

Sociology

Essentials

What sociology degrees are there?

Sociology
Sociology and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)
Sociology and Cultural Studies
Sociology and International Development
Sociology and Media Studies

History and Sociology (p79)
International Relations and Sociology (p84)
Philosophy and Sociology (p106)
Politics and Sociology (p112)

What degree can I take with sociology as a minor?

Psychology with Sociology (p117)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: ABB-BBB

For Sociology and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B

Typical IB diploma offer range: 32-34 points

For Sociology and a Language, 32-34 points normally including your chosen language at Higher Level with a final grade of 5

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the subject coordinator:

E ug.admissions@sociology.sussex.ac.uk

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F +44 (0)1273 873162

Sociology, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9SP, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/sociology

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why sociology?

We are living in an era of rapid change. Global and technological transformations are reshaping our work and home lives, our cultures, identities and social experiences. New forces within our societies and beyond are leading to new social ties or the disintegration of old ones. Sociology offers a chance to study this exciting and fast-changing social world in all its aspects.

Why sociology at Sussex?

- Sociology at Sussex scored 91 per cent overall in the student satisfaction category of the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS) and is ranked 11th in *The Guardian University Guide 2011* and 14th in *The Times Good University Guide 2011*.
- Rated 16th in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 80 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, with over half rated as internationally excellent or higher and over a quarter rated as world leading.
- Our single-honours and joint degrees combine a strong grounding in the basics of sociology with the opportunity to specialise in a range of options.
- All our lecturers are active researchers in one of three specialisms: health, medicine and science; gender and inequalities; or social theory and political sociology.
- You will study different theoretical perspectives of society in the context of understanding and interpreting information and evidence on how society is structured, and how it is changing.
- Sussex offers a lively social environment. Our students come from a wide range of ages, ethnic groups and social backgrounds and from countries all over the world. In classes you will mix with students from many disciplines.
- Our degrees are broad, providing practical and theoretical skills, research-methods training, analytical and presentational skills, and experience in working independently and in groups, producing competent sociologists who are attractive to employers.

What sort of career could I have?

Our graduates go on to a wide range of careers:

- further study
- vocational training qualifications in teaching, law or business
- health, social welfare, housing and education
- financial sector
- website design and information technology
- public relations and social research
- sales and marketing
- the media and creative professions
- charities.

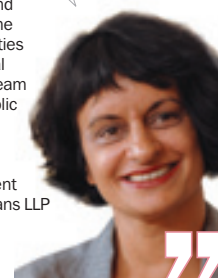
Saimo's career perspective

'I studied Sociology and chose Sussex for its reputation for promoting novel ideas and ways of working. Nobody in my family had been to university and a professional career was not something I envisaged at that stage.'

'I had the best time of my life at Sussex. I met lots of interesting people and the tutors were dedicated and inspiring. Everything about it was exciting and radical, from the way that the degree programme was assessed to the vibrant social life. It was where I first engaged in politics; there were regular sit-ins and protests as well as debates about every issue under the sun.'

'Sussex helped make me the person that I am. It gave me the time and freedom to experiment with ideas, to be radical, to think critically and never to accept things but always to question and challenge. That is what my legal career has been all about – pushing the boundaries and developing the law of human rights and civil liberties so that it serves ordinary people.'

Saimo Chahal
Partner and Head of the Civil Liberties and Social Welfare Team in the Public Law & Human Rights Department of Bindmans LLP



Core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

Comparative Societies
• Principles of Sociological Analysis • Themes and Perspectives in Sociology I and II

Year 2

Designing Sociological Research I and II

Options: Classical Sociological Theory • Constructing Sexuality • Gender and the Life Course • Political Sociology • Race, Conflict and Change • Sociology of Deviance • Sociology of Education • Sociology of Everyday Life • Sociology of Medicine and Health

Year 3

Sociology Project

Advanced options from: Contemporary Social Theory • Death of Socialism? • Madness and Society • Performance, Celebrity and Fandom • Sociology of Globalisation • The Body in Society

If you take sociology with a joint subject, you spend about half your time on each subject

Jasmin's perspective

'I chose to study Sociology at Sussex as it was highly ranked in the league tables, and the campus is near Brighton, which offers an easy commute to London. The lecturers within the Department of Sociology are highly qualified – many of them have written the books that currently inform their specific fields of study. They're also helpful, friendly and non-judgemental. As well as being accessible, lecturers provide an open atmosphere in which you can talk about both your academic and personal experience of university. There's also plenty of opportunities to learn outside of the curriculum. Becoming a student representative for Sociology during my first year at Sussex allowed me to develop my time-management and diplomacy skills. I was also given the opportunity to embark on a teaching placement at a local secondary school. This experience was invaluable, and I now hope to complete a PGCE course and become a teacher.'

Jasmin Hinds
BA in Sociology



How will I learn?

We use a variety of teaching methods ranging from lectures to seminar discussion classes, practical workshops, sessions where research work is presented, individual supervision of research projects, and individual consultations with tutors.

Courses are assessed in diverse ways to suit course content, to develop your practical skills, and to respond to the different skills and abilities of students. We use coursework essays and more in-depth dissertations; exams; research project reports and presentations of research findings.

What will I achieve?

- a broad knowledge of the core areas of sociology, from the nature and development of contemporary capitalism to the relationship between the individual and society; the maintenance of power and social order; and patterns of social change
- knowledge of several specialist areas of your choice, ranging from employment studies, education, health and medicine, social thought, gender and ethnicity studies to political sociology
- knowledge and training in a range of social research methods, which will enable you to carry out your own research, assess the research of others and offer relevant skills to the job market
- experience in self-guided independent study and working in groups
- skills in understanding and assessing ideas and evidence, and presenting your own work and ideas in written and oral forms
- a good understanding of how Britain compares to other societies and of the basic principles underlying sociological explanations.

Degrees

Sociology BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L301

The aim of the Sociology degree programme is to produce competent sociologists with a range of knowledge about society, which they can evaluate and relate to theories, and with a grasp of research techniques as well as transferable practical and intellectual skills.

In Year 1, you learn about British society and another society, and about major sociological theories and approaches and how they can be applied. In the second year, you receive training in sociological research methods alongside your sociology options. You also choose courses drawn from related subjects such as international development, philosophy, contemporary European studies and cultural studies, and it is possible to choose pathways through the degree programmes in these subjects.

You choose sociology options in Year 3, and also carry out a research project of your choice with individual supervision.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for more information.

Sociology and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish) BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: LR3X

This programme is for students who would like to combine the study of sociology's themes, perspectives and specialist areas, and the ability to do sociological research, with the learning of a language and knowledge of the culture, society and ethics of a country in which your chosen language is spoken.

Throughout Years 1, 2 and 4, students take sociology courses in parallel with courses on both the language and the culture and society of the relevant country. Year 3 is spent studying at a university in your chosen country, putting your language skills into practice.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of sociology courses; refer to the languages subject entry on page 85 for more information on these courses.



The second-year option **Sociology of Medicine and Health** encompasses the sociology of medicine and health and considers the relationship between socio-economic inequality and health in Britain

Sociology and Cultural Studies BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LRH9

This degree programme provides an opportunity to broaden and deepen your sociological understanding of both 'high' and 'popular' culture, and to develop skills in analysing cultural products such as the mass media.

During the first two years, you combine the sociology and cultural studies courses, while in the final year you take specialised options from both areas of study.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of sociology courses; refer to the cultural studies subject entry on page 54 for more information on these courses.

Sociology and International Development BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL39

This programme allows you to learn about the colonial and postcolonial experiences and cultures of developing countries, and about key development issues confronting peoples in the third world. It offers many links to sociology courses and will be useful for anyone thinking of working in developing countries or in the development field.

During the first two years, you combine the sociology and international development courses, while in the final year you take specialised options from both areas of study.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of sociology courses; refer to the international development subject entry on page 80 for more information on these courses.

Sociology and Media Studies BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LP33

This degree offers students the chance to understand and explain the nature and role of the media in society and the way in which social processes can be analysed and explained. You will look at how various media are produced, how they are used and understood by audiences, and how questions about such issues can be approached from perspectives that are theoretical, social, historical, textual, political, creative and practical.

During the first two years, you combine the sociology and media studies courses, while in the final year you take specialised options from both areas of study.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of sociology courses; refer to the media subject entry on page 41 for more information on these courses.

