



## **Programme Specification**

Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs]

Version: 2021-22, v1.3, 29 Aug 2023

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## Section 1: Key Programme Details

### Part A: Programme Information

**Programme title:** Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs]

**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:** Yes

**Sandwich year:** Yes

**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:** Sandwich

**Entry requirements:**

**For implementation from:** 01 September 2023

**Programme code:** L30H-SEP-SW-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 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

### **Year 1 Compulsory Modules**

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>   | <b>Credit</b> |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| UZSSLH-30-1        | Comparing Cultures 2021-22                                  | 30            |
| UZSYEF-15-1        | Critical Thinking (sociology and Criminology) 2021-22       | 15            |
| UZSNLF-30-1        | Foundations in Social Theory 2021-22                        | 30            |
| UZSSLG-30-1        | Social Issues and Social Problems 2021-22                   | 30            |
| UZSST3-15-1        | Sociological Practice - Becoming a Social Scientist 2021-22 | 15            |

**Year 2**

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

**Year 2 Compulsory Modules**

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

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>                                | <b>Credit</b> |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| UZSSTR-15-2        | Developing Self and Society (Sociology)<br>2022-23 | 15            |
| UZSY5H-15-2        | Nature and Use of Research (Sociology)<br>2022-23  | 15            |
| UZSY6V-30-2        | Theorising Social Life 2022-23                     | 30            |

**Year 2 Optional Modules**

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

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

**Year 2 Optional Modules Group A**

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules Group A

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>   | <b>Credit</b> |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| UZSY79-30-2        | Difference': 'race', Ethnicity and Diversity in<br>Contemporary Society 2022-23 | 30            |
| UZSNRC-30-2        | Gender and Society 2022-23  | 30            |

**Year 2 Optional Modules Group B**

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules Group B

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credit</b> |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| UZSY75-15-2        | Crime, Media and Culture 2022-23                                       | 15            |
| UZSKFT-15-2        | Drugs, Crime and Society 2022-23                                       | 15            |
| UZSY8K-30-2        | Love, Intimacy and Personal Life: The<br>Sociology of Families 2022-23 | 30            |

### Year 3

#### Year 3 Placement Year

Students enrolled on this programme undertake a work-based placement in their third year between levels 5 and 6 of study. Students would be expected to identify a relevant placement opportunity and to apply with the support of careers, academic staff and where appropriate enterprise support. If successful the student would undertake the placement during their third year and be provided with a visiting tutor. The placement experience and developmental reflection would be captured and assessed as part of the Level 6 Social Sciences Placement Year module UZSY5D15-3. On completion of the placement year students would return to UWE and undertake their final year of degree study

| Module Code | Module Title                           | Credit |
|-------------|--|--------|
| UZSY5D-15-3 | Social Sciences Placement Year 2023-24 | 15     |

### Year 4

The student must take between 105 and 120 credits from the modules in Year 4.

#### Year 4 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<br>2024-25 | 30     |

#### Year 4 Optional Modules

Sandwich students must take between 75 and 90 credits from the modules in Optional Modules.

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

UZSY7N-15-3 Independent Study is available in discussion with the programme leader.

#### Year 4 Optional Modules - Group A

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

| Module Code | Module Title | Credit |
|-------------|--------------|--------|
|-------------|--------------|--------|

|             |  |    |
|-------------|--|----|
| UZSNQP-30-3 | Childhood Disorder and Disordered Childhood 2024-25            | 30 |
| UZSNPA-30-3 | Contemporary Critiques of Modern Society 2024-25               | 30 |
| UZSYNE-30-3 | Sociology of Human, Non-Human and Environmental Rights 2024-25 | 30 |

#### **Year 4 Optional Modules - Group B**

Students must take between 45 and 60 credits from the optional modules in Group B.

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>  | <b>Credit</b> |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| UZSSJQ-30-3        | Digital Media and Society 2024-25  | 30            |
| UZSSJN-30-3        | Protest, Policing and Public Order 2024-25                               | 30            |
| UZSYJD-30-3        | Sociology of Sexes, Genders, and Sexualities 2024-25                     | 30            |
| UZSNQH-30-3        | Stop, Look, Listen! A Sociology of Culture 2024-25                       | 30            |
| UZSY6W-30-3        | Sustainable Futures: Environment and Society in an Age of Crisis 2024-25 | 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 3.

#### **Part E: Regulations**

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.