

POLICY EVALUATION (MSc/PgDip/PgCert)

57L400B1/61L400VX/62L400VZ

Aims: With the increasing recognition of the need for empirical, evidence-based policy impact assessment, social research methods are in high demand. This MSc builds on the extensive methodological expertise of the School of Social Science, and will equip graduates to provide programme monitoring and evaluation for government and third sector organisations. The programme will provide advanced skills in research design, qualitative and quantitative methods and analysis. For the thesis component, students will have the option of a placement doing a real evaluation project with local government, non-profit organisation, or within the University itself.

Duration: 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time (MSc); 9 months full-time or 18 months part-time (PgDip); 4 months full time or 8 months part time (PgCert).

Content: The following courses are compulsory:

FULL TIME ROUTE

Stage 1

SL5011 Advanced Qualitative Methods in Social Science (30 credit points)
SO5015 Policy Evaluation (30 credit points)

Stage 2

SO5523 Quantitative Sociology: Philosophy and Methods (30 credit points)
SL5511 Approaches to Quantitative Analysis in Social Research (30 credit points)

Stage 3

SO5916 Dissertation in Policy Evaluation (60 credit points)

PART TIME ROUTE

This route will run over two years. Students can take up to 120 credit points in a single year.

Year 1

One course from:

SL5011 Advanced Qualitative Methods in Social Science (30 credit points)
SO5015 Policy Evaluation (30 credit points)

Plus:

SO5523 Quantitative Sociology: Philosophy and Methods (30 credit points)

Year 2:

One course from (courses taken previously may not be repeated)

SL5011 Advanced Qualitative Methods in Social Science (30 credit points)
SO5015 Policy Evaluation (30 credit points)

Plus:

SL5511 Approaches to Quantitative Analysis in Social Research (30 credit points)
SO5916 Dissertation in Policy Evaluation (60 credit points)

Assessment: By in course assessment through the presentation of project and written material, as prescribed for each course, and by submission of a dissertation. The degree of MSc will not be

awarded to a candidate who fails to achieve CGS grade of D3 or above in the dissertation, irrespective of their marks in other courses.