

## Social Policy

Social policy is an interdisciplinary and applied subject concerned with the analysis of societies' responses to social need. It seeks to foster in its students a capacity to understand theory and evidence drawn from a wide range of social science disciplines, including economics, sociology, psychology, geography, history, philosophy and political science.

Social policy is focused on those aspects of the economy, society and polity that are necessary to human existence and the means by which they can be provided. These basic human needs include: food and shelter, a sustainable and safe environment, the promotion of health and treatment of the sick, the care and support of those unable to live a fully independent life; and the education and training of individuals to a level that enables them fully to participate in their society.

The study of social policy is designed to reflect on the ways in which different societies have developed ways of meeting these needs, or have failed to do so. Some societies rely on informal or family institutions, some on private markets and individual actions, some on governmental actions through what is often termed the welfare state. Students of Social Policy will be expected to understand these different approaches and explore their implications from the perspective of different disciplinary and ideological traditions.

### Departmental Facts

The interests of staff in the Department of Social Policy embrace virtually all major issues which confront individual countries and the world today. The issues they cover include health; social services; education; social security; housing; crime and criminal justice; youth policy and problems posed by poverty, social exclusion and globalisation.

In the national Research Assessment Exercises (RAE), the Department of Social Policy has consistently been rated as the best in the country. In the 2001 assessment it was rated as 'Excellent' (5\*) and in the independent Quality Assurance Agency Teaching Assessment it was also rated 'Excellent'.

### Careers

The interdisciplinary nature of social policy means that graduates are equipped with a broad range of knowledge and skills that can be applied in many different settings. Specific skills gained from studying Social Policy at LSE include:

- the ability to communicate (both verbally and in writing) complex detail in a lucid and succinct form;
- competence in managing large and diverse quantities of information. Ability to organize it in a logical, conceptual and coherent way;
- the ability to undertake and present research, evaluate evidence and work to a set timeframe;
- high level analytical skills to critically evaluate and assess research and evidence;
- ability to make balanced judgements on the basis of incomplete and conflicting evidence.

Social Policy graduates are highly valued by employers as diverse as: the media; management consultancy, teaching and the development sector.

### Social Policy courses

#### available to General Course students include:

SA100 Foundations of Social Policy	SA217 Psychology of Crime and Criminal Justice
SA103 Population, Economy and Policy	SA218 Criminological Theory
SA104 Social Economics and Policy	SA221 Poverty, Social Exclusion and Social Change
SA105 Crime and Society	SA222 Principles of Social Policy
SA201 Research Methods for Social Policy	SA250 Demographic Description and Analysis
SA204 Educational Policy	SA309 Criminal Justice Policy
SA213 European Social Policy	