



Social Policy as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 26/27

Why take this New Minor Subject?

Are you interested in understanding society and the contemporary social issues and social problems that societies face? Do you want to make a difference in responding to these social issues and problems? Do you think you have a role to play in building a just, diverse and sustainable society? If so, a degree with Social Policy may be the degree for you.

A social policy degree is particularly relevant to those intending to pursue a career in social policy analysis and evaluation, management and planning within the social services, both voluntary/community and statutory, as well as to those with a general interest in society and social change.

What will I learn?

Social policy uses theory but it is about people's lives –which means it is applied - focused on real social issues and how policy can affect real people. Social policy is also interdisciplinary- it uses insights from disciplines such as economics, sociology, psychology, geography, history, law, philosophy and political science. This is why social policy is called a field of study. An understanding of these diverse disciplines is necessary to address the complexity of many social issues and to formulate social policies which can make a difference. Some subjects you will study are: Year 1 Introduction to Social Policy Concepts, Critical Analysis and Argument Development; Year 2 Life Course and Evolving Welfare States, Leadership and Management in Human Services; Year 3 Youth and Society: Contemporary Issues, European Refugee Policy and Year 4 Families, Reproduction and Social Policy and Disability and Human Rights.

What will I do?

Throughout your social policy degree you'll be supported to develop an inquiring, and analytical mind, and you will graduate with a broad range of transferable skills.

You will be equipped with the theoretical and research insights that will help you understand the field of social policy and the relationship between social issues and social policy responses. You will develop specific expertise in select policy areas. You will also appreciate how policies are made and understand the forces that shape social policy decisions.

The programme will equip you a range of transferable skills including research, analytical and argumentation skills. These will help you to research and evaluate evidence that tells you what works and help you to make the case for one course of action over another. These skills are crucial in formulating social policies which have a chance of enhancing the lives of real people but they are also skills which you can use in many other settings.

How will this be assessed?

Assessment is by a range of formats including examinations, essays, presentations, policy briefings and continuous assessment research projects.

Contact Hours and Indicative Workload

Please make contact with Social Policy for further information.

Contacts:

Course Director for Social Policy Joint Honours: Dr Ann Nolan nolana13@tcd.ie