

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<i>Awarding Institution//Body</i>	University of Bath
<i>Teaching Institution*</i>	University of Bath
<i>Validated/Franchised (if appropriate)</i>	N/A
<i>Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)*</i>	N/A
<i>Programme approved by (including date &amp; minute number of Senate)</i>	Senate 07/10/1998 Minute S10659. Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Board of Studies (20 <sup>th</sup> November 2002)
<i>Final award</i>	BSc (Hons)
<i>Programme title*</i>	Social Sciences
<i>UCAS code (if applicable)</i>	L305 (3 year) L306 (4 year)
<i>Subject Benchmark Statement*</i>	Sociology: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Sociology07.pdf">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Sociology07.pdf</a> Social Policy and Administration: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/SocialPolicy07.pdf">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/SocialPolicy07.pdf</a>
<i>Intended level of completed programme (in line with FHEQ)*</i>	6
<i>Duration of programme &amp; mode of study*</i>	3 year taught programme (3 year) 3 year taught programme plus one year placement (4 year)
<i>Date of Specification preparation/revision*</i>	October 2008/January 2009/March 2012/June 2014
<i>Applicable to cohorts (eg. for students commencing in September 2011 or 20011/12-2012/138/09 – 2009/10)*</i>	2015/16

### \*Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

This programme enables students to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of social issues. The first year introduces students to social policy, sociology, economic, psychology, politics and research methods. Students continue to study compulsory units in research methods and choose other units from these five disciplines. The four-year degree adds a placement year that allows students experiential learning opportunities and possibility of applying their social science skills to a variety of real-life settings.

### \*Educational aims of the programme

- 1 To develop student's knowledge and understanding in social sciences, 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.	
<p><b>*Intended learning outcomes</b> (including teaching, learning and assessment methods, specifying those applicable for interim awards where appropriate)</p> <p><i>Teaching learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:</i>  Lead lectures, tutor-led seminars and tutorials, student-led seminars, IT practical sessions, practical workshops and problem-based learning scenarios</p> <p><i>Assessment:</i> written unseen examinations, coursework, practical presentations (group and individual) , research reports, dissertation.</p>	
➤ Knowledge & Understanding:	1 Understanding of how to apply knowledge and concepts from across various social sciences disciplines 2 Knowledge of the main sources of data about social issues and a critical approach to their use. 3 Knowledge of issues of human needs and social welfare – poverty, inequality, exclusion, diversity and differences 4 Knowledge of the historical and contemporary perspective of sociology 5 Knowledge of key theories and developments in at least two of the following areas: sociology, social policy, politics, economics, psychology. 6 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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 To reflect upon new technology and innovation within social sciences and to make decisions regarding legitimacy, reliability and effectiveness.</li> <li>2 To effectively and efficiently apply principles of sociological/social policy analysis within a variety of environments.</li> <li>3 To develop sensitivity to the values and interests of others.</li> </ol>
➤ Transferable/Key Skills:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Study &amp; Learning skills (note taking, avoiding plagiarism, using the library, gathering and using information, constructing a bibliography, referencing)</li> <li>2 Basic Information and Computing Technology skills (word processing, email, using the web to search for information)</li> <li>3 To be aware of ethical issues in carrying out research.</li> <li>4 Inter-personal and communication skills</li> <li>5 Essay research, preparation and writing skills</li> <li>6 To construct a bibliography of varying complexity</li> <li>7 Revision and Examination skills</li> <li>8 Time-management and administrative skills</li> <li>9 Presentation skills and verbal communication (i.e. oral presentations, seminar and tutorial contributions)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>11 Team and group working skills</li> <li>12 To lead others confidently and competently</li> <li>13 To reflect upon his/her own academic and professional performance and take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.</li> <li>14 To solve problems in a variety of situations.</li> <li>15 To manage time effectively and respond to changing demands.</li> <li>16 To prioritise workloads, and utilise long- and short-term planning skills.</li> <li>17 To understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path</li> </ol>
<b>Structure and content of the programme</b> (including potential stopping off points) <i>(Append the relevant <b>programme description (PD)</b> form(s) and cross reference below)</i>	
<p>The degree is studied as a three-year full-time programme, or as a four-year programme with placement. 100% of the full-time programme will be 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,</p>	

practical classes and workshops. Each level has an equivalent of 60 credits. The 4 year programme adds a one year placement (minimum 30 weeks) to be taken in the third year of study.

The study units within the programme, the levels at which they are studied, the credit ratings of the units for the award of BSc (Hons) Social Sciences are detailed in Appendix A (the programme description). ). The table describes how the programme is structured in terms of the New Framework for Assessment (NFAAR). 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.

### **Details of work placements / work-based learning / industrial training / study abroad 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 support available to students (e.g. induction programmes, programme information, resources)**

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.

### **Admissions criteria**

GCSE (or equivalent qualifications) requirements:

- GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or above

GCE (or equivalent qualifications) requirements:

- Typical Offer: ABB

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/social-sciences/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/>

### Summary of assessment and progression regulations

The Social Sciences 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 Social Sciences 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>.

### Indicators of quality and standards (e.g. professional accreditation)

**To assure continuing excellence in its quality and standards, the University of Bath has a quality management framework including:**

***For more general information on each part of the framework, click on the links.***

1. A Quality Assurance Code of Practice, and associated regulations and policies :  
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop/index.php>
2. A learning, teaching and quality [committee structure](#) which [monitors quality and standards](#) and instigates action for enhancement.
3. [Staff development](#) arrangements that assist staff in enhancing their own performance as educators, as researchers or as professional support services staff.

Students are involved in many of these processes, whereby their key perspectives and participation as citizens in the academic community are engaged in the '[informed Student Voice](#)'.

For a fuller overview of the University's Quality Management framework see this [summary document](#).

**The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) periodically reviews the quality of the University of**

**Bath's Learning and Teaching performance.**

At the last review by the QAA in November 2008, the University was given the highest grading available, that of 'Confidence', in the soundness of the University's current and likely future management of both the academic standards of its awards and the quality of learning opportunities available to students. The QAA's report can be seen at

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/Reports/Pages/inst-audit-University-of-Bath-08.aspx>

**Professional or industrial placements** for a year are particularly supported at Bath by specialised staff.

**Sources of other information**

From the online prospectus:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/prospectus/subject/social-sciences>

**Appendix:**

**Programme Description is available in a separate document.**