

MRes Sociology (THSP-AFM52)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MRes Sociology
Route(s)	MRes Sociology
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	Social & Policy Sciences

Course Description

Course Summary

Gain in-depth research skills relevant to sociology. You'll enhance your ability to identify key insights from data using advanced analysis techniques.

Course Description

During this course, you'll review and critically evaluate a range of theories, methodologies and paradigms of research that are relevant to sociology. With a focus on quantitative and qualitative methods and approaches, you'll gain the essential skills needed to progress your studies or become a professional sociologist.

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 number of private and public sector roles.

Learn from experts in their field

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

Gain important career skills

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

This includes advanced quantitative and qualitative research skills, and bibliographic skills; and the use of appropriate technology to undertake tasks that use these skills.

Graduate prospects

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 sociology research and enquiry.

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

Our graduates generally go on to work in a wide variety of organisations and roles, such as:

- social research in universities and research institutes, government, business, voluntary organisations and international organisations
- public policy analysis at local, national and international levels
- public information and campaigning in organisations concerned with wellbeing, sustainability and social justice

Contact hours

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(/professional-services/disability-service/) for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:

- Dissertation
- Examinations
- Project output (other than dissertation or report)
- Coursework

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of textbooks. Some courses involve visits away from campus and you may be required to pay some or all of the costs of travel, accommodation and food and drink. If you're on a placement, you're responsible for your own travel, accommodation and living costs. You should also consider the financial implications if you go on an unpaid or overseas placement.

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

Option

of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	choice rules
AY	SP00000	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	HS52008	Digital methods and data skills for MRes	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S1	HS52016	Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	SP52119	Theoretical issues in sociology	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	SP52115	Research for policy: concepts, methods and values	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	MRes Sociology FT S2 optional units CT					Select 15 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 level n/a)	5	

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 alternative epistemological positions that provide the context for theory construction, research design and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques	✓				
Critically assess the major paradigms within which sociology is conducted, the relationship between them, and how they relate to other social science disciplines.	✓				
Critically appraise historical, theoretical and philosophical issues underlying the discipline of sociology	✓	✓			
Appreciate the social nature of the relationship between individuals, groups and social institutions	✓	✓	✓		
Critically evaluate concepts of objectivity, subjectivity and reflexivity in sociological research; and be able to apply this understanding to the	✓	✓			

Understanding of the conduct and interpretation of research		
Interpret and evaluate the outcome of research on sociological topics	✓	✓
Critically review the methods for the analysis of qualitative data, including conversational and discourse analysis, textual analysis and content analysis	✓	✓
Develop skills related to computer packages, spreadsheets, graphical packages, statistical packages, and packages for analysing qualitative data	✓	✓
Appraise the connections between theory and practice; and between research and professional knowledge in sociology		✓
Critically assess the relevance of sociological work to issues of social, public and civic policy		✓
Appreciate the values and interests of others		✓
Appreciate the format and mechanisms for the dissemination of sociological research through professional bodies, including conference papers, papers and journal articles, and the process of peer-review		✓

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