

### Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London				
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>Birkbeck College</b>				
3	<b>Programme Title(s)</b>	<b>BSc Economics and Social Policy</b> <b>BSc Economics and Social Policy with Foundation Year</b>				
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	UUBSECSP_C (Full Time) UBSECSP_C (Part Time) UUBFECSP_C (Full Time with Foundation Year) UBFECSP_C (Part Time with Foundation Year)				
5	<b>UCAS code</b>	LL15/LL16 (with Foundation Year)				
6	<b>Home Department</b>	Economics, Mathematics and Statistics				
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	Certificate of Continuing Education in Economics Certificate of Higher Education in Economics Certificate of Higher Education in Economics and Social Policy Diploma of Higher Education in Economics and Social Policy				
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	PT 4 Years; FT 3 Years				
9	<b>Mode of Study</b>	FT	<b>X</b>	PT	<b>X</b>	DL
10	<b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>	6				
11	<b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>	Department of Geography, Environment and Development; Department of Politics.				
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A				
13	<b><a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement</a></b>	Economics; Social Policy				

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	<p><b>Programme Summary:</b></p> <p>The Economics and Social Policy (ESP) programme offers students the challenging combination of a rigorous training in economics, alongside interdisciplinary training in social policy and politics. On completing the programme, students will be able to critically analyse a wide range of social and economic problems and policy issues, from a range of distinct disciplinary perspectives.</p> <p>The ESP programme is part of our suite of Birkbeck's "Economics+" BSc programmes. This group of interlinked programmes, centred on the study of economics, have a common structure in their first year, and many common elements in later years. This allows for considerable flexibility in students' paths through their degrees. Transfers between programmes are possible, especially at the end of the first year.</p> <p>For full-time students, Year 1 consists of four 30 credit modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The crucial common element in Year 1 for all Economics+ students is the module Introduction to Economics. This introduces students to core issues in economics,</li> </ul>

with a particular emphasis on the role of evidence, contemporary and historical, and fundamental economic principles.

- Supplementing this, all students take a module to teach them crucial mathematical and statistical techniques (either Introductory Quantitative Techniques or Quantitative Techniques 1, depending on prior training).
- They also all take a module in IT and Professional Skills (or its variant Study Techniques), which introduce them to a wide range of IT-based skills, with assessment based on a combination of skills, from writing their CV, to using statistical and programming software, with an introduction to the tools required for data science.
- The final 30 credit module varies between different programmes. ESP students take the module Current Economic Problems that introduces them to some key policy issues, viewed through the lens of basic economic principles. It gives students the opportunity to work with data, to work in groups, and hone their presentational skills.

Part-time students take the first 3 of these modules in Year 1.

In Year 2, full-time ESP students maintain a core of two 30 credit economics modules, alongside two interdisciplinary modules, picked from a short list of modules offered by the Geography and Politics Departments (part-time students spread these modules over years 2 and 3). In Year 3 (or Years 3 and 4 for part-timers) students are free to choose (subject to pre-requisites) from a wide range of modules offered by all three departments.

**Programme Aims:**

The aim of the programme is to be of great interest and benefit to people who want to study economic, social and geographical theories and how to apply them to contemporary policy issues. Many jobs in the private and public sector require people who are able to provide concise interpretations of policy issues and who understand the nature of economic, social, political and geographical change. (The precise career trajectory after the degree will of course depend on the weighting of the different disciplines chosen.)

The Programme objectives are to:

- provide an introduction to economics, social theory and the study of politics.
- provide an introduction to data analysis and its application to policy issues.
- provide courses designed to integrate theory and practice.
- enable students to take specialist options in economics, social policy and politics.
- enable students to develop analytical skills in project and report writing.
- enable students to develop research skills which can then be used at a postgraduate level.
- enable students to develop knowledge and skills to analyse and debate contemporary political economy issues.

**Distinctive Features:**

Part-time or full-time, evening, face-to-face study.

The programme offers a challenging interdisciplinary approach, but based around a solid core in economics. As students progress through the programme they can develop

	<p>specialisms in particular disciplines, or continue to keep a balanced approach. But all students should acquire a broad and balanced perspective on the issues and problems they analyse in the programme.</p> <p><b>Main aims for Foundation Year:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable students to develop the foundational knowledge and skills required for successful completion of a degree in a range of business-related disciplines</li> <li>• Provide support to those students who do not meet the formal entry requirements for direct entry to the degree, but who can demonstrate ability for degree level study</li> </ul>
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15	<p><b>Entry Criteria</b></p> <p><b>BSc Economics and Social Policy:</b> UCAS tariff: 112-128 points. A-levels: BBC-ABB</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score is applicable where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>GCSES: GCSE grade A*-C or new grade 9-4 in English and mathematics.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>BSc Economics and Social Policy with Foundation Year:</b> UCAS tariff: 64 The UCAS tariff score is applicable where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>GCSES: Applicants are expected to have GCSE grade C or new grade 4, or equivalent, in English and mathematics.</p>
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16	<p><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p>Successful completion of the <b>Foundation Year</b> will enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of the foundational concepts and principles associated with economics and business, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the relevant areas of study</li> <li>• Present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument</li> <li>• Make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of the subjects under study</li> <li>• Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to their proposed area of study and/or work</li> <li>• Communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments</li> <li>• Undertake further study at undergraduate level and develop new skills</li> </ul> <p><b>Successful completion of BSc programme will enable students to:</b></p> <p><b>Subject Specific</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand and apply key concepts in economics, social policy and politics.</li> <li>2. Understand simple models of behaviour in alternative market structures.</li> <li>3. Able to locate and analyse economic and social data.</li> </ol>
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	<p>4. Be aware of social and economic survey approaches and how to use survey evidence.</p> <p><b>Intellectual</b></p> <p>5. Have an ability to approach problems systematically and to present reasoned responses.</p> <p>6. Have an ability to read and synthesise literature.</p> <p>7. Have an ability to formulate testable hypotheses.</p> <p>8. Have an ability to formulate and pursue a small research problem.</p> <p>9. Have an ability to adopt a broad and informed approach to a range of policy related problems.</p> <p><b>Practical</b></p> <p>10. Have an ability to read and comment on discussions of economic, social and political problems in the media.</p> <p>11. Have an ability to use mathematical and statistical methods to analyse social and economic problems.</p> <p>12. Have general IT skills and an ability to use spreadsheet and statistical/econometric software, as well as programming skills, for presentation and analysis of data.</p> <p>13. Have general numeracy, presentation and writing skills.</p> <p>14. Be able to produce brief reports.</p> <p>15. Have an ability to produce work under time constraints.</p> <p><b>Personal and Social</b></p> <p>16. Have an ability to study and learn from a range of sources.</p> <p>17. Have an ability to communicate both socially and academically with tutors and other students.</p> <p>18. Have an ability to set up and work in small self-help groups.</p> <p>19. Have an ability to transfer knowledge across academic disciplines.</p> <p>20. Have developed good self-motivation, time management, and organisation skills.</p>
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17	<p><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></p> <p><b>Teaching and Learning Methods for Foundation Year:</b>          Students will be taught in interactive, tutorial style classes that support the phased development of knowledge, skills and confidence. Pedagogies in the Foundation Year are designed to give students the space to gain familiarity with the requirements of undergraduate study, and to develop their learning strategies.</p> <p><b>For the BSc programme:</b>          A mix of lectures, classes, seminars and practical sessions is used. The different approaches are particularly apparent across disciplines, as a result students become aware of different methods of learning, presentation and argument.</p> <p>Report presentation and transferable skills are emphasised by practical sessions.</p> <p>The combination of approaches allows development of both directed and independent learning.</p> <p>In recognition of the time constraints facing part time students, most modules still primarily on a lecture format. This facilitates a rapid transfer of information, and these well-established methods have proved to be the most efficient way of teaching. However, lectures are increasingly supplemented by use of technology: we aim to provide videos of lectures wherever possible, and a number of modules use some form of online coursework. Some modules also employ more flexible methods, such as individual and group</p>
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	<p>presentations, case studies and online delivery. Problem solving is a key aspect of learning, especially in more technical modules, and therefore students are encouraged to complete exercises for the problem solving classes.</p> <p>Lecture notes and problem sets covering lecture material are always posted on Moodle, to allow student to have access to the material should they unavoidably miss lectures/classes.</p> <p>An important ingredient of learning is the ability to pursue private study. The programme requires students to produce independent work, aiding development of analytical, quantitative and written communication skills.</p> <p><b>The methods of assessment used are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unseen written examinations</li> <li>• In-class tests</li> <li>• Online quizzes via Moodle</li> <li>• Assessed assignments</li> <li>• Project work</li> </ul> <p>In general, over the degree as a whole 75% or more of the assessment comes from unseen written examinations. This allows time for students to assimilate the material and develop a thorough understanding of the course curriculum. The remainder of the marks come from coursework, which give staff an opportunity to assess each student’s progress and give relevant feedback. Year 1 modules typically have a larger coursework component.</p> <p>Exams and coursework are all marked by the first examiner and moderated by a second internal examiner. All assessment is also moderated by an External Examiner, who is invited to comment on the suitability of the assessment methods, criteria and procedures. These comments influence any changes that are recommended at the programme review meeting.</p> <p>The CAS regulations are followed for rules concerning minimum pass marks, number of resits/re-assessments allowed, barriers to academic progression (in particular, all modules must be passed before a student is allowed to progress to the following year) and the weighting between different levels (i.e. weights 0, 1 and 2 for Levels 4, 5 and 6 modules, respectively).</p> <p>The sub-board of examiners will be a joint board with BSc Economics, BSc Financial Economics, BSc Finance with Accounting, BSc Economics with/and Mathematics and BSc Economics and Business.</p>
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18	<p><b>Programme Description</b></p> <p>To obtain the <b>BSc with Honours</b> a student is required to <b>complete 360 credits</b>.</p> <p><b>Full-time students</b></p> <p>In Year 1 students take four compulsory modules: Introduction to Economics, Introductory Quantitative Techniques, IT and Professional Skills, and Current Economic Problems.</p> <p>In year 2 students are required to take 60 credits in economics modules at level 5, from a pre-defined list, to ensure a minimal level of training in economics, alongside two interdisciplinary level 5 modules from a short pre-defined list.</p> <p>In Year 3, students take 120 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director</p>
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<p><b>Part-time students</b></p> <p>In Year 1 students take three compulsory modules: Introduction to Economics, Introductory Quantitative Techniques, IT and Professional Skills.</p> <p>In year 2 students take their remaining compulsory module, Current Economic Problems.</p> <p>In Years 2 and 3 students are required to take 60 credits in economics modules at level 5, from a pre-defined list, to ensure a minimal level of training in economics, alongside 60 credits of interdisciplinary level 5 modules from a short pre-defined list.</p> <p>In Years 3 and 4, students take 120 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director</p> <p><b>Foundation Year Description:</b></p> <p>The Foundation Year Programme enables students to develop the necessary foundational study skills, resilience and capabilities crucial to success in the subsequent years of their degree programmes. Thus they will progress onto Year 1 of their chosen degree with a solid foundation ready to meet the more challenging material they will encounter throughout the rest of their degree.</p> <p>Students on the BSc Economics and Social Policy with Foundation Year take 480 credits in total, with 120 credits of core modules at level 3 in the foundation year. They then follow the same programme as the degree described above either full-time or part-time. Students successfully completing the “with foundation” routes receive the same degree title award as those on the standard three-year and four-year programmes.</p>
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19	<b>Programme Structure</b>			
<b>Full-time (3 years)</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUEM081S4	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC013S4	Introduction to Economics	30	Compulsory
4	BUEM108S4	Current Economic Problems	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC058S4	IT and Professional Skills	30	Compulsory
<b>Year 2</b>				
60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list:				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	EMEC012S5	Microeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	BUEM107S5	Macroeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	EMEC021S5	Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics	30	Option
60 credits of modules from the following list (subject to timetabling constraints):				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Option
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	Option
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Option
5	POSO029S5	Introduction to International Political Economy	30	Option
<b>Year 3:</b> 120 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director				

<b>Part-time (4 years)</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUEM081S4	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC013S4	Introduction to Economics	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC058S4	IT and Professional Skills	30	Compulsory
<b>Years 2 and 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUEM108S4	Current Economic Problems (taken in year 2)	30	Compulsory
+ 60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list:				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	EMEC012S5	Microeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	BUEM107S5	Macroeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	EMEC021S5	Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics	30	Option
+ 60 credits of modules from the following list (subject to timetabling constraints)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Option
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	Option
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Option
5	POSO029S5	Introduction to International Political Economy	30	Option
+30 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director				
<b>Year 4:</b> 90 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director				
<b>BSc Economics and Social Policy with Foundation Year - Full Time (4 years)</b>				
<b>Foundation Year (Year 0)</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core
3	BUEM112S3	Essential Mathematics and Statistics for Economics	30	Core
3	BUEM120H3	The Modern British Economy (Foundation Year)	15	Core
3	BUEM121S3	Economic Principles (Foundation Year)	30	Core
3	BUEM113H3	IT and Data Skills for Economics	15	Core
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUEM081S4	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC013S4	Introduction to Economics	30	Compulsory
4	BUEM108S4	Current Economic Problems	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC058S4	IT and Professional Skills	30	Compulsory
<b>Year 2</b>				
60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list:				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	EMEC012S5	Microeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	BUEM107S5	Macroeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	EMEC021S5	Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics	30	Option

60 credits of modules from the following list (subject to timetabling constraints):				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Option
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	Option
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Option
5	POSO029S5	Introduction to International Political Economy	30	Option
<b>Year 3:</b> 120 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director				
<b>BSc Economics and Social Policy with Foundation Year - Part Time (6 years)</b>				
<b>Foundation Year - Year 0a</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	BUEM120H3	The Modern British Economy (Foundation Year)	15	Core
3	BUEM113H3	IT and Data Skills for Economics	15	Core
<b>Foundation year - Year 0b</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	BUEM112S3	Essential Mathematics and Statistics for Economics	30	Core
3	BUEM121S3	Economic Principles (Foundation Year)	30	Core
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUEM081S4	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC013S4	Introduction to Economics	30	Compulsory
4	EMEC058S4	IT and Professional Skills	30	Compulsory
<b>Years 2 and 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	BUEM108S4	Current Economic Problems (taken in year 2)	30	Compulsory
+ 60 credits of modules in economics, from the following list:				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	EMEC012S5	Microeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	BUEM107S5	Macroeconomic Theory and Policy	30	Option
5	EMEC021S5	Quantitative Techniques for Applied Economics	30	Option
+ 60 credits of modules from the following list (subject to timetabling constraints)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Option
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	Option
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Option
5	POSO029S5	Introduction to International Political Economy	30	Option
+30 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director				
<b>Year 4:</b> 90 credits of optional modules in economics, social policy and politics at level 6, subject to pre-requisites, timetabling constraints and advice from the programme director				



20	<b>Additional Programme Information</b>	
	Some students with sufficiently strong prior training in Mathematics may take EMEC020S4 Quantitative Techniques I in place of BUEM081S4 Introductory Quantitative Techniques, subject to the permission of the programme director.	
21	<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr Emanuela Sciubba/Michael Pandazis (Year 1)/Dan McVeagh (Foundation Year)
22	<b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> )	Pre-2005
23	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	Pre-2005
24	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	Pre-2005
25	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	July 2020