Keele Sociology

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Keele University
Sociology @ Keele

- Single Honours, Dual Honours (combine Sociology with a variety of other subjects), Major and Minor programme.
- Research active staff in a variety of fields - teaching is based on research expertise.
- Core modules in traditional and contemporary issues in Sociology.
  - Interesting and diverse electives, including a dissertation (independent study).
What is Sociology?

• Sociology enables us to understand and address important personal, local, national and global concerns.
  – E.g., class conflict, youth, body image, ethnic conflict and terrorism.

• Sociology enables us to explore beliefs, values and social structures.

• Sociology enables us to observe the social world, develop theories and apply them to create a better society.
The Sociological Imagination

• Centrally, sociology enables us to understand private individual issues in terms of a wider social context – it enables us to think about situations in terms of social relations.

• This is very important if we want to analyse a problem objectively and think about it in terms which exceed our immediate personal reaction.
Why Study Sociology?

• Sociology is a critical discipline that encourages us to question the state of the world: **Sociology is a way of thinking.**

• Sociology is a practical discipline that involves the production of policy to improve social life: **Sociology is a way of doing.**

• Sociology encourages independence of thought and provides transferable skills central to the contemporary workplace (i.e. research, analysis, IT, group work, presentation, oral and written communication).
Innovation and Activity

• Our approach to Sociology is based in a belief in the importance of innovation, activity and critical thinking.

• This means that we expose our students to cutting edge theory and debate and advance an active, problem-based, critical approach to teaching and learning.

• Staff in sociology are regularly nominated by students for Keele Excellence Award in Teaching and Learning.
Why Study Sociology@Keele?

• In the last National Student Survey for Sociology at Keele our own students were 98% satisfied with their experience.

• Keele Sociology was ranked No. 1 out of 93 HE institutions offering sociology in the UK.

• Keele Sociology has been placed amongst the world's elite institutions featured in this year's QS World University Rankings by Subject at www.topuniversities.com.
Skills and Knowledge

Our students leave Keele with:

– A Sociological imagination
– Creative problem solving skills
– Critical thinking skills
– Mobility of thought
– Cultural awareness
– Awareness of social issues and problems
Dual Honours Combinations

Sociology can be combined with a variety of disciplines but the most common are:

- Criminology
- Law
- Politics
- Media Comms Culture
- Geography
- Education
- English
- Psychology
- Economics
Keele Sociology is staffed by internationally recognised experts in the fields of:

– Globalisation
– Cultural Studies
– Urban Studies
– Media Representation
– Anthropology
– Utopias
– Social Theory
– Medical Sociology
– Families
– Migration
– Consumerism
Structure of the Course

Year 1 *Single Honours* Structure:

- 1 core module each semester; 3 elective modules, from sociology pool plus ‘free standing’ choices
- Each module = 150 study hours over 15 weeks (inc assessment period)
  - 12 hours lectures; 12 hours tutorials
  - tutorial & assessment preparation
    - 10 hours per week on each module
Core Modules in Single Honours

Year 1:
- Social Inequalities in the Modern World
- Classical Sociology
- Plus modules from a range of Sociology & free standing electives
- Eight modules in total

Year 2:
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Research Methods
- Plus modules from a range of Sociology & free standing electives.
- Eight modules in total
Elective Modules

• Globalisation
• Medical Sociology
• Gender
• The Body
• Witchcraft
• Social Policy
• Race and Ethnicity
• Family Studies
• Information Society
• Conspiracy Theory
• Utopias and Dystopias
• Urban Sociology
• Global Religions
• Consumption
Study Abroad

• You have the opportunity to study abroad at one of our 49 partner Universities:
  – America
  – Canada
  – Australia
  – South Africa
  – Various European destinations
Year 3

- For **Dual Honours** students there are no *compulsory* core modules.
- You can choose to do a dissertation.
- Here, you will have one-to-one supervision from an expert in your chosen field.
- Or you can elect to take a combination of modules on specific topics.

- For **Single Honours** Students the Dissertation is compulsory.
- A dissertation is a ‘double module’ – taken over two semesters.
- Single Honours students take 17 modules in Sociology over their three years of study.
Teaching and Learning

• Modules are delivered through a variety of methods:
  – Formal lectures
  – Seminars
  – Tutorials
  – Web based exercises
  – Independent study
  – Individual and group supervision
Methods of Assessment

– Essays
– Portfolios
– Posters
– Projects
– Exams
– Blogs
– Presentations
– Dissertation (3rd year)
Personal Tutors

• All undergraduate students have a personal tutor.
• Your personal tutor will assist you in making decisions about your programme of study and provide ongoing academic and pastoral support throughout your time at Keele.
What Next?

Keele Sociology Graduates...

Sociology involves the study of people and Society therefore many graduates go on to target people focused careers in a range of areas such as:

• social and welfare professions (e.g. charities, social worker, counsellor, community development officer)
• Local and national government
• The health service
• Teaching
• The cultural and media industries,
• Management and market research
• Legal and criminal justice work (e.g. probation service)
Postgraduate Study

• Masters in Research (MRes), which provides training in research skills and offers modules on subjects specific to Sociology.

• MA in Global Media and Culture.

• MPhil and PhD programmes in Sociology.
Our Ratings

• Sociology at Keele is rated in the top 15 Sociology Departments in the UK. This statistic includes ratings of both teaching and research quality.
  – 98% of Keele Sociology students are satisfied with the quality of the programme. This is the highest level of student satisfaction of competitor group.
  – Keele Sociology finished no 1 from 93 institutions delivering sociology programmes in 2013-14. (from NSS data)
  – 95% of Sociology students are employed within six months of completing the programme. This is the highest percentage of employment after six months of competitor group. (unistats.direct.gov.uk)
What Our Students Say...

• “Our lecturers’ approach to teaching their individual modules was full of enthusiasm and encouragement across all 3 years”.
• “All the lecturers are amazing at what they do and it’s good to learn from their specialised subjects”.
• “The sociology staff at Keele are amazing, they are very interested in their students and are always available for feedback, support, advice, etc. I love the small class sizes because you have one-to-one feedback”.
• “Module tutors are always approachable for feedback as well as supportive if you need help”.
• “I used to be a bit rubbish at essay writing – ...since taking sociology they have helped me to develop my skills and get the best marks possible”.
OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

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