

Sociology



Essentials

Taught programme

MSc degree

Social Research Methods (for details, refer to page 14)

Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Sociology

Related programmes

MA in Gender Studies (p98)

MA in Social and Political Thought (p147)

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MSc

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests and state how studying for the MSc will help develop those interests, possibly for further research

MPhil

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests

PhD

A Masters degree in sociology or a related discipline, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline research proposal indicating the nature, ambitions and primary questions of their research project

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

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- Sociology at Sussex was ranked in the top 10 in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2012* and *The Complete University Guide 2011-12*, and 11th in the UK in *The Guardian University Guide 2012*. It was also rated 16th out of 39 departments 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.

- The Department provides a base for students who wish to pursue sociological research in an intellectually open and cosmopolitan environment.

- Sociology faculty are centrally involved in three research centres at Sussex: the Centre for Social and Political Thought; the Centre for Gender Studies; and the Centre for Research in Health and Medicine.

- Sussex sociologists have an exceptionally wide range of intellectual interests, covering the main areas of sociology and interdisciplinary fields such as medicine and health studies, science and technology studies, European studies, gender studies and history, as well as the philosophy and methodology of social science.

Taught programme

MSc in Social Research Methods 1 year full time/2 years part time

Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14 for more information about this programme, including structure and assessment.

Research programmes

We offer research supervision in areas including health, medicine, science, social theory, political sociology, gender, inequality and work. There are two modes of entry for research students. First is traditional entry to an MPhil or PhD. Second is the MSc plus PhD pathway, which is the 1+3 route required by the ESRC for their studentship support. All new research students will be required to participate in a programme of research training courses and to take other courses that may be recommended by the supervisor of their research. (Exemption from research training courses can be granted to those who have already taken such courses at postgraduate level.)

Applicants who do not have a Masters degree may be expected to satisfactorily complete a piece of coursework, taken from the ESRC-recognised MSc in Social Research Methods, before proceeding to research. Several sociologists teach on the MA in Social and Political Thought, which provides an excellent introduction to research for candidates with appropriate interests. Further training in research skills will be provided as required. Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on pages 14-15.

Sussex sociologist Ben Fincham (refer to his research interests below) has been involved in developing mobilities projects, and is currently researching cycling and society

Recent and current thesis topics

Gender and Higher Education

Global civil society and Islam

Lifestyle pharmaceuticals and medicalisation

Lone parents in Higher Education

The welfare state and the underclass

Career opportunities

Many of our graduates stay in academia, in teaching or research positions, as research assistants or lecturers. Others have gone on to careers in administration in the social services, the wider public sector and charities, human resources, web design, sales and marketing, publishing, media and journalism.

Faculty research interests

Research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/sociology

Sociology faculty research is organised in three broad and overlapping groups:

Gender, inequality and work

Ben Fincham Injury, death and suicide; mobilities; peripheral labour; work and danger.

Alison Phipps Gender and aspects of social policy.

Ruth Woodfield Sociology of gender, work and skill, especially in relation to technology.

Health, medicine and science

Professor John Abraham Medicine regulation and political sociology of drug safety.

Professor Gillian Bendelow Sociology of pain, health promotion, gender and new technology.

Courtney Davis Medicine regulation and occupational health.

Catherine Will The sociology of science and technology; social and healthcare policy.

Social theory and political sociology

(Also refer to Social and political thought on pages 147-148.)

Professor Gerard Delanty Social and political theory; philosophy of social science; identity.

Alana Lentin Race; social movements and migrant collective action.

Professor Luke Martell Political sociology; social democracy; globalisation.

Susie Scott Social theory; identity; shyness.