

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		September 2016			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
Department of Social Policy and Social Work					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MA Global Social Policy			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
PG Cert Global Social Policy					
Admissions criteria					
2.1 degree or equivalent in relevant subject. However, applicants with relevant work experience and good academic potential will also be considered. Students for whom English is not their first language are normally expected to have achieved one of the following: IELTS: 6.5, with a minimum of 5.5 in each element. TOEFL: 87, with minim of 17 in Listening, 18 in Reading, 20 in Speaking and 17 in Writing. Cambridge: Certificate of Proficiency in English C (before January 2015) and 176, with no component less than 162 in each component (after January 2015). Certificate in Advanced English 65, with 'Good' in writing (before January 2015) and 176, with no component less than 162 in each component (after January 2015).					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MA	1 (FT) 2 (PT)	Autumn	Yes		
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
N/A					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate: The MA in Global Social Policy aims to enable students to engage effectively and critically with theoretical and empirical dimensions of global social policy development. More specifically, it will:					

A1. Provide students with an up-to-date and critical understanding of the epistemologies, theories and processes through which we might better understand global and international social policy.

A2. Develop students' awareness of the world's pressing global social problems such as world poverty and global inequalities relating the distribution of power and resources; their impact on the well-being and social protection of individuals and social groups, and the existence, and effectiveness, of social policies to tackle these problems.

A3. Draw upon different disciplinary traditions in order to better understand both: a) the origins of social problems and the adequacy and effectiveness of global social policy responses; and b) the ways in which national social policy is shaped by global actors.

A4. Provide training in research methods in order to equip students to critically evaluate research outputs and methodologies in the field, and to design and undertake high-quality research of their own

A5. Equip students with a range of transferable skills and knowledge that will be of benefit whether they eventually work in global or national social policy or some other related field

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

Additionally for the Masters:

Students completing at Masters level will also complete an Independent Study Project that will provide the opportunity to employ research skills and knowledge developed in the earlier stages of the programme. Students will also learn how to develop a range of presentational skills in how to communicate the results of their own policy research.

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding	
<p>Knowledge and understanding of: <i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A detailed knowledge and understanding of social science research in general and research methods for working in global and international social policy and related fields 2. A sound knowledge and critical understanding of the research that informs social policy development and implementation within nation states and in the international sphere 3. A detailed knowledge and critical understanding of the power and processes underpinning social policy making 4. An understanding of the strengths and weakness of different approaches to global and international social policy <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The knowledge and expertise to engage in a piece of original investigative research in the field of global and international social policy 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Lectures; seminar discussion; individual student presentations; collaborative problem-solving activities in-class; independent study; research methods practicals 2, 3 and 4: Lectures; seminar discussion; individual student presentations; collaborative problem-solving activities in-class; student group presentation; independent study; student role-play activities 5. Lectures; seminar discussion; individual student presentations; collaborative problem-solving activities in-class; student group presentation; independent study; student role-play activities; research methods practicals <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-4: Essays; written policy brief report; collaborative presentation; individual presentation 5: Dissertation project
B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse and understand research data and findings on comparative, international and global social policy 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-5) • Workshops (1-5) • Lectures (1-5)

<p>2. Apply a range of disciplinary perspectives to the study of social policy at the level of the nation state and internationally</p> <p>3. Engage in policy analysis work by following briefs such as those issued by international organisations</p> <p>4. Critically assess policy transfer research and practice</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>5. Design and conduct sustained high quality research on international policy processes</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays (1-5) • Presentations (MA only) (1-5) • Dissertation (MA only) (1-5)
B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <p>1. Communicate ideas clearly and effectively to different audiences through a range of different avenues, including written work and presentations.</p> <p>2. Manage time effectively to work</p>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-8) • Workshops (1-8) • Supervision (2, 5) • Presentations (1-4, 6-8) •

<p>independently to deadlines and to set appropriate deadlines to complete tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Work effectively in a group and as a member of a team in a variety of roles, including leadership responsibilities 4. Working effectively in a variety of workplace settings by understanding the internal dynamics of institutions and being self-aware 5. Evaluation, analysis and design of policy leading to effective delivery and outcomes 6. Retrieve and interpret data from a variety of sources, including electronic databases 7. Analyse materials and provide critical and evaluative commentaries 8. Listen effectively and have a sensitive approach to the views and experiences of others <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <p>1, 2, 4 and 5: Essays; written policy brief report; collaborative presentation; individual presentation; Dissertation project</p> <p>3 and 6: Collaborative presentation</p>
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be active and participatory global citizens with clear ideas 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal supervision/tutorials (2,4) • Seminars and workshop activities (1-4)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Evaluate performance and develop skills for self-managed life-long learning 3. Develop an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work 4. Identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation (MA only) (1-4) • Presentations (MA only) (1-3)
<p>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)</p>	
<p>Social Policy and Administration</p>	
<p>University award regulations</p>	
<p>To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.</p>	
<p>Departmental policies on assessment and feedback</p>	
<p>Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website.</p>	
<p>Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website.</p>	

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Comparative, International and Global Social Policy: Research Methods (20 credits)	Global Social Problems and Global Social Policy (20 credits)	Making Global Social Policy (20 credits)	
Social Policy Analysis (20 credits)	Globalisation and Social Policy (20 credits)	Dissertation (80 credits)	

Part time route through MA in Global Social Policy

The structure of the MA in Global Social Policy is relatively straightforward, consisting of five compulsory 20 credit assessed modules and a dissertation. PT students could complete these over two years as follows:

Autumn Term Year 1	Comparative, International and Global Social Policy: Research Methods (20 credits)
Spring Term Year 1	Global Social Problems and Global Social Policy (20 credits)
Summer Term Year 1	Making Global Social Policy (20 credits)
Autumn Term year 2	Social Policy Analysis (20 credits)
Spring Term year 2	Globalisation and Social Policy (20 credits)
Summer Term year 2	Dissertation
September of year 2	Submit Dissertation (80 credits)

PGCert in Global Social Policy

The programme will require students to have completed 60 credits of core modules in order to be awarded a lower-exit award.

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
WK 6 – Practice Essay	Wk 1 – Comparative and International and Global Social Policy: Research Methods	Wk 1 – Global Social Problems and Global Social Policy	Reassessment for SuT Wk4 and 7 submissions, end of July	Mid November
	Wk 1 – Social Policy Analysis	Wk 1 – Globalisation and Social Policy	Dissertation, mid-September	
		Wk 4 – Making Social Policy (Group Debate)		
		Wk7 – Making Social Policy		

		(portfolio)		
		Reassessment for Spring term submissions and Wk1 SuT submissions: Week 9		

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module? ⁵
Comparative, International & Global Social Policy: Research Methods	SPY00033M	Level 7/ Masters	20	None		Spring, Wk 1, Report	No
Social Policy Analysis	SPY00026M	Level 7/ Masters	20	None		Spring, Week 1, Essay	No
Global Social Problems & Global Social Policy	SPY00084M	Level 7/ Masters	20	None		Summer, Week 1, Essay	No
Globalisation & Social Policy	SPY00009M	Level 7/ Masters	20	None		Summer, Week 1, Report	No

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Making Global Social Policy	SPY00086M		20			SuT Wk4, Group Debate SuT Wk7, Portfolio	No
Independent Study Module	SPY00011M	Level 7/ Masters	80	None		Mid-September (dissertation)	Yes

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	August 2016
Departmental web page:	
Please note	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	