University of Bath

Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Sociology and Social Policy
Awarding Institution//Body	University of Bath
Teaching Institution	University of Bath
Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)	n/a
Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:*	Sociology http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Sociology07.pdf Social Policy and Administration http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/SocialPolicy07.pdf
Date of Specification preparation/revision	
Applicable to cohorts	
Programme Approved by	

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The programme is designed to enable students to develop a critical understanding of how social institutions develop and operate; to understand, analyse and evaluate the developments that are transforming the welfare state, and creating a more diverse system of welfare, and to relate these changes to societal, technological and economic changes in Britain and elsewhere. This joint programme enables students to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of social issues. In the first year students study social policy, sociology and research methods. The core social policy units then provide more advanced analysis of particular policy areas or topics, while the core sociology units include further work on sociological theory. Students have some opportunity to study options from the related disciplines of economics, psychology and politics. The four-year programme includes a placement (minimum of 30 weeks) in which students undertake research or other policy-related work for relevant agencies.

The degree is studied as a three-year and four-year full-time programme. The 3-year full-time programme will be 100% University-based and study is undertaken at three levels (one for each year of study for the three-year programme). The programme is arranged on a semester basis (6 x 15 weeks). The programme is divided into study modules called units. Each unit has a credit value of 3 - 12, depending on the length of study and academic content, and according to subject and nature of learning. Each 6 credit unit represents 100 hours of student learning made up of lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and workshops. Each level has an equivalent of 60 credits. The 4-year degree adds a one year placement (minimum 30 weeks) to be taken in the third year of study.

Information about Designated Essential Units (DEUs) and Designated Alternative Programmes (DAPs), and the definitions for parts and stages of programmes, are also available in the NFAAR, Appendix 2: Definitions. Further information about the NFAAR is available at http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm

Educational aims of the programme

1. To develop student's knowledge and understanding in sociology and social policy, as set out in the intended learning outcomes, listed below.
2. To develop the general critical and analytical powers of the student.
3. To develop critical, analytical problem-based learning skills and the transferable skills to prepare the student for graduate employment or further study.
4. To enhance the development of the students' interpersonal skills.
5. To develop research skills with particular reference to those skills relating to investigation and analysis.
6. To provide the student with opportunities for collaborative learning with others.
7. To assist the student to develop the skills required for both autonomous and team work.

Teaching learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

Lead lectures, tutor-led seminars and tutorials, student-led seminars, IT practical sessions, practical workshops and problem-based learning scenarios.

Assessment: written unseen examinations, coursework, practical presentations (group and individual), placement report, research reports, dissertation.

• Knowledge & Understanding:	1. Knowledge of relationship between sociology and social policy 2. Knowledge of the origins and development of UK welfare institutions (public, private and voluntary). 3. Knowledge of issues of human needs and social welfare – poverty, inequality, exclusion, diversity and differences 4. Knowledge of theories of welfare state development. 5. Knowledge of the main sources of data about social welfare and a critical approach to their use. 6. Knowledge of the fundamental concepts and theoretical basis of sociology 7. Knowledge of the historical and contemporary perspective of sociology 8. For placement programmes: to understand how these knowledge outcomes apply in work based situations.
• Intellectual Skills:	1. To think creatively and analytically. 2. To communicate an argument. 3. To evaluate others' arguments and research. 4. To learn independently and be able to assess own learning needs (i.e. identify strengths and improve weaknesses in methods of learning and studying). 5. To critically evaluate and assess research and evidence as well as a variety of other information. 6. To gather information, data, research and literature from a number of different sources (i.e. library, web-based, archives etc.). 7. To select appropriate and relevant information from a wide source and large body of knowledge. 8. To synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding. 9. To utilise problem solving skills. 10. To analyse and evaluate innovative practices in students' relevant degree discipline. 11. To explore a variety of relationships and environments relevant to learning and practising within the context of the students' degree discipline.
• Professional Practical Skills:	1. To reflect upon new technology and innovation within social sciences and to make decisions regarding legitimacy, reliability and effectiveness. 2. To effectively and efficiently apply principles of sociological/social policy analysis within a variety of environments. 3. To develop sensitivity to the values and interests of others.
• Transferable/Key Skills:	1. Study & Learning skills (note taking, avoiding plagiarism, using the library, gathering and using information, constructing a bibliography, referencing) 2. Basic Information and Computing Technology skills (word processing, email, using the web to search for information) 3. To be aware of ethical issues in carrying out research. 4. Inter-personal and communication skills 5. Essay research, preparation and writing skills 6. To construct a bibliography of varying complexity 7. Revision and Examination skills 8. Time-management and administrative skills 9. Presentation skills and verbal communication (i.e. oral presentations, seminar and tutorial contributions) 10. Advanced information and computing technology skills (i.e. SPSS and other forms of computer based data analysis programmes, producing tables, spreadsheets, graphs and charts, Powerpoint, using IT to support presentations) 11. Team and group working skills 12. To lead others confidently and competently 13. To reflect upon his/her own academic and professional performance and take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development. 14. To solve problems in a variety of situations. 15. To manage time effectively and respond to changing demands. 16. To prioritise workloads, and utilise long- and short-term planning skills. 17. To understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

Progression Regulations and Awards

3 year taught programme (3 year)

3 year taught programme plus 1 year placement (4 year)

The programme is fully compliant with the University's New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations (NFAAR). The NFAAR describes the rules for progression from one stage of the programme to the next (including supplementary assessment, and the extent of failure that can be condoned) as well as for the award of degrees. Students taking the programme will be assessed according to these rules; further information about the NFAAR is available at http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm.

The Designated Alternative Programme for this degree is the Social Science programme. Consideration of transfer to the Social Science programme as a DAP will be given according to Appendix 33 of the Assessment Regulations (NFAAR).

Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

In the four-year programme the placement is intended to provide practical experience in the application and usefulness of knowledge gained at the University. It enables students to develop personal skills in communication, planning and time management, problem solving and analytical skills, decision-making skills, and team working skills. It may also provide data for the final year dissertation and help students develop career plans. The placement is assessed in various ways (including placement visits, a ten-week placement report, a paper presented to the mid-year placement conference, a final placement report). These are required for the successful completion of the placement but do not contribute to the final degree classification.

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

GCSE (or equivalent qualifications) requirements:

- GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or above

GCE (or equivalent qualifications) requirements:

- Typical Offer: AAB

Applicants with equivalent qualifications including the Access to Higher Education Diploma, relevant BTECs and many overseas qualifications are welcomed.

Detailed information at:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/prospectus/subject/sociology-social-policy/entry-requirements/

English Language Qualifications:

We would normally require all applicants whose first language is not English to provide evidence of English language proficiency and applicants may be asked to take an English language test. The minimum requirement is: IELTS 7.0 with no subject less than 7.0.

Further information at: http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/englishlanguage/

Details of Support Available to Students

University of Bath students attending programmes of study at the Claverton Campus are usually encouraged to stay in University halls of residence during their first year and will be supported in their transition into University life and study by Resident Tutors. These are postgraduate students or staff who live in the halls of residence and are responsible for the general welfare, health and safety and discipline of student residents.

Undergraduate students will be allocated a Personal Tutor, postgraduate taught students a course manager and postgraduate research students a supervisor who are responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students.

Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services.

These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/.

There are also Medical and Dental Centres, and a Chaplaincy on campus that are very experienced in meeting the needs of a student population, as well as a University nursery and vacation play scheme to provide childcare for older children during the school holidays.

Department and Programme Specific Support Information

http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/prospectus/subject/sociology-social-policy