

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business

School of Society and Culture

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Sociology with Foundation
7234

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for
September 2022

1. BSc

Programme title: BSc (Hons) Sociology with Foundation

Final award title: BSc (Hons) Sociology

Level 5 Intermediate award title(s): Diploma in Higher Education

Level 4 Intermediate award title(s): Certificate in Higher Education

UCAS code: L301

HECOS code: 100505

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies):** N/A

Date of re-accreditation: N/A

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

- The programme's foundation year is designed to provide a supportive environment that promotes nonstandard entry students' transition into Higher Education with high academic and pastoral support levels. The programme's foundation year is specially designed to enable students to negotiate the discipline and build their knowledge and understanding across key areas while also developing the critical thinking, research, and transferable skills required to progress to level 4 study and beyond.
- **Teaching excellence:** Sociology has been taught at Plymouth since the 1970s and the modules offered at Plymouth therefore benefit from considerable experience in terms of design and delivery.
- **Research-led teaching:** The sociology teaching staff are all active scholars with strong research profiles. The team believes in the importance of linking research and teaching. Staff research specialisms are reflected in the modules offered to students.
- **Rigorous research methods training:** The programme offers a wide range of opportunities for acquiring social research methods skills, including rigorous data analysis training using computer packages. Our research methods training is a particular strength of the programme, which ensures that our students to graduate with a comprehensive range of skills relevant for a variety of employment and other settings.

- **Personalised support:** Students are supported through personalised support throughout their programme of study. Regular timetabled small tutorial groups are held throughout Levels 4 and 5, providing a strong source of academic and pastoral support. These are linked with small group work and experiential learning. This support continues in Level 6 through dissertation supervisory meetings. In addition, our students are encouraged to participate in our highly successful peer-assisted learning scheme.
- **Volunteering and employment opportunities:** Students are encouraged to take advantage of a range of work placement and volunteering opportunities throughout the programme, either through an optional placement year or a range of dedicated experiential modules.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA subject benchmark for [Sociology](#) (2019).

6. Programme Structure

Level 3 (Foundation)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC301 Study and Self 30 credits	SSC302 Individual Project 30 credits
SSC303 Crime and Deviance 30 credits	SSC304 Human Rights and Social Justice 30 credits

Level 4			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
SOC4001 Key Concepts and Skills for Sociology 20 credits (4 weeks)		SOC4003IE One Planet? Society and Sustainability 20 credits (4 weeks)	
SOC4002 Social Identities and Inequalities 20 credits (9 weeks)	CRM4003 21 st Century Crime Problems 20 credits (9 weeks)	SOC4004 Introduction to Social Theory 20 credits (9 weeks)	SOC4005 Social Science Research Methodologies 20 credits (9 weeks)

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 credits	
SOC5001 Culture, Structure and Experience 20 credits	SOC5003 The Social Science Research Process 20 credits
SOC5002 Race, Nation, Empire: Understanding Identity and Belonging in the UK 20 credits	SOC5004 Contemporary Social Theory 20 credits
Choose one:	Choose one:
Specialism Module Elective 20 credits	Specialism Module Elective 20 credits

Optional Placement Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC600 School of Society and Culture Placement Year 0 credits	

Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SOC6000 Dissertation 40 credits	
Choose one from:	Choose two from:
SOC6001 Media, State and Society 20 credits	SOC6002 Food, Culture and Society 20 credits
CRM6001 Futures Criminology 20 credits	SOC6003 The Politics of Wasted Lives 20 credits
CRM6003 Social Change and Justice 20 credits	CRM6007 Global (In)security and the State 20 credits
CRM6004A Experiential Learning Opportunities 20 credits	CRM6004B Experiential Learning Opportunities 20 credits
ANT6002 Different Ways of Knowing: The Anthropology of truth, post-truth and conspiracy 20 credits	CRM6008 Leisure, Consumerism and Harm 20 credits
ANT6003 Gifts, Commodities and Crises: A contemporary guide to economic anthropology 20 credits	ANT6004 The Anthropology of Justice and Morality: Legal Anthropology in the 21st Century 20 credits
Choose one:	ANT6005 Why So Serious? The Anthropology of Humour and Laughter 20 credits
Specialism Module Elective 20 credits	

Specialism Modules

All undergraduate programmes in the School of Society and Culture have been designed to enable students to personalise their degree through a wide assortment of optional modules. These allow students to study more topics related to their core degree or branch out and explore up to three modules from other disciplines across the School. This flexibility starts in the second year, with students being able to choose one module from within cross-school elective pools at level 5 semester 1, level 5 semester 2, and level 6 semester 1. These are marked by the term *Specialism Module* in the programme structure above.

Students can elect to take any combination of modules from the three cross-school elective pools, and options will always be available from their core degree subject. However, students who complete three modules from another discipline will have the choice of graduating with that discipline as a specialism on their certificate: BSc (Hons) Sociology with <specialism>. The School offers modules in the following areas:

- Acting
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama
- English
- History
- International Relations
- Law
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Politics
- Policing and Security Management
- Sociology

A list of available specialism modules and their associated learning outcomes can be found in the School of Society and Culture's Specialism Specification and on the programme's webpage.

7. Programme Aims

For Level 3 (Foundation Year):

- To foster a learning environment that facilitates students' success from a range of nonstandard backgrounds, offering bespoke support and skills training.
- To provide learners with academic and organisation skills within a supportive scaffold, enabling them to explore, interpret, and build informed opinions on key discipline areas.
- To develop students' confidence in their studies and to encourage and promote intellectual curiosity.

For Levels 4-6:

The Sociology programme aims to equip graduates with conceptual, analytical and practical skills in sociology and social research.

The programme aims to provide graduates with the ability to collect and analyse evidence, using appropriate theoretical and methodological approaches. Making links between the lived experiences of individuals and the social world in which we live, the programme aims to develop students' knowledge of a variety of approaches to understanding these relationships.

All students will be expected to demonstrate achievement at a threshold level across a broad range of intellectual, cognitive, practical and employment-related skills, with opportunities to specialise. All students will be expected to demonstrate a level of proficiency in the use of qualitative and quantitative data.

The programme aims to produce graduates with intellectual ability, practical skills, and ethical appreciation to support them in a range of future activity through their life.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

The School of Society and Culture runs three foundation years covering the Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, and Performing Arts. These programmes' learning outcomes are designed to provide students with the academic writing, critical thinking, research, and interpersonal skills required to progress onto a wide variety of cognate degrees within the School. These are detailed in section 10 of this specification.

The School's three foundation years share two common modules, one in each semester, which introduce the foundation community to the core academic skills required for level 4 study. While these modules are school-wide, they include subject-specific seminars and assessments, allowing students to practice applying the delivered academic skills in the context of their chosen field of study. The remaining modules equip students with subject-specific skills in the broad areas of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, and Performing Arts.

For Level 3 (Foundation Year):

F.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. A solid knowledge base consisting of fundamental concepts and theories in the Social and Political Sciences and in Law.
2. A broad understanding of the key methods of enquiry used to study the structure and organisation of society and how to select and deploy these appropriately.

F.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Approach and solve problems by reviewing and selecting appropriate solutions, drawing on their knowledge base and research skills to make informed decisions.
2. Evaluate information and opinions from divergent perspectives to form conclusions.

F.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Take responsibility for their learning and be able to self-manage their workload.
2. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms to different audiences.

F.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Exercise personal responsibility and decision-making with an appropriate level of confidence.
2. Seek out and undertake further training to develop existing skills and acquire new competencies.

F.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Use computers and information technologies competently.
2. Work individually and collaboratively.

For Levels 4-6:

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. The ability to describe and examine a range of concepts and theoretical approaches within sociology and evaluate their application;
2. the capacity to provide an analytical account of social diversity and inequality and their effects;
3. the capacity to analyse social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions;
4. proficiency in assessing the appropriate use of a range of research strategies and methods (qualitative and quantitative);
5. the ability to examine and explain processes that underpin social change and social stability;
6. an understanding of the distinctive contribution made by sociological

approaches to understanding the social world, and key elements of its relationship with cognate disciplines;

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. the ability to evaluate the relationship between argument and evidence in a range of contexts;
2. a capacity to assess, evaluate and explain the merits of competing explanations of human behaviour, social situations and events;
3. the ability to draw evidence from a range of different types of sources, and to provide an effective and coherent synthesis of these;
4. the ability to draw evidence-based and reasoned conclusions and to present these in a coherent argument.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. summarise, critically evaluate and explain empirical research data, quantitative and qualitative;
2. a capacity to discuss sociological topics with appreciation of theory, evidence and relation to current application;
3. communicate effectively with others in a clear and articulate manner, both verbally and in writing;
4. organise work and carry out tasks independently, with appropriate guidance.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. the capacity to identify and comment on the contribution and value of sociological work with regard to social, public and civil policy issues;
2. Effective communication skills, in written and verbal forms;
3. Skills in personal reflection, team-working, independent working, and skills in problem-solving;
4. skills in gathering, summarising and synthesising information

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. skills in the use of information technology;
2. organisational and administrative skills, including skills in 'time- management';
3. skills in presenting information in a variety of formats, including reports, essays, posters, presentations;
4. the ability to work effectively as an individual and as a member of a team;

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the grading system until 2017).

Entry Requirements for BSc (Hons) Sociology with Foundation	
A-level/AS-level	32-48
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	PPP - MMP in any subject. All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subjects with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor.
Scottish Qualifications Authority	32-48 points at Advanced Highers.
Irish Leaving Certificate	H5 H5 H5 H5 H5.
International Baccalaureate	24 overall. If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.
Proficiency in English	If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

Progression Routes from Foundation Year	<p>Students are required to pass all modules of Level 3 (Foundation Year) to progress directly onto Level 4 of one of the following degree programmes in the School of Society and Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc (Hons) Sociology • BA (Hons) Anthropology • BA (Hons) Art History • BA (Hons) Creative Writing • BSc (Hons) Criminology • BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology • BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology • BA (Hons) English • BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing • BA (Hons) History • BSc (Hons) International Relations • LLB (Hons) Law
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLB (Hons) Law and Criminology • BSc (Hons) Politics • BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations • BSc (Hons) Professional Policing <p>Requests to change programmes at the end of the Foundation Year will be considered only within the normal University regulations.</p>
Certificate in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4.
Diploma in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
BSc (Hons) Sociology	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

Appendices

Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules

Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes
CORE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes.

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)										Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills		Key & transferable skills		Employment related skills		Practical skills			
		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2		
Level 3	SSC301			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	C1 100%
	SSC302	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	C1 100%
	SSC303	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	N	C1 100%
	SSC304	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	N	C1 100%
Level 3 LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Confirmed Award LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																				Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical		
		Knowledge & understanding						Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills				Employment related skills				Practical skills					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2			3	4
Level 4	SOC4001	x	x			x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x		Y	C1 – 40% P1 – 60%
	SOC4002	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x			x	x			x	x					Y	C1 – 100%
	SOC4003IE	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x			x	x	Y	C1 – 50% P1 – 50%	
	SOC4004	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		Y	C1 – 100%	
	SOC4005	x			x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 – 100%	
	CRM4003		x			x		x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x			x	x	Y	C1- 70% P1 – 30%
Level 4 Los		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Level 5	SOC5001	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x				Y	C1 – 100%	
	SOC5002	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		Y	C1 – 100%	
	SOC5003	x			x	x		x		x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x			Y	C1 – 100%	
	SOC5004	x		x				x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		Y	C1 – 100%	
Level 5 Los		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
L6	SOC6000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x				N	C1 – 100%	
Level 6 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x						
Confirmed Award LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			

ELECTIVE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Elective Modules	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																				Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical		
	Knowledge & understanding						Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills				Employment related skills				Practical skills					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2			3	4
ANT6002	x		x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x							Y	C1 – 60%, P1 – 40%	
ANT6003	x	x				x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x					x		Y	C1 – 60%, P1 – 40%	
ANT6004	x		x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x						x	Y	C1 – 60%, P1 – 40%	
ANT6005	x					x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x			Y	C1 – 60%, P1 – 40%	
CRM6001			x		x					x			x	x		x		x			x	Y	C1 – 100%	
CRM6003			x		x				x		x	x		x	x	x	x			x		Y	C1 – 100%	
CRM6004A/B						x		x					x	x	x	x	x			x	x	Y	C1 – 80% P1 – 20%	
CRM6007		x	x		x		x	x					x	x		x		x			x	x	Y	C1 – 100%
CRM6008		x			x		x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x	x	Y	C1 – 100%	
SOC6001	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x	Y	C1 – 100%	
SOC6002	x	x	x				x	x		x				x				x	x			Y	C1 – 100%	
SOC6003	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Y	C1 – 100%	
Level 6 LOs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Confirmed Award LOs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			