

Example of a programme specification in Sociology in a UK University

Whether pursued as a Major/Single award, the aims of Sociology are:

- To introduce students to classical and contemporary sociological approaches and the conceptual tools they offer;
- To enable students to use and evaluate sociological research methods, explanations, evidence, argument and critique;
- To enable students to develop a comparative and reflexive perspective on social processes and practices;
- To enable students to develop an informed understanding of some contemporary social trends, their conditions and tendencies.

Special feature: Opportunity to study in a European university for one semester; optional work placement.

What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme (learning outcomes).

Knowledge and Understanding of:

- the main theoretical approaches in Sociology;
- which research methods are appropriate for which sort of investigations, and why;
- how social structures affect life chances, both globally and in Britain;
- processes of social construction of various 'commonsense' views and practices, including those prevalent in their own social contexts;
- some significant contemporary social trends, their origins and prospects;

Cognitive Skills - students should be able to

- synthesise, summarise and evaluate information and data from a variety of sources;
- analyse sociological arguments and explanations and evaluate them in the light of the evidence offered;
- read, understand, evaluate and use tabular data;
- design small-scale research projects, choose and justify appropriate research methods;

Subject-specific practical skills: students should be able to

- conduct small-scale research projects, involving producing interview schedules, quota sampling, interviewing or observing, analysing and presenting results;
- use the Internet, C-Droms, books and journals to research sociological topics;
- produce bibliographies on sociological topics, reference and cite according to the conventions of the discipline.

Transferable skills: students should be able to

- produce well-structured, word processed essays, reports or presentations;
- co-operate in groups and contribute to a collective project;
- listen well and contribute constructively in seminars.

General attributes supported by the programme:

Intellectual:

- Integration of theoretical and empirical knowledge
- Understanding/applying of key concepts, models, theories and methods.
- Capacity to analyse, interpret and evaluate data and other sorts of evidence.
- Capacity for critical reasoning.

Practical:

- Skills in oral and poster presentation and report and essay writing.
- Research and referencing skills using both library and internet.
- Word processing and computer based skills.

Personal:

- Independent learning
- Time management
- Planning and organisational skills

Social/interpersonal:

- Skills in collaboration and group participation
- Respectful listening
- Communication skills.