

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Food Policy
Award	MSc
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Health Services Research and Management
Programme code	PSFOOD
Type of study	Full Time or Part Time, in person or online
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Programme is designed to give you an opportunity to study Food Policy in depth and to appeal to people from a wide variety of experience, expertise and professions. This broad range is deliberate, as Food Policy sits at the intersection of many other disciplines. The ethos of the Programme is one that will encourage you to consider these different perspectives, to read widely, to think comprehensively and to analyse critically.

The programme takes an integrated food systems approach. It considers the whole range of activities related to producing, processing, distributing, marketing, preparing and consuming food and their social health and environmental impacts. We are as interested in agriculture and food processing as in retailing and catering. We juxtapose production with consumption, social and cultural matters with public and environmental health, distribution of products with mal-distribution of access. We focus on the political nature of the food system. You will be encouraged to take a panoramic view of all these constituent food sectors and debates, and to consider how Food Policy is addressing, has addressed or could address the totality of the challenges posed by modern food systems. Given the global nature of the food system, the course explores linkages across different regions of the world and students are expected to consider different countries' experience of creating food policies. You will be encouraged to search for and critically assess evidence and debates on all these issues from both academic and policy settings. You are encouraged to investigate the varied perspectives on Food Policy contained in books, academic journals, and reports from national and international governmental organisations, NGOs, companies and other stakeholders.

The course is composed of four 30 credit taught modules and a 60 credit dissertation module. You must take and pass each of these modules. Because of the diversity of subject matter and perspectives covered within the taught modules, there are no optional modules. You are encouraged and enabled to pursue your own specialised interests by choosing your own topics for your assignments for the taught modules. The dissertation provides the opportunity to conduct in depth research in depth on a topic of relevance to Food Policy chosen by the students.

Aims

The key purpose of the Masters in Food Policy is to produce students who have a strong and critical grasp of both the theoretical and empirical aspects of modern Food Policy, taking an integrated food system perspective. On successful completion of this programme, you will be able to:

1. critically appraise the complex and sometime contradictory conceptual and theoretical approaches to food policy from a range of differing disciplinary perspectives;
2. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of knowledge and debates about Food Policy from both academic and policy spheres;
3. demonstrate a level of conceptual understanding that enables you to critically evaluate trends in food policy and the food system;
4. identify potential solutions to real world food policy problems; and
5. act as an independent and self-critical learner who manages your own requirements for continuing academic and professional development.

Postgraduate Certificate

Following successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Food Policy, you will be able to examine theories related to food policy and the food system. You will be able to consider different policy positions within the food system, and have an understanding of key issues within contemporary food policy. You will be able to consider how policy makers both respond and fail to respond to key dynamics in the food system. You will understand that food policy acts as linkage between various disciplines and competing priorities for public policy on the food system. You will identify different interests across society, culture, political economy, health and environment. You will appreciate that policy choices are being made. You will be familiar with some key debates at different levels of society, from local to global. You will gather appropriate information to answer questions about food policy and the dynamics of modern food systems.

Postgraduate Diploma

Following successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Food Policy, in addition to the above, you will gain a more advanced knowledge and in-depth understanding of the issues and be more confident in your expertise and skills. You will have developed a sophisticated appreciation of current issues in food policy, and the ability to evaluate a range of different approaches to them. You will also be able critically to evaluate complex arguments and their factual support, assess the value and relevance of the ideas of others and make reasoned judgements about modern food policy issues. You will have developed the ability to challenge received explanations of topics and controversies in food policy. You will have the capacity to analyse and evaluate the approaches used by analysts active in the food policy world, to construct clear arguments and present food policy recommendations where appropriate, and to understand and evaluate empirical research findings in food policy research.

MSc

Following successful completion of the MSc Food Policy, in addition to the above, you will have the ability to research a problem in food policy in considerable depth. You will have demonstrated the capacity to undertake and present a piece of original, independent research in food policy through a dissertation. This will be an extended process of problem identification, planning, research, evaluation, analysis, and reflection.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for this MSc programme is one year (for full-time students) or two years (for part-time students).

The maximum period of registration for this MSc programme is 3 years (full-time) or 5 years (part-time).

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically evaluate and synthesise the main issues and challenges facing global food systems;
- Explore and synthesise food policy and the dynamics that shape it at local, national, regional and global levels;
- Examine food policy processes, instruments and the main stakeholders involved in and affected by it;
- Engage with food policy through the application of a range of disciplinary perspectives and apply them to food policy, including: political and economic, social/cultural, environmental and public health perspectives;
- Critically evaluate the main sources of information on food policy-related issues;
- Formulate fresh insights into an area of food policy.

Skills:

- Critically evaluate the nature and development of contemporary food policy;
- Identify relevant published and unpublished material from a range of sources and synthesise and critically evaluate it;
- Identify and critically apply appropriate knowledge, theories, concepts and frameworks to the analysis of issues, debates and initiatives within contemporary food policy;
- Analyse food systems and food systems approaches as they apply to food policy and present the results in an effective and persuasive way;
- Apply research skills as an increasingly self-confident learner and critically reflect upon these skills and the learning process.

Values and attitudes:

- Respectfully engage with the diversity of values and interests exposed in food systems;
- Recognise the pursuit of the public good in the analysis of food's role in human, eco-system and planetary well-being.
- Demonstrate respect and tolerance when working with other peers and tutors.
- Correctly reference the work of other people.
- Recognise and put into practice the rules and regulations of City.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

This is a hybrid course; it is delivered from a physical learning space with some students attending in person and others attending online. There are two modes through which this programme is delivered, face-to-face (full-time or part-time) and online (full-time or part-time):

Face-to-Face Mode

In the face-to-face mode classes include lecture sessions, workshops, small group activities and discussions, and whole class discussion. The lectures are supplemented by occasional outside guest speakers from the world of food policy. You are encouraged to exchange your

own experiences and perspectives on issues under discussion during small group activities and debates, as well as question and answer sessions and whole class activities. You are also expected to undertake self-directed study using reading lists, online activities and resources. You are assigned a Personal Tutor and Module Leaders are available during office hours for meetings about their module and associated assignments. For the Dissertation Module you will work with a supervisor, drawn from academic staff, meeting them regularly for support and feedback in one-to-one or group supervision sessions. Teaching by Centre for Food Policy staff is supplemented by support from Professional Services as well as subject specialists from City's library, Academic Skills staff and other university student services such as the Careers Service.

Online Mode

For the online mode, this programme uses the same texts and lectures as the face-to-face mode classes. You are encouraged to participate in the lectures via a livestreaming platform or watch the recordings which are posted on the programme's web-based portal. You are expected to undertake self-directed study using reading lists, online activities and resources. You are assigned a Personal Tutor and can access these and Module Leaders during their office hours in the usual way, or at a convenient time for your time zone. For the Dissertation Module you will work with a supervisor, drawn from academic staff, meeting them regularly for support and feedback in one-to-one or group supervision sessions. Support is also available for Online Learners from the university library subject specialists and academic support staff such as the Academic Skills team.

As an online student you will require a computer with access to good internet connection.

Participation and Self-Directed Study

As students on either the Face-to-Face or Online mode of study you are encouraged to exchange your own experiences and perspectives on issues under debate during activities and class or group discussions, as well as question and answer sessions and class activities. You are also expected to undertake self-directed study using reading lists, online activities and resources and will be offered the opportunity to join a study group with peers on a similar mode of study to facilitate peer to peer independent learning. Teaching and learning are facilitated by Moodle, City's online virtual learning environment and readings and online resources will be posted here with detailed instructions for you to undertake self-directed learning in preparation for weekly teaching sessions as well as for module assignments.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment is through written work and is the same for the face-to-face and online modes. Assignments are tailored to your interests and work contexts as far as practicable. They are designed to be pieces of student learning and to encourage you in a degree of self-directed study and to become a more self-confident learner and researcher. For most of the assignments, you are encouraged to choose your own subject matter to fit within the set format of the assignment. Each of the four taught modules has two assignments. For the introductory module on Food and Public Policy (FPM001), you choose an existing food policy report and write a briefing paper about it, as well as conducting a Rapid Evidence Assessment. For the Political Economy of Food (FPM002) module the assignment involves you researching a case study of your choice. In Food, Culture and Society (FPM003), you

compose a memorandum around the social and cultural aspects of a food policy issue of your choice. In Food, Public Health and the Environment (FPM004) the assessment is based around conducting and reflecting on a policy coherence analysis. This self-confidence and greater sense of autonomy is most fully realised through completion of the dissertation (FPM002).

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with City's Assessment and Feedback Policy. It will normally include qualitative formative feedback to help students with their learning as well as a provisional grade to be ratified by the Exam Board. For end of module assignments feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/about/education/quality-manual/6-assessment>

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The programme contains two sections, the taught modules and the research dissertation. The taught section of the programme is weighted at 66% and the dissertation at 33%.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

- Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	66
Dissertation	7	60	33

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The programme is made up of four taught modules of 30 credits and a dissertation module of 60 credits. Successful completion of all five modules (180 credits) leads to the award of MSc. Successful completion of the four 30 credit modules (120 credits) leads to the PG Diploma. Students may exit the programme with either a PG Certificate, PG Diploma, or a MSc.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Food and Public Policy	FPM001	30	C	N	7
Food, Culture and Society	FPM003	30	C	N	7
Political Economy of Food	FPM002	30	C	N	7
Food, Public Health and the Environment	FPM004	30	C	N	7

Dissertation component

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dissertation	FPM005	60	C	N	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Our alumni work in a huge range of food system organisations. Centre for Food Policy alumni have gone on to run NGOs and progressive food businesses, work in government and UN agencies, or establish great careers in health advocacy, journalism and academia.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

The Programme is for students who are passionate about food policy and are open to challenging their own assumptions. It seeks students who are highly interested in the problems facing policy makers and motivated to contribute to the improvement of food policy at local, national, regional or international levels. You will normally have a first or upper second-class honours degree (in any relevant discipline) although applications from students with significant professional experience in a related field of employment, volunteering or research will be considered.

The Programme encourages (and receives) applicants from many disciplines in both social and natural sciences. There is no proscribed degree subject, although applicants need to be clear that this Programme has a social science orientation. It requires applicants to show evidence of past experience and/or personal interest in aspects of food policy. Students for whom English is not their first language are required to obtain an overall IELTS score of 7.0 to be accepted on the programme.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

In line with Senate Regulation 19, recognition of prior (experiential) learning (RP(E)L) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. RP(E)L may be claimed for core and elective modules, subject to the following City Assessment Regulations:

RP(E)L will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student's previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Modules Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL will be up to one third of the total credits for the Programme where the prior learning related to credit previously awarded by City as CPD.

The limit to the volume of non-City credit that be permitted through RPL will be up to one quarter of the total credits for the Programme.

Version date: August 2022
For use from: 2022-23

Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.