Sociology Degrees 2020

The place to study Sociology

lancaster.ac.uk/sociology
Studying in our Department will 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 departments in the UK and the world. You will be taught by some of the most talented and passionate scholars in Sociology. The disciplines we teach and study will open up your curiosity about the world we live in. You will 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 combine your degree with our pathway in Gender and Women’s Studies.

Student experience is at the heart of everything we do. We encourage your participation in all the 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.
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 are also actively involved in departmental committees, giving you the chance to express your views and inform what we do.

Teaching
You will be taught in lectures and seminars with small groups of students. Seminars 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.

Study Experience Fund
This newly established fund is used to take students off-campus for interesting activities, and to bring experts and guest speakers into our classrooms to tell us about their research, campaigning and experiences.

Placement year
With many of our degrees you can apply for a Placement Year version of the degree where you would spend Year 3 doing a placement with a public, private or voluntary organisation. An experience like this could 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.
- Schools Volunteering Placement – Gain hands-on classroom experience in your second year.
- 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: 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 144 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. You can study abroad for your second year at one of our partner universities in Australia or North America. Alternatively you could take a short trip in the Easter or summer vacation to destinations such as the US, Malaysia, India and China. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as academic study and cultural discovery.

lancaster.ac.uk/your global experience
See study abroad case study on page 18.
We are living in a highly complex and rapidly changing world, facing urgent threats related to demographic change, climate change, and global conflict. While some enjoy unprecedented levels of material comfort and privilege, many more are beset by seemingly intractable problems caused by inequality, including poverty, discrimination, and injustice. The need for insight into our divergent and collective social worlds has never been greater.

Studying Sociology at Lancaster will provide you with the new ideas, critical approaches, and innovative methods that you will need to 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 conflicts at both global and local levels. By learning how to apply critical analysis in sustained and creative ways, you will become skilled in identifying and taking forward opportunities for shaping the future of social life.

### 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Religious Studies and Sociology</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>V163</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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**Placement Year**

You can take a placement year with most degree programmes. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Read more: [lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year](lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year)

**Study Abroad Degrees**

Study abroad is an option for most degrees. You 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: [lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad](lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad)

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: [lancaster.ac.uk/study](lancaster.ac.uk/study)
Please note that we keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered and course structure detailed below may therefore differ slightly from that presented here.

**Year 1**

**BA (Hons) Sociology**

Optional Modules

Flexible Subject Option

**Optional Modules**

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

**Flexible Subject Options**

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 apply for your degree we will confirm which optional 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 develop a capacity for conceptual analysis, apply sociological reasoning to empirical examples, and evaluate everyday life with new critical skills.

**Year 1**

**Joint Majors (e.g. Criminology and Sociology)**

The Sociological Imagination

Optional Module

Flexible Subject Option

Optional Modules

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

Flexible Subject Options

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

**Year 2**

**BA (Hons) Sociology**

Sociological Thought for Our Times

Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life

Optional Module

Flexible Subject Option

Optional Sociology modules

Core and optional modules in your joint major subject

See page 12 for a list of optional modules. ‘Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life’ is compulsory if you wish to write a dissertation in Year 3.

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 learn 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 Sociology Dissertation project in your third year.

Study Abroad Year

If you are on a Study Abroad programme you will spend Year 2 at a partner institution studying modules relevant to your degree.

lancaster.ac.uk/sociology
Year 3
BA (Hons) Sociology

Independent Dissertation Project

Optional Sociology modules

OR

Independent Research Project

Flexible Subject Option (continued from Years 1 and 2)

Core and optional modules in your joint major subject

Independent Dissertation Project

Optional Sociology modules

OR

Independent Research Project

 самостоятельный исследовательский проект

Информация о подряднике

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.

The task of writing an 8,000 word dissertation seemed incredibly daunting at first, but my supervisor was really helpful and once the ball started rolling I could have easily written another 8,000 words.

Submitting my dissertation after so many months of hard work was probably the proudest moment of my life!

Jessica Kinchin
BA (Hons) Sociology

Jessica’s proudest moment

Jessica’s dissertation was about representations of poverty, welfare stigma and Benefits Street.
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.

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

Year 2
+ Bodies in Society
+ Climate Change and Society
+ Digital Cultures
+ Family and Intimate Relationships in a Global Context
+ Gender and Media
+ Gender, Sexuality and Society
+ Media and Visual Culture
+ Racisms and Racial Formations
+ Socio-cultural Approaches to Advertising
+ Television Culture and Society

Year 3
+ Classic Encounters
+ Disasters: Why do Things Go Wrong?
+ Feminism and Social Change
+ Living with Capitalism: Class, Distribution and Recognition
+ Modernity and its Discontents
+ Nations and Migration
+ Sociology of the Future
+ Sociology Goes to Hollywood
+ Social Media and Activism
+ Terror

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Our favourite modules

Michael Greenhough
BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology

Sociology of the Future
This module has been really rewarding and stimulating in developing my understanding of the ‘future’ and how it is perceived in society. It provided a comprehensive overview of who is involved in ‘creating’ the future, the impact of technology, and how things like films can highlight future scenarios and prototypes, whether that be utopian or dystopian. Researching the ‘future’ has enabled me to reflect on my personal impact in influencing the future, and think about what we can do in the present to shape the future for generations to come.

Sophie Lewis
BA (Hons) Sociology

Welfare States: Histories and Futures
An incredibly relevant module teaching about Britain’s welfare state in its past, present and future form. The module focused on and clearly explained many political issues, welfare institutions and forms of social provision which are complex and can be difficult to understand on your own. It increased my appreciation for Britain’s advanced welfare state and its capabilities. It was interesting to consider how the British welfare state was imagined by its original architects and how this compares to the form which it takes today.

Neve Rawlinson
BA (Hons) Sociology

Bodies in Society
This is a fantastic module that allows you to explore contemporary social issues in a dynamic and engaging way. It enables you to develop your understanding of key sociological concepts such as stigma or power, and analyse the way in which they may be related to various types of ‘bodies within society; be it the working class body’ or the ‘royal body’. I loved this module as I was able to incorporate elements of political debate within my study of sociology, using modern examples to deconstruct the conceptualisation of certain figures in society.

Gender and Women’s Studies

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 our first year module “Gender and Women’s Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics” which 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 & racialisation
- bodies & biology
- sexualities
- gender and class
- women & religion
- gender & language
- popular culture
- crime & law

Gender and Women’s Studies Pathway
If you wish to pursue your interest further, you can use your optional modules to continue on our specialised pathway, taking modules such as Gender, Sexuality and Society, Gender and Media, and Feminism and Social Change.

Working with a Gender and Women’s Studies academic within the department, 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 @gwslancaster on Twitter to find out more about what we do.
Toby is a third year Sociology student and 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 can be anywhere between two to seven people in the marketing office at once, so every day is different. The Dukes is so much bigger and does so much more than you’d imagine, especially some really cool work with the community from their Creative Learning Department. My week starts with a regular meeting with marketing colleagues, the Head of Development and the Head of Box Office. We discuss our plans for the week, how the productions are selling and what could be done to improve.

Most of my work up to now has surrounded this year’s Williamson Park show, and I have been 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 to be on the Internship scheme; it’s been brilliant to be a part of. It’s made me fully aware of what I want to do in the future, and I’ve been offered a permanent part-time job at The Dukes.”
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 off Canada on 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
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 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 within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences who are able to advise you of graduate schemes, jobs, internships, and work experience opportunities relevant to your subject of study.
Read more lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Workplace Skills
Our degrees enable you to develop a range of transferable skills that 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 are equipped to use their sociological imaginations and make a difference 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

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!

Prof Monika Buscher
Monika is Professor of Sociology, Director of the Centre for Mobilities Research and Associate Director for the Institute for Social Futures at Lancaster University
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. Our work has been supported by grants from UK Research Councils, Intel Inc. and the European Commission.

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.

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, gender-based violence, women’s human rights, and gender equality policies. We organise public events such as Hear Me Roar and Feminist Movie Mondays. Our research has been funded by different bodies including the European Commission, Leverhulme Trust, British Academy, and the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission.

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. We have received funding from the Leverhulme Trust and UK Research Councils for our work in this area.

The University makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing (June 2019). Please see lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice for further information.