

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

Social Work and Social Care PhD

US

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Social Work and Social Care at Sussex

Social Work at the University of Sussex is consistently ranked among the top higher education institutions in the country for its teaching and research.

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

Participants in the PhD in Social Work and Social Care course come from a wide variety of countries, backgrounds and sectors:

- Experienced practitioners in social work, social care, health, and other areas of the public, voluntary and community sectors
- Recently qualified graduates with relevant social science qualification
- Middle and senior managers, administrators and policy makers
- Higher and further education lecturers and professional educators
- Colleagues in training, research and consultancy.

Two routes can be taken to the PhD award:

1+3

You take the MSc in Social Research Methods before entering the PhD course. This programme of study provides a thorough grounding in research methodology and methods to support independent research

+3

If you have a substantial level of research methods training at Masters level, you can enter the PhD course directly. If required, specific training can be provided via selected modules from the MSc in Social Research Methods.

Both the +3 and 1+3 routes can be taken on a full or part-time basis. For part-time researchers, the MSc is completed over a two-year period.

The University of Sussex is part of the South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS), a Doctoral Training Partnership approved by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Doctoral researchers have access to a range of ESRC-recognised training, including qualitative and

quantitative methods, evaluation and policy analysis. The PhD in Social Work and Social Care has full ESRC recognition.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- **For the 1+3 route:**
At least an upper second class undergraduate honours degree in a relevant social science subject, and/or a Masters degree in a relevant subject that does not include research training
- **For the +3 route:**
A good Masters degree (with dissertation grade B+ or equivalent), either in the MSc in Social Research Methods or in a relevant discipline including significant research methods training.
- A good standard of written English
- A certificate of proficiency in English Language if English is not your first language (an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with at least 6.5 in each component, or Internet TOEFL with a score of at least 95 overall with at least 22 in Listening, 23 in Reading and Speaking, and 24 in Writing).

NOTE: Self-funded PhD researchers that are also UK nationals may be eligible for a loan of up to £25,700. See

<https://www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan>

For general information about fees and funding visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/degrees/social-work-and-social-care-phd

RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Our PhD researchers actively participate in and are supported by the interdisciplinary Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR) hosted within the Department of Social Work and Social Care.

There are another two research centres hosted within the School of Education and Social Work which Social Work researchers engage with:

- Centre for Innovation and Research in Wellbeing (CIRW)
- Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY).

Each Centre is a hub for scholarship and expertise in its area, and forms a research community providing the support and resources for doctoral study within its field.

PhD researchers join a vibrant community working within the School of Education and Social Work. Regular seminars and workshops provide opportunities for discussion of research proposals and work in progress. You will be strongly encouraged to participate in a wide range of research-related activities within the School during your time with us, and more widely with other disciplines across the University.

ASSESSMENT

- **For the 1+3 route**
A grade of B+ or higher in the dissertation of the MSc in Social Research Methods is required for progression to the PhD course.
- **For the +3 route**
After an initial assessment of training needs, you may be required to undertake coursework on the MSc in Social Research Methods - depending on previous experience and qualifications.
- The research proposal developed in the first year of the PhD will be reviewed by academic staff before permission to undertake fieldwork is granted.
- Annual reviews of your progress and training needs are conducted
- Final assessment is through submission of an 80,000 word thesis which is judged by an internal and an external examiner. The examination process includes a *viva voce* in which you will give an oral defence of your work.



SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

Example timeline for doctoral study

+ 3 Route

You will go straight into PhD study on the +3 Route if you can demonstrate sufficient relevant professional experience, or previous significant research methods training.

Specific training needs can be fulfilled through the undertaking of selected modules from the MSc in Social Research Methods.

1 + 3 Route

YEAR 0: MSc in Social Research Methods

AUTUMN TERM CORE MODULES

- Introduction to Qualitative Methods
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- Philosophy of Science
- Social Scientific Research Practice

SPRING TERM CORE MODULES

- Research Design and Ethics
- 3 x advanced research workshops
- 3 optional modules selected in discussion with your Supervisor

SUMMER TERM

- Dissertation (often takes the form of a pilot study or a research outline for the intended doctoral research project)

YEAR 1: PhD

- Induction
- Refinement of Research Proposal
- Four Months Later: Formal presentation of Research Plan
- Six Months Later: Submission of Research Proposal + mini viva
- Application for Ethical Approval
- Permission to Begin Fieldwork
- Progression to Fieldwork

- Induction to + 3 Route
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- Four Months Later: Formal presentation of Research Plan
- Six Months Later: Submission of Research Proposal + mini viva
- Application for Ethical Approval
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- Progression to Fieldwork

YEAR 2: PhD

- Fieldwork / Data Collection

- Fieldwork / Data Collection

YEAR 3: PhD

- Data Analysis
- Writing Up Thesis
- Completion and Submission of Thesis
- Viva Preparation

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- Writing Up Thesis
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Exact timelines may vary. The above is a guide only of how a full-time PhD researcher might advance through their doctoral studies.

Please note: So that we can keep our curriculum fresh and driven by the most current research, we review it every year. The MSc modules shown here are based on subjects studied in 2017. The University may run different modules for 2018 entry. For a full list of optional modules offered in 2018 and beyond, visit sussex.ac.uk/socialwork