

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Course Title	<b>BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 6</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>British Psychological Society (BPS)</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time and Part-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>3 years full-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>DipHE Psychology and Sociology</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<b>Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) GCSE grade C or above in English and Maths (or equivalent)</b>
Delivering Institution	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
UCAS Code	<b>LC38</b>

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2018-19 academic year.<sup>5</sup>

Psychology

Originating from Biological and Philosophical disciplines, contemporary psychology is an empirical science that seeks to comprehend how and why humans and non-humans experience and behave the way that they do. Students have the opportunity to attain a holistic approach to psychology as they are provided with a foundation of the main psychology approaches identified by the BPS as being ‘core’, as well as the importance of understanding the complex interaction between these approaches. The emphasis is on theoretical underpinnings with progression to practical applications, as students’ development through the course sees them engage with the different theories at work in everyday life whilst critically evaluating the contributions made by these multiple perspective approaches. This focus on applied knowledge is reflected in our emphasis on students developing as empirical researchers through their course, as they come to understand the relationship between theory and empirical data. Our modules not only provide an

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>3</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

<sup>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

<sup>5</sup> The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

## **DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

underpinning in research methods and data analysis, but also provide students invaluable practical application by designing, conducting, analysing and reporting data, and eventually becoming independent researchers in their own right. Through studying psychology students will not only acquire a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, but will attain knowledge allowing them to recognise and critically evaluate theory, research and the implications of a scientific study.

### Sociology

Sociology developed with the modern world and its key task is to analyse the changing nature of our social world. Sociology at the University of Suffolk emphasises the real world and underpins skills needed for careers in the private and public sectors. You will study important aspects of the real world that are complex and challenging such as inequality, violence, unfairness, or injustice. Sociology students study these challenging areas when examining social change, globalisation, migration, gender and sexuality, technology and social theory.

By studying sociology at the University of Suffolk you will become sensitive to the wider social context of our lived experience and learn to look beyond a narrow focus on the individual in any life situation. This attention to context will allow you to make more informed decisions. Studying sociology equips students with analytical, decision making and research skills necessary for many vocations. This course will allow you to be innovative, ask awkward questions, and develop good group working skills. It is this combination that makes sociology graduates employable. It is an education for a thoughtful and useful life.

### **Course Aims**

- To develop students' knowledge, critical understanding and skills in psychology and sociology
- To cultivate a questioning and critical approach to the understanding of human behaviour and society
- To encourage cognitive development and autonomous learning
- To develop subject specific, cognitive and key transferable skills of value in employment, further study and personal development
- To provide opportunities that facilitate widening participation by local/non-standard entrants to study psychology and sociology

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).<sup>6</sup>

### **Knowledge and understanding**

1. Demonstrate a depth of knowledge and critical understanding of a range of approaches, theories, concepts, research findings and applications in the relevant field of study

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<sup>6</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

2. Understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline
3. Recognise the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning
4. Demonstrate a good knowledge and critical understanding of a range of influences on psychological functioning, and how they are conceptualised across biological, cognitive, developmental, and social psychology and individual differences
5. Demonstrate knowledge of a range of research paradigms, research methods and measurement techniques, including statistical analysis
6. Examine a range of processes that underpin social change
7. Give a thorough account of the impact of social diversity and inequality

**Intellectual skills**

8. Show good critical thinking skills and a notable ability to critically evaluate and interpret a range of information, theories and evidence
9. Demonstrate an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
10. Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence
11. Adopt multiple perspectives
12. Detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and experience
13. Pose and operationalise research questions
14. Evaluate the distinctiveness of sociological arguments and perspectives
15. Use, develop and evaluate sociological arguments and evidence in a range of social contexts

**Practical skills**

16. Manage their own learning effectively, and recognise, find and make good use of academic literature
17. Undertake and critically evaluate a research project
18. Demonstrate competence in research skills through practical activities
19. Initiate, design, conduct and report an empirically-based research project under appropriate supervision
20. Exhibit awareness of ethical principles and approval procedures and demonstrate these
21. Develop sociologically informed questions
22. Summarise and explain the findings of empirical sociological research

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

23. Examine and use a range of research strategies and methods and assess the appropriateness of their use

### Key skills

24. Communicate relevant subject knowledge and evidence accurately and reliably with structured and coherent arguments

25. Show development of key transferable skills

26. Clearly communicate ideas and research findings by written, oral and visual means

27. Interpret and use numerical, statistical and other forms of data

### Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark and Professional Standards

QAA Benchmark:

- Sociology (2007)

Professional Standards:

- British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the Society (GBC)

### Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type <sup>7</sup>
Level 4			
	Social Science Research Skills	20	M
	Foundations of Social and Developmental Psychology	20	M
	Foundations of Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	M
	Introduction to Sociology	20	M
	Social Change	20	R
	Media, Crime and Deviance	20	O
	Introduction to Criminology	20	O
	Introduction to Youth Studies	20	O
	Migration and Ethnicity	20	O

<sup>7</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Level 5			
	Questionnaire Design and Analysis	10	M
	Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
	Experimental Design and Analysis	10	M
	Advanced Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
	Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	M
	Social and Developmental Psychology	20	M
	Social Theory	20	M
	Sociology of Health & Illness	20	O
	Work and Employment*	20	O
	Globalization*	20	O
	Political Sociology*	20	O
Level 6			
	Level 6 Psychology Project	40	M
	Abnormal Psychology	20	M
	Individual Differences	20	M
	Technology and Material Civilization	20	O
	Gender and Sexuality	20	O
	Sociology of Mental Illness*	20	O
	Sociology of Law*	20	O

\*modules will be offered subject to the availability of specialist staff.

**Awards**

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Psychology and Sociology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5.

**Course Delivery**

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology course are likely to have approximately 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) contact hours for level 4, 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) contact hours for level 5 and 8.5 hours per week (204 hours per year) contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, tutorials and workshops. Students will normally be expected to undertake 38 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

**Course Assessment**

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals, on-line tests and research projects) and up to 5 examinations

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

### Course Costs

*Figures for tuition fees and the government maintenance loan for 2018 entry have not been confirmed by Government.*

*Tuition fees for students undertaking BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology in 2017-18 were:*

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£10,080 per year
Part-time International	£1,680 per 20 credit module

*The University of Suffolk will be setting tuition fees for 2018-19 to be in line with the cap set by Government for universities participating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). We expect tuition fees to rise with the Government-agreed inflation increase, to be confirmed in autumn 2017, and will update the Definitive Course Record once this information becomes available.*

*The tuition fee that new students pay in 2018-19 will be fixed for the duration of the course and will not be subject to any further increases.*

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for essential reading materials amounting to approximately £240 per year.

### Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).