



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL POLICY

**Duration** 1 year part-time

**Location** St Lucia campus

**Entry requirements** A Bachelor degree in any field OR significant post secondary study and work experience in a social policy or related field.

## About Social Policy

Social policy is the study of actions and decisions of government that contribute to the wellbeing of the population and individuals. It involves policy areas such as social security and welfare, disability, health, education, employment services, Indigenous peoples, community services, and child protection.

Social policy research critically analyses actual and proposed policy. It identifies the strengths and weaknesses of policy, the political dynamics behind policy, and asks the important question of who benefits from government policy?

## Why study Social Policy at UQ

Our social policy staff are internationally recognised experts in their fields, and are actively involved in cutting-edge research in Australia and overseas. This high level research activity directly informs teaching practice, providing students with the benefits of the latest knowledge and skills in social policy analysis. Many of the social policy staff are former policy practitioners so their teaching is grounded and informed by direct experience in local, national and international policy networks.

## About the program

**The Graduate Certificate in Social Policy offers an innovative and integrated combination of social policy theory, policy making skills, and the latest knowledge about principles informing contemporary policy development.**

The program provides an opportunity to critically reflect on historical developments in national welfare states and current policy settings in a global context.

In undertaking this Certificate you will have the opportunity to compare and contrast approaches in Australia with alternative systems operating in other countries, and to learn practical ways to devise, implement and advocate for social policy reform. You will benefit from research informed teaching and a collaborative learning environment involving students from a range of different countries. The program will enhance your policy analysis, policy development, and systemic advocacy skills. The Graduate Certificate in Social Policy is a one year part-time program taken over two semesters.

## What will I study?

*You will complete the following three core courses:*

### **POLY7000: Understanding Social Policy (Semester 1)**

This course will provide an introduction to contemporary social policy, including not only income support and the social services but also aspects of economic policy. Theoretical frameworks from a variety of disciplines are also examined. The course highlights key debates shaping the future of Australian social policy. Students are encouraged to undertake this course at the beginning of the Certificate.

### **POLY7002: Doing Social Policy (Semester 2)**

This course concerns both analysing the processes of social policy making, use, and application of analytical techniques for, and in, policy making. The purpose is to develop intellectual as well as practical capacity to be an effective policy practitioner.

### **POLY7006: Global Social Policy (Semester 2)**

This course analyses social policy through international comparisons of social policy settings, expenditures, and regimes. It explores the complex role of international government and non-government agencies in influencing national social policy settings and delivering social services.

*You will study one of the following four electives:*

### **POLS7103: Lobbying, Communications and Public Affairs (Semester 2)**

This course explores the theory and practice of lobbying and political campaigning, the changing nature of lobbying, the profile of the lobbying industry, and how the news media are organised. It examines how persuasive communication campaigns can be used to manage public affairs and to secure the political interests of organisations having a direct investment in the outcomes of policy debates.



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## What will I study? (cont)

### **POLS7406: Economic Analysis and Public Policy (Semester 2)**

This course will help you better understand how mainstream economists think and how they advise governments and other organisations involved in public policy and broader governance issues

### **SWSP7123: Community Planning, Engagement and Governance (Semester 1)**

In this course students will explore the nature of systems, and develop analysis, processes and practices for navigating systems, including strategies such as planning, partnership, engagement, lobbying, and community advocacy. This is a dynamic course grounded in people's own change agendas, and students who enrol should expect to be challenged!

### **SWSP7164: Program and Service Evaluation in the Human Services (Semester 1)**

This course will introduce you to the major forms of program and service evaluation applicable to human services organisations. It also provides opportunity to develop skills in negotiating and undertaking evaluation projects.

## Career opportunities

Graduates in Social Policy are well suited for careers in the State and Federal Governments as public servants, policy analysts and advisors to the Minister. Jobs in non-government agencies and community sector agencies and peak advocacy bodies also require Social Policy graduates. Social policy analysis skills are also highly relevant for staff delivering and managing social services.

## Further study

This certificate articulates into the Graduate Diploma in Governance and Public Policy, the Master of Governance and Public Policy, and the Master of Social Work (Australian Association of Social Workers - eligible applicants only). Visit [www.uq.edu.au/study](http://www.uq.edu.au/study) for further information.

### Entry requirements

A Bachelor degree in any field OR significant post secondary study and work experience in a social policy or related field.

### Applications

#### **Australian and New Zealand Students**

Students must apply online. To do so visit [www.uq.edu.au/study](http://www.uq.edu.au/study) and search for the program.

You are welcome to arrange a group or personal interview to discuss your study plans.

This program is only available for part-time study and is not offered to international students.

## Further information

### Enquiries

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