MRes Sociotechnical Futures & Digital Methods (THPL-AFM54)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MRes Sociotechnical Futures & Digital Methods
Route(s)	MRes Sociotechnical Futures & Digital Methods
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Masters Degree not mainly by Research
Award name	Masters - Postgraduate Taught
Course mode of delivery	Full time
Course length	1 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Politics, Languages and International Studies

Course Description

Course Summary

Develop your understanding of the social and political implications of digitalization, and learn how to effectively research and investigate them.

Course Description

During this course, you'll become a fully trained social science researcher with expertise in sociotechnical futures. Key topics that sit within this area include:

- cybersecurity
- the political implications of digitalization
- the use of AI and algorithms across various domains
- technology and automation
- climate change

Through a focus on quantitative and qualitative methods and approaches, you'll gain the essential skills needed to progress your studies or become a professional researcher in these areas.

You'll enhance your understanding of the techniques used in the analysis of large-scale data and how to effectively present key insights and findings.

This course is designed to provide high-quality training to potential doctoral students, as well as essential research skills that are desirable in a numbeof private and public sector roles.

Learning and teaching

You'll learn from experts in sociotechnical futures. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

You are expected to spend approximately 35 hours per week studying, with around 8-10 of those hours being structured classes.

This will be made up of a combination of lectures and seminars.

Delivery methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the learning and teaching methods used on the course:

- Lectures
- Seminars

Assessment summary

You will experience a range of different forms of assessment designed to support your professional development. This will include coursework, project work, examinations, and a dissertation.

We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities. Take a look at our Disability Service's pages for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:
- Coursework
- Dissertation
- Examination(s)
- Project output

Specialist Facilities

N/A

Placement/Study Year Abroad details

N/A

Careers and professional development

We work to provide you with the tools and support to prepare you for employment and further study.

These include: advanced quantitative and qualitative research skills; bibliographic skills; and basic computing skills, such as word processing, spreadsheet creation and optimisation, and database management.

There is increasing demand for high-level quantitative and qualitative research skills from a wide range of private and public sector recruiters.

Many firms and government departments are now committed to data-driven decision-making, making use of the increased availability of big data.

This course will equip you with a hybrid skill set that combines quantitative, computing and analytical skills with an understanding of research and enquiry in the context of sociotechnical futures.

Upon completion of this course, you'll be well suited to specialist roles within the adoption and use of digital technologies. These may include policy, regulatory, and governance-related roles in a range of sectors.

This MRes also equips you to go into further study at PhD level.

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations

Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/

Exemptions from Regulations

Not specified

Course Progression Requirements

Not specified

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	HS52009	Dissertation	Part 4 Project/Diss Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	40	
AY	HS52015	Principles of social sciences research	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	HS52016	Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	HS52008	Digital methods and data skills for MRes	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S1	SP52121	AI as social and political practice: technology, society and politics	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	HS52001	Advanced computational social science methods and applications	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S2	**MRes Soc Fut & Dig Mthds FT CT S2**					Select 10 credits from this group in this period
	HS52002	Advanced qualitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	HS52003	Advanced quantitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	HS52010	Independent research essay	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	SP52105	Knowledge, data and our digital social world	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	ZZ02002	Director of Studies approved option S2	Part 4 Taught Optional	Non-credit (FHEQ	5	

level n/a)

Additional rules for module selection

None

Year 2

No units found

The availability of optional units is subject to constraints such as staff availability, minimum and maximum group sizes, and timetabling factors, as well as a student's ability to meet any pre-requisite rules.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge and Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Professional and Transferable Skills	Placement	Study Year Abroad
Review systematically, and evaluate critically, alternative approaches, methodologies and paradigms of research for understanding social, political and technological change and digitalisation	✔	✔	✔		
Review systematically, and evaluate critically, the application of these approaches in the specific areas of social, political and technological change and digitalisation in which students are specialising	✔	✔			
Critically assess the functioning, assumptions and limitations of a range of advanced computational methods used in social science research	✔	✔	✔		
Identify and investigate original research questions	✔	✔			
Actively contribute to research projects using any of the main methodologies of the social sciences including advanced	✔	✔	✔		

techniques in computational methods			
Critically review the key concepts and theories applied to explain the causes and consequences of socio-technical change and digitalisation across a wide variety of sectors and contexts	✔	✔	
Critically review the origins, development, and current trajectory of digital technologies development and their implications for society and politics	✔	✔	
Appraise the role of research in the shaping the design, adoption and use of digital technologies		✔	✔
Develop skills in applying and using research to inform professional knowledge and decision-making around the adoption and use of digital technologies	✔		✔
Appreciate the values and interests of others			✔

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards	Exit awards: Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma For further information see https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/ For information on possible named exit awards, please contact your Director of Studies

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