# School of Social Sciences

# **Undergraduate**

Degree Programmes 2025





# Welcome

Choose Cardiff	1
Beginning your career	2
Student placements	4
Why study social sciences?	6
Meet our tutors	8
Studying with us	10
Student experience	11
Enhancing your experience	12
Our degree programmes	14
Joint honours programmes	17
Applications	19

I love how the school encourages us to be inquisitive about related topics that fellow students are studying.

**Rebecca Askew,** Criminology and Social Policy (BSc 2023)

# 3rd in the UK for education research

Source: Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021

10th
in the UK for
sociology
research

Source: Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021

# Choose Cardiff

# Study in our dynamic, interdisciplinary and innovative School of Social Sciences.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Cardiff University and the School of Social Sciences.

We take pride in our student community and we are committed to ensuring that all our students enjoy a rewarding learning experience.

Programmes of study in the school enable an academic and applied understanding of social life, and provide the intellectual tools – knowledge, analysis, argument, judgment – with which to engage with current social and public debate.

We offer undergraduate degrees in sociology, criminology, education, social analytics, human and social sciences, social policy, and social science. Our programmes are led and supported by leading academics, all of whom are experts in their fields of study.

Our research is recognised as world-leading, and as having a direct impact on policy and practice. Many of our staff act as advisers to international organisations, Westminster and European parliaments, and the Welsh Government, as well as to public and private sector organisations. This means you have the opportunity to learn from scholars who are contributing to policy debates at international, national and local levels.

Teaching in the school is informed and underpinned by the most recent academic research and scholarship. Our students also benefit from our many academic collaborations with universities in Europe, the USA, Canada, and South East Asia, as well as opportunities for placements and work experience in the UK and overseas.

I hope to welcome you here to Cardiff University in the near future.

### **Professor Tom Hall**

Head of School



# Beginning your career

Turning theory into practical application and providing experience in the working world are important aspects of what we offer.

From day one, we encourage you to think about life beyond university, offering modules and support to give you a competitive advantage when you graduate.

Studying a degree in social sciences will help you develop skills such as intellectual self-reliance, the ability to process information and make considered judgments, constructive criticism and a willingness to seek solutions. This will enable you to develop transferable skills in communication, team working, problem solving, time management, and information and communication technologies.

Graduates from the School of Social Sciences choose a variety of career paths including the police service, social work, welfare and housing services, youth work, teaching, community development, counselling and advocacy work.



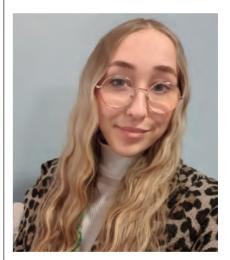
# Careers and employability service

We offer advice and guidance to our students at every stage of their undergraduate and postgraduate study, and up to two years after graduation.

Our school's dedicated careers advisor and the university's careers and employability service (Student Futures) delivers a tailored range of careers-related events throughout the year and can help you meet your career ambitions through a range of focused activities including:

- one-to-one careers guidance appointments
- careers workshops including CV writing, applications, social networking, and interviews
- professional networking events and careers fairs with top graduate employers
- professional guest speakers
- work experience placements and advice
- jobs board including graduate vacancies, internships and placements.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/careers





with the very things you're learning about in university is so helpful for putting things into context.

I felt just being in an office helped me learn so many skills that I may need in work after university.

**Evangeline Cleverly,** Human and Social Sciences (BSc 2023)



# Student placements



**Amy Reed,** Criminology and Sociology with Professional Placement Year (BSc 2023)

# **Family Support Worker,** HMP Parc, Bridgend

### My placement year got me a dream start to my career.

My main role was to provide advice and support to prisoners and their families throughout their sentence.

I'd also help with completing family court documents, assisting families in writing letters to their children, or setting up contact visits by liaising with social workers.

My favourite part of working in the prison was being able to use skills I developed at university to research, design and create my own family intervention plan.

I was so proud that the prison implemented my plan and am so grateful for the experience. If a student asked me about placements, I'd definitely recommend a placement year as it provided me the perfect opportunity to gain insight into my chosen career and industry.

Better yet, it can result in getting your foot in the door, as I was offered a family support worker position at the prison.

My placement gave me confidence and extensive real-world knowledge, helping me in my final year at Cardiff University and gain employment.



Read Amy's full blog



**Emelie Baker,** Social Analytics Professional Placement Year (BSc)

**Student Engagement and Experience Assistant, Cardiff**University

# My placement really helped me develop my analysis skills and build my confidence.

During my placement year, I stayed within Cardiff University and I was a Student Engagement and Experience Assistant, but also did lots of statistical analysis within the School of Social Sciences, too.

My favourite moment on placement was the first week of semester, so I was kind of half working and half as a student. It was really nice to see both sides of Welcome Week at the university.

I saw where my work around placement years and how we can improve them in the school was going. My placement really helped me develop my analysis skills, using what I'd learned in my modules in my first and second years at university and actually putting them into practice.

I now feel like I could be given a set of problems and do it from beginning-toend, knowing exactly what needs to be done.

It really built my confidence.



Watch Emelie's Q&A in full



# Why study social sciences?

# To study the social sciences is to study society itself.

We live in a world defined by ever-increasing change and interconnectedness. From globalisation and technological change to social inequalities and political conflict, it has never been more important to understand the relationship between people and society or to understand the social processes and interactions that shape who we are.

At its heart, social science is concerned with understanding the relationships and interactions between individuals, groups, institutions and social structures:

- How is wealth, power and privilege distributed in society?
- What are the causes of crime or health inequalities?
- What is the role of the state in providing welfare?

- Why does educational attainment differ between demographic groups?
- How do we, the people, change and influence society?

The social sciences ask the big questions about what is happening in our society today.

In all our degree programmes, we encourage students to see and imagine society in a different way - to understand the relationship between individual experiences and the larger social, historical and cultural forces that shape them.

We believe that having a sociological imagination is a valuable tool for anyone looking to gain a deeper understanding of the social world to help you make sense of your own experiences and the experience of others in a broader, more holistic way.

If you join us, you'll develop critical thinking and analytical skills that are



valuable, not only in their academic careers but also in their personal and professional lives. The knowledge and skills gained from social sciences can be applied in a wide range of careers, including education, law, business, social policy, and non-profit organisations.

### **Dr Michael Arribas-Ayllon,** Director of Recruitment and Admissions





# Meet our tutors

# **Professor Trevor Jones** Criminology

Criminology is the social scientific study of crime and responses to crime.



It's a central political topic. It's key in all news-

reporting, and it's a staple feature of popular culture in terms of TV and film depictions of crime and policing.

We need people who can offer an evidence-based and scholarly approach to understanding this really important social problem.

A number of our graduates have gone on to work in government and the policy world, in the police and criminal justice system.

Find out more about Criminology (BSc)



# Dr Kevin Smith Education

You'll work with educational experts and researchers who are extending the boundaries of knowledge and the discipline of education.



With us you'll be able to study concepts such as how power inequality and social mobility relate to education. You'll be able to understand how educational policy is interpreted and research evidence is enacted in practice.

In addition, we'll also ensure that you're prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary to be social scientists and be able to discuss and participate in the educational debates of today.

Find out more about Education (BSc)



### Dr Katy Greenland Human and social sciences

This course is essentially the study of psychology. It's about human beings in their social environments and what makes them tick and do the things they do.



In some ways it's quite a practical degree in that you can look at and make sense of the everyday; the way that you argue with your flatmates, experience going to school, the way that people organise themselves in social settings like pubs, nightclubs or football stands.

Find out more about Human and Social Sciences (BSc)



### **Dr Sioned Pearce** Sociology and social policy

Studying social policy at Cardiff University focuses on understanding the causes and possible solutions to a range



of social problems, including homelessness and the crisis in social care, housing, education and welfare. It's a dynamic and interdisciplinary course, drawing on sociology, economics, geography and even things like archaeology.

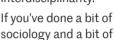
The modules are delivered by experts who are research-active in their field, so lecture content includes real-time research, often conducted by the lecturers themselves, whose research influences policy.

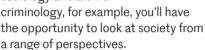
Find out more about Sociology and Social Policy (BSc)



### Dr Nick Bailey Social science

The main attraction of our programme is its interdisciplinarity.





A strong element of our course is found among research methods, and how to investigate and interrogate the society that we live in. It's a valuable skill for thinking critically, which will be useful in any aspect of career that you want to go on with.

Find out more about Social Science (BSc)



# Dr Daniel Smith Sociology

The study of sociology is a study of how society is possible, about how human beings construct the world around us in



order to live. There's no natural way to be as a human.

It also means that the study of society is about contingencies. There's no necessary way that we have to be as a species or a society.

It can often feel like we're living in a sense of 'all-against-all' opinions and often feel that there's no sense of right and wrong. Even if you have a sense of right, there's going to be a sense of wrong that comes along with it.

With us, you'll try to unpack all the different ways in which these cultural and social fault lines appear and what their root causes are.

Find out more about Sociology (BSc)



# **Dr Honor Young Social analytics**

Our programme is a unique and exciting degree that trains students to develop a scientific understanding



of the social world that we live in.

You'll undertake rigorous research to examine different types of sources of data that cuts across all the social science disciplines.

It's great for anyone interested in studying topics such as gender, ethnicity, migration, poverty, inequalities or health.

Find out more about Social Analytics (BSc)



# **Dr Sion Jones**Welsh provision at the School of Social Sciences

We offer a range of opportunities for students studying in Welsh, including seminars in a number of different modules and in subjects such as criminology, sociology, social research and social theory.

Students and staff can also attend informal meetings in Welsh to create a community among fluent Welsh speakers and learners alike, as well as separate seminars.

Studying in Welsh is brilliant for your future employability. Being able to use both Welsh and English languages will be a major advantage when you're looking for work, not just in Wales but also elsewhere in the UK and across the world.

Find out more about Welsh provision at the School of Social Sciences





# Studying with us

What you study with us will relate directly to current events happening in the world, and will enable you to understand and contribute to contemporary debates in an informed way.

We are an interdisciplinary school with a strong reputation for academic excellence, placing 3rd and 10th in the UK for our research in education and sociology respectively in the most recent UK Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021) assessment.

All of our degree programmes are designed to teach the foundations of their respective disciplines alongside the theoretical and methodological principles that underpin the social sciences. Many of our programmes provide you with opportunities to tailor your studies by selecting modules related to your academic or professional interests, and to study across the multiple disciplines taught in the school.

The school offers single honours degree programmes in criminology, education and sociology, as well as interdisciplinary single honours programmes in social science, social

analytics, and human and social sciences.

We also offer a range of joint honours degrees, giving you the opportunity to combine subjects within the School of Social Sciences and from other academic schools.

Many of our programmes offer the opportunity for you to extend your degree to four years, spending the third year on a professional placement or studying abroad.

# **Teaching**

We are an internationally recognised centre of high-quality teaching and research. Our degrees are taught by researchers at the forefront of their subjects, whose expertise and insight inform governments and policymakers regionally, nationally and globally.

Learning takes place in a variety of formats including lectures, practical

exercises, interactive workshops and seminars.

We place great value on student participation in teaching and learning, encouraging student feedback on all of our programmes.

# **Research quality**

Our school is an influential centre of research, with specialised centres and groups contributing to a lively research environment. We regularly host research seminars, talks and conferences.

The school's areas of research are:

- · science, technology and risk
- · crime, security and justice
- education and education policy
- · health and social care
- inequality, labour and the future of work
- people, place and policy



# Student experience

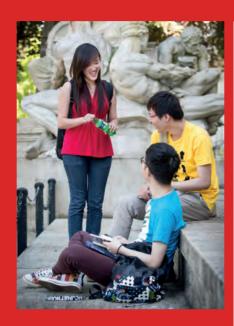
Ensuring our students have the best possible experience is at the heart of what we do.

All students are assigned a personal tutor who will be your main contact for any academic and pastoral support.

You'll meet with your personal tutor regularly to discuss your academic progress, receive feedback and advice, and make future plans. We also have an active Student Staff Panel who are integral to the student experience in the school.



Find out what more of our current students had to say about studying with us.







I love the teachers and how nice they are - if you email them they'll get back to you really quickly.

If I had a friend thinking of coming to Cardiff I would say that everyone's friendly, the town centre is really good, there are always things to do.

**Ayotola Olaopa,** Sociology and Social Policy (BSc)

# Enhancing your experience

Many of our programmes offer the opportunity to enhance your degree by spending a year abroad, immersing yourself in a new culture, or to undertake a professional placement year to develop your skills in the workplace.

# Spend time abroad

Studying, working or volunteering abroad is a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in a different culture, make new friends, embrace a new language and enhance your career prospects. Spending time abroad will help you to develop a wide range of transferable skills prized by employers, including independence and responsibility, organisation and time management, problem solving, communication skills, and adaptability and resilience.

The majority of our programmes offer the opportunity to extend your study to 4 years, spending your third year studying abroad.

You can also undertake research projects or work and volunteer in institutions around the world.

# **Professional placement**

Many of our programmes can be extended to four years, with the third year spent on professional placement. Students who undertake a professional placement develop their employability

skills, gain insight into an organisation and a career, and begin to develop a network of professional contacts.

Our students have secured year-long placements at a range of organisations through Government Social Research (GSR), including Department for International Trade, Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office and Welsh Government.

If available on your chosen programme, you can apply to extend your study to 4 years in your second year.







# Our degree programmes

### Social Science BSc UCAS Code: L301

This interdisciplinary degree allows you to combine the theories and methods of different disciplines to increase knowledge and understanding.

You will be able to study across the social science spectrum, encompassing sociology, criminology, education, social analytics, social policy and psychology.

Its flexibility means that you can sample a broad mix of topics from across the wide range of available options, or you can organise your studies thematically and gain multiple perspectives of the same topic, such as gender, ethnicity and inequality.



# What our graduates say...

This course allowed me to study a range of aspects within sociology and offered me flexible job prospects.

I enjoyed how I was able to study a broad range of subjects within the social sciences, such as psychology and education.

### Alexandra Moore,

Social Science (BSc 2018)

### Criminology BSc UCAS Code: L370

We provide an opportunity to study criminology as an interdisciplinary degree, combining the theories and methods of multiple disciplines to increase knowledge and understanding of crime and control.

The study of criminology investigates how social groups or behaviours are defined as 'criminal' or 'anti-social', how different approaches to criminal justice policy balance protection, rehabilitation and control, and how victims are affected by their experiences.

Our programme draws on a range of social science disciplines including sociology, social policy, law, political science, history, and anthropology. Study focuses on developing the 'criminological imagination' within the social sciences, beginning by examining how to approach problems of crime, justice and control as a social scientist before applying these research-driven disciplinary skills to reveal real world issues and debates.

During the course you will develop a specialised appreciation of criminological research and the operation of criminal justice and crime control processes.



### Education BSc UCAS Code: 8G46

This programme is designed for students who are looking for the opportunity to study the subject in a broad social science context.

Education is a stimulating and challenging social science subject that explores and questions the social, psychological, political and economic foundations of education.

Teaching on this programme is informed by our research in education and developments in policy and practice, encompassing aspects of culture and identity, childhood and youth, gender and ethnicity, and social justice and inclusion.

You'll benefit from our close links with policy makers as well as local schools, colleges, and other education and training organisations. On this programme you will have opportunities to engage with educators and practice to develop your own experience, and to apply theory and practice to real life situations.

The core modules of this programme are aimed at developing a deep understanding of the social, historical, political, economic, and developmental contexts of education in Wales, the UK and internationally, allowing you to consider education in a global context.

### **Joint Honours**

- Sociology and Education UCAS Code: 8J46 (see page 19)
- Welsh and Education
   UCAS Code: QX53 (see page 19)



# **Social Policy BSc**

(as a joint honours programme only) **UCAS Codes:** 

see joint honours box below

Social policy is the study of how societies respond to human need and seek to promote the wellbeing of their members.

The study of social policy provides a critical understanding of the challenges of responding to human needs and managing the provision of social services. You will study debates about the goals of policy: how we decide what human needs are, whose responsibility it is to meet human needs, and what we mean by 'social justice'.

Our programme examines policies in a wide variety of areas, including social security, education, health, housing and personal social services, as well as policies seeking to address new challenges, such as tackling global warming and promoting environmental sustainability.

A degree with social policy provides you with a thorough grounding in key debates and theories regarding the state, society and wellbeing. You will learn how to evaluate and interpret evidence, apply theories and examine policies in an objective fashion.

Social Policy (BSc) is available only as a joint honours programme.

### **Joint Honours**

- Criminology and Social Policy UCAS Code: 8D46 (see page 19)
- Sociology and Social Policy UCAS Code: 8K46 (see page 19)

### Sociology BSc UCAS Code: 8H46

Pursue one of the oldest and most prestigious social science disciplines in one of the UK's largest and most successful centres of social science.

Sociology is dedicated to the study of social life as found in groups, institutions and societies. A degree in sociology provides critical tools for handling the analysis of all aspects of social conduct, from the intricacies of face-to-face interaction to the ways in which individual actions and beliefs shape, and are shaped by, the social world around them.

Our programme is characterised by rigorous theoretically-informed empirical research. Expertise amongst our staff includes childhood, youth and ageing, the study of sexuality, health and the body, the construction and reconstruction of identities, the rise of consumer culture, and the profound transformations to social, culture and private life which economic and technological globalisation have delivered.



# What our graduates say...

During my degree I enjoyed the range of perspectives we studied, the fact that our lecturers and seminar leaders are active in their research, and that we were learning from researchers at the top of their field.

Emily Raj, Education (BSc 2022)



# What our graduates say...

I've really enjoyed having good relationships and conversations with staff and tutors, and furthering my own ideas and perspectives by engaging with topics across a wide range of disciplines and positions.

**Peter Teuten,** Politics and Sociology (BSc Econ 2023)



# Human and Social Sciences BSc UCAS Code: 58H2

Human and social sciences are a unique opportunity to study psychology alongside modules from other disciplines across the school.

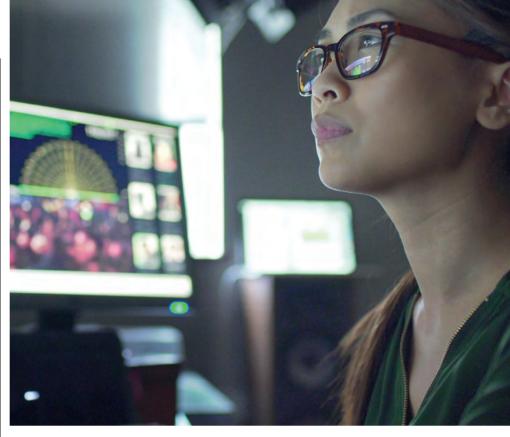
Accredited by the British Psychological Society as the basis for graduate membership of the society, this course provides an integrated perspective on psychology, which emphasises its social, conceptual and historical aspects, along with a core of social research methods.

The only course of its kind currently on offer in the United Kingdom, this programme will allow you to build up a range of skills and knowledge, whilst developing a critical understanding of psychology as a social science in a range of issues such as social change, gender, class and ethnicity.

In addition to core modules in psychology and social research methods, you will be able to study a wide range of modules in education, sociology, social policy, and social analytics.

The flexibility of this programme allows you to tailor your optional modules to a particular pathway if you have a specific career in mind. Alternatively, you are able to pursue an interdisciplinary approach by studying a range of topics and debates from across the social sciences.







# What our graduates say...

The best thing about studying in the School of Social Sciences has been learning more about interdisciplinarity.

Learning about this has really helped me to develop as a student and has allowed to find my place in the world of social sciences.

**Chloe Davis,** Human and Social Sciences (BSc 2023)

### Social Analytics BSc UCAS Code: J3G5

Every day we read news headlines quoting figures relating to everything from Brexit and migration to teenage pregnancy and sexual health.

In a world saturated with data, figures and statistics, social analytics is concerned with making sense of the social world that we live in, by critically evaluating the knowledge claims being made.

This programme offers a unique opportunity to investigate our society through quantitative research via a range of disciplines including sociology, criminology, human and social sciences, social policy and education. Social analytics is an interdisciplinary degree suitable for students interested in themes that cut across the social sciences, such as inequality, health, deviance, gender and ethnicity.

This is the only programme in the school with a guaranteed work placement. Recent placement organisations include the Welsh Government, Agored Cymru, Welsh Blood Service, Chwarae Teg and the Wales Wheelchair Basketball Association.

# Joint honours programmes

Our joint honours programmes allow you to study two subjects. This means you could study one of your areas of interest while learning about a new subject at the same time.

A key advantage is that upon graduation you may find that there are more job opportunities available to you based on the breadth of what you've studied.

If you choose to study one of our joint honours programmes, you'll have the opportunity to understand the social sciences across two core disciplines and how they interact with each other.

# Our joint honours programmes

- Criminology and Social Policy UCAS Code: 8D4
- Criminology and Sociology UCAS Code: 8F46
- Law and Criminology UCAS Code: M190
- Politics and Sociology UCAS Code: LL32
- Sociology and Education UCAS Code: 8J46
- Sociology and Social Policy UCAS Code: 8K46



# Welsh and Education BA UCAS Code: QX53

This joint honours course gives first-language Welsh students the opportunity to combine the study of Welsh with educational policy and development theory.

Modules taught by the School of Welsh aim to produce graduates with a thorough academic and practical understanding of the Welsh language, its literature and culture, a high level of skill in written and spoken Welsh, and well-developed employability and creative skills relevant to modern Wales.

Education modules taught by the School of Social Sciences are aimed at developing a deep understanding of the social, historical, political, economic and developmental contexts of education in Wales, the UK and internationally.







# **Applications**

To be considered for entry on to any of the undergraduate courses offered in the School of Social Sciences you should apply through UCAS:

UCAS, Rosehill, New Barn Lane, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 3LZ, UK www.ucas.com

# **Entry requirements**

A levels: The school usually requires three A levels (or their equivalent) in subjects other than General Studies. Our current standard A level entry requirements range from AAB-BBB depending on degree programme.

AS level subjects will not be accepted as contributing to the entry requirements.

**GCSE:** English at Grade C or its equivalent is required and maths is desirable.

**IB:** 17-18 points in three Higher Level subjects.

Other: Applications are welcomed from mature-age applicants and those offering qualifications other than A levels, for example. Welsh Baccalaureate, BTEC, accredited Access courses.

Each application is examined on its merits, but demonstration of active and formal study within the last two years is desirable.

International students should have achieved an overall IELTS score of 6.5, with a minimum of 5.5 in each subscore, or evidence of equivalent English Language proficiency.



# **Equality and diversity**

We are committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all our practices and activities

We aim to establish an inclusive culture free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect. We recognise the right of every person to be treated in accordance with these values.

We are committed to advancing equality on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation, and to fostering good relations between different groups.

For further information, please visit: www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity



# **Open days**

The university runs open days throughout the year giving anyone considering applying to Cardiff the chance to find out more about life at university and see what we offer.

If you apply and are offered a place, you will be invited to meet us at our specially-devised school offer holder days. When making that important decision, we strongly encourage you to join us. Not only will you have the opportunity to hear more about our degrees, you will also meet staff, have the chance to talk to current students and to get the feel for our cosmopolitan capital city.



# **Student support**

Whether or not you use student support services it's reassuring to know that they are available to you should you need them.

Every student is assigned a personal tutor but should you need extra support we have a range of services available to you.

### Such as:

- · Disability and Dyslexia support
- · Counselling and Wellbeing Guidance
- · International Student Support

Email: studentsupportcentre@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4844

 Student Mentor Scheme www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/student-life/ student-support

# Tuition fees and financial assistance

The university charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by applicants not currently registered. Please note charges for accommodation in University Residences are additional.

### **Tuition fees**

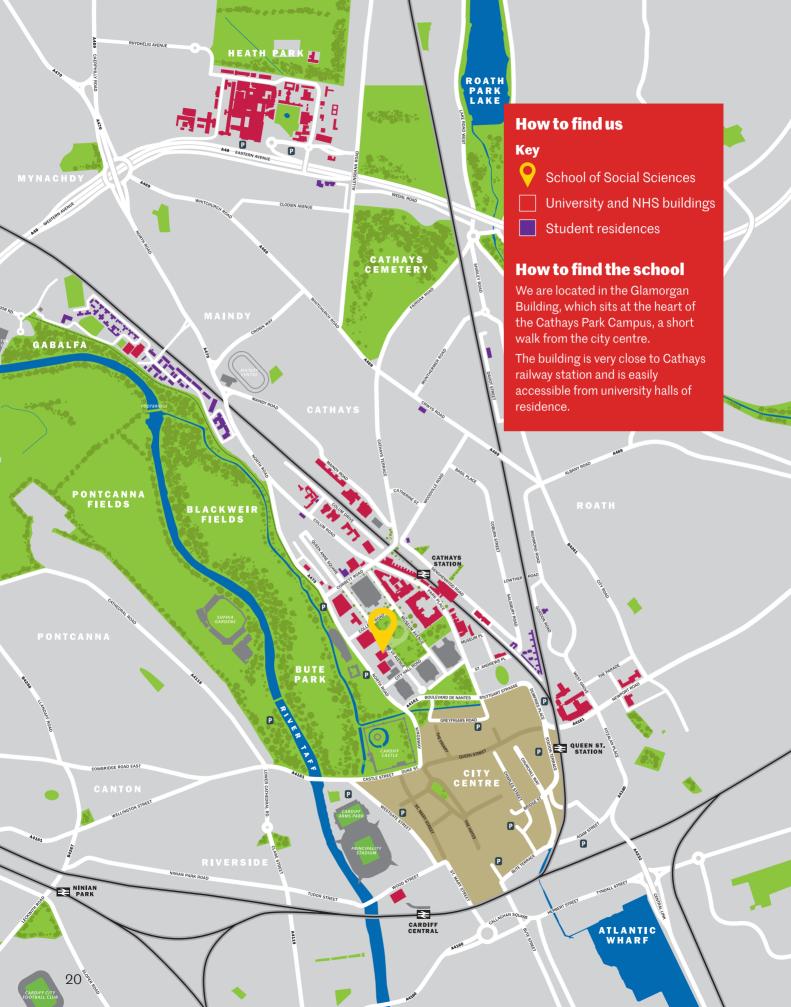
Please see the following website for more information:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees

### Scholarships and bursaries

For more information please visit the following website:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/scholarships





# **Important Legal Information**

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2025 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in June 2024. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.



This brochure is printed on paper obtained from well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing

process are FSC® certified. The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:

Tel: **029 2087 4455** Email: **RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk** 



To find out more about the School of Social Sciences



**Contact us** 

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