



1. Programme Title(s) and Code(s):

<i>Programme Title</i>	<i>UCAS Code</i>	<i>GU Code</i>
MA (Social Sciences) with Honours in Social and Public Policy with Quantitative Methods		L430A-2308

2. Academic Session:

2017-18

3. SCQF Level (see [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Levels](#)):

10

4. Credits:

480

5. Entrance Requirements:

Refer to the current undergraduate prospectus for entrants to the MA Soc Sci at:
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/publicpolicy>

6. ATAS Certificate Requirement (see [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#)):

ATAS Certificate not required

7. Attendance Type:

Full Time

8. Programme Aims:

Glasgow Q-Step was formed in October 2013 following an open call (Nuffield, ESRC, HEFCE) to create 15 centres across the UK to create a step change in quantitative literacy among social scientists. The University of Glasgow was awarded £1.4million and GU have matched that investment. One of the requirements of the funding was to create new 'with' degrees that sit alongside subject areas in the School of Social and Political

¹ This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course handbooks and other programme documentation and online at www.gla.ac.uk/

The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Science (SSPS). The aims of this degree are:

- To enhance students quantitative skills and literacy, to improve their employability
- To encourage students to pursue advanced learning in social quantitative methods
- To produce a new generation of post-graduates and academics fluent in quantitative methods
- To promote an understanding of the scope of social and public policy and its impact on human welfare, society, and the built environment, considering the UK and devolved jurisdictions in international context;
- To develop students' capacity for critical analysis and understanding of theory, ideology and practice relevant to social and public policy;
- To encourage students to develop interdisciplinary perspectives on social and public policy, and to situate their understandings of any policy domain within the context of developments and approaches in other domains;
- To equip students with appropriate knowledge and skills that will serve them well in the current competitive labour market and/or in respect of further vocational or academic study.

9. Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme:

Through essays, reports, briefings, critical appraisals, reflective journals, oral contributions and presentations in tutorials and seminars, extended independent study, and placement learning, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

By the end of the programme students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Develop understanding of the origins and development of welfare systems in the UK and of current welfare domains, including social security, health, housing and education, with a focus on the UK and on devolved jurisdictions in their international context;
- Develop a critical perspective on contemporary social issues and the challenges that they pose for policy and practice;
- Be critically aware of the interplay between social problems and their concentration in urban areas;
- To develop understanding of ideological perspectives influencing policy development and implementation, including within a range of welfare policy regimes internationally;
- Be able to analyse the policy making process, including how it is influenced by politics and power;
- Assess the governance of social and public policy, including the respective roles of government, citizens, the market;
- Develop specialist knowledge and critical insight into one or more specialist domains of social and public policy.
- Apply appropriate advanced quantitative methods to critically analyse material and data on real world problems relating to Social and Public Policy and across thematic areas of crime; class & inequality; health; conflict; economic welfare over time.

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

- Demonstrate basic research skills in research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis;
- Apply specialist conceptual and analytical skills to particular areas of theory, policy and practice in social, public and urban policy, including advanced quantitative skills;
- Identify, describe and evaluate central debates, themes and policy issues relevant to their specific areas of public and urban policy;
- Place their understanding of any one social and public policy area in the wider context of developments and approaches in other social and urban policy areas;
- Conduct literature searching using on-line bibliographical databases.
- Apply inference and modelling data skills using a range of statistical platforms including Excel and R

Intellectual skills

- Demonstrate the ability to orally frame and express arguments;
- Demonstrate the ability to frame and express intellectual coherent arguments in writing, drawing upon literature and secondary data with advanced skills in using quantitative sources;
- Evaluate the relative merits of different perspectives on an issue in an objective manner;
- Examine problems or subjects from a range of disciplinary perspectives (e.g. a political ideology perspective; an economic perspective; a policy analysis perspective).
- Reflect critically on the usefulness of key quantitative methods for the contribution to theoretical debates, to debates within Social and Public Policy and key debates within the social sciences more broadly.

Transferable/key skills

- Demonstrate a level of expertise in information technology, written and oral communication, data visualisations; interpersonal and critical analytical skills;
- Manage time and work to deadlines
- Participate constructively in groups;
- Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others;
- Work independently;
- Assemble and apply information from a wide range of sources including official data, policy documents, academic sources, and print and electronic media.
- Generate new data demonstrating a core understanding of sampling, real world problems and relevance of producing consumable data to multiple stakeholders (potentially the statutory, the private, and the voluntary sectors).

10. Typical Learning and Teaching Approaches:

There are a range of learning and teaching approaches adopted in the programme.

Knowledge and understanding are developed through formal lectures, seminars, tutorials, labs and workshops. Use is made of small and large group work for which students are expected to prepare in advance, for example, through particular readings or critical exercises. The variety of teaching methods across the programme adds diversity to the students' learning experiences and encourages different conceptual and analytical approaches.

Intellectual Skills

Critical analysis and evaluation are intellectual skills that are developed throughout the programme. In levels 1 and 2, students are encouraged to differentiate between the descriptive and the analytic through written work and tutorial discussions. Students are encouraged to discern the value of different perspectives evident within the literature. Tutorial exercises, for example, may require students to argue from a viewpoint that is not necessarily their own. At Honours level, these skills are developed further and in more depth in seminars, tutorials and workshops.

Subject Specific/Practical Skills

Throughout the programme, students are encouraged to develop their research skills, particularly advanced quantitative skills in the preparation of coursework. This includes assessing online articles, existing data sets and other data from publically-available sources (include online access). Advanced skills in the manipulation, presentation and interpretation of quantitative data are developed in class exercises and through formative and summative assignments. Honours students are required to complete a dissertation in their Senior Honours year. In preparation for this, research methods courses are compulsory in their Junior Honours year. These courses offer grounding in methodology and research skills.

Transferable/key Skills

Throughout the programme, students are encouraged to develop skills in information technology, especially with the widespread use of VLE. Interpersonal and critical analytical skills are developed through oral presentations and group work in seminars, tutorials and workshops. Coursework, including research for the dissertation in the Senior Honours year, encourages students to use their initiative effectively and to develop their time management skills. Placement learning in one Honours course will contribute to students' employability and transferable skills.

11. Typical Assessment Methods:

To assess knowledge, understanding, subject specific and intellectual skills, the assessment strategy for the programme embraces a range of methods:

- At Levels 1 and 2, summative assessment consists of a combination of unseen written examinations and individual coursework in the form of written assignments.
- In the Honours years, summative assessment consists of a combination of written examinations and individual coursework that is more diverse. Coursework at this more advanced level requires more depth, analysis, critical and theoretical conceptualisation and a wider range of advanced methods allows the development of skills that are relevant to employability. Assignment word limits are extended accordingly and consist of essays; reflective journals; briefings and reports. Examinations have a range of formats, including e.g. seen and unseen question papers. Some oral presentations are also assessed summatively.

12. Programme Structure and Features:

Structure

The programme is full time over four years and is structured within the framework for the MA (Social Sciences) degree programme within the College of Social Sciences.

Pre-Honours

Level 1

Normally, students take SPP 1A and SPP 1B (40 credits) with another 80 credits at Level 1. Total: 120 credits.

Level 2

Normally, on successful completion of the first year, students select two of their subjects to continue at Level 2 and choose one new Level 1 subject.

Students can progress to SPP 2A and SPP 2B with a grade D in either SPP 1A or SPP 1B.

Normally, students take SPP 2A and 2B (40 credits), plus another 40 credits at Level 2, plus Quantitative Methods 1 (20 credits; Level 1) and Quantitative Methods 2 (20 credits; Level 2)*

Total: 120 credits

Course Title	Course Code	Credits	Core	Optional	Semester(s) taught
SPP 1A: Foundations of welfare	PUBPOL1010	20	Y	N	1
SPP 1B: Understanding Glasgow	PUBPOL1011	20	Y	N	2
SPP 2A: Perspectives on Public Policy	PUBPOL2010	20	Y	N	1
SPP 2B: Policy, Politics and Power	PUBPOL2011	20	Y	N	2
QM1: Measuring Your Social World	TBC	20	Y*		1
QM2: Analysing Your Social World	TBC	20	Y*		2

*A grade D pass or above in Psychology 2; Geography 2; Statistics 1 will be permitted instead of completion of Quantitative Methods 1 and 2.

Honours

Progression to Honours

Students with an average grade C3 or above in Level 2 and who have satisfied the degree programme Honours requirements will be guaranteed a place in Social and Public Policy Honours. Students can pass QM1 and QM2 at Grade D3 or better.

Students must gain 240 credits over Junior and Senior Honours, with electives being chosen from a range of courses.

Compulsory Elements

Single Honours students must take three compulsory research methods courses in their Junior Honours year and write a Dissertation in their Senior Honours year:

Course Title	Course Code	Credits	Core	Optional	Semester(s) taught
Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences	PUBPOL4026	20	Y	N	2
Quantitative Methods 3.1	TBC	20	Y	N	1
Quantitative Methods 3.2	TBC	20	Y	N	2
Dissertation	PUBPOL4001 P	40	Y	N	1 and 2

Optional Elements.

Students must also complete a further 20 credit Quantitative Methods course in Senior Honours and will be able to choose from a short list (first courses available in 2017/18 so list not yet available). In addition, Single Honours students must choose electives from the following courses. Normally students will take electives totally

60 credits in each Honours year (balancing out over both semesters), resulting in 120 credits overall per year, including the compulsory elements.

Course Title	Course Code	Credits	Core	Optional	Semester(s) Taught
Active Citizenship	PUBPOL4038	All 20 credits except Active Citizenship (40)	None core.	All optional	1
Education for Citizenship	PUBPOL4037				2
Making Public Policy	PUBPOL4040				1 or 2
Housing Policy	PUBPOL4030				1 or 2
Health and Health Inequalities	PUBPOL4029				1 or 2
Remaking Cities	PUBPOL4034				1 or 2
Ideological Concepts and Values	PUBPOL4031				1 or 2
Disability and Society	PUBPOL4028				1 or 2
Utopias	PUBPOL4035				1 or 2
Work and Welfare	TBC				1 or 2
Paying for Public Policy	PUBPOL4039				1 or 2

Additional Options

Under the School's interchangeability programme, students are able to take up to 60 credits (or 25 per cent) of the Honours Curriculum from courses offered by other subject areas, with the consent of the SPS Honours Convenor and the relevant Head of Subject.

Early Exits

Although the programme is progressive from Level 1 to Honours, there are 'early exit' options available for students who wish to pursue other academic routes.

Details of standard early exits options and rules are included under the College of Social Sciences, Generic Undergraduate Regulations in the University Calendar, see the Senate Office Calendar page at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/>

Features

A period of study abroad is possible within the Single Honours programme subject to approval from the Undergraduate Programme Director. There are several institutional agreements in place under the ERASMUS programme. Opportunity to study not covered by the ERASMUS agreement is available on a competitive basis. Students must ensure they can complete two courses (or equivalent) in quantitative methods.

Regulations

This programme will be governed by the relevant regulations published in the University Calendar. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) Award of the degree
- (b) Progress
- (c) Early exit awards
- (d) Entry to Honours (For undergraduate programmes, where appropriate)

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/>

13. Programme Accredited By:

14. Location(s):

Glasgow

15. College:

College of Social Sciences

16. Lead School:

Social and Political Sciences [REG40500000]

17. Is this programme collaborative with another institution:

No

18. Awarding Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

19. Teaching Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

20. Language of Instruction:

English

21. Language of Assessment:

English

22. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (see [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#)) and Other External or Internal Reference Points:

The Social Policy QAA benchmark is available in full at:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Social-policy-and-administration.pdf>

There is no specific statement for Social and Public Policy with Quantitative Methods.

23. Additional Relevant Information (if applicable):

Support for students is provided by the Postgraduate/Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such Student Learning Development (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/sld/), Counselling & Psychological Services (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/counselling/), the Disability Service (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability/) and the Careers Service (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/careers/).

24. Online Distance Learning:

No

25. Date of approval:	
-----------------------	--