

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

Academic Year 2021/22

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA or BSc (Hons) Sociology BA or BSc (Hons) Sociology with International Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Combined Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with the International Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2021/22 is £9,250*</p> <p>International/EU students:</p> <p>Fee for 2021/22 is £15,500**</p> <p>or £16,000** (if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is a Combined Honours programme?

NB: Students who study their two Principal subjects in humanities and/or social science subjects will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) (BA Hons). All students who study a science Principal subject are candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science (with Honours) (BSc Hons) irrespective of their second Principal subject.

Combined Honours degrees are degrees that are taken in two different subjects, resulting in an X and Y degree title. If you are taking a

Combined Honours programme, these will be the two subjects you applied for. These are referred to as your Principal Subjects.

In a Combined Honours degree you must take at least 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), accrued over all three levels of study, with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). The remaining available credits can be filled with modules from these subjects or other subjects entirely.

As a Combined Honours student you can choose to study just one subject in your final year of study, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject. This will result in an X with Y degree title.

3. Overview of the Programme

The central philosophy of the Sociology programme revolves around the importance of active learning. Given that Sociology is a discipline that requires students to think about the society they inhabit and the human relations they experience every day, we believe that it is important that students learn to think about scholarly material in relation to the everyday world so that they can better understand their own social situation. This philosophical approach is embedded in the programme in the form of a range of formative and summative assessments, which are designed to help students develop problem-solving skills. Beyond the programme's assessment regime, the teaching group seeks to encourage active learning and enable student choice by balancing students' study of the sociological canon with the provision of a range of elective modules offered by research-active staff. Internal to this progression from compulsory to elective content, the programme also includes a shift from a teaching-based to research-led approach to learning, which sees students become independent learners. In this respect, the programme has been designed to guide students from a teaching-based format in Year 1, where they are introduced to core materials and study skills, through to a research-based approach in Year 3, where they are encouraged to develop taught content through wide-ranging independent study.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Think critically about the social world and develop social explanations of a wide range of phenomena
- Communicate sociological explanations to diverse audiences through both written and oral presentations
- Employ advanced analytical skills in the understanding and application of sociological evidence and theory
- Develop further analytical, learning, and social skills that may be employed in a variety of different real world contexts

5. What you will learn

Successful students who complete a programme in Sociology as a Combined Honours degree will be able to:

- Employ a sociological imagination to explain private events in terms of public situations and develop sociological accounts of everyday life.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sociological thought and social theory and use this to analyse substantive social problems.
- Explain the relationship between research strategies and sociological problems and use this ability to make judgements about the relevance of different research strategies to particular sociological problems.
- Evaluate sociological ideas in the context of real-life ethical, social, political and policy issues.
- Report, interpret, and analyse raw data (both sociological, common-sense and media) in a variety of sociological contexts.
- Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written form.

In their focus upon theory and methods, the outcomes of the Sociology Programme are in line with the Sociology Subject Benchmark Statement of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. The programme is taught by lectures, seminars, workshops, independent study, supervision, and supported by the KLE (Keele Virtual Learning Environment). These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways.

Lecture and teaching methods include the following:

- **Lectures** enable the communication of core materials on modules and are central to the teaching of modules at years 1, 2, and 3.
- **Seminars** accompany lectures on modules in years 1, 2 and 3. They provide students with the opportunity to discuss lecture content and key readings with a tutor. Seminars can include activities such as close readings, open discussions, and student-led debates, moderated by the tutor. These activities take place in groups of approximately 15-20 students with one tutor.
- **Workshops** enable the simultaneous communication and discussion of module material. These take the form of two hour classes of around 30 students.
- **Independent study** forms a core component at every level of the programme. Students are expected to become increasingly independent over the course of the programme.
- **Supervision** accompanies independent study in order to provide students with a point of contact in the programme teaching group. Supervision takes the form of one-to-one student-tutor discussion in office hours at all levels of the programme and support by a member of staff for students who choose to take the dissertation module in Sociology in year three.
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE): the KLE is an online learning environment used to give students easy access to a wide range of resources including interactive reading lists, lecture notes, assessment questions and guidance, and other resources.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

7. Teaching Staff

The permanent teaching staff of the Sociology Programme consists of a Professor, number of Senior Lecturers and Lecturers. All current members of staff have doctorates in Sociology or closely related disciplines, such as Anthropology. Moreover, six of the group have professionally accredited teaching qualifications. All members of the teaching staff are research active members of the Centre for Social Policy in the Social Science Research Institute and publish books and articles on international presses and in international journals. The teaching group also has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level at universities in the UK, Europe, the United States, Canada, West Africa, and Japan.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are three types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Elective modules - a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year across both of your Principal Subjects. This document has information about *Sociology* modules only; please also see the document for your other subject.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, including the list of elective modules, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 4	30	15	30	0	30
Level 5	30	15	45	0	30
Level 6	0	45	75	0	30

In year 3 there is the option to choose to specialise in one of your subjects, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject rather than taking modules from both subjects.

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Social inequalities in the contemporary world	SOC-10009	15	Semester 1
Classical Sociology	SOC-10014	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Anthropological Imagination	SOC-10019	15	Semester 1
Investigating Social Issues	SOC-10021	15	Semester 2

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Contemporary Social Theory	SOC-20049	15	Semester 1
Research Methods	SOC-20046	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Cultures of Consumption	SOC-20036	15	Semester 1
Globalisation and its Discontents	SOC-20043	15	Semester 1
Crime, Morality and Media	SOC 20034	15	Semester 1-2
Food, Culture and Society	SOc 20037	15	Semester 1-2
Race, racism, resistance	SOC 20051	15	Semester 1-2
Witchcraft, Zombies and Social Anxiety	SOC-20033	15	Semester 1-2
Cultures of Consumption	SOC-20036	15	Semester 1-2
Families and Households: Diversity and Change	SOC-20041	15	Semester 1-2
Social Movements	SOC-20056	15	Semester 1-2
Producing Sociological Knowledge	SOC-20060	15	Semester 1-2
Sociology Work Placement	SOC-20061	15	Semester 1-2
Producing Sociological Knowledge	SOC-20060	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

If students choose SOC-20046 Research Methods, they should be barred from taking EDU-20020 and CRI-20020. This is to ensure that students take only one research methods module.

Level 6

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Gender and Consumption	SOC-30029	15	Semester 1
The Ecological Imagination: Environment and Society	SOC-30043	15	Semester 1
Dreamworld and Catastrophe	SOC 30035	15	Semester 1-2
Moving people. Migration, emotion, identity	SOC 30042	15	Semester 1-2
Dissertation - ISP	SOC-30028	30	Semester 1-2
Gender and Consumption	SOC-30029	15	Semester 1-2
Sociology of Parenting and Early Childhood	SOC-30030	15	Semester 1-2
The Virtual Revolution: New Technologies, Culture and Society	SOC-30031	15	Semester 1-2
Home: belonging, locality and material culture	SOC-30032	15	Semester 1-2
Celebrity	SOC-30033	15	Semester 1-2
Sex, Death, Desire: Psychoanalysis in Social Context	SOC-30034	15	Semester 1-2
The Virtual Revolution: New Technologies, Culture and Society	SOC-30031	15	Semester 2
Home: belonging, locality and material culture	SOC-30032	15	Semester 2

If you choose to specialise in this subject in your final year you will study the following modules:

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dissertation - ISP	SOC-30028	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Streets, Skyscrapers, and Slums: The City in Social, Cultural, and Historical Context	SOC-30025	15	Semester 1
Gender and Consumption	SOC-30029	15	Semester 1
The Ecological Imagination: Environment and Society	SOC-30043	15	Semester 1
Dreamworld and Catastrophe	SOC 30035	15	Semester 1-2
Gender and Consumption	SOC-30029	15	Semester 1-2
Sociology of Parenting and Early Childhood	SOC-30030	15	Semester 1-2
The Virtual Revolution: New Technologies, Culture and Society	SOC-30031	15	Semester 1-2
Home: belonging, locality and material culture	SOC-30032	15	Semester 1-2
Celebrity	SOC-30033	15	Semester 1-2
Sex, Death, Desire: Psychoanalysis in Social Context	SOC-30034	15	Semester 1-2
The Virtual Revolution: New Technologies, Culture and Society	SOC-30031	15	Semester 2
Home: belonging, locality and material culture	SOC-30032	15	Semester 2
The Ecological Imagination: Environment and Society	SOC-30043	15	Semester 2

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>You must accumulate a minimum of 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). Your degree title will be 'subject X and subject Y'.</p> <p>If you choose to study one Principal subject in your final year of study a minimum of 90 credits in that subject is required. Your degree title will be 'subject X with subject Y'.</p>
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Essays** provide students with the opportunity to formulate arguments and develop ideas using evidence obtained from library research or other valid sources. As such, the essay assessment enables students to develop their research skills, which involve

the ability to sort legitimate from illegitimate source materials, and other academic conventions, such as referencing.

- **Unseen examinations** test students' knowledge of a particular subject, their understanding of ideas and theories, their ability to mobilise theories and concepts beyond the first context, and centrally their ability to formulate a coherent argument in a limited amount time. The Sociology programme employs two hour exams to test students on a variety of modules
- **Reports** enable students to learn how to organise and distil information into a clear and coherent written format and consequently develop their employability skills in this area
- **Reflexive Reports** require students to write a reflexive account of their experience of a module explaining the content of lectures, seminar discussions, and their own personal and academic development. The purpose of this assessment is to encourage students to reflect on their own experiences in order to become more successful learners
- **Book Reviews** test students' ability to summarise the key points of scholarly work and evaluate the arguments of particular authors in light of the sociological tradition
- **The Research Proposal** requires students to develop an independent research project and think through theoretical problems surrounding methodology and practical concerns relating to, for example, availability of sample, financial restrictions, and time limits. Again, this form of assessment is key to the development of independent research skills and a portfolio of employability skills
- **Oral Presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding. They may also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development
- **Posters:** since the presentation of material in essay or report form is not always appropriate, it is important that students have the capacity to make use of visual aids to communicate ideas. The poster format enables students to synthesise visual and written material to analyse a particular area of sociological study
- **The Dissertation** allows students to undertake a significant piece of their own research under supervision by a research-active member of staff and make use of their theoretical and practical learning on the programme to formulate this significant piece of work

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	16%	84%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	14%	86%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	13%	87%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

14. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

15. Additional Costs

Activity	Estimated cost
Field courses - compulsory	£0
Field courses - optional field trip in the local area or to a nearby City	£20
Equipment	£0
Travel - for students taking optional module 'Sociology Work Placement' - travel to and from placements (when required)	£30
Other additional costs	£0
Total estimated additional costs	£50

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

16. Annex - International Year

Combined Honours Sociology with International Year

Please note: in order to be eligible to take the International Year option your other subject must also offer this option. Please refer to the information published in the course document for your other subject.

International Year Programme

Students registered for this Combined Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Combined Honours programme in both their principal subjects, providing that they meet the progression criteria outlined in this document. Students accepted onto the International Year programme will have an extra year of study at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the Combined Honours programme without the International Year and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 54% across all Level 5 modules with no module fails. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
5. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
6. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting

Please note that students on Combined Honours programmes with International Year must meet the subject-specific learning outcomes for BOTH their principal subjects.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Course Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Version History

This document

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Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2020/21	JANE PARISH	19 December 2019	
1	2019/20	JANE PARISH	19 December 2019	