Welcome

Dr Allison Hui
Director of Student Engagement
Department of Sociology

Studying in our Department can be challenging, fulfilling and life changing. Our degrees offer you the opportunity to enhance your understanding of our complex social world, now and in the future; gain experience of doing research; and to develop your employability and life skills.

Established in 1969, Lancaster Sociology has developed an excellent global reputation and today we are among the top 100 for sociology in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). You will be taught by talented and passionate scholars in Sociology. The disciplines we teach and study will open up your curiosity about the world we live in. You can grow into an independent learner as you progress and find your own scholarly interests, in the same way that we have found ours. You can elect to specialise your degree with modules in Gender and Women’s Studies.

Student experience is at the heart of what we do. We encourage your participation in the many opportunities Lancaster University life has to offer; from field trips, work placements and studying abroad, to the film screenings, departmental seminars, public events and major international conferences we hold here. Our staff and students engage with important local, national and international debates around social and cultural issues, via news and social media, campaigns and activism, and public talks. Our student ambassadors and representatives ensure that your experience and voice is at the centre of departmental life.

We look forward to welcoming you and offering you the opportunity to secure a first-class university education in a supportive, intellectually vibrant and friendly environment.
An exciting place to study Sociology

We are living in a highly complex and rapidly changing world. Inequality, discrimination, climate change, global conflict and injustice are among the significant problems that we face. The need for insight into our divergent and collective social worlds has never been greater. Studying Sociology at Lancaster presents you with the new ideas, critical approaches, and innovative methods that will help you move beyond commonplace assumptions and understandings about our social worlds. With these tools and skills in hand, you will be better equipped to explore contemporary human interdependencies and to gain skills to identify and build new futures.

#3
In the UK for Sociology
The Guardian University Guide 2020

#4
Joint 4th in the UK for Graduate Prospects
Complete University Guide 2021

Degrees and entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Sociology</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>L300</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>LM39</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Film and Sociology</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PL33</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>LL23</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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Placement Year Degrees
Check online for the relevant UCAS code to apply for a placement year degree, which are available with most of our degree programmes. With the help of specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement, which you would, if successful, undertake in Year 3. You would return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Read more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Study Abroad Degrees
You can apply to spend a year studying abroad with most of our degrees. There are opportunities to spend Year 2 studying at one of our international partner universities, where teaching is in English, before returning to complete Year 3 at Lancaster. Read more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Dr Stanley Blue
Director of Sociology

I completed my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees here in the Sociology department at Lancaster and can say from first-hand experience that if you choose Sociology at Lancaster you could gain both a solid foundation in key sociological approaches and the opportunity to specialise in a wide range of topics.

Sociology makes what is familiar, strange. It lets us see the everyday in new and unexpected ways. You’ll learn new ideas and skills that will help you to understand and appreciate social life in ways that you had never thought possible!
Modules in depth

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and regularly introduce and update modules. In any academic year, the modules offered may therefore differ from those presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, in response to curricular developments and following consultation with students. Please check our website for the latest information: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Year 1
BA (Hons) Sociology

Joint major students:
Alongside their Sociology core module, The Sociological Imagination, joint major students take the following modules:

Criminology and Sociology:
+ Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
+ Minor Subject Module

Film and Sociology:
+ Introduction to Film Studies
+ Minor Subject Module

Politics and Sociology:
+ Politics in the Modern World
+ Minor Subject Module

Optional Modules
You can select the following optional modules in the Sociology Department.
+ Contemporary Social Problems
+ Gender and Women’s Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics
+ Transformations: From Mass Media to Social Media

Minor Subject Module
You will be able to choose one module from a choice of subjects that are complementary to your major subject and are recommended by your Department. After you register for your degree we will confirm which minor subject modules are available and how to register for your preferred option.

The Sociological Imagination
Focuses on sociological issues, concepts, evidence and argument by examining key aspects of living in the contemporary world. You will have the opportunity to develop skills in conceptual analysis, apply sociological reasoning to empirical examples, and evaluate everyday life with new critical skills.

Optional Module

Minor Subject Module (continued from Year 1)

Year 2
BA (Hons) Sociology

Joint major students
Alongside their Sociology core module, Sociological Thought For Our Times, joint major students take the following modules:

Criminology and Sociology:
+ Criminological Thought
+ Either
  Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life
  Or
  Measuring Crime: Understanding Crime Data and Trends
+ Optional modules in Sociology and Criminology

Film and Sociology:
+ Hollywood and Beyond: Global Cinema
+ Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life
+ Optional modules in Film and Sociology

Politics and Sociology:
+ Optional modules in Politics and Sociology
+ Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life

Study Abroad Year
If you are on a Study Abroad programme, and you have successfully gained a place to study abroad, you will spend Year 2 at a partner institution studying modules relevant to your degree.

Sociological Thought for Our Times
Introduces you to the development of social theory, from the Enlightenment through to contemporary debates about the character of knowing. You will have the opportunity to analyse and critically evaluate major social theories on the rise of modern societies.

Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life
Since real life problems are often complex, multiple types of data can be useful in understanding them. You will develop practical skills while undertaking pilot research on a real world problem. This module prepares you for an Independent Dissertation Project in your third year.

Optional Modules
See page 12 for a list of optional modules in Sociology. Joint majors students can check out our website for details of the optional modules available in their second subject. www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

www.lancaster.ac.uk/sociology
Modules in depth

**Year 3**  
**BA (Hons) Sociology**

**Independent Dissertation Project**

**OR**

**Optional Sociology modules**

**OR**

**Independent Research Project**

**Minor Subject Module**  
(continued from Years 1 and 2)

**Joint major students**

Joint major students take the following modules:

**Criminology and Sociology:**
- Optional modules in Criminology and Sociology

**Film and Sociology:**
- Dissertation
- Optional modules in Film and Sociology

**Politics and Sociology:**
- Optional modules in Politics and Sociology

**Independent Dissertation Project**

You will write an 8,000 word dissertation on a topic of your choice (under supervision) giving you the opportunity to undertake independent research and apply the knowledge you’ve gained during your degree. For joint major students this is not compulsory, unless stated above.

**Independent Research Project**

You will conduct an independent research project whilst also gaining highly valued work experience in a charity, local government, social enterprise, or company. This will foster your ability to ask critical questions, drawing on sociological and critical cultural theories to analyse ‘real world’ problems and come up with viable solutions. Faculty staff will help you to find appropriate organisations and negotiate access.

**Placement Year**

If you have been successful in securing a placement, you will spend Year 3 on work placement. In your fourth year, you will return to Lancaster to complete the curriculum above.

**Daisy’s proudest moment**

In the first year of my sociology degree, the thought of writing an 8,000-word dissertation seemed an unthinkably and unachievable task. This feeling subsided more as the years went on and as I approached the task in my final year.

Researching for my dissertation was one of the highlights of my degree. I got to fully immerse myself in a topic that interested me. I researched fat activism and interviewed fat activists from across the UK. I found the task of communicating my findings in only 8,000 words difficult, the opposite problem to what I thought I would have had!

My dissertation enabled me to realise my passion for researching and informed my decision to do an MA in Social Research and PhD within the same field of research, looking at ‘obesity’ and social class.

**Daisy Barker**  
BA (Hons) Sociology  
Graduated 2019
Optional Modules

The wide choice of optional modules reflects areas of topical interest and our research expertise.

Optional modules are subject to change; please keep an eye on our website for updates to the list below.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Year 1
+ Contemporary Social Problems
+ Gender and Women’s Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics
+ Transformations: From Mass Media to Social Media

Year 2
+ Climate Change and Society
+ Consumer Culture and Advertising
+ Gender and Media
+ Global families and intimacy
+ Media and Visual Culture
+ Media, Bodies and Society
+ Racisms and Racial Formations
+ Television Culture and Society
+ Viral Media

Year 3
+ Cities, Cultures, Creativities - Urban Development in the Age of Global Media
+ Classic Encounters
+ Disasters: Why do Things Go Wrong?
+ Fans and Audiences in a Global Context
+ Feminism and Social Change
+ Games, Play and Media
+ Journalism and Multimedia Production
+ Living with Capitalism: Class, Distribution and Recognition
+ Modernity and its Discontents
+ Nations and Migration
+ Sociology Goes to Hollywood
+ Social Media and Activism
+ Sociology of the Future
+ Terror

Optional

The wide choice of optional modules reflects areas of topical interest and our research expertise.

Optional modules are subject to change; please keep an eye on our website for updates to the list below.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/study
Take the opportunity to explore or specialise in Gender and Women’s Studies as part of your Sociology degree. The flexibility of our undergraduate programmes allows you to take one or more modules in Gender and Women’s Studies while working towards a related degree.

In the first year here, you can choose the following module: “Gender and Women’s Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics”. This module considers women and gender relations, the different social conditions in which women live, especially in relation to differences amongst women, and how this leads to a diversity of feminist politics. Each week a lecturer from across the University will teach you about their research, exploring a range of topics such as:

- feminist histories
- intersectionality
- race and racialisation
- bodies and biology
- sexualities
- gender and class
- women and religion
- gender and language
- popular culture
- crime and law

If you wish to pursue your interest further, you can take further optional modules such as Gender and Media and Feminism and Social Change. You can also complete your Independent Dissertation Project in a topic focused on gender issues. Previous students have researched topics ranging from women YouTubers and celebrity feminists to intimate partner violence. You can also choose to study gender-related modules taught by other departments, such as English; History; Linguistics; Law; and Politics, Philosophy and Religion.

Check out the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies Lancaster on Facebook or @cgwslancaster on Twitter to find out more about what we do.
A supportive academic environment

Student support
You will be assigned an academic tutor in the Department to act as your first point of contact and to provide support. Students can also be actively involved in departmental committees, giving you the chance to express your views and inform what we do.

Teaching
You will usually be taught in lectures and seminars. Seminars typically take place with small groups of students and are an opportunity for you to discuss readings, try out new ideas, and take part in practical activities, as well as getting to know your fellow students and staff. Some modules in our Department also have hands-on workshops, film screenings, or field trips.

Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government’s 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and the good careers our graduates go into.

Assessment
As well as writing essays and exam papers, we use innovative assessment methods, such as presentations, posters, scenarios and assessments where you make blogs, vlogs, or conduct your own interviews.

Experiencing Sociology Programme
This newly established non-credit bearing programme runs alongside our degrees to provide personal and professional development opportunities for students. In the past this has included sociological pumpkin carving, workshops on writing skills, and a Marx field trip to Manchester.

Placement year
With many of our degrees you can apply for a placement year version of the degree where you would apply to spend Year 3 doing a placement with a public, private or voluntary organisation. An experience like this aims to boost your employment prospects and allow you to apply your academic ideas in practice. Placement applications are competitive, so to give you the best chance of success, you’ll be supported throughout the process by our team; including taking special, preparatory modules. If you are successful in securing a placement you would complete a reflective portfolio upon your return to showcase your experience; then in Year 4 you would return to the University to complete your academic studies.

Work placement and internships
We offer many opportunities to integrate shorter work placements into your studies, including:

+ Independent Research Project – Work with an external organisation in your final year project.
+ FASS Internship Scheme – Paid work placements that you can apply to undertake during vacation periods.
+ Richardson Internship Programme – Develop your research skills on real-world projects working with NGOs, think tanks, charities and faith-based organisations.

Find out more about the many Placement and Internship opportunities that will be open to you at:
www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements
See internship case study on page 16.

Global experiences
Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college, or your Students’ Union. You’ll be able to access horizon-expanding opportunities around the world. There are opportunities to study abroad for your second year at one of our partner universities, currently located in Canada or the USA. Alternatively, there are short trips in the Easter or summer vacation to destinations such as the US, Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as academic study and cultural discovery. You can also attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partner universities.
www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience/
See study abroad case study on page 18.
Toby graduated in 2019, and during his time at Lancaster, he was an editor of Lancaster’s student newspaper, SCAN. In his second year, Toby did a 14 week summer internship in the marketing team at the Dukes – a professional theatre in Lancaster. Toby worked in the lead up to the opening of the summer outdoor production, *The Three Musketeers*. This role helped him explore the field of marketing within the arts, and opened his eyes to a career path he wouldn’t have otherwise considered.

“There was anywhere between two to seven people in the marketing office at once, so every day was different. The Dukes was so much bigger and did so much more than I’d imagined, especially some really cool work with the community from their Creative Learning Department. My week started with a regular meeting with marketing colleagues, the Head of Development and the Head of Box Office. We discussed our plans for the week, how the productions were selling and what could be done to improve.

Most of my work surrounded the Williamson Park show, and I was put in charge of running The Dukes’ Instagram account to help promote it. After a successful press night, I had to think about the key messages from The Three Musketeers that could be used to market the show. Due to the gender spin of this particular production, I summarised this mostly to be surrounding acceptance, equality and community which are important principles to teach younger people in a family show.

I’m really grateful of the opportunities I had while on the Internship Scheme; it was brilliant to be a part of. It made me fully aware of what I wanted to do in the future, and I was offered a permanent part-time job at The Dukes during my final year of study.”
Erin spent the second year of her Sociology degree at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

"Studying abroad for my second year was an experience I will never forget. I studied in Canada’s capital city, Ottawa, at Carleton University and I would do it all over again if I could. I chose to study abroad in Canada because I've been travelling the world since I was very young and I wanted to check Canada off my bucket list. What better way to do that than working towards a degree I absolutely love in another country!

In spite of the -30 degree weather for at least 4 months, I ice skated to my lectures (crazy, I know!) and travelled through underground tunnels at the University as it was too cold to walk outside most days. My most memorable experience studying in Ottawa was most definitely being on the Basketball and American Football Cheerleading team. I was thrilled to be chosen to train with professional coaches for a year alongside my degree.

The modules that I studied abroad gave me access to content that I wouldn’t have otherwise studied, including learning about Canada’s indigenous people and its criminal justice system. My time abroad wasn’t all about studies – I was lucky enough to meet new friends on the course and travel to unforgettable places such as Mexico, Toronto and Montreal.

If you’re looking for a unique experience to enhance your career prospects and university experience, then you should study abroad.”

Erin Thomas
BA (Hons) Sociology
Graduated 2019
Your future career

The Lancaster Award
The Lancaster Award is an innovative non-academic, non-credit bearing certificate of achievement developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. We want you to stand out from the crowd - the Lancaster Award will help you to do so.
Read more www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award

Careers Service
Our Careers Service offer a lively programme of events and workshops, mentoring programmes and short courses. We have careers advisors who are able to advise you of graduate schemes, jobs, internships, and work experience opportunities relevant to your subject of study.
Read more www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Workplace Skills
Our degrees enable you to develop a range of transferable skills that could include:
+ Research skills that enable you to find and evaluate different sources of information
+ Self-management and communicative skills needed to compete successfully for employment in a wide range of occupations and/or further study
+ The ability to give accurate verbal summaries of written and visual information
+ The ability to work productively in a group or team, showing at different times your ability to listen, contribute and lead effectively, demonstrated in the effective completion of group projects
+ Skills in audio, audio-visual and media production

Careers
Our graduates can use their sociological imaginations to contribute in whatever field of work they enter, through their ability to understand societies, analyse complex problems and produce effective solutions. These are some of the careers that might appeal to you:
+ Development Officer for Charity or NGO
+ Teacher
+ Human Resources or Industrial Relations Officer
+ Marketing, Advertising or Social Media Executive
+ Adult or Child Social Services Officer

Prof Monika Buscher
Monika is Professor of Sociology, Director of Research for the Sociology Department and Fellow of the Institute for Social Futures at Lancaster University

The most exciting place for Sociologists

Sociology at Lancaster is probably the most exciting place to be a Sociologist. I work with practitioners, policy-makers, and technology developers in transport, healthcare, emergency response and design. This gives ‘real world’ relevance to my research and teaching - and it’s fun!
Here in the Sociology Department, we have always been at the forefront of exciting and innovative research, which has been recognised globally. We are home to several different research centres and are a hub for interdisciplinary research at the University. Our centres bring together diverse staff and students from across the world through their research and events. Our main areas of research include:

**Gender and Inequalities**
We are an internationally recognised leader in this area of research, which covers issues such as race and ethnicity, sexuality and reproduction, media representations of gender, feminist online activism, women’s human rights, and gender equality policies. We organise public events such as Feminist Movie Mondays.

**Media and Cultural Studies**
Our research on media and culture emphasises the study of media in their political and social contexts, and we examine the cultural forms created by media industries and the ways they resonate in everyday life. We focus on areas such as visual culture in terms of advertising, urban experiences and cityscapes, digital cultures, media activism, online communities, and cultural politics such as multiculturalism, migration and citizenship.

**Mobilities**
Lancaster University is where the new ‘mobilities paradigm’ in the social sciences, humanities and sciences started. Put simply, ‘mobilities’ studies how technological, social and cultural developments in public and private transportation, communications, data storage and retrieval, and surveillance systems are rapidly changing the nature of travel and of communications-at-a-distance. Our research has been conducted with public and industrial partners, such as Airbus DS, Public Safety Europe Network, and Lancashire Resilience Forum.

**Science, Technology and the Environment**
Lancaster University is renowned for its research in the social studies of science, technology and the environment, which involves staff and students from a range of different disciplines. We aim to further critical understanding of the social, political, and cultural dimensions of innovative technologies, and of their implications for public policy and society. Our research addresses the uptake of healthcare technologies, caring practices, climate change, disaster resilience, robotics and automation, energy use, and big data.

**Social and Political Theory**
We have a strong commitment to social critique, applying this to transdisciplinary investigations into the personal, cultural, economic and political foundations of society. Our strengths are in critical realism and the philosophy of social science, contemporary radical philosophy, critique of neoliberalism and forms of resistance, and urban theory.

**Social Futures**
Several members of the Department are also involved in the Institute for Social Futures which aims to improve thinking, visioning, and analysis of the future by combining high-quality social science and humanities research with computing, engineering and medical science. Our research in this area includes the future of AI and human intelligence, the North post-Brexit, and planetary futures and the Anthropocene. We work closely with industries, institutions and people who are part of the future to explore routes to the futures we want and need.

Important information
The information in this publication relates primarily to 2021/22 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in May 2020. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.