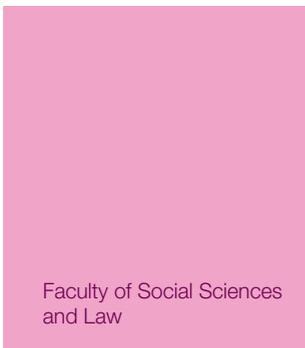
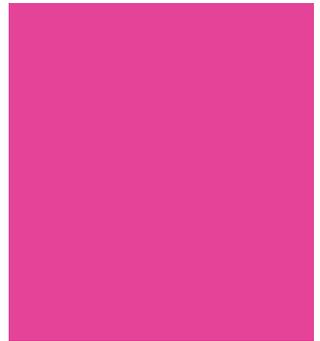
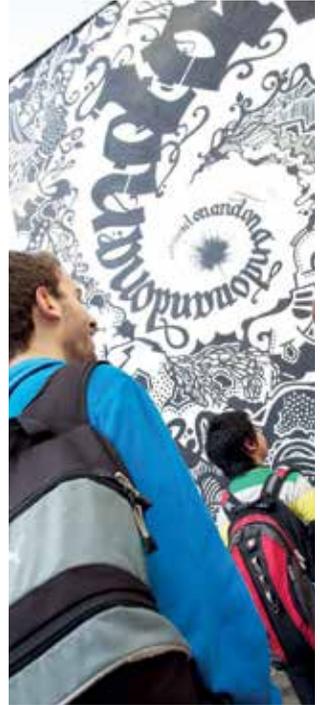




University of
BRISTOL

Undergraduate Sociology



Faculty of Social Sciences
and Law



Bristol University is highly respected which helped me during my interviews. In this role, I am looking at the most cost effective ways to expand the business abroad. I conduct in-depth desk research into countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America managing my own workload with occasional help from the Chief Finance Officer. I am using the research-based elements from my degree which is a bonus as I am comfortable with the research tasks in my role.

Anna

BSc Sociology with Study Abroad 2011
Research Analyst, Freedman International



Why study sociology at Bristol?

Sociology connects every aspect of our lives. Concerned with society's structures, forms of action and cultural arrangements, sociologists are uniquely placed to understand the fast moving nature of contemporary life.

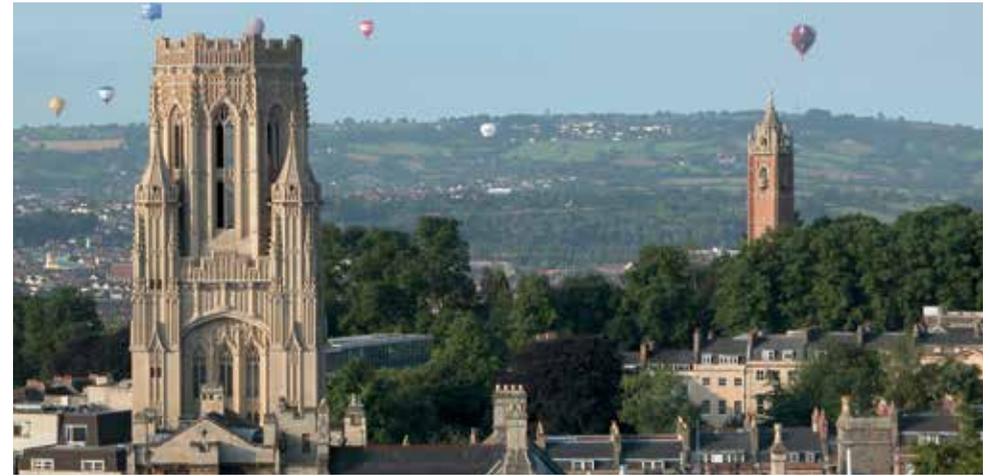
If you are curious about things like religion and secularisation, ethnicity and migration, changing attitudes to sexuality and personal life, debates on multiculturalism, the role of the mass media and the 'cult of celebrity' then sociology is the discipline for you.

Sociologists use various research techniques to investigate the world around them. Sociology at Bristol places an emphasis on these practical and transferable research skills, ensuring you will develop a solid grounding in a range of methodologies, and helping you to develop a range of skills highly sought after by employers.

The School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS) is a dynamic and friendly place to study, with over fifty leading sociologists and political scientists. Our teaching draws specifically on staff research interests to ensure the courses are always relevant, exciting and informed by the most up-to-date research findings. The school offers a vibrant, diverse and engaged environment within which students are encouraged to participate, and which provides the support necessary for academic success.

20+

universities worldwide offer
study abroad opportunities



What will I study?

Single Honours courses

BSc Sociology, three years	L300
BSc Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods, three years	L302
MSci Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods, four years	L303
BSc Sociology with Study Abroad, four years	L301

Joint Honours courses

BSc Politics and Sociology, three years	LL23
BSc Social Policy and Sociology, three years	LL43
BSc Sociology and Philosophy, three years	LV35
BA Theology and Sociology, three years	VL63

First year

First-year units are designed to introduce you to the core concerns of the discipline and equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to develop your more detailed sociological study in later years.

In the first year, Single Honours students take the four sociology units listed to the right and two in a complementary discipline. Joint Honours students in each year take three sociology units and three in their joint subject.

Thinking Sociologically

How do sociological approaches differ from other ways of thinking about the world? This unit aims to encourage the development of students' own 'sociological imagination' and explains what it means to view the world from a sociological perspective.

Social Identities and Divisions

What are the impacts of how we conceptualise social difference? This unit shows the sociological insights into our understanding of social groups. Core forms of social division and identity, such as class, 'race' and ethnicity, gender and age are investigated.

Key Social Thinkers

An introduction to the sociological canon, focusing on the 'founding fathers' of the discipline of sociology; Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and George Simmel. The unit explores challenges to the tradition and questions what lessons the classical tradition offers for contemporary sociology.

Doing Social Research

This unit considers the role of research in sociology by examining different traditions and different kinds of evidence that can be used in sociological research. It introduces you to the methods applied in the design and completion of research projects in order to equip you with the skills to critically interpret data and to evaluate research.

Second and third years

In the second year, Single Honours students take two further core units – Investigating the Social and Conceptualising the Social. On top of these core units, students also take a number of specialist units – four in each of the second and third years.

Each year we offer a range of specialist units for students to choose from. Specialist units reflect the research expertise of staff in the school and include diverse topics such as migration, emotions, family life, popular music, art, science and technology, crime and nationalism.

Dissertation

Final-year students undertake a dissertation (optional for Joint Honours) in which you independently research a sociological topic of your choice. You will be supported by sessions with an individual supervisor, supplemented by research workshops. A wide range of topics have been explored by our students, including learning disabilities and stigma, asylum seekers, teenage mothers, Pagan rituals, the making of pop idols, Bristol, magicians and conjurers, and the identity of graffiti artists.

Teaching methods and assessment

Sociology units are taught through a mixture of weekly lectures and seminars. Each unit has three formal contact hours per week. We use a variety of teaching methods including student presentations, group research, videos and class discussions, supplementing responses to lectures and reading.

Unit assessment includes a mix of examinations and coursework, including essays, presentations and case study reports.



What are my career prospects?

Few subjects can equip you for such a range of potential careers as sociology. Sociology's core practices – the creation, management, interpretation and presentation of data – and the centrality of critical analysis to sociological thinking, mean that our graduates are uniquely positioned to deal with contemporary jobs in a 'people-centred', 'information society'.

Our graduates go into a wide range of careers including marketing, law, the charity sector, journalism, the mass media, social services and teaching. Around a quarter of our graduates proceed on to postgraduate work, sometimes in sociology, but often for professional qualifications for example, teaching or law.

£22k

average salary six months after graduation*

*Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey 2011/12

Making your application

Entrance requirements

Typical offer for BSc Sociology

Please visit bristol.ac.uk/ug15-sociology for Joint Honours and other qualifications

A-levels ABB (contextual offer BBB[†]) including an essay-based subject

IB Diploma 33 points overall (contextual offer 32[†]) with 6,6,5 at Higher level including an essay-based subject

Access Pass Access to HE Diploma with at least 30 credits at Distinction and 15 credits at Merit including an essay-based subject

English Language Profile E*

GCSEs Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics

Selection UCAS or Common Application

Part-time study Not available

Deferred entry Considered

*For details of English language profiles please visit bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/language-requirements

[†]For information on contextual offers please visit bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/#typical-contextual-offers

Many students have not studied sociology before coming to university. This is not necessarily a disadvantage but, in your personal statement, it is important to explain why you find the subject appealing and what your previous studying or experience may contribute to your study of sociology. If you have studied sociology previously, use your personal statement to build on your understanding of the subject and indicate why you want to deepen your interest in studying the discipline at degree level.

Further information

School of Sociology, Politics and International Relations: bristol.ac.uk/spais



Contacts

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bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

Undergraduate study website
bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

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