

Sociology



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BSc Sociology

three years L300

BSc Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods

three years L302

BSc Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods with Study Abroad

four years L304

BSc Sociology with Study Abroad

four years L301

MSci Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods

four years L303

Joint Honours

BA Theology and Sociology

three years VL63

BSc Politics and Sociology

three years LL23

BSc Social Policy and Sociology

three years LL43

BSc Sociology and Philosophy

three years LV35

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 50 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.

Q-Step programme

The University of Bristol is part of the £19.5 million Q-Step programme, designed to promote a step change in quantitative social science training. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE, the University of Bristol Q-Step Centre is part of a national network of 15 centres in the UK working to address the shortage of social science graduates with quantitative skills.

We offer a unique set of three- and four-year degree programmes that combine core disciplinary learning with enhanced quantitative skills training focusing on applied data analysis relevant to research in the social sciences. Look for course titles that include 'with Quantitative Research Methods' in this leaflet and find out more at: bristol.ac.uk/qstep.

'The best things about studying here are being able to study alongside people with a similar interest to you and being taught by lecturers with plenty of experience.'

Joe (BSc Sociology)

What will you study?

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 below and two further units in sociology or 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. We investigate core forms of social division and identity, such as class, race and ethnicity, gender and age.

Key Social Thinkers:

A critical introduction to the core principles, concepts and debates of sociological theory over the years, this 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 may 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 students) 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.



Careers and graduate destinations

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 prepare our graduates for 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 media, social services and teaching. Around a quarter of our graduates proceed to postgraduate work, sometimes in sociology, but often for professional qualifications such as teaching or law.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).



Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Sociology*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-sociology for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels AAB (contextual BBB[†]) including B in an essay-based subject.

IB Diploma 34 overall (contextual 31[†]) to include 17 points at Higher Level (contextual 15[†]) with 5 in an essay-based subject.

English Language profile B^{††}

GCSEs Standard numeracy requirement (C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent).

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

^{††}For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Further information

Find out more about the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies: bristol.ac.uk/spais.

Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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