Work, Employment and Public Policy

Minor
Work, Employment and Public Policy

Choosing this Minor you will study work and employment as defining features of modern society. They shape our identities, our opportunities and our relationships with others.

There are various forms of work (paid, unpaid, voluntary, domestic) as well as employment (employment/self-employment, part-time, flexible, temporary). Public policy shapes both and directly impacts individual lives. In the 21st century the focus on work undertaken in full-time, permanent employment is being replaced by a much broader diversity of work and employment.

This Minor will introduce you to the theoretical and analytical knowledge needed to understand and shape contemporary work and employment. Spanning individual situations, social developments and policy discourses, the modules explore the reality of modern work and employment from traditional unionised factory work to cultural work, political activism and volunteering, as well as the insecurity of employment and threat of unemployment.

First Year

You will be introduced to key concepts and theories for understanding work, employment and public policy. The first module examines different forms of work from waged labour and domestic work, to volunteering and the unpaid work of prosumers. The second module explores how conditions of employment shape work, both as an experience and a societal resource, and discusses trends in employment nationally and internationally.

Modules include*

• Work in contemporary societies
• Work, employment and society

Second Year

Your first module focuses on understanding the relationships between work, employment and public policy. You will explore how changing welfare regimes impact precarious employment or how parental leave policies shape the workforce composition. The second module takes a lifecourse perspective on work and employment. It examines transitions into and out of labour markets and discusses the difficulties of entering into employment and resultant youth unemployment; the precarity of employment, including zero hours contracts; and the unpredictability of extending working lives and the implications of long ‘bridging’ phases into retirement.

Modules include*

• Public policy’s impact on work and employment
• Work and employment over the lifecourse
Third/Final Year

Your first module focuses on exploring the shifting boundaries between work, employment and 'private' life and examines how developments in areas such as Information Technology are affecting these boundaries.

In the final module of your final year you will bring together the themes and issues explored throughout the programme in a practice-focused module that investigates organisational responses to developments in public policy. Based on the experience of case study organisations, we reflect critically on the implications of public policy for work and employment and examine the emergence of alternative forms of work and work organisation.

Modules include*

- 21st century trends in work and employment
- Public Policy and the lived experience of work and employment in contemporary organisations

Assessment

You will be assessed through a range of methods including coursework, group presentations and examinations.

Teaching

As well as lectures, seminars and tutorials some of your teaching may be delivered online e.g. through video or podcasts.

* Please note: the range of modules may vary from year to year. Please see our website for the current modules [www.le.ac.uk/your-degree](http://www.le.ac.uk/your-degree)
How Majors and Minors Work

Normally, this Minor will make up 25% of your degree. The other 75% (your Major) can be chosen from a wide range of subjects across the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

For more information about Majors and Minors, including how to apply, visit: www.le.ac.uk/your-degree