



Supporting postgraduate students in the Social Sciences

Department of Social Policy and Intervention at the University of Oxford

How can societies increase the welfare and well-being of individuals and their families through social policies or interventions? Oxford's Department of Social Policy and Intervention (DSPI) is a world-leading centre exploring these questions.

DSPI focuses on research and teaching in social policy and the development and systematic evaluation of social interventions. It conducts both applied and basic research and is home to a global community of academics and researchers with a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds including anthropology, economics, demography, psychology, political science, social policy, social work and sociology.

The department contributes extensively to academic research through peer-reviewed publications and major projects funded by research councils and non-profit organisations. The department's work has significant impact on policy and practice, from changing the deployment of government funds to innovations in local programme delivery.

Graduate students and doctoral researchers come from a wide range of countries in Europe and overseas, as well as careers in academic research. Many plan to put what they learn into practice in public agencies, and nongovernmental organisations in social policy, education or public health.

Master's students are engaged in one of two study programmes:

- Comparative social policy – exploring welfare systems and policy developments across a range of different countries.
- Evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation – learning about the development and evaluation of interventions to address public health and social problems.

Degrees

- MSc in Comparative Social Policy (1 year)
- MSc in Evidence Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation (1 year)
- MPhil in Comparative Social Policy (2 years)
- MPhil in Evidence Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation (2 years)
- DPhil Social Intervention (3 years)
- DPhil Social Policy (3 years)

Departmental Highlight

- Top-ranked Social Policy department in the UK, and second globally.

Student application and admissions

Data year	Degree course	Subject/Dept	Applications	Offers	Admitted
2017-2018	MSc & MPhil	Social Policy and Intervention	332	91	50
2017-2018	DPhil	Social Policy and Intervention	80	12	8

Investing in tomorrow's leaders

We are looking for supporters who share Oxford University's mission, and wish to play their part in addressing the problems of the 21st century through investing in the next generation of thinkers and doers. Single and multi-year scholarships would profoundly change the opportunities and futures of many talented people. Endowed scholarships will secure that impact in perpetuity.

Degree	2020-2021 per degree cost	Example multi-year scholarship	Endowment per student
MSc	£32,980 (Home) / £42,315 (Overseas)	£126,944 (3 MSc students) 	£1,057,864
MPhil	£67,938 (Home) / £87,405 (Overseas)	£174,810 (2 MPhil students) 	£2,185,121
DPhil	£92,275 (Home) / £125,480 (Overseas)	£250,960 (2 DPhil students) 	£3,137,003

Alumni profiles

Matthew Morton, MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and DPhil Evidence-based Interventions

Matt completed the MSc in 2008, followed by the DPhil in 2011 as a Green Templeton College Scholar.



Whilst studying, Matt worked with Prof Paul Montgomery, focusing on youth empowerment programs both globally and in the Middle East, evaluation of complex interventions, and systematic review methods. During this period, Matt led the department's course on community analysis, was named the UK's

International Student of the Year by the British Council, and won the Barnett House Award for Student Research.

After finishing the DPhil, Matt joined the Obama Administration in the U.S. government as a Special Advisor on child and youth policy and then the World Bank through its Young Professionals Program. The DPhil and MSc training offered enormous value to Matt's professional path, equipping him with both methodological skills for evaluation and "real world" project management experience in a developing context. He draws on this preparation on a daily basis.

"I don't think there's any program in the world that offers a comprehensive training in rigorous methods for evidence-based practice with an orientation towards complex social interventions. Beyond the content, however, the key to my development was the combination of flexibility and one-on-one support I received from world class faculty."

Naira Kalra, M.Phil in Evidence-based Social Intervention

Naira completed the M.Phil in 2008, as an Inlaks scholar from India. Her thesis, under the mentorship of Professor Frances Gardner, involved a systematic review and meta-analysis of cognitive-behavior therapy based interventions to promote psychosocial well-being in schools. During the course of the degree, she was awarded a Barnett Scholarship by the department and was selected for the ESRC Methods for Research Synthesis Programme.



Since graduating, she has worked as a consultant for organizations, such as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the World Bank, and Save the Children, U.K. More recently, as a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO), she carried out systematic reviews and appraised the quality of research using the GRADE approach to inform WHO guidelines in the areas of 'health promotion interventions for maternal and child health' and 'responding to intimate-partner violence and sexual violence against women'.

Naira is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is using her training in evidence-based social intervention to develop and evaluate interventions that address gender-based violence and reproductive health needs of brothel-based sex workers in India.

"The programme successfully combines cutting-edge research methodology training with the Oxford tradition of individualised teaching. I could not have asked for a better stepping-stone into the world of evidence-based policy and practice."

Student profiles

Tyler Pager, MSc Comparative Social Policy

Tyler is currently studying the MSc Comparative Social Policy. He graduated valedictorian and summa cum laude from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University with majors in journalism and political science. He also worked with the Chicago Tribune on a project investigating issues of child welfare that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting. While reporting on politics in Washington, he found himself drawn to debates about the intricacies of policy as much to the stories about political dynamics and applied to Oxford to gain a stronger policy background.

In March, he will be traveling with New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof to report on issues of global poverty and social justice that are often neglected



by mainstream media outlets – an opportunity only offered to one student per year. Tyler's research interests include care for vulnerable populations, government accountability, and policy implementation. He hopes to pursue a career in journalism focusing on the intersection of politics and policy.

"I have really benefited from the framework the course has provided to analyse policy development and implementation. Additionally, the range of specific policy areas has given me a deeper understanding of the many pressing social issues governments are trying to tackle."

Anne-Marie Baan, MSc Evidence Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation

Anne-Marie is currently studying the MSc Evidence Based Intervention and Policy Evaluation. Prior to studying at Oxford, she worked with UNICEF and OXFAM in the Middle East and Africa, focussing on Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation. Before this, she worked at the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and at the Research Division of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Anne-Marie holds an MA in Development Studies from the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

Having worked in a number of different roles in the Middle East and Africa during the past 10 years, she was keen to take a step away from work practice and reconnect with academia to compliment her professional experience with a solid theoretical grounding in policy analysis and policy evaluation. Once graduated, she intends to return to working in monitoring and evaluation, or social and policy research more broadly.



"I did my previous Masters without having prior work experience, and I really feel there is great value in being back in university. Being in Oxford allows me to reflect on the challenges in evidence-informed policy and practice, and to approach issues from an academic point of view."

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