

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BSc Health and Social Care <i>Direct entry pathway:</i> BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice <i>Additionally, if Environmental Studies Minor taken:</i> BSc Health and Social Care with Environmental Studies BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice and Environmental Studies (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE Health and Social Care Cert HE Health and Social Care
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes – for both BSc Health and Social Care and BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences (home). School of Historical Studies School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication Counselling Centre, Careers service
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years, 4 years with FY) Part-time (4 years, 6 years with FY) September, daytime or evening study
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Health Studies (partially applicable)
UCAS code	BSc Health and Social Care: N112; N114 with FY BSc Health and Social with Professional Practice: N117; N118 with FY
Birkbeck Course Code	<i>BSc Health and Social Care:</i> UUBSHESC_C - Full-time, 3 years; UBSHESOC_C - Part-time, 4 years UUBFHESC_C – Full-time with FY, 4 years UBFHESOC_C - Part-time with FY, 6 years <i>BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice:</i> UUBSHESP_C – Full-time, 3 years UBSHESPP_C – Part-time, 4 years UUBFHESP_C – Full-time with FY, 4 years UBFHESPP_C – Part-time with FY, 6 years
HECoS Code	100476
Start date of programme	Autumn 2024
Date of programme approval	Summer 2023
Date of last programme amendment approval	May 2025

Valid for academic entry year	2024-25
Programme Director	Jenelle Clarke
Date of last revision to document	22/05/25

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff:

BSc Health and Social Care/ BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice: Students who have recently taken A-level (or similar) qualifications will require CCC-ABB at A-Level (or UCAS tariff points 96 - 128). Students who fail to achieve these grades may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.

Birkbeck welcomes applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements or consider alternative qualifications based on judgement of academic potential.

BSc Health and Social Care with Foundation Year/ BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice with Foundation Year: This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BSc Health and Social Care but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a [tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

Health and Social Care are fast growing areas of employment and academic investigation. The programme at Birkbeck has been designed to bring together the very best of this interdisciplinary area to provide students with a strong grounding in the national and international context of health and social care, the inequalities that shape changing needs and the policies that respond to them. Taught by academic experts from across the social sciences and humanities, this degree will enable you to gain work-relevant skills and to develop academic expertise through our wide choice of option modules and opportunities for individual study. This degree is particularly suitable for people who are interested in the social context of the health and social care sectors, how policy develops and how it is implemented. It will equip you with skills and knowledge relevant to a wide range of careers in the public, voluntary or private sectors.

The aims of the programmes are:

- To develop comprehensive knowledge of health and social care, and the wider social, economic, policy and organisational environment within which they are situated both within the UK and internationally.
- To develop awareness and understanding of the nature of inequalities in health and social care and of measures to combat their effects.
- To develop the ability to work co-operatively and collaboratively as a means of addressing some of the complexities inherent in health and social care services.

- To develop key transferable skills that enhance the employability of health and social care graduates within a flexible labour market.

You also have the option to take an Environmental Studies Minor alongside your programme pathway.

Foundation Year aims:

The purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one-year full-time or two years part-time) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills. On successful completion of the Foundation Year, students can progress onto year one of the part-time or full-time degree programmes. The curriculum after successful completion of the Foundation Year is the same as the full-time or part-time programme. Foundation Year students are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
BSc Health and Social Care					
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	SSSS003S4	Introducing Health and Social Care	30	Comp	1
4	SSPO017S4	Foundations of Social and Political Science	30	Comp	1
4	SSPA176S4	Working in Caring Environments	30	Comp	2
4	Various	Option Level 4	30	Option	3
Year 2					
5	SSSS004S5	Global Health: Politics and Policy	30	Comp	2 or 3
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Comp	1
5	various	Option Level 5	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
5	various	Option Level 5	30	Option	2 or 3
Year 3					
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Research in the Social and Political Sciences	30	Comp	1
6	SSPO274S6	Dissertation / Independent Research Project	30	Comp	1 -3
6	Various	Option Level 6	30	Option	1,2 or 3
6	various	Option Level 6	30	Option	2 or 3
Part-time- 4 years					
Year 1					
4	SSSS003S4	Introducing Health and Social Care	30	Comp	1
4	SSPA176S4	Working in Caring Environments	30	Comp	2
4	Various	Option Level 4	30	Option	3
Year 2					
4	SSPO017S4	Foundations of Social and Political Science	30	Comp	1
5	SSSS004S5	Global Health: Politics and Policy	30	Comp	2 or 3
5	Various	Option Level 5	30	Option	2 or 3

Year 3					
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Comp	1
5	Various	Option Level 5	30	Option	2 or 3
6	Various	Option Level 6	30	Option	2 or 3
Year 4					
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Research in the Social and Political Sciences	30	Comp	1
6	SSPO274S6	Dissertation / Independent Research Project	30	Comp	2 -3
6	Various	Option Level 6	30	Option	2 or 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice					
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	SSSS003S4	Introducing Health and Social Care	30	Comp	1
4	SSPO017S4	Foundations of Social and Political Science	30	Comp	1
4	SSPA176S4	Working in Caring Environments	30	Comp	2
4	Various	Option Level 4	30	Option	3
Year 2					
5	SSSS004S5	Global Health: Politics and Policy	30	Comp	2 or 3
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Comp	1
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Comp	TBC
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Comp	TBC
5	various	Option Level 5	30	Option	2 or 3
Year 3					
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Research in the Social and Political Sciences	30	Comp	1
6	SSPA177S6	Work-Based Digital Project	30	Comp	2 -3
6	Various	Option Level 6	30	Option	1,2 or 3
6	various	Option Level 6	30	Option	2 or 3
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	SSSS003S4	Introducing Health and Social Care	30	Comp	1
4	SSPA176S4	Working in Caring Environments	30	Comp	2
4	Various	Option Level 4	30	Option	3
Year 2					
4	SSPO017S4	Foundations of Social and Political Science	30	Comp	1
5	SSSS004S5	Global Health: Politics and Policy	30	Comp	2 or 3
5	Various	Option Level 5	30	Option	2 or 3

Year 3					
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Comp	1
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Comp	2
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Comp	3
6	Various	Option Level 6	30	Option	2 or 3
Year 4					
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Research in the Social and Political Sciences	30	Comp	1
6	SSPA177S6	Work -Based Digital Project	30	Comp	2-3
6	Various	Option Level 6	30	Option	2 or 3

With foundation Year (Full-time, 4 years) This applies to routes with and without 'Professional Practice'					
Foundation Year (Y0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	2-3
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core	1
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy or Level 4 Language module	30	Option	2-3
Then years 1-3 for the Full-Time track as above					
With foundation Year (Part-time, 6 years) This applies to routes with and without 'Professional Practice'					
Foundation Year (Y0a)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	2-3
Foundation year (Y0b)					
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core	1
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy or Level 4 Language module	30	Option	2-3
Then years 1-4 for the Part-Time track as above					

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

Environmental Studies Minor Option

Students can also choose to take an Environmental Studies Minor by selecting 90 credits of their options from Environmental Studies modules, with at least 60 credits taken at Level 5 or 6. Students who started year 1 of the programme in 2024/5, must take all 90 credits at level 5 and 6. Students who successfully complete the 90 credits of Environmental Studies options at the appropriate level can achieve a final exit award of BSc Health and Social Care with Environmental Studies or BSc Health and Social Care with Professional Practice and Environmental Studies.

Indicative option modules:

Level 4:

FFCV001S4 Leadership and Governance in Local Communities

SSPA162S4 Global Societies

SSPA172S4 Introduction to Counselling

FFDV003S4 Introduction to International Development

LALA146S4 Understanding Crime

Level 5:

SSGE124S5 Borders, Migration and Development

POSO003S5 Contemporary British Politics

LACN030S5 Crime, Inequality and Social Change

SSGE081S5 Critical Race Studies: Understanding Asian and Black Experiences in Britain

SSGE123S5 Future Food Systems and Sustainability

SSPA164S5 The Politics of Knowledge: Sociology and the World

Level 6:

SC05010S6 Planetary Health and Social Justice

SSHC245S6 Body Politics: Health, Illness and Death in Britain

SSGE093S6 Cities in the Global South

SSPA094S6 Class

SSHC350S6 Crime Poverty and Protest

SSPA165S6 Human Rights and Politics

SSGE096S6 Living with Climate Change

SSHC512S6 Medicine and Power in Modern Africa

SSHC570S6 Epidemics and Pandemics in History (Level 6)

Indicative Environmental Studies options:

Level 4:

GGPH072S4 Humans and the Environment

GGPH055S4 Introducing Natural Environments

SSGE008S4 Introduction to Environmental Science

Level 5:

SSPL262S5 The Ethics of Life and Death: Humans, Animals and the Environment

Aren199S5 The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates

SSGE123S5 Future Food Systems and Sustainability

SC03010S5 Global Environmental Histories

LALW025H5 Environmental Law (15 credits)*

GGPH071S5 Environmental Processes

SSGE084S5 Managing Environments

BUMN097H5 Sustainability and Stakeholder Marketing (15 credits)

Level 6:

Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future

LALW035H6 Environmental Law (15 credits)*

SSGE006S6 Race, Environment and International Development

SSGE095S6 Global Nature Conservation

EASC044H6 Geological Hazards (15 credits)

BUMN126H6 Ethics and Sustainability in Food and Beverages (15 credits)

AREN216S6 Performing Environments

*Environmental Law can only be taken at either level 5 or level 6, not both.

(2 x 15 credit options can be taken in place of 1 x 30 credit option.)

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching will normally include in-person small-group events such as workshops, seminars and tutorials, supported by rich online materials on our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) 'Moodle'. The curriculum has been designed to engage with issues of social justice, equality and diversity and their effects on health, wellbeing and care at a range of scales from the local to global. It provides core knowledge for all students about fundamental issues in health and social care, as well as a range of optional modules that allow students to follow themes that are of greatest interest to them and to specialise. At all levels teaching is underpinned by the research of our staff who bring their expert knowledge to the programme. Teaching also integrates key skills for employability and knowledge about working in caring environments to support graduates into work.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Tasks such as working in groups, writing for policy makers and oral presentations as well as more traditional academic essays or reports. All students will have the opportunity to carry out a substantial piece of independent work on a health and social care topic of their choice, for those on the 'with Professional Practice' route, this will be a work-related project. At all levels assessment is varied and is designed to allow students to acquire, refine and enhance their skills.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

By the end of the foundation year, you will be able to:

1. Articulate at a foundational level key concepts in some of the disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy.
2. Undertake academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines
3. Understand other key learning skills required for university-level study and know of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between health, welfare, social need, health and social care, and social organisation in a range of contexts from the local to the global scale.
2. Locate health and social care issues and inequalities within historical, contemporary and international social, policy and organisational contexts.
3. Critically evaluate the mixed economy of welfare and the interrelationships between health and social care and between the agencies, practitioners and individuals involved in their provision.
4. Demonstrate understanding and critical awareness of a range of issues and theories related to the impact of difference and diversity on the incidence and experience of health, illness, disability and ageing in a range of contexts.
5. Critically evaluate and synthesise different sources of knowledge and theoretical approaches to social problems and issues demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of one or more areas of health and social care.
6. Demonstrate a critical understanding of a range of research methodologies and techniques and the role of social research in understanding health and social care.
7. Develop key academic and research skills such as information literacy, competency in using information technology and robust written and verbal presentation skills.
8. Design and execute a piece of individual, in-depth research including defining a research problem/question; choosing appropriate methodologies; demonstrating awareness of ethical issues and obtaining the appropriate ethical approval; demonstrate the ability to reason about the data and synthesise and present the findings effectively; and discuss the findings in terms of previous research.
9. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional practice by successfully completing a period of approved workplace practice ('with Professional Practice' route only).

Careers and further study

A degree in Health and Social Care will provide a grounding for a wide variety of careers and employment opportunities in the NHS, the social care sector, voluntary organisations and many private sector organisations.

You could work in areas like:

- Public health
- Mental health
- Criminal justice
- Management and administration
- Child protection
- Health promotion
- Housing

You will find health and social care graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Family practitioner
- Healthcare support worker
- Public health practitioner
- Children and young people's development officer
- IAG officer for vulnerable service users
- Learning and education facilitator
- Manager in social care or NHS

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

[Further information](#) about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is available online.

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