



Programme Specification

Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs]

Version: 2021-22, v2.0, 10 Sep 2024

Contents

Programme Specification.....	1
Section 1: Key Programme Details.....	2
Part A: Programme Information	2
Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	2
Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	3
Part B: Programme Structure.....	10
Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis	14
Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks	15
Part E: Regulations	15

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs]

Highest award: BA (Hons) Sociology

Interim award: BA Sociology

Interim award: DipHE Sociology

Interim award: CertHE Sociology

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: HAS Dept of Social Sciences, Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2023

Programme code: L300-SEP-PT-FR-L300

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The Sociology Undergraduate Programme has been designed to provide an intellectually stimulating and practically relevant learning experience. At Level 4, the Programme is designed to provide students with an introduction to the theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of the discipline with a focus on comparative analysis and contemporary social problems. Level 4 of the programme is also designed to develop critical thinking skills amongst students. At level 5, the programme is focused on the further acquisition of conceptual, theoretical and methodological skills with a focus on social inequality, social diversity and social change. Level 5 of the programme is designed to develop research skills and employability skills amongst students. At level 6 the programme is focused on the further acquisition of conceptual, theoretical and methodological skills and the application of these skills to specialised areas of sociological enquiry. This will be achieved through students taking a project or placement module alongside a range of specialised option modules.

Features of the programme: Induction Programme for orientation and study skills.

Research-led and research-informed teaching.

Core social science curriculum designed to deliver key skills in critical thinking, employability and research methods and placement opportunities for students.

Detailed student handbooks and module guides.

Extensive specialist library.

On-line learning resources, internet, intranet and email access.

Dedicated office hours for all staff, student email system, trained counsellors for both pastoral and academic support.

Graduation development planning and Personal Academic Tutors.

Specialist equipment, resources, and technical and instructing staff for media production.

A wide range of teaching and learning strategies and a varied range of assessment modes.

Early Assessment to encourage retention and progression.

A strong emphasis on developing analytical and critical skills.

A lively relationship between theory and practice.

Access to academic tutors and student advisors.

Problem-based and Enquiry-Based Approach to Learning.

Access to developmental opportunities such as placements and study abroad years that are recognised within, and contribute to, the programme.

The Sociology team contributes to a wide range of scholarship and professional activities which feed into teaching activities. Many operate within the research centers including the Centre for Employment Studies Research, the Centre for Health and Clinical Research and the Centre for Understanding Social Practices.

Research is integrated into teaching throughout this programme. Sessions are informed by activities of relevant staff research, and the departmental research strengths are reflected in the design of the curriculum.

Students can engage with research active staff through diverse means which may include, for example, supervision of final year projects, volunteer research placements and support in attendance at relevant undergraduate conferences. Extra-curricular activities organized outside formal teaching sessions support the

strengthening of associations between departmental research activity and student learning.

Educational Aims: The educational aims of the programme are as follows:

To produce ready and able graduates. Graduates who are active citizens, making a real contribution to their communities, workplaces and society. Graduates with the skills, knowledge, attitude and confidence to create, critique, and make a difference to the world beyond university. Graduates who are prepared for lifelong learning, personal development, excellence and success in whatever fields they choose to work and participate. The core curriculum of the programme is designed with this objective in mind.

To provide a general educational experience through which students will acquire a range of cognitive and analytical skills and general transferable skills in relation to critical thinking, research and employability that will provide a foundation for independent sociological research, further graduate studies and career development across a broad range of professions and occupations. Examples of these skills include judging and evaluating evidence, data collection and interpretation, synthesizing information and formulating reasoned arguments.

Engaging students with core research and practice skills pertaining to Sociology academically and in society (e.g. Developing self and society and nature and uses of research modules).

To foster critical study, collaborative, co-operative and, independent learning. This aim includes the encouragement of reflexive self-awareness in group oriented and individual research and writing tasks. Reflexive self-awareness is also encouraged regarding the student's development as a competent and thoughtful social researcher.

To provide a dedicated sociology programme enriched by research, scholarship and knowledge exchange and public engagement undertaken by members of the subject group.

To provide an educational experience that recognizes the importance of digital media and digital technology in the contemporary world and that involves the application and utilization of digital technology to teaching and learning across the programme.

To provide students with the skills that will enable them to develop a practice-oriented approach to sociological enquiry including the ability to apply sociological theories and concepts to 'real world' issues, problems and processes.

To provide an outward facing set of educational opportunities that include the opportunity to engage with and provide support to a range of partners and stakeholders in the Bristol area through placements, partnerships and community-focussed research.

To provide an inclusive programme that acknowledges the wide diversity of student learning styles, experiences and interests through provision of a flexible and varied programme.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. The key concepts and theoretical approaches that have developed and are developing within sociology
- A2. The social context of social diversity and inequality and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups
- A3. The value of comparative analysis, in both historical and contemporary contexts
- A4. The social nature of the relationship between individuals and groups
- A5. The social processes underpinning social change and social stability

- A6. The nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in gaining sociological knowledge
- A7. The relationship between sociological argument and evidence
- A8. The distinctive character of sociology in relation to other forms of understanding in everyday life

Intellectual Skills

- B1. The ability to appreciate the complexity of human behaviour, social situations and events and assessing the merits of competing explanations
- B2. The ability to gather, retrieve and synthesise information
- B3. The ability to review and evaluate evidence
- B4. The ability to develop a reasoned argument and critically interpret evidence

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. The ability to investigate sociologically informed questions
- C2. The ability to report empirical sociological findings
- C3. The ability to use different methods of sociological enquiry
- C4. The ability to identify the ethical issues in social research
- C5. The ability to undertake and present scholarly work
- C6. The ability to examine the relevance and application of academic and practical sociological work to issues of social, public and civic policy

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Learning and study skills
- D2. Written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts and modes
- D3. Statistical and other quantitative techniques
- D4. Information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources of information
- D5. Communication and information technology skills

D6. Skills of time planning and management

D7. Group work skills

Assessment strategy: A. Knowledge and Understanding (subject specific)

Students acquire knowledge and understanding through a variety of teaching and learning methods and strategies. These include: lectures; seminar discussion groups; workshops; learning logs or journals; e-learning; group tutorials including problem-based learning groups; field-based tasks; role-play and simulations; individual and group oral, visual and written presentations; computer workshops; independent library studies (individual and collaborative); and independent assessment preparation. Learning outcomes A1-A9 are achieved through the compulsory modules at levels 4-6. These compulsory modules look at social theory in an applied context, combining a range of theories/approaches over a wide range of social and historical contexts. These modules are organised around the general theme of Theory, Application and Method. A range of option modules at level 6 allows students to develop these theoretical approaches, to gain more specialised knowledge of particular contexts, and to experience a range of assessment methods. Knowledge of research methods and strategies are developed through levels 4-6. Students may opt to develop these further. All students either undertake a project, which contains a taught research methods element or a sociology placement, equivalent to 15-20 days work experience.

Assessment: Modules are assessed through a range of methods including essays, learning logs, critical reflection, seminar presentations, article and book reviews, annotated bibliographies, problem-based-learning tasks; viva; extended essays and projects.

B. Intellectual Skills (generic)

Skill B1 is achieved through compulsory modules at levels 4-6. Skills B2-B4 are achieved largely through methods of assessment and seminar work. Students are made aware of assessment criteria through information in module handbooks,

feedback on assessment and through detailed discussion and preparation in seminars.

Assessment: Modules are assessed through a range of methods including essays, learning logs, critical reflection, seminar presentations, article and book reviews, annotated bibliographies, problem-based-learning tasks; viva; extended essays and projects.

C. Subject/Professional/Practical Skills (subject specific)

Students gain an intellectual understanding of methodological issues (Skills C1-C4) through compulsory modules, especially through seminar discussion and preparation for assessed work. Practical skills (C5-C6) derive from seminar preparation and other assessed work such as essays and reviews. The project/placement module combine all of these skills at a high level. Links between theory and methodology are specifically developed in compulsory modules and in the Level 6 project/placement module. Optional modules allow students the opportunity to develop these skills more fully.

Assessment: Skills are assessed across a range of assessment methods. They are demonstrated at their highest level in the project/placement module, where students must demonstrate both understanding and the ability to apply this understanding in a practical research context. Skill C6 is developed in compulsory modules and students can focus explicitly on social, public and civic policy issues in a range of core and optional modules and specifically in the core level 5 module Developing Self and Society.

D. Transferable Skills and other attributes (generic)

The Sociology Programme provides students with a range of transferable skill and attributes in preparation for employment or further study. TEL is central to the development of these transferable skills and ICT skills are developed from level 4. Students are introduced to a variety of IT issues in the induction process and throughout the programme and have a detailed introduction to library skills.

Opportunities to further develop ICT skills are available in compulsory modules and all option modules make use of the Blackboard virtual learning environment. All assignments must be word processed unless otherwise specified. Communication skills are developed through assessment methods such as essays, reviews, seminar presentations and through seminar work. General student study skills are developed through the level 4 'core' module Sociological Practice: Becoming a Social Scientist.

Assessment: The full ranges of assessments across the three levels of the programme contribute positively to the development and enhancement of transferable skills. Additionally, transferable skills are inculcated as students are required to work to strict assessment deadlines and, therefore, to develop skills of organisation, time management and effective use of information.

Student support:

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYEF-15-1	Critical Thinking (sociology and Criminology) 2021-22	15
UZSNLF-30-1	Foundations in Social Theory 2021-22	30
UZSST3-15-1	Sociological Practice - Becoming a Social Scientist 2021-22	15

Year 2

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSSLH-30-1	Comparing Cultures 2022-23	30
UZSSLG-30-1	Social Issues and Social Problems 2022-23	30

Year 3

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSSTR-15-2	Developing Self and Society (Sociology) 2023-24	15
UZSY5H-15-2	Nature and Use of Research (Sociology) 2023-24	15
UZSY6V-30-2	Theorising Social Life 2023-24	30

Year 4

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Optional Modules

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part-time), 30 credits from Group A and 30 credits from Group B.

Year 4 Optional Modules - Group A

Students must take 30 credits from the optional modules in Group A.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY79-30-2	Difference: 'race', Ethnicity and Diversity in Contemporary Society 2024-25	30
UZSNRC-30-2	Gender and Society 2024-25	30

Year 4 Optional Modules - Group B

Students must take 30 credits from the optional modules in Group B.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY8K-30-2	Modernity and Global Intimacies 2024-25	30
UZSYND-30-2	Mind, Emotion and Society: An Introduction to Psychosocial Studies 2024-25	30

Year 5

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5K-30-3	Sociology Project and Placement Module 2025-26	30

Year 5 Optional Modules

Part-time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules. They must choose EITHER 30 credits from the optional modules in Group A OR 30 credits from the optional modules in Group B.

A number of optional modules from the lists below will be available in each year.

Also available in discussion with the programme leader:

UZSY7N-15-3 Independent Study

Year 5 Optional Modules - Group A

Students must take EITHER 30 credits from the optional modules in Group A OR 30 credits from the optional modules in Group B.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY6W-30-3	Sustainable Futures: Environment and Society in an Age of Crisis 2025-26	30
UZSNQP-30-3	Childhood Disorder and Disordered Childhood 2025-26	30

UZSNPA-30-3	Contemporary Critiques of Modern Society 2025-26	30
-------------	---	----

Year 5 Optional Modules - Group B

Part-time students must take EITHER 30 credits from the optional modules in Group A OR 30 credits from the optional modules in Group B.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYNE-30-3	Sociology of Human, Non-Human and Environmental Rights 2025-26	30
UZSSJQ-30-3	Digital Media and Society 2025-26	30
UZSSJN-30-3	Protest, Policing and Public Order 2025-26	30
UZSYJD-30-3	Sociology of Sexes, Genders, and Sexualities 2025-26	30
UZSNQH-30-3	Stop, Look, Listen! A Sociology of Culture 2025-26	30

Year 6

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 6.

Year 6 Optional Modules

Students must take 60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules. If they took 30 credits from Group A last year (Year 5), they must take 60 credits now from Group B. If they took 30 credits from Group B last year (Year 5), they must take 30 credits from Group A and 30 credits from Group B.

A number of optional modules from the lists below will be available in each year.

Also available in discussion with the programme leader:

UZSY7N-15-3 Independent Study

Year 6 Optional Modules - Group A

If part-time students took 30 credits from Group A last year (Year 5), they must take 0 (zero) credits from Group A this year (Year 6) and 60 credits from Group B. If they took 30 credits from Group B last year (Year 5), they must take 30 credits from Group A this year (Year 6) and 30 credits from Group B.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY6W-30-3	Sustainable Futures: Environment and Society in an Age of Crisis 2026-27	30
UZSNQP-30-3	Childhood Disorder and Disordered Childhood 2026-27	30
UZSNPA-30-3	Contemporary Critiques of Modern Society 2026-27	30

Year 6 Optional Modules - Group B

If part-time students took 30 credits from Group A last year (Year 5), they must take 0 (zero) credits from Group A this year (Year 6) and 60 credits from Group B. If they took 30 credits from Group B last year (Year 5), they must take 30 credits from Group A this year (Year 6) and 30 credits from Group B.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSYNE-30-3	Sociology of Human, Non-Human and Environmental Rights 2026-27	30
UZSSJQ-30-3	Digital Media and Society 2026-27	30
UZSSJN-30-3	Protest, Policing and Public Order 2026-27	30
UZSYJD-30-3	Sociology of Sexes, Genders, and Sexualities 2026-27	30
UZSNQH-30-3	Stop, Look, Listen! A Sociology of Culture 2026-27	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Sociology is a critical and analytical subject area that focusses on developing an understanding of social institutions, social relations and social inequalities in a contemporary, historical and comparative perspective. Sociology at UWE is also an applied discipline and across the Programme students can apply sociological ideas and concepts to 'real world' situations and everyday experiences. Throughout their degree students will experience a range of learning (online/offline), teaching

(lectures, seminars, workshops and TEL) and assessment (essays, exams, case studies, presentations) techniques. Consequentially, a sociology degree opens graduates up to a range of graduate level positions, including work in social work, teaching, public administration, police service, probation service, prison service, personnel management, charities and Third Sector organizations, welfare and community organizations and the business, finance and information sectors.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

QAA Benchmarks for Sociology

UWE 2020 Strategy

Subject group research projects and activity

The QAA subject benchmark statements for Sociology have informed the design of the programme from the outset. The benchmarks were consulted during the planning process and at each stage of the design and development of the programme. They have influenced the selection of the educational aims and learning outcomes against which the teaching, learning and assessment processes have been specified.

University teaching and learning policies are embedded in the educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme. The University's commitment to promoting a diverse, integrated and flexible learning experience is reflected in the rich range of teaching, learning and assessment methods and strategies in evidence on the programme.

The research, scholarly and knowledge exchange activities and interests of staff have shaped the wide ranging sociological provision at all levels of the programme. In particular the influence is evidenced by the varied and stimulating choice of option modules at level 6.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.