

BSc(Hons) Sociology and Social Policy (UHSP-AFB36)

Course and Award Details

Course title	BSc(Hons) Sociology and Social Policy
Route(s)	BSc(Hons) Sociology and Social Policy
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 Explore new and creative ways to tackle key social challenges. Learn theory and methods to understand, critically examine, and influence organisations.

Course Description This course will appeal if you want to combine an understanding of the social world from different perspectives with a rigorous analysis of policy responses to social problems. You will examine theory and techniques from sociology alongside the analytical focus of social policy.

You'll explore areas such as health, welfare and poverty, race and discrimination, inequality and exclusion. By the end of the course, you'll have an understanding of how social institutions develop and operate and how they might be improved.

In Year 1, you'll be introduced to social theory, ideas about the state and social change, and the central traditions of social research. You'll select an option in either criminology or international development.

In Year 2, you'll expand and deepen your understanding of contemporary social theory. You will explore the political processes that underpin policy-making practices and develop data analysis techniques. You'll choose from a range of options in sociology, social policy, criminology and international development.

In your final year, you'll do your dissertation. This will demonstrate the knowledge and skills you'll develop. 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 sociology and social policy. Their passion, knowledge and research activities

shape their teaching. This combination aims 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
- research skills
- skills related to generating and analysing sociological data ranging from ethnography to computational techniques
- presentation and communication skills
- project management
- team working

You will also benefit from expert guest speakers from the public, commercial or third sector.

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 balance of examinations and coursework may depend on the optional units you choose.

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
Coursework
Essay

**Placement/Study Year
Abroad details**

We also offer this course with a professional placement(/courses/undergraduate-2024/sociology-social-policy-and-social-sciences/bsc-sociology-and-social-policy-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
AY	SP22022	Contemporary sociological theory	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	
AY	SP22027	Policy making: politics and practices	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	20	
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 10

study yr

Overview of options in this study yr

In Year 2, you will study 10 credits of optional units. This will either be an all-year 10 credit unit or a 5 credit unit in each semester and will cover the areas of international development, sociology, social policy or economics.

Topics may include:

- social inequalities
- conflict and security
- race and racism
- poverty and population

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	SP32041	Sociology and social policy dissertation	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	20	
AY	SP32043	Policy analysis for professional practice	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	10	
AY	SP32044	Sociology and beyond	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	10	

Title Final Year Options

Total credits in this study yr 20

Overview of options in this study yr

In your final year, you will study 20 credits of optional units. This will consist of either two all-year 10 credit options or two 5 credit options in each semester. As in Year 2, these will cover a range of areas such as international development, sociology, social policy or economics.

Topics may include:

- conflict and human rights
- humanitarianism
- lobbying
- experts and evidence

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 relative merits of key concepts, positions and debates in sociological theory or social policy	✓	✓			

theory of social policy

Understand and explain the origins and development of welfare institutions across the UK and beyond, including the social and demographic contexts in which they have operated

✓

Apply sociological concepts and theory to examine a range of phenomena related to social policy such as institutions, organisations and welfare

✓

Apply sociological approaches to appraise critically evidence and arguments used in social policy research and practice

✓

✓

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

✓

✓

Build structured arguments combining insights from sociology and social policy and communicate them in formats/media suitable for a range of different audiences

✓

✓

Explain relationships between sociology as a discipline with social policy as a field of study

✓

Marshall, interpret, and synthesise evidence about social phenomena and social policy issues

✓

Recognise and assess the ethical implications of sociological and social policy 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

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