

# Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught For Academic Year 2026/27

## 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	MSc Social Research
<b>Award type</b>	Taught Masters
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time Modular Part-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 7
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time Modular degree (maximum period of 5 years, including any periods of leave of absence and reassessments)
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p><b>UK students:</b></p> <p>Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £9,400</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2026/27 is £5,200*</p> <p><b>International students:</b></p> <p>Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £17,100</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.

\* 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. Overview of the Programme

The MSc Social Research offers specialist research training in the social sciences through conversation with each student's subject-specific interests, both theoretical and methodological. Apart from offering cutting edge Masters-level methods training in the social science, the MSc is recognised as fulfilling the requirements of the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) postgraduate social science research training and development guidelines (ESRC, 2015) and as the first year of 1+3 awards made by the ESRC North-West Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership to students registered at Keele University.

The overarching educational aim of the programme is to provide you with systematic interdisciplinary research and researcher training. The modules making up the programme map onto the profile of the effective researcher developed by Vitae through its Researcher Development Framework. The framework brings researcher

development together in the four domains of Knowledge and Intellectual Abilities; Personal Effectiveness; Research Governance and Organisation; and Engagement, Influence and Impact. Training delivered at Masters level (level 7) focuses especially on the first two domains by developing the early researcher's knowledge base whilst stimulating their personal effectiveness. This is, however, embedded in an acknowledgement that social research takes place in social environments, and the programme also develops the skills of communication, collaboration, ethical, and professional conduct.

The programme is distinctive in its focus on research methodology and methods of the social sciences and their application in a range of fields. It follows principles set out by the ESRC in its Guidelines on post-graduate research training and development, and to the guidance specifying research training content. You will receive comprehensive research training, with equal attention given to the principles and practices of social research. Thus, the programme offers you the opportunity to engage with the problematic of social research at a theoretical level, but places equal emphasis on the development of the practical skills base characteristic of the effective social science researcher. In this regard, the programme illustrates how theory and practice always converge in the pursuit of social research.

As well as developing your methodological knowledge and your repertoire of research methods and skills, the programme encourages you to bring your subject-specific interests actively into your work. This is achieved through the dissertation. In addition, modular assessment provides opportunities for incorporating subject-specific content. After all, social research is also and always embedded in the specific disciplines and subject-specific interests that together form the focus of the social sciences. The programme thus offers insight into the generic principles and practices in research in the social sciences, but also allows you to think about the specific theoretical and methodological issues that are debated and applied in your disciplinary or interdisciplinary field and the themes and topics that comprise it.

The modules that make up the programme are delivered by research specialists from Keele. They bring their research expertise into the programme in engaging ways, offering a rich environment for you to develop your own knowledge, both methodological and subject-specific, and competencies.

### **3. Aims of the programme**

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

- Develop Advanced Research Skills and will equip you with the methodological expertise and analytical skills to conduct rigorous and innovative social research.
- Enhance Theoretical Knowledge and deepen your understanding of key sociological and social science theories, paradigms, and their application in addressing complex societal issues.
- Promote Ethical Research Practices and foster your critical awareness of ethical considerations and responsibilities in conducting and disseminating social research.
- Encourage Interdisciplinary Approaches and enable you to integrate perspectives from various social sciences to address multidimensional problems.
- Prepare for Professional and Academic Careers and build the competencies necessary for pursuing careers in research, policy-making, consultancy, or further academic study (e.g., PhD research).
- Strengthen Engagement with Contemporary Issues: Provide tools to critically examine and respond to contemporary social, economic, and political challenges.

### **4. What you will learn**

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

#### **Subject knowledge and understanding**

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Identify appropriate evidence and to evaluate critically current research and scholarship in the social sciences to an advanced level.
- Demonstrate systematic understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of approaches at the forefront of researching the social world and the principles of research methodologies and practices in the social sciences, and to apply these effectively in your own work.
- Critically distinguish between different research designs and understand the conditions that make specific research designs appropriate in research in the social sciences.

## Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Systematically appraise theoretical and practical knowledge of quantitative research design, sampling, operationalization, instrument design, and data handling and analysis, including digital methods and analysis.
- Appraise systematically theoretical and practical knowledge of qualitative research designs, the identification of and access to samples, fieldwork practices and conduct, and data management, handling and analysis.
- Fully comprehend theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches, including the way in which they have formed distinctive research traditions and are applied at the forefront of different subjects or disciplinary fields, including your own, and to apply this knowledge in a discriminating manner in your own work.
- Critically engage with the relationships between knowledge, politics and power in the world, including the socially embedded qualities of research practices, ethics and safety.
- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the context-specific complexities of ethical issues in social science research and of the institutional frameworks that guide ethical research conduct, and to apply the principles and understanding appropriately in your own research practices.

## Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Appraise your own abilities and working style reflectively, and identify areas for personal development in order to enhance your personal effectiveness as a social researcher, and with specific reference to the Keele priorities of leadership, change making, and internationalisation.
- Identify relevant software and IT tools in your field of practice and to learn to work with these effectively.
- Communicate appropriately through use of higher-level writing skills, to diverse audiences and with the use of appropriate academic referencing.
- Design your own research project, to conduct the associated research in accordance with appropriate ethical standards, analyse the results and provide a written account of the study at an advanced level of analytical engagement.

Through the modules making up the programme you will develop a range of transferable skills that may be employed in a diverse set of contemporary professions. It is especially suitable for those wishing to work in various professional fields in the public, private or third sectors in which social science research and social problem solving are salient components. Through its engagement with the Vitae Researcher Development Framework and the ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines, the programme provides suitable training for those intending to conduct doctoral research in the social sciences. The programme equips you for future research employment and more advanced research training through engagement in discussion, reflection, and independent learning of debate and practice that focuses on cutting edge theoretical and epistemological questions intrinsic to the approaches social scientists adopt to study the social world. Social science research is a dynamic field of practice and debate, characterised by consolidation and innovation as research problems evolve in an ever-changing world. This Masters in Social Research meets the challenges of an uncertain future by stimulating adaptability and initiative, and innovative and creative capacity. It does this through its provision of independent and guided learning opportunities related to the theoretical tools and practical skills necessary for designing, conducting, analysing and disseminating social research in a range of different social settings.

## Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

## 5. 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 MSc Social Research combines different teaching modes. Taught modules are delivered through sessions led

by a range of academics from different disciplinary backgrounds; all of whom are specialists in particular approaches to theory and research in the social sciences. You will meet a range of academic tutors on each module, with the module leaders responsible for ensuring an appropriate range of contributions from methods specialists and, where appropriate, Honorary and associate staff and guest speakers with links to research in policy and professional fields. Staff teaching on the MSc are members of Research Centres within the Social Sciences <https://www.keele.ac.uk/humssr/research>. Their individual profiles can be found on the School web pages.

Modules are delivered via weekly workshops, incorporating a variety of learning and teaching methods, including:

- Lectures,
- Small group tutorials,
- Supervision, and
- Individual and Group presentations

You will also be introduced to different types of digital data analysis software in an IT lab environment. Progress on the dissertation is aided by one-to-one supervision. Learning and teaching on the programme is supported by the University's online learning environment (KLE) and/or Microsoft Teams. The combination of different delivery modes equips you for the next phase of your research or professional career development by providing experience of multi-method and multidisciplinary approaches. The learning experience on the MSc is enhanced by the mix of Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research students attending its various modules.

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.

## 6. Teaching Staff

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.

## 7. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to September and is divided into three semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, 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.

The modules that make up the MSc in Social Research are all compulsory, but optionality is built into the programme through students choice of their special research topic, which they follow through the modules and develop in their dissertation.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	180	0	0

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## Module Lists

### Level 7

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy	SOC-40018	30	Semester 1
Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics	SOC-40024	30	Semester 1
Dissertation	GRT-40017	60	Semester 1-3
Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science	SOC-40020	30	Semester 2
Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research	SOC-40026	30	Semester 2

For **part-time** students, the programme is spread over 24 months - see table below.

Preparation for the dissertation will begin in your first year of study and continue over the final 12 months, leading to the submission of the work by the middle of September of the second year of the programme.

The organisation of the part-time mode of study on the MSc Social Research:

<b>Year One [60 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	
SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy	SOC-40020: Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science	
<b>Year Two [120 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>
SOC-40024: Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics	SOC-40026: Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research	
GRT-40017: Dissertation [60 credits]		

## **Modular mode of study**

Students studying **via the modular route** can accumulate their degree credits over a period of maximum 5 years (including the dissertation, any re-assessments and periods of leave of absence). The modular route is based on a rolling programme of modules. The number of modules taken each year will depend on candidates' individual needs and capabilities. It is however important to consider that in some years students will need to take more than one module to allow accumulation of all 180 taught credits within 5 years. It may also be advisable to reserve one full year for the dissertation module. A sample model for the modular route to MSc in Social Research is suggested below, including the maximum period of 5 years (students can however complete the course earlier, by choosing more modules in a given year).

<b>Year One [30 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>
SOC-40018: Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy		
<b>Year Two [30 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>
	SOC-40020: Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science	
<b>Year Three [60 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>
SOC-40024: Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics		
<b>Year Four [120 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>
	SOC-40026: Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research	
<b>Year Five [60 credits]</b>		
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>
GRT-40017: Dissertation [60 credits]		

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## Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

### **Level 7**

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Identify appropriate evidence and evaluate critically current research and scholarship in the social sciences to an advanced level.	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science - SOC-40020 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research Dissertation in Social Research
Demonstrate systematic understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of approaches at the forefront of researching the social world and the principles of research methodologies and practices in the social sciences, and apply these effectively in your own work.	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research Dissertation in Social Research
Critically distinguish between different research designs and understand the conditions that make specific research designs appropriate in research in the social sciences.	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science - SOC-40020 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research Dissertation in Social Research

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Systematically appraise theoretical and practical knowledge of quantitative research design, sampling, operationalisation, instrument design, and data handling and analysis.	Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science - SOC-40020 Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research - SOC-40026 Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research Dissertation in Social Research
Fully comprehend theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches; those that form the traditions of your subject-specific or disciplinary field and those which are at, or informed by, the forefront of that field, and to apply this knowledge with discrimination in your own work.	Dissertation - GRT-40017 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy Dissertation in Social Research
Critically engage with the relationships between knowledge, politics and power in the world, including the socially embedded qualities of research practices, ethics and safety.	Dissertation - GRT-40017 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics Dissertation in Social Research
Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the context-specific complexities of ethical issues in social science research and of the institutional frameworks that guide ethical research conduct, and to apply the principles and understanding appropriately in your own research practices.	Dissertation - GRT-40017 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics Dissertation in Social Research

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Develop research competencies and behaviours necessary to deliver advanced research and be able to critically reflect upon these to inform future decision-making.	Dissertation - GRT-40017 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics Dissertation in Social Research
Appraise your own abilities and working style reflectively and identify areas for personal development in order to enhance your personal effectiveness as a social researcher, and with specific reference to the Keele priorities of leadership and internationalisation.	Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics
Identify relevant software and IT tools in your field of practice and to learn to work with these effectively.	Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science - SOC-40020 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research
Communicate appropriately through the use of higher-level writing skills, to diverse audiences and with the use of appropriate academic referencing.	Dissertation - GRT-40017 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science - SOC-40020 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Theory and Methods in Digital Social Research - SOC-40026 All modules
Design your own research project, to conduct the associated research in accordance with appropriate ethical standards, analyse the results and provide a written account of the study at an advanced level of analytical engagement.	Dissertation - GRT-40017 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy - SOC-40018 Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics - SOC-40024 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics Dissertation in Social Research

## 8. Final and intermediate awards

<b>Master's Degree</b> <b>MSc Social Research</b>	180 credits	You will require at least 180 credits at Level 7
<b>Postgraduate Diploma</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at Level 7
<b>Postgraduate Certificate</b>	60 credits	You will require at least 60 credits at Level 7

## 9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The programme is assessed through a broad range of methods of assessment, including: portfolio, essay, research proposal, report, and dissertation. These enable assessment of analytical abilities, and evaluation of particular debates, material and evidence. The research proposal, the report, and the dissertation facilitate assessment of your ability to select, apply and evaluate appropriate research methodologies in their chosen field of studies.

**The portfolio:** the portfolio requires you to develop a personal development plan, in which you illustrate understanding of the assessment of your own skills base in relation to the skills of an effective social science researcher. The portfolio then brings together your self-analysis with a personal development plan and evidence of your skills development.

**The essay:** essays provide you with the opportunity to formulate arguments and develop ideas using evidence from library research or other valid sources. As such, the essay assessment enables you to develop your research skills and attune you to the conventions of academic writing, such as referencing. On this programme, essays are used as a means for you to illustrate your theoretical comprehension.

**The research proposal:** developing a research proposal is a complex but essential skill in social science research. The research proposal brings together the theoretical underpinnings of an intended research project with the projects aims and objectives. This makes it possible to design the intended research. The research proposal is a comprehensive plan of the intended research and its rationale.

**The report:** this is a key component of the assessment on Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science. The report allows you to assess the merits of existing research in the form of academic journal articles, and existing qualitative datasets. It is also an invitation for you to develop your theoretical understanding of debates in qualitative research and to develop reflective writing whilst at the same time providing some additional context for your research.

**The mock research ethics approval:** this is part of the assessment strategy on Building Researcher Capacity: Skills and Ethics and is designed to help you work through the ethical issues of your research project and provide practice for your ethical approval application prior to commencing fieldwork for your independent research project.

**The dissertation:** the dissertation is the final assessment on the programme that brings together your learning through the development and implementation of a significant piece of research, the focus of which is determined by you. This assessment is guided by the supervisor. The outcome is a substantial research report that contains discussion of the rationale and outcomes of the research project.

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.

## 10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## 11. 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/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

## 12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:  
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:  
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

## 13. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

Your primary academic supervisor will be the programme director of the MSc in Social Research, or an appropriate member of the team. The Programme Director will provide academic guidance on the different modules you take. A dissertation supervisor will be allocated at the start of the programme based on your intended primary research topic. Dissertation supervisors may be drawn from social science academics across the Faculty.

Students on the programme are further supported through the Academic Mentoring system. All students will be provided with an Academic Mentor at the start of their studies. There is an expectation that students meet with their Academic Mentor at least five times during the 12 months of the programme (for part-time students, this is spread over 24 months). Students may also contact their Academic Mentor outside of these meetings, when the need arises. The role and functions of the Academic Mentoring system will be discussed during the induction meeting, which takes place at the start of the programme. Support structures for students on this programme are regularly reviewed and where necessary modified to comply with University wide policies on support for PGT students and as these policies develop.

The MSc in Social Research programme is hosted by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and managed by the MSc Programme Director supported by professional service staff in the School. The Programme Director organises the programme, chairs the meetings of the Programme Board and the Student Staff Voice Committee, and ensures liaison between the programme and the School Administration, and between the different modules that form the programme. When you experience personal problems that affect your overall work on the programme, you should consult the Programme Director.

You can contact the MSc Programme Director, professional service colleagues and module tutors by e-mail. Face-to-face contact may be sought with teaching staff working on the programme by visiting them during their office hours, or by emailing for an appointment. Contact information can be found in the welcome information pack and module guides.

Key information and guidance on structure, content and assessment, including the dates of classes and submission dates of your assessments for the period of your chosen studies, is accessed via School and module documentation accessed via the University's online learning environment (KLE) and/or Microsoft Teams. The KLE provides access to module handbooks, lecture notes, power-point presentations, reading lists, tutorial hand-outs, assessment guidance and marking criteria. Study skills resources, Library Information Services and IT services are all accessed via the Keele web pages.

Students for whom English is a second language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice.

## 14. Learning Resources

The programme is delivered through self-study materials, which comprise traditional text-based resources (especially academic books and journal articles) available in the library, either in hard copy or electronically (through e-books and e-journals). In addition, a range of electronic learning resources are available for students to access through each module's KLE page. This includes digitized readings, links to useful websites (such as those of international organizations, government bodies, or useful datasets), links to relevant news articles, and other material. All module KLE pages also include study skills resources, to further enhance the support that students may draw on. These resources include a comprehensive guide to referencing, as well as an online tutorial called Study Write, which provides guidance on a variety of topics such as note-taking, referencing, and avoiding plagiarism. Beyond text-based resources, students will also have access to key software packages - NVivo and SPSS - and hardware based in the Faculty and the Digital Society Institute.

## 15. Other Learning Opportunities

As a student on the MSc Social Research programme you are encouraged to participate in the activities of the various research centres based in the School, with a particular focus on the units most appropriate to your area

of study. The Faculty and School websites provide information on postgraduate research and other activities and initiatives, and runs a number of seminar programmes. Students interested in continuing their studies at Keele by progressing towards Postgraduate Research after their year studying for the MSc are advised to speak with their Academic Mentor, the MSc Programme Director, the School Postgraduate Research Director, or the lead of one of the Social Science Research Centres at their earliest convenience.

## 16. Additional Costs

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.

## 17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

## 18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>
- b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>
- c. Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Vitae is a researcher training initiative funded by the Research Careers and Diversity Unit of Research Councils UK. Information about the Researcher Development Framework, which Keele has also adopted for Level 8 training, may be found at <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/428241/Researcher-Development-Framework.html>
- d. ESRC (2015) Postgraduate Research Training and Development Guidelines. 2nd edition.

## Version History

### This document

**Date Approved:** 10 June 2026

### Previous documents

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Summary of and rationale for changes</b>
1	2025/26	RANJI DEVADASON	17 June 2025	
1	2024/25	SIOBHAN HOLOHAN	11 June 2024	