

BSc(Hons) Social Sciences (UHSP-AFB37)

Course and Award Details

Course title	BSc(Hons) Social Sciences
Route(s)	BSc(Hons) Social Sciences
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Undergraduate Degree with Honours
Award name	Bachelor with Honours
Course mode of delivery	Full time
Course length	3 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 Focus on contemporary issues of social change and justice with a course that gives you the freedom to study a broad range of social science topics.

Course Description This course allows you to explore the areas of social science that you are most interested in. Its interdisciplinary nature covers topics such as sociology, international development, social policy and criminology.

You'll study these in depth and develop relevant research skills. We'll support you to build your degree around your aims and aspirations. You can also take units focused on economics, psychology and management for an even more diverse experience.

In Year 1, you'll develop your understanding of how society works and the factors that influence social change. You'll study social policy and sociology, as well as optional criminology and international development units. Through tutorials focused on developing key academic skills, you'll also learn how to evaluate data and information to develop arguments for different audiences.

Year 2 will develop your understanding of research methods and sources of data. You'll be able to continue a broad-based approach or choose to specialise in specific areas - such as policy, social theory, or justice and conflict.

In your final year, you'll do your dissertation. This will make use of a range of methodological skills you'll develop during the course. You'll also choose from a range of optional units from across the social sciences. These will allow you to build upon the theoretical understanding you'll gain during years 1 and 2 and apply it to contemporary sociological issues.

The flexibility of this course will allow you to create a degree that's tailored to your interests and potential future career.

Informed teaching to advance your learning

You'll learn from teaching staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise in different areas of social sciences. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

Develop your professional skills

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

- critical and analytical thinking
- quantitative skills to apply to real-world challenges
- presentation and communication skills
- adaptability and resilience.

Contact hours

Contact hours

Timetabled contact hours, which may be made up of laboratory sessions, lectures, practical sessions, seminars, tutorials and workshops, vary throughout your course and between courses but are typically between 8 and 12 hours a week in your first year.

Our teaching for this course is delivered through in-person learning on campus, supported by high quality online provision. A small proportion of these contact hours may be delivered online, with the significant majority taught on campus. This may be supplemented by additional activities such as a small number of online learning sessions (not live), skills development sessions, and personal tutorials.

The amount of timetabled sessions on campus in later years may vary based on the options you choose, with a greater emphasis on independent learning. Project and dissertation units will generally have fewer scheduled sessions to allow you time for your independent work - this may also mean the number of hours of timetabled sessions each week will vary within a year.

Independent learning

In addition to timetabled contact hours, you are expected to undertake independent learning and assessment activities. Typically, this might be around 23 to 32 hours per week in your first year, and include individual research, reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, preparing coursework assignments, presentations, or revising for exams. After your first year, the emphasis on independent learning becomes greater, for example, you may do a final year project in the final year. You'll be expected to work both on your own and as part of a group.

Delivery methods

Laboratory sessions
Lectures
Practical sessions
Seminars
Tutorials
Workshops

Assessment summary

You will be assessed in a range of methods designed to develop and test your skills and knowledge.

10% to 25% of your course will be assessed through examinations.

75% to 90% will be assessed through essays, reports, and presentations.

The final degree classification is determined by your second and final year marks and each contributes 32% and 68% respectively.

You will primarily be assessed as an individual, but may also be assessed as part of a group.

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

Report
Examinations
Presentations
Essay

Placement/Study Year

We also offer this course with a professional placement(/courses/undergraduate-

Abroad details

2024/sociology-social-policy-and-social-sciences/bsc-social-sciences-with-professional-placement/) in Year 3. This allows you to take advantage of our links with a range of organisations in different sectors.

A professional placement is a great way to get insights into the career path you want; contribute to projects and services; have fun, make friends and build your professional network; and even earn some money or experience a new culture.

Careers and professional development

Prepare for your future career

Many of our social sciences graduates have gone on to work as social and policy researchers, civil servants, international consultants, journalists, and accountants.

They've gone on to work in:

- government departments
- social enterprises and charities
- European and international agencies and organisations
- Social care and family services
- international development
- public policy consultancy

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Undergraduate assessment regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/undergraduate-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	N
Weighting of each Study Year	Stage 1: 0% Stage 2: 32% Final Stage: 68%
Is this Course Standalone or Co-Existent?	SA

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	SP00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	SP12002	The making of modern society	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
AY	SP12003	Social problems, social change and the state	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
S1	SP12001	Becoming a social scientist 1	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
S1	SP12009	Understanding social change	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	
S2	SP12010	Becoming a social scientist 2	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	10	

FHEQ level 4 - Title Year 1 Options

FHEQ level 4 - Total credits in this study yr 10

FHEQ level4 - Overview of options in this study yr In Year 1, you will study 10 credits of optional units in semester two. You will select one of two 10 credit criminology options, or two 5 credit international development options.

Year 2

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
S1	SP22019	Qualitative analysis: the power of immersion	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	
S2	SP22020	Quantitative data analysis: the power of statistics	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	

Title Year 2 Options

Total credits in this study yr 40

Overview of options in this study yr In Year 2, you will study a total of 40 credits of optional units. Two units must be 10 credit all-year options and the remaining 20 credits can consist of either all-year 10 credit or single semester 5 credit options.

These options will cover a range of economics, international development, sociology and social policy topics, such as:

- social inequalities
- conflict and security
- race and racism
- poverty and population
- global crime of the powerful
- policymaking
- contemporary sociological theory

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	SP32040	Social sciences dissertation	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	20	
Title		Final Year Options				
Total credits in this study yr		40				
Overview of options in this study yr		<p>In Year 3, you will study a total of 40 credits of optional units. Two units must be 10 credit all-year options and the remaining 20 credits can consist of either all-year 10 credit or single semester 5 credit options.</p> <p>These options will cover a range of social science topics, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conflict and human rights - humanitarianism - lobbying - experts and evidence - sociology of death <p>You'll study these optional units alongside your dissertation.</p>				

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
Outline and assess the merits of key concepts, positions and debates in the social sciences	✓	✓			
Apply sociological and social policy concepts and theory to examine a range of social phenomena		✓			
Critically appraise a range of forms of social science evidence, methodologies, and arguments		✓			

Appreciate and utilise a range of different disciplinary perspectives from within the social sciences	✓	✓	
Explain and synthesise the distinctive forms of knowledge and enquiry associated with different disciplines within the social sciences		✓	
Appraise and evaluate debates surrounding interdisciplinarity and cross-disciplinarity, and assess the challenges and opportunities afforded by this form of enquiry in the social sciences	✓	✓	
Undertake individually and/or collaboratively investigations of social questions, issues and problems by employing different techniques of data collection, management and analysis, including secondary data and other information, using appropriate software		✓	✓
Employ appropriate software to enhance data collection, management, and analysis		✓	✓
Build logical, coherent and persuasive arguments and make use of appropriate methods to communicate those arguments		✓	✓
Marshal, interpret, and synthesise evidence about social phenomena		✓	✓
Recognise and assess the ethical implications of social science research	✓	✓	
Design, undertake and complete a small-scale independent research project comprising a set of interrelated components that seeks to contribute to sociological and/or social policy knowledge or understanding	✓	✓	✓

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards

This course has no designated alternative course (DAC).
Exit awards:
Diploma of Higher Education
Certificate of Higher Education