Our Masters courses in Applied Social Research provide you with the skills and knowledge you need to carry out robust social research and evaluation. You’ll learn how to collect, analyse and report qualitative and quantitative data, taking account of ethics, reliability and validity. You’ll also critically examine the theoretical foundations that underpin social scientific research and explore the issues with social network research. Finally, you’ll develop an understanding of the relationship between research and policymaking.

We offer a number of general and specialist pathways to achieve a Masters qualification in Applied Social Research:

- MSc Applied Social Research
- MSc Criminological Research
- MSc Applied Social Research (Social Statistics and Social Research)

In addition to the modules offered on the general pathway, those with an interest in criminology will also critically examine the theoretical foundations that underpin criminology and socio-legal research, as well as exploring issues with comparative research and developing an understanding of the relationship between criminology research and policymaking. At Stirling we are ranked 1st in Scotland and 3rd in the UK for Criminology (Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019), and the course is supported by staff from the Scottish Centre for Crime and Criminal Justice Research – a multi-university body with international influence and links to academics, policymakers and practitioners around the world.

If you opt for the social statistics route, you’ll undertake a course with a particular focus on quantitative methods and social statistics. You’ll gain a thorough knowledge of statistical software and learn a range of highly sought-after technical skills, including accessing, preparing, analysing and summarising complex quantitative datasets.

To meet the demands of our dynamic technological environment, you can also choose advanced modules in data management and important emerging areas such as big data and social network analysis.

For further information on course content visit: stir.ac.uk/1jv
Through our courses you will graduate with the skills you need for a career in research, research management or research commissioning in the public, voluntary or private sectors. Employability is an important focus, and over the past five years many of our graduates have entered social research-related careers in the public, voluntary and private sectors, with others continuing their academic study and undertaking a PhD.

Our Masters qualifications in Applied Social Research are recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as meeting the research training guidelines for undertaking a PhD in Sociology, Social Policy, Social Work or Socio-legal Studies, including interdisciplinary PhDs in Social Care and Families, Relationships and Demographic Change.

When you study Applied Social Research at the University of Stirling, you’ll be introduced to leading-edge empirical and theoretical research in a vibrant, multi-disciplinary environment.

Underscoring the expertise of our staff, the University of Stirling scored highly in the most recent Research Excellent Framework – a UK-wide assessment of universities’ research output, with almost three quarters of research activity rated either world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2014).

“The course includes both theory and practical work which is engaging, covering both new and innovative methods and traditional methods, yet challenging enough to ensure you leave with skills which are truly useful for a career in research and academia. The lecturers are wonderful; passionate about both their own work and your success. I would recommend this course to anyone thinking of a career using quantitative methods in Social Science.”

JADE HOOPER
MSc Applied Social Research (Social Statistics and Social Research)
Five Reasons
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1. Gain a research qualification, recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

2. Flexible pathways with options for general research study and specialisms.

3. Learn under the expert guidance of world-class researchers.

4. Employability is a key focus of the course to help you take the next step in your career or to support your future research goals.

5. Research placements will allow you to gain practical experience and make professional contacts.
Our Applied Social Research Masters pathways comprise six modules plus a dissertation. The pathway you choose will determine the modules you will take, and the associated assessments. For more information, visit the course webpages:

- MSc Applied Social Research [stir.ac.uk/1jv](http://stir.ac.uk/1jv)
- MSc Criminological Research [stir.ac.uk/2tf](http://stir.ac.uk/2tf)
- MSc Applied Social Research (Social Statistics and Social Research) [stir.ac.uk/1jx](http://stir.ac.uk/1jx)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2:1 preferred) in a relevant subject or equivalent is required. If you don’t have these formal qualifications but have relevant work/life experience, you’re still encouraged to apply.

If you wish to apply for Applied Social Research (Social Statistics and Social Research), a willingness to learn advanced statistical methods is more important than a strong background in the area. Basic experience of a statistical software, such as SPSS, Stata, R or Excel is useful but not essential.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

If English is not your first language you must have one of the following qualifications as evidence of your English language skills:

- IELTS: 6.5 with 6.0 minimum in each skill
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade B
- Pearson Test of English (Academic): 60 with 56 in each component
- IBT TOEFL: 90 with no subtest less than 20

If you do not meet the required score, you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. For more information, visit: stir.ac.uk/1b4

TUITION FEES AND FUNDING

Details of tuition fees can be found online on the relevant course page:

- MSc Applied Social Research stir.ac.uk/1jv
- MSc Criminological Research stir.ac.uk/2tf
- MSc Applied Social Research (Social Statistics and Social Research) stir.ac.uk/1jx

Fully funded places are available on this course through the ESRC. To find out more, please visit: socsciscotland.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility

Funding opportunities at the University of Stirling can be found on our scholarships finder. For details, please visit: stir.ac.uk/scholarships