PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2013-2014

Programme Title	**Public Policy and Social Change**
UCAS/JACS Code	L300
School/Subject Area	School of Languages and Social Sciences – Sociology and Public Policy academic subject group
Final Award	MA
Interim Award(s)	None
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time (12 months), part-time (2-3 years).
Normal Length of Programme	Twelve-months full-time; two years part-time
Total Credits	180
Programme Accredited By	---
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Written January 2009 Revised September 2012, format change August 2013

Educational Aims of the Programme	To provide a Master's programme that enables students to analyse, evaluate and manage public policy in the context of social change; To develop the ability to critically evaluate the relationship between public policy and social change, both from a theoretical and a practical perspective To develop an understanding of the relationship between policy and practice; To develop quantitative and qualitative research skills in accordance with the norms of the ESRC for work in the field of public policy and public management; To develop sophisticated analytical and communication skills, especially in the framework of the dissertation and work placement (where opted for); To open the way vocationally either to postgraduate research at doctoral level or to work, in the private, voluntary or public sectors, which draws on the knowledge and understanding gained during the course of the degree programme and the work placement (where opted for).

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011) ESRC, *Postgraduate Training Guidelines*, 2005

TAUGHT STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Public Policy, public management and governance	20	7	LBM001	Core	Y	N
Research Methods	40	7	LPM003	Core	Y	N
Social Theory and Social Change	20	7	LYM005	Core	Y	N
Choose from the following elective modules to the value of 40 credits:						
Health Care Organisation and Policies	20	7	LBM007	Option	Y	N
Social policy: contemporary themes and challenges	20	7	LBM005	Option	Y	N
Work Placement	20	7	LYM010	Option	Y	N
Being Human: Disability and the Social World	20	7	LYM011	Option	Y	N
Globalization and Social Change	20	7	LYM002	Option	Y	N
Social Divisions	20	7	LYM001	Option	Y	N
Life, Love, The University and Everything	20	7	LYM009	Option	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

DISSERTATION STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Dissertation	60	7	LYM007	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	The interface between social change, public policy and relevant practice in the public and non-profit sectors.	Classes comprising lectures (a number of academic staff contributing to each module) presentations, and seminar discussions Guided study Individual research Seminars with significant practitioner input Work placement in a relevant public or non-profit organisation	Essays (length dependent on module concerned) Work Placement Report (3,000 words) Dissertation (15,000 words)
2	The utilisation of research methods, in the development and management of policy.		
3	The nature of contemporary modern societies, the agents of social change and their implications for policy.		
4	Global, national and local issues and their relationship to the development and implementation of policy.		

B. Intellectual Skills			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Critically evaluate relevant concepts, theories and methodological approaches to the development and management of policy.	Classes comprising lectures (a number of academic staff contributing to each module) presentations, and seminar discussions Guided study Individual research Seminars with significant practitioner input Work placement in a relevant public or non-profit organisation	Essays (length dependent on module concerned) Work Placement Report (3,000 words) Dissertation (15,000 words)
2	Appraise the relevance and apply different social-science research methods to the analysis of social change and policy development and implementation.		

3	Analyse issues facing contemporary societies and their causes and consequences.		
4	Describe and analyze global, national and local issues and their implications for policy management.		
5	Critically evaluate the effectiveness of public policy through the application of knowledge of different policy areas and the factors which impinge on the implementation process.		

	C. <u>Professional Skills</u>		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Demonstrate the requisite skills for proceeding, if so wished, to postgraduate research at doctoral level in the field of either public policy, public administration or public management. (*1 + 3* trajectory)	Classes comprising lectures (a number of academic staff contributing to each module) presentations, and seminar discussions Guided study Individual research Seminars with significant practitioner input Work placement in a relevant public or non-profit organisation	Essays (length dependent on module concerned) Work Placement Report (3,000 words) Dissertation (15,000 words)
2	To be able to make judgements regarding the suitability of different policy and implementation strategies to addressing current social issues.		
3	Apply broadly-based knowledge and analytical skills to addressing policy and implementation issues.		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	High quality writing skills	Classes comprising lectures (a number of academic staff contributing to each module) presentations, and seminar discussions Individually conducted interactive learning under tutorial guidance Other guided study Individual research	Essays (length dependent on module concerned) Work Placement Report (3,000 words) Dissertation (15,000 words)
2	The interpretation and utilisation of policy analysis.		
3	Analytical and critical thinking in policy development and implementation.		
4	Advanced research skills to facilitate problem solving in a range of contexts.		
5	Effectively communicate ideas relating to public policy and social change in a reflective manner.		

Entry Requirements	Normally, at least a 2.1 honours classification in a degree taken in an appropriate subject at a British or Irish university, or an equivalent qualification on the completion of appropriate tertiary-level studies elsewhere. Applicants whose native language is not English will be required to give proof of their proficiency in the same language. Normally, this proof will take the form of an IELTS score of at least 7.0.

Programme Regulations	**Please refer to the General Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes.** **Attendance requirements** In order to qualify for the award of the degree, students must normally have attended all contact hours scheduled in their timetable and as scheduled with their supervisor in respect of tutorials for their dissertation. Full-time students are normally required to attend the University for two teaching periods over one academic year. Part-time students are normally required to attend the University for specified periods over two academic years. **Criteria for Progression to Dissertation** Part time students cannot start the Dissertation until they have completed the 40 credit Research methods module and the 20 credit Critical Literature Review. **Dissertation/Project Requirements** The dissertation is 15,000 words long and represents 60 credits. It will be researched, written and completed within a seven-month period running from mid-February to mid-September.

Further Information	---

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.