Higher level
- Other qualifications are considered

✓ **Convincing personal statement:**

- demonstrates some knowledge of what social policy is
- indicates passion for understanding social problems and/or how to organise welfare locally, nationally or globally

✓ **Relevant extra-curricula activities:**

- projects, reading, volunteering...

Questions???

Please feel free to get in touch!

If you have any questions after the session please submit them at www.lse.ac.uk/ask-lse or

contact Student Marketing and Recruitment via [Live Chat](#) instead

You can contact the Department via socialpolicy.ug@lse.ac.uk

We hope you enjoyed the session and we wish you luck in your application!