

# SOCIAL SCIENCES

**The Faculty of Social Sciences is a large interdisciplinary unit, combining teaching and research in a number of disciplines, including: Applied Social Research, Dementia, Ageing and Gerontology, Education, Housing Studies and Social Work.**

We offer an established, research-led suite of taught postgraduate courses, including our ESRC-recognised courses in Social and Educational Research as well as our externally accredited professional courses in Housing Studies and Social Work Studies.

Our students benefit from partnerships with a number of research centres and networks, including the Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection (CCWP), the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC), the Salvation Army Centre for Addiction Services and Research, and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research.

We're proud to hold an 86% overall student satisfaction rating for Social Sciences (PTES 2023).

Ranked 3rd in Scotland and top 25 in the UK for Social Work and Social Policy research. 100% of our research environment and 88% of our research is deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2021).

## RESEARCH COURSES

Research excellence underpins all we do. As part of our research community, you will contribute innovative, practical and applied solutions to the challenges facing society today.

We offer the following research postgraduate degrees:

- PhD – independent study and thesis of 80,000 words leading to a doctorate
- Doctor of Applied Social Research
- PhD TESOL Research
- Doctorate of Education
- MRes Educational Research

Research areas:

- Social Work
- Child Wellbeing and Protection
- Crime and Criminal Justice
- Social Statistics
- Public Service Governance, Leadership and Reform
- Citizenship, Social Participation
- Gender and Social Policy
- Equality and Diversity
- Dementia, Ageing and Gerontology
- Addiction and Recovery
- Housing, Home and Community
- Sociology and Social Policy
- Educational Linguistics
- Curriculum Making

Many of our courses offer multiple start dates, please check course webpages for details.



To find out more about identifying a supervisor and submitting a research proposal, visit: [stir.ac.uk/research](https://stir.ac.uk/research)

# APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH



**Campus based**  
**MSc, PG Dip, PG Cert**

**This Masters provides you with the skills and knowledge to carry out robust social research and evaluation.**

You will learn how to collect, analyse and report qualitative and quantitative data, taking account of ethics, reliability and validity. You will critically examine the theoretical foundations that underpin social scientific research. Finally, you will develop an understanding of the relationship between research and policymaking.

The course meets the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) requirements for postgraduate research training.

## CORE MODULES

- Nature of Social Enquiry
- Introduction to Information Technology and Library Services
- Research Design and Process
- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Dissertation

[Check course web page for optional modules](#)

## CAREER PROSPECTS

You will graduate with the skills for a career in research, research management or research commissioning in the public, voluntary or private sectors.

During your studies you will have the opportunity to carry out a research placement to gain practical experience and establish relevant professional contacts.



Our Applied Social Research course offers a number of modules to allow students to specialise in areas relevant to their career goals and aspirations.

**Course Starts: September and January**



# SOCIAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL RESEARCH



**Campus based**  
**MSc, PG Dip, PG Cert**

**In a rapidly changing world, social statistics and social research provide policymakers, academics and others with valuable insights into the behaviour of people.**

Our Masters will provide you with an understanding of social research, with a particular focus on quantitative methods and social statistics.

You will learn about social research methods and the theories behind them, while undertaking detailed training on a wide range of statistical methods. You will gain a thorough knowledge of how to use statistical software to work with data and learn a range of highly sought-after technical skills, including accessing, preparing, analysing and summarising complex quantitative data sets.

To meet the demands of our dynamic technological environment, you can also choose advanced modules in data management and emerging areas such as big data and social network analysis.

## CORE MODULES

- Research Design and Process
- Introduction to IT and Library Services
- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Advanced Data Management and Data Visualisation
- Using Big Data in Social Research
- Social Network Analysis
- Dissertation

[Check course web page for optional modules](#)

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Social statistics is an important area within applied social research, offering you employment opportunities in the private, public and voluntary sectors. The course is also designed to provide you with the technical skillset you need to undertake a PhD.

Our Social Work and Social Policy Research ranked 3rd in Scotland and top 25 in the UK, with 100% of our research environment and 88% of our research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2021).

**Course Starts: September and January**



# CRIMINOLOGY



**Campus based**  
**MSc, PG Dip, PG Cert**

**Criminology at Stirling is ranked 1st in Scotland and top 5 in the UK (Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023).**

Our Masters in Criminology establishes clear connections between conceptual theories of crime and justice, and how they affect societies.

The course has an international focus that goes beyond UK or Scottish borders.

The course encourages the pursuit of innovative and socially just responses to the problem of crime, including; crimes in the street or at home, crimes of the powerful, crimes across borders, online crime, and drug related issues.

With optional modules in specialist subjects such as Rehabilitation and Criminal Justice Work, Drug Policy and Interventions, as well as Criminalisation, Social Control and Human Rights, you can develop a range of skills which will significantly enhance your confidence in criminology and your employability.

The course is also affiliated with the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and we are members of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR), an internationally leading research centre which will help you to gain a critical understanding of how research is framed, used and developed, and by whom.

## CORE MODULES

- Introduction to IT and Library Services
- Criminological Perspectives
- Research Methods in Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies
- Dissertation or Final Year Project

[Check course web page for optional modules](#)

## CAREER PROSPECTS

You will have the opportunity to pursue a number of career routes in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Graduates in criminology can go onto roles in areas such as:

- Police
- Prison service
- Probation and community justice
- Courts
- Human rights advocacy
- Youth work
- Women's justice and recovery services drug related issues
- Victim support
- Surveillance
- Intelligence services
- Services for individuals or families affected by drug use
- Drug policy and information organisations
- Various charities and social enterprises

**Course Starts: September**



# CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH



**Campus based**  
**MSc, PG Dip, PG Cert**

**With Stirling ranked first in Scotland for criminology (Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023), this course provides you with expert training in the latest methods used in criminological research.**

You will learn how to collect, analyse and report qualitative and quantitative data, taking account of ethics, reliability and validity. You will critically examine the theoretical foundations that underpin criminology and socio-legal research and explore issues with comparative research. Finally, you will develop an understanding of the relationship between criminology research and policymaking.

The course aligns with approved Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) training requirements for UK PhD research and is supported by staff from both the Scottish Centre for Crime and Criminal Justice Research and the Division of Law.

## CORE MODULES

- Research Design and Process
- Introduction to IT and Library Services
- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Research Methods in Criminology and Socio-legal Studies
- Criminological Perspectives
- Criminalisation, Social Control and Human Rights
- Dissertation
- Drug Use: Policy and Interventions
- Rehabilitation and Criminal Justice
- Reflexivity and Observation

[Check course web page for optional modules](#)

## CAREER PROSPECTS

Our Masters is the perfect foundation for a career in research, research management and commissioning or using research. In addition, you have a choice of careers available to you across the criminal justice system, including working for the civil service, the Crown Prosecution Service, Police Scotland and other services across the UK and overseas.

During your studies you will have the opportunity to network, attend events and benefit from the wealth of knowledge the Scottish Centre for Crime and Criminal Justice Research is able to share.

You will also benefit from our strong links to the applied crime and criminal justice sector, including Police Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service.

**Course Starts: September**



# SOCIAL WORK STUDIES



**Campus based**  
**MSc, PG Dip**

**If you want a career that is rewarding and makes a positive contribution to society, then social work could be for you.**

Our course is taught by qualified social workers including world leaders in their research field, and academics who maintain close connections with practice. You will be taught by people who have used social work services as well as practicing social workers. At the end of your studies, you will qualify as a social worker who is knowledgeable, skilled, analytical and ethical in your approach to working with individuals, families, groups and communities.

The postgraduate qualification in Social Work Studies is accredited by the Scottish Social Services Council and is recognised throughout the UK.

Our Social Work and Social Policy Research ranked 3rd in Scotland and top 25 in the UK, with 100% of our research environment and 88% of our research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2021).

[The Scottish Social Services Council \(SSSC\)](#) offer the University a limited number of bursaries to nominated and eligible students undertaking the course.

Our course includes placements offering practical experience of working in a range of social work and care settings. We have strong connections with our partner agencies who contribute to the teaching on the course and provide a range of placements across both statutory and voluntary social work services.

Examples of these are local authorities and voluntary agencies such as Barnardo's and Multi-Cultural Family Base.

## CORE MODULES

- Human Development in a Family Context
- Theory and Practice
- Law and Policy for Social Work
- Practice Learning 1 and 2
- Theory and Practice: Children, Families and Society
- Theory and Practice: Crime, Welfare and Justice
- Theory and Practice: Health, Illness and Disability
- Dissertation

## CAREER PROSPECTS

This Postgraduate Diploma and Masters is recognised throughout the UK and allows our graduates to register as qualified social workers. The qualification will equip you to work in a variety of settings including local authority social work teams, prisons, hospitals, residential services and voluntary sector settings. The nature of the work is varied and there are opportunities to move between work settings throughout your career.



**Course Starts: January**

