Keele Sociology – Visit Day
School of Sociology & Criminology
Keele University
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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).
Why Study Sociology@Keele?

• Sociology staff at Keele are committed to delivering high quality teaching based on cutting edge knowledge and research.
• We use a range of assessments.
• We are open and accessible and willing to help and support students succeed.

Why Study Sociology@Keele?

• In the last National Student Survey for 2013/4 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.
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 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.
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 - Education
– Law - English
– Politics - Psychology
– MCC - Economics
– Geography
Keele Sociology

- Keele Sociology is staffed by internationally recognised experts in the fields of:
  - Globalisation - Cultural Studies
  - Media Representation - Urban Studies
  - Anthropology - Consumerism
  - Utopias - Social Theory
  - Medical Sociology - Families

Structure of the Course

Level 1 Dual Honours Structure:
- 1 core module each semester
- Each module = 150 study hours over 11 weeks
  - 11 hours lectures
  - 11 hours tutorials
  - 64 hours tutorial preparation
  - 64 hours assessment preparation
  - Approximately 13 ½ hours per week on each module
Core Modules in Dual Honours

Year one
- Social Inequalities in the Modern World
- Classical Sociology
- 8 modules in total

Year two
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Research Methods
- 8 modules in total

Core Modules in Single Honours

Level 1:
- Social Inequalities in the Modern World
- Classical Sociology
- Plus two modules from a range of Sociology options
- In total you take eight modules, including a choice of a wide range of electives

Level 2:
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Research Methods
- Plus two modules from a range of Sociology options, including Globalisation, Urbanism, Witchcraft, Health, and the Family.
- Eight modules in total
Study Abroad

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

Level 3, Dual Honours

• 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.
Level 3, Single Honours

- 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.

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
Teaching and Learning

- Modules are delivered through a variety of methods:
  - Formal lectures
  - Seminars
  - Tutorials
  - Workshops
  - Web based exercises
  - Independent study
  - Individual and group supervision

Methods of Assessment

- Essays
- Portfolios
- Posters
- Projects
- Exams
- Blog exercises
- 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 pastoral support and advice throughout your time at Keele.

Welcome Week

- We organise a range of ‘fun’ activities to get you settled in to Sociology@Keele
- You will meet your personal tutor during the first few days at Keele.
- A Buffet Lunch – meet with staff and fellow Sociology students and Staff.
- Welcome and introduction talk – meet the Staff!
- An informal Ice Breaker Session
Workshop – Being Sociological

- We organise a fun workshop where we ask you to work in small groups, exploring the campus with a ‘Sociological Imagination’.
- We ask you to collect and present your ‘findings’ via smart phone and digital app technology with a ‘Prize’ for the best.

What Next?
Keele Sociology Graduates...

- Local government
  - Health service
  - National government
  - Management
  - Cultural & media industries
  - Legal & criminal justice work, e.g., probation service
- Teaching and post-graduate
- Charitable organisations / development work
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.
- MA in Global Sociology (in development)

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 in employed within six months of completing the programme. This is the highest percentage of employment after six months of competitor group. (drawn from Unistats at 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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