

# Programme Specification: Undergraduate For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

# 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) BA or BSc (Hons) Sociology with Work Placement 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 either the International Year or Placement 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  | UK students:  Fee for 2023/24 is £9,250*  International students:  Fee for 2023/24 is £17,700**  or £18,800** (if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)  The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee  The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee |

**How this information might change:** Please read the important information at <a href="http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/">http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/</a>. 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.

<sup>\*</sup> 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/

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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

# 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, we believe 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 optional modules offered by research active staff. Internal to this progression from compulsory to optional 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, synthesising 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 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. Microsoft Teams is also used and facilitates online communication.

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

# 7. Teaching Staff

The permanent teaching staff of the Sociology Programme consists of a number of Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers. All current members of staff have doctorates in Sociology or closely related disciplines, such as Anthropology. Around half of the group have professionally accredited teaching qualifications. All members of the teaching staff are research active and members of the research institutes at Keele, including the Keele Institute for Social Inclusion. The Sociology group 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, Canada, 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 are awarded 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;
- Global Challenge Pathways (students studying at Level 6 in 2023/24 may take electives instead) a choice of modules from different subject areas within the University that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

Students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Alternatively, a language module or an additional optional module can be taken instead. Information about Global Challenge Pathways can be found after the module lists for Level 5.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit: <a href="https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/">https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/</a>

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.

| Year    | Compulsors | Option | nal | Electiv | es  |
|---------|------------|--------|-----|---------|-----|
| Teal    | Compulsory | Min    | Max | Min     | Max |
| Level 4 | 30         | 15     | 30  | 0       | 15  |
| Level 5 | 30         | 15     | 30  | 0       | 15  |
| Level 6 | 0          | 45     | 60  | 0       | 15  |

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<br>World | SOC-10009   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Classical Sociology                              | SOC-10014   | 15      | Semester 2 |

| Optional modules                | Module Code | Credits | Period     |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Media, Culture, and Power       | MDS-10023   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Investigating Social Issues     | SOC-10021   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Social and Political Theory     | SOC-10029   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| How To Think                    | PHI-10011   | 15      | Semester 2 |
| The Anthropological Imagination | SOC-10019   | 15      | Semester 2 |

*NB:* Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Information on GCPs is shown under the Level 5 modules below.

## Language modules

Students on this programme will also be able to study language modules offered by the Language Centre, as part of a Global Challenge Pathway. You can enrol on either a Modern Language module [more information available at this <u>link</u>] (Semester 1 only) or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-10053).

If you choose a Modern Language, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the language GCP the following academic year.

#### 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     |
|---|-------------|---------|------------|
| Families and Households: Diversity and Change | SOC-20041   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Globalisation and its Discontents             | SOC-20043   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Cultures of Consumption                       | SOC-20036   | 15      | Semester 2 |
| Producing Sociological Knowledge              | SOC-20060   | 15      | Semester 2 |
| The Magic of Modernity                        | SOC-20067   | 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.

## Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs)

Students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Students at Level 5 will continue the Global Challenge Pathway they started at Level 4.

Global Challenge Pathways offer students the chance to fulfil an exciting, engaging route of interdisciplinary study. Choosing a pathway, students will be presented with a global issue or 'challenge' which directly relates to societal issues, needs and debates. They will be invited to take part in academic and external facing projects which address these issues, within an interdisciplinary community of students and staff. Students completing a Global Challenge Pathway will receive recognition on their degree certificate.

| Digital<br>Futures | The Digital Futures pathway offers you the opportunity to become an active contributor to current debates, cutting-edge research, and projects with external partners, addressing both the exciting potential and the challenges of disruptive digital transformation across all spheres of life.  Part of a diverse and interdisciplinary pathway community, you will engage in exciting, impactful collaborative project work in innovative formats. Engaged in real-world scenarios, you will use digital technology and creativity to promote inclusive, empowering, and sustainable change at local and global levels. |
|--------------------|---|
|                    | Level 4 Module: A digital life: challenges and opportunities (GCP-10005)  Level 5 Module: Digital World - People, Spaces, and Data (GCP-20005)  |

| Climate<br>Change &<br>Sustainability | Through the Climate Change & Sustainability pathway you will develop the skills, understanding and drive to become agents of change to tackle climate change and wider sustainability challenges.  You will work with international partners to explore climate change and sustainability in different international contexts; lead your own projects to drive real change in your communities; and be part of educating others to help achieve a more sustainable future.  Level 4 Module: Climate Change and Sustainable Futures: Global Perspectives (GCP-10009)  Level 5 Module: Climate Change and Sustainability: Action and Activism (GCP-20009)  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Social Justice                        | Students on this pathway will embark on a reflective journey drawing upon decolonising, feminist, and ethical perspectives on social justice, forging transformative outputs as agents of change.  You will enter a dialogue with local, national, and international partners from Universities, NGOs, International Human Rights Committees. You will engage with key societal challenges, for example Covid 19 as a social crisis with impact on gender and racial identities. The pathway will allow you to monitor and critically evaluate policies and human rights treaties, and produce and disseminate digitally fluent, international and sustainable project findings.  Level 4 Module: Reflections on Social Injustices, Past and Present (GCP-10003)  Level 5 Module: Strategic Interventions for Social Justice (GCP-20003) |
| Enterprise & the Future of Work       | If we are to achieve the promise of Sustainable Development Goals, solve the climate crisis and take advantage of the changes that the digital revolution provide, we need to understand the power of enterprise and prepare for future contexts of work, creativity and disruption.  Supporting you to be part of future-facing solutions, this pathway will give you the ability to make judgements on the utilisation of resources, labour and capital. It will support you in developing creative, original thinking, allowing you to collaborate on projects that persuade and effect change, setting you up to thrive in future environments of work and innovation.  Level 4 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work (GCP-10007)  Level 5 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Collaborate to Innovate (GCP-20007)        |
| Global Health<br>Challenges           | By taking the global health challenge pathway you will develop solutions to improve the health and quality of life for particular people and communities, engaging with these groups to codesign interventions.  This pathway will provide you with skills that go beyond a focus on health and will allow you to develop your ability to work in a team and lead change in society. The knowledge, skills and work experience will complement your core degree and enhance your career opportunities and graduate aspirations.  Level 4 Module: Key concepts and challenges in global health (GCP-10001)  Level 5 Module: Using Evidence to Improve Global Health (GCP-20001)   |

An understanding of language and culture opens the doorway to understanding what happens, why it happens and how you can make a difference. Why learn Russian now? How will an understanding of intercultural values impact on global development? How can you use English to work your way around the world? Importantly - how do language and culture impact on the UN Sustainability Goals?

The Languages and Intercultural Awareness pathway offers you four distinct strands.

The Language Specialist: Become a specialist in one of our languages and graduate with a degree title that includes '... with competency in (Language)'.

The Language Taster: Explore a new language every year

The Certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages): Train to teach English as a Foreign Language, gain a globally recognised teaching qualification and work with asylum seekers and refugees.

The Intercultural Explorer: Explore cultural practices around the world and discover how the power of language and culture can be forces for breaking down barriers and achieving intercultural understanding, but how they can also be used to create political and social barricades.

#### Languages & Intercultural Awareness

#### Modules available:

#### The Language Specialist:

Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences).

#### The Language Taster:

Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences)

#### The Certificate in TESOL:

ENL-10053 TESOL 1

**ENL-20007 TESOL 2** 

## The Intercultural Explorer:

ENL-10057 The stories we live by

ENL-20009 Who do you think you are?

Information on Global Challenge Pathways can be found here: <a href="https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/">https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/</a>

#### Language modules

You can enrol on the continuing Modern Language module [more information available at this <u>link</u>] (Semester 1 only) or the continuing TESOL (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-20007).

If you choose a Modern Language, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your GCP Modern Language of choice. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the language GCP the following academic year.

#### Level 6

| Optional modules                                  | Module Code | Credits | Period       |
|---|-------------|---------|--------------|
| Social Media Work                                 | MDS-30023   | 15      | Semester 1   |
| Sociology of Parenting and Early Childhood        | SOC-30030   | 15      | Semester 1   |
| Home: Belonging, Locality and Material<br>Culture | SOC-30032   | 15      | Semester 1   |
| Gender, Power and Representation                  | SOC-30053   | 15      | Semester 1   |
| Dissertation - ISP                                | SOC-30028   | 30      | Semester 1-2 |
| Race, Politics and Education                      | EDU-30072   | 15      | Semester 2   |
| Moving people. Migration, Emotion, Identity       | SOC 30042   | 15      | Semester 2   |
| Celebrity   | SOC-30033   | 15      | Semester 2   |
| Consuming Nature                                  | SOC-30049   | 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     |
|---|-------------|---------|------------|
| Social Media Work                                 | MDS-30023   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Sociology of Parenting and Early Childhood        | SOC-30030   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Home: Belonging, Locality and Material<br>Culture | SOC-30032   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Gender, Power and Representation                  | SOC-30053   | 15      | Semester 1 |
| Race, Politics and Education                      | EDU-30072   | 15      | Semester 2 |
| Celebrity   | SOC-30033   | 15      | Semester 2 |
| Moving People: Migration, Emotion, Identity       | SOC-30042   | 15      | Semester 2 |
| Consuming Nature                                  | SOC-30049   | 15      | Semester 2 |

Language modules: You can enrol on a Modern Language module (Semester 1 or Semester 2).

## **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 4

In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in optional modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

| Subject Knowledge and Understanding   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Learning Outcome  | Module in which this is delivered                             |  |  |
| Demonstrate knowledge of the 'classical' sociology of the 19th century (Marx, Weber, Durkheim).   | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014                               |  |  |
| Describe key thinkers' works and show how they relate to sociological conceptions of historical change expressed by notions such as feudalism and modernity | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014                               |  |  |
| Explore the impact key writers had on future research and assess the degree to which their analyses and findings remain relevant to contemporary society    | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014                               |  |  |
| Rehearse classical social theories and ways of theorising   | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014                               |  |  |
| Question the role of sociological theory, recognising that theorising is a means of simplifying complexity  | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014                               |  |  |
| Assess the forms of stratification of social life in contemporary societies   | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-10009     |  |  |
| Analyse the role of gender, ethnicity, social class, and age in shaping our life chances  | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-10009     |  |  |
| Assess the value of sociological explanations for inequalities which challenge individualist and commonsense understandings                                 | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009 |  |  |
| Express knowledge of the diversity of types of social inequality in the contemporary world  | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-10009     |  |  |
| Demonstrate knowledge of the ways that policy decisions impact upon social inequalities through reference to both historical and contemporary examples      | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009 |  |  |
| Engage with individualised and culturally specific explanations for major disparities in life chances from a sociological perspective                       | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-10009     |  |  |

| Subject Specific Skills   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Learning Outcome  | Module in which this is delivered  |  |  |
| Question the role of sociological theory, recognising that theorising is a means of simplifying complexity  Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 |  |  |  |
| Recognise that the consequences of theorising inevitably creates new uncertainties and complexities   | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014  |  |  |
| Conform to key academic conventions, reflect on own performance, and present materials in a coherent fashion                                | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009<br>Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 |  |  |
| Show evidence of reflection on own learning and the ability to conform to academic conventions  | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-10009        |  |  |

| Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)   |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Learning Outcome   | Module in which this is delivered  |  |  |
| Conform to key academic conventions, reflect on own performance, and present materials in a coherent fashion   | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009<br>Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 |  |  |
| Access information from library catalogues and databases and use online facilities   | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009<br>Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 |  |  |
| Demonstrate the ability to interpret quantitative data representing patterns of social inequalities, and compare these to findings of qualitative research to develop an understanding of the contribution of different methodological approaches to sociological research | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009                                    |  |  |
| Plan their learning activities and how to improve the effectiveness of their learning, including revision for examinations and preparation of coursework   | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-10009  |  |  |
| Accept feedback in a positive manner and act appropriately on it   | Classical Sociology - SOC-10014<br>Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009 |  |  |
| Organise themselves and their time   | Social Inequalities in the Contemporary World - SOC-<br>10009<br>Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 |  |  |

## Level 5

In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in optional modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

| Subject Knowledge and Understanding  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Learning Outcome   | Module in which this is delivered        |  |  |  |
| Review twentieth-century social theory and to locate it within their 19th century intellectual contexts  | Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049   |  |  |  |
| Critically analyse key concepts in twentieth- century social theory and distinguish between the major theoretical approaches   | Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049   |  |  |  |
| Analyse twentieth-century social theory in order to make independent judgements about its strengths and weaknesses   | d Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049 |  |  |  |
| Explain the sociological dimensions of social theory and formulate theoretically informed questions about the social world   | Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049   |  |  |  |
| Explain the production of research in terms of process and identify the different elements of that process   | Research Methods - SOC-20046             |  |  |  |
| Review the difference between methodology and method and know that the research object should produce methodological debate, result in the choice of methodology, and the choice of method | Research Methods - SOC-20046             |  |  |  |
| Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of different data collection procedures in sociology for different research problems  | Research Methods - SOC-20046             |  |  |  |

| Subject Specific Skills  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Learning Outcome   | Module in which this is delivered                                      |  |  |
| Link concepts and evidence in social science and within a broadly comparative framework  Research Methods - SOC-20046 Contemporary Social Theory - S |  |  |  |
| Evaluate sociological ideas in the context of real-life ethical, social, political and policy issues   | Research Methods - SOC-20046<br>Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049 |  |  |
| Explain the sociological dimensions of theories of society in a range of teaching and learning contexts  | Research Methods - SOC-20046<br>Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049 |  |  |
| Analyse key concepts in social science, such as structure, agency, truth, and interpretation   | Contemporary Social Theory - SOC-20049<br>Research Methods - SOC-20046 |  |  |

| Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)   |                                   |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Learning Outcome   | Module in which this is delivered |  |  |
| Develop their skills of scholarly discussion and exposition of complex ideas   | All compulsory modules            |  |  |
| Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written form  | All compulsory modules            |  |  |
| Critically review their own written work to ensure that the structure and length is appropriate  | re that All compulsory modules    |  |  |
| Evaluate a range of strategies and methods for answering research questions or testing hypotheses  | Research Methods - SOC-20046      |  |  |
| Construct strategies and methods for problem solving and answering specific questions  | Research Methods - SOC-20046      |  |  |
| Draw appropriate conclusions from numerical data presented in tables and / or charts and use charts and graphs to display numerical data effectively       | nd Research Methods - SOC-20046   |  |  |
| Locate, review, and evaluate literature and provisional research on a single topic, the proposed research methods and an appropriate theoretical framework | Research Methods - SOC-20046      |  |  |

# Level 6

In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

| Subject Knowledge and Understanding  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Learning Outcome   | Module in which this is delivered                          |  |  |
| Cultivate independent skills in defining problems and<br>developing their expertise in interpreting and<br>evaluating research within the particular areas of<br>sociology | All modules approved as part of the Sociology<br>Programme |  |  |
| Show systematic understandings of key aspects of social life   | All modules approved as part of the Sociology Programme    |  |  |
| Judge the merits of competing sociological explanations  | All modules approved as part of the Sociology Programme    |  |  |

| Subject Specific Skills  |                                   |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Learning Outcome   | Module in which this is delivered |  |  |
| Evaluate the increasing complexity of sociological knowledge  All level 6 Sociology modules                                    |                                   |  |  |
| Assess social thought and recognise the contingency and critique of the sociological enterprise                                | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |
| Assess complex sociological texts and identify possible directions for further theoretical and empirical research in Sociology | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |
| Critically evaluate primary source material, synthesise arguments, and present discussions in written form                     | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |

| Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)  |                                   |  |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Learning Outcome  | Module in which this is delivered |  |  |
| Construct a range of strategies and methods for answering research questions and testing hypothesis |                                   |  |  |
| Locate, review and evaluate literature on research topic and an appropriate theoretical framework   | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |
| Use ethical guidelines for research   | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |
| Design and use appropriate visual material  | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |
| Make decisions and plan activity in uncertain conditions  | All level 6 Sociology modules     |  |  |
|   |                                   |  |  |

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

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

| Honours 360 credits                   |                | You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6   |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
|                                       |                | 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'. |  |
|                                       |                | 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'.  |  |
| Diploma in<br>Higher<br>Education     | 240<br>credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher   |  |
| Certificate<br>in Higher<br>Education | 120<br>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.

**Work Placement Year option**: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement 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.
- **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<br>Study | Placements |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------|
| Year 1 (Level<br>4) | 15%  | 85%                         | 0%         |
| Year 2 (Level<br>5) | 14%  | 86%                         | 0%         |
| Year 3 (Level<br>6) | 14%  | 86%                         | 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: <a href="http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/">http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/</a>

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

# 14. 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/

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

## **English for Academic Purposes**

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB*: students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

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: http://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/accreditationofpriorlearning/

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

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

 Module and seminar group leaders are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules and in the seminar groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations.

- Every student is allocated to an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress. The University has a team of life and learning developers based in Student Services who are responsible for supporting students and enhancing their ability to access the curriculum and everything else that the University has to offer throughout their time at Keele.
- Academic Mentors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning and can refer students on to Student Services for additional help in relation to health, disability, welfare, finance and careers. Specialist help and advice on these and other issues is also available for international students.

All members of teaching staff in Sociology are available to see students during weekly office hours and at other times by appointment.

# 16. Learning Resources

Sociology is taught in teaching rooms equipped with computers, internet access and whiteboards, and projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- The extensive collection of sociological materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. These materials include books, journals and government publications. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, digitised readings (electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library), and other resources video, audio and text-based accessible from external providers via the internet.
- Most modules have electronic resource lists generated using Talis Aspire, a software package that allows students to access online journal articles, digitised readings, websites and other resources by clicking on links in a single document.

Students for whom English is not their first 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.

# 17. 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. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<a href="http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/">http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/</a>); 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 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.

## 18. 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             |
| Other additional costs  | £0             |
| Total estimated additional costs  | £20            |

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.

# 19. 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 National Student Survey (NSS), 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 in all three years of 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 assessment 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: <a href="http://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/">http://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/</a>

# 20. 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.gaa.ac.uk/quality-code
- **b.** QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Sociology (2016) <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=sociology&wordsMode=AllWords">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=sociology&wordsMode=AllWords</a>
- c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <a href="http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations">http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations</a>

## 21. 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 55% 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 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. 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 Academic Mentor, 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 online conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring 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 subjectspecific 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: <a href="https://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>

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 who meet external eligibility criteria 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.

## 22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Sociology Combined Honours with Work Placement Year

## **Work Placement Year summary**

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme 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 Work Placement Year option.

## **Work Placement Year Programme Aims**

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

- 1. The opportunity to carry out a long-term, placement-based learning experience between Years 2 and 3 of their degree programme
- 2. Enhanced employability
- 3. The opportunity to develop and consolidate the knowledge and skills they have gained during the course of their studies at Level 4 and 5.
- 4. A professional CV and portfolio that they can use when applying for employment

#### **Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year**

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Passed all Year-1 and Year-2 Semester 1 modules
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (International students only) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

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

#### **Student Support**

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

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organisation at around the 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

- 1. Understand the variety of ways in which skills developed during the study of Social Sciences can be deployed in non-academic contexts
- 2. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context through a SWOT analysis, design learning outcomes, and reflect on their own progress throughout the module
- 3. Articulate their placement experiences effectively and critically reflect on their enhanced skill set in front of an audience
- 4. Understand the aims and priorities, as well as the strengths and possible limitations, of an external organisation and complete tasks as directed
- 5. Reflect on and critically evaluate their learning from the work placement, showing evidence that they have researched their sector and evaluated the effectiveness of their activities with this in mind

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (SOC-30051) which involves:

- 1. Supporting students in locating and securing a relevant work placement in any workplace where the research, analytical, and communication skills as a developed part of a Social, Political and Global Studies degree can be used
- 2. Students completing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) at the beginning of the placement, reflecting on their employability skills in terms of their assessment of sector skill demands. This will be used to create Intended Placement Outcomes and contribute to Continuing Professional Development. The action plan will be negotiated and agreed by the student, module convenor and employer.
- 3. Students creating a professional CV and portfolio that can be used when seeking employment after graduation
- 4. Students completing a 15-20 minute presentation in June/July, critically reflecting on the activities/projects they have completed so far, and the skills they have learned/developed. The audience will primarily be other students on this module, to ensure shared experiences and to create connections in preparation for returning to Keele for third year (Level 6)
- 5. Students developing a heightened awareness of the various ways in which their knowledge and skills can be utilised in real-world situations

## Regulations

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

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module (SOC-30051)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

- (i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and
- (ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

#### Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: <a href="https://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

# **Version History**

## This document

Date Approved: 22 August 2023

#### What's Changed

Withdrawal of modules due to low sign-up (SOC-20069 Work, Identities, Skills)

#### Previous documents

| Version<br>No | Year    | Owner           | Date Approved    | Summary of and rationale for changes |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1             | 2023/24 | EMMA HEAD       | 09 February 2023 |                                      |
| 1.1           | 2022/23 | EDWARD MCCAULEY | 04 August 2022   | Removal of optional module SOC-20036 |
| 1             | 2022/23 | EMMA HEAD       | 21 June 2022     |                                      |
| 1             | 2021/22 | JANE PARISH     | 05 February 2021 |                                      |
| 1             | 2020/21 | JANE PARISH     | 19 December 2019 |                                      |
| 1             | 2019/20 | JANE PARISH     | 19 December 2019 |                                      |