

## Social Policy

Three ESRC training pathways in Social Policy are available for a 2016/17 entry:



1. [Health Services Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#)



Institute of Education

2. **Evidence for Public Policy and Practice at the UCL Institute of Education.**



Institute of Education

3. **Social Policy and Social Research at the UCL Institute of Education.**

**Evidence for Public Policy and Practice** is an interdisciplinary field of research concerned with the way research evidence is produced to inform decision-making in public policy and professional practice and the engagement of stakeholders in the production and scrutiny of research. Its scope ranges across all the social sciences and all areas of public policy. In their PhD study, students could choose to focus on any substantive area, but would be expected to consider, possibly as part of a wider framework of analysis, the role of different approaches for systematically reviewing research literature, or the impacts of diverse stakeholder perspectives on research.

**Social Policy and Social Research** is an interdisciplinary field concerned with extending knowledge about how research interacts with policy and practice; both the direct use of research to make decisions and the broader assimilation of research ideas, concepts and theories into policy discourse and debates. In their PhD study, students could choose to focus on any area of social policy, but would be expected to consider, possibly as part of a wider framework of analysis, the interplay between research and social policy or professional practice.

For all UCL IOE pathways, 1+3, +3 or +4 studentships are available. 1+3 students will undertake either the MSc Research for Public Policy and Practice – ESRC studentship route (for Pathway 2) or the MSc Social Policy and Social Research (for Pathway 3). Further information on applying for a studentship can be found [here](#).

Applicants for the two UCL IOE pathways are strongly advised to research availability of supervisors at the IOE with an interest in their proposed area of research, and to contact them prior to developing an application. With that proviso, any social science research falling under the above topics is eligible. Research in this area primarily takes place in the [Social Science Research Unit and the Thomas Coram Research Unit](#) within UCL IOE's [Department of Social Science](#). Potential supervisors with research interests in this area are also based in other departments at the IOE. A non-exclusive list of research topics or topic areas in which supervisors are interested to supervise students follows. This will be added to over time.

Supervisor[s]	Topic[s]
<a href="#"><u>Chris Bonell</u></a>	Young people's health, education and social development: determinants and interventions; Evaluation of social interventions; Evidence synthesis.
<a href="#"><u>Chris Brown</u></a>	Evidence-informed policy and practice in education; knowledge mobilisation
<a href="#"><u>David Gough</u></a>	Evidence-informed policy and practice; systematic reviews; mapping and synthesis; knowledge production and use; knowledge mobilisation; research and citizenship; child abuse and child protection
<a href="#"><u>Dylan Kneale</u></a>	Methods in evidence-based policy-making; policy analysis; longitudinal analysis; neighbourhood and contextual effects; transitions to adulthood; transitions to parenthood and partnership; housing and health; ageing and ageing policy.
<a href="#"><u>Emily Munro</u></a>	Child protection; looked after children; transitions from care to adulthood; comparative child welfare; participatory research methods (including peer research methodology)
<a href="#"><u>Mark Newman</u></a>	Design of effective learning environments; professional and clinical education; evaluation of social interventions including education; research evidence for policy and practice decision-making; systematic research synthesis
<a href="#"><u>Sandy Oliver</u></a>	Contributions of lay people to health services research; training and support for lay researchers; evidence-based health promotion; public engagement in the natural sciences and social research
<a href="#"><u>Margaret O'Brien</u></a>	Fathers, work and family life, with a policy and parenting support focus
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Supervisor[s]	Topic[s] continued
<a href="#"><u>Alison O'Mara-Eves</u></a>	Methods for systematic reviewing, particularly statistical meta-analysis; combining secondary data analysis with research synthesis; educational and social psychology, particularly self-concept and related constructs; public health.
<a href="#"><u>Michelle Richardson</u></a>	Systematic reviewing; synthesis methods; mixed methods research; behaviour change; complex interventions; health promotion; child mental health and education.
<a href="#"><u>Karen Schucan Bird</u></a>	Systematic reviews in the social sciences; systematic review methodology; gender studies; women and research productivity in higher education.
<a href="#"><u>Gillian Stokes</u></a>	Medicine, public health and developing methods in evidence-based health policy-creation
<a href="#"><u>Katy Sutcliffe</u></a>	Children's participation in their healthcare; methods for systematic research synthesis, particularly methods for synthesising qualitative research and approaches for integrating different types of research evidence.
<a href="#"><u>James Thomas</u></a>	Systematic reviewing; methods for research synthesis and research; new information technologies in social research; evidence-informed policy and practice; health promotion and public health