

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Sociology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Sociology
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Sociology
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) GCSE Maths and English at grade C or above (or equivalent)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L301

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

Course Summary

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.

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

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

³ 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](#).

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

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

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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 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 sociology

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) 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).⁶

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
2. Examine a range of processes that underpin social change
3. Give a thorough account of the impact of social diversity and inequality

Intellectual skills

4. Show good critical thinking skills and a notable ability to critically evaluate and interpret a range of information, theories and evidence
5. Demonstrate an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
6. Evaluate the distinctiveness of sociological arguments and perspectives

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

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7. Use, develop and evaluate sociological arguments and evidence in a range of social contexts

Practical skills

8. Manage their own learning effectively, and recognise, find and make good use of academic literature
9. Undertake and critically evaluate a research project
10. Develop sociologically informed questions
11. Summarise and explain the findings of empirical sociological research
12. Examine and use a range of research strategies and methods and assess the appropriateness of their use

Key skills

13. Communicate relevant subject knowledge and evidence accurately and reliably with structured and coherent arguments
14. Show development of key transferable skills

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark:

- Sociology (2007)

Course Structure

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

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Social Science Research Skills	20	M
	Introduction to Sociology	20	M
	Social Change	20	R
	Migration and Ethnicity	20	R
	Plus two from:		
	Politics, Crime and Policy	20	O
	Media, Crime and Deviance	20	O

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

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	Foundations of Social and Developmental Psychology	20	O
	Introduction to Criminology	20	O
Level 5			
	Questionnaire Design and Analysis	10	M
	Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
	Secondary Data Research	10	M
	Advanced Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
	Social Theory	20	M
Plus three from:			
	Sociology of Health & Illness	20	O
	The World of Work*	20	O
	Globalization*	20	O
	Political Sociology*	20	O
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M
Plus two or three from:			
	Technology and Material Civilization	20	O
	Gender and Sexuality	20	O
	Mental Health Policy and Practice*	20	O
Plus one or two from:			
	Victimology	20	O
	Sociology of Law*	20	O
	Drugs, Crime and Society	20	O
	Comparative Youth Studies	20	O
	Youth and Film*	20	O
	Youth and Sexuality*	20	O
	Human Rights*	20	O

*subject to the availability of specialist staff otherwise modules will be offered on an annual basis

Awards

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

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Sociology 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 mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) with an examination at level 5 and up to two at level 4.

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

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Sociology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

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	£11,500 per year
Part-time International	£1,915 per 20 credit module

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](#).