



University of  
**BRISTOL**

**Undergraduate study**

**Sociology**



## Key highlights



### Top reputation

Our sociology courses consistently rank near the top of university league tables (2nd in *Times* Good University Guide 2020 and Complete University Guide 2021, and top five in *Guardian* University Guide 2019-21).



### Renowned research

Join a rich learning community, ranked 2nd in the UK for sociology research intensity (*THE* analysis of REF 2014).



### Excellent prospects

Our graduates have analytical minds and advanced critical-thinking skills. Find them in teaching, publishing, the media, social work and market research.



### Enhanced skills

We specialise in a variety of methods and we also partner with Bristol Q-Step to offer sociology students career-enhancing skills training.

[bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study)

## Why study sociology at Bristol?

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 how pandemics like coronavirus impact on different social groups, changing attitudes to sexuality and personal life, debates on multiculturalism and social change in the context of a climate crisis, then sociology may be the discipline for you. Sociology at Bristol places an emphasis on practical and transferable research skills, ensuring you will develop a solid grounding in a range of methodologies and skills sought by employers.

The School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies is a dynamic and friendly place to study, with over 50 sociologists and political scientists whose research themes include art and culture, consumption, digital society, migration, risk, social inequalities, social and cultural theory, and sustainability. Teaching draws on staff research interests to ensure courses are always relevant and exciting.

### What you will study

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

- Thinking Sociologically
- Social Identities and Divisions
- Key Social Thinkers
- Doing Social Research.

## Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units  
[bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-sociology](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-sociology)

In the second and third years, you'll take a number of specialist units that reflect staff research expertise and may include:

- Class and Social Divisions
- Sociology of Crime and Justice
- Consumption, Consumer Culture and Sustainability
- Ethnicity and Racism
- What is a Society?
- Modern Slavery
- Sociology of Popular Music.

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 a supervisor and research workshops. Our students have explored a wide range of topics, including: Banksy and the art world; tall women and the sociology of height; eating habits and family life; populations and sustainability; white privilege; learning disabilities and stigma; Pagan rituals; restaurant tipping; and plastic straws and the environment.

### Q-Step programme

We also offer the option of three- and four-year degree programmes combining core disciplinary learning with enhanced quantitative skills training in applied data analysis relevant to research in the social sciences. Find out more about our 'with Quantitative Research Methods' course offerings at: [bristol.ac.uk/qstep](https://bristol.ac.uk/qstep).

'The University of Bristol is lively, eclectic and absolutely beautiful. I love being taught by the researchers whose books are our required reading.'

**Sophie** (BSc Sociology)



Providing a backdrop to your studies is Bristol, a city engaged with issues of environment and inclusivity and enriched by cultural diversity.



The School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies houses three research centres: Global Securities Centre, Centre for Ethnicity and Citizenship, and Gender Research Centre.



You can choose to take a four-year Study Abroad degree, with a year studying in English at one of our prestigious partner universities overseas. Partner locations have included: Australia, Canada, Japan, the US (pictured) and more. Find out more: [bristol.ac.uk/go-abroad](https://bristol.ac.uk/go-abroad).

# Courses

- BSc Sociology /
- BSc Sociology with Study Abroad
- BSc / MSci Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods
- BSc Sociology with Quantitative Research Methods with Study Abroad
- BA Theology and Sociology
- BSc Politics and Sociology
- BSc Social Policy and Sociology
- BSc Sociology and Philosophy

## Connect with the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies

 @SPAISBristol

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### Photography

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study) for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.



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