



Sociology
Undergraduate Degrees 2027



Welcome

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

Established in 1969, Sociology at Lancaster has developed an excellent global reputation and today we are ranked 59th for Sociology in the world (QS World Subject Rankings 2026). You will be taught by talented and passionate scholars with specialist expertise in an exciting range of areas such as climate change, race, decoloniality, migration, gender, and consumption.

The subjects that we teach and study will open up your curiosity about the world we live in. In the context of multiple recent national, regional and global crises, cultivating a sociological imagination has never been more important. 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.

Student experience is at the heart of what we do. We are committed to supporting you with all challenges, big and small. Student ambassadors and representatives ensure that your experience and voice is at the forefront of our minds.

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.



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.



Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Sociology		BA	L300	3	BBB
Sociology (Placement Year)		BA	L301	4	BBB
Sociology (Study Abroad)		BA	L302	4	BBB
Sociology and Criminology		BA	LM39	3	BBB
Sociology and Criminology (Placement Year)		BA	LM40	4	BBB
Sociology and Criminology (Study Abroad)		BA	LM41	4	BBB
Sociology and Film		BA	PL33	3	ABB
Sociology and Film (Placement Year)		BA	PL34	4	ABB
Sociology and Film (Study Abroad)		BA	PL35	4	ABB
Sociology and Media Studies		BA	LP30	3	BBB
Sociology and Media Studies (Placement Year)		BA	LP31	4	BBB
Sociology and Media Studies (Study Abroad)		BA	LP32	4	BBB
Sociology and Politics		BA	LL23	3	BBB
Sociology and Politics (Placement Year)		BA	LL24	4	BBB
Sociology and Politics (Study Abroad)		BA	LL25	4	BBB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements [lancaster.ac.uk](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk)



Made for *learning*

Student support

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



Teaching

You will be taught through workshops, where you can discuss readings, try out new ideas, and take part in practical activities, as well as getting to know your fellow students and staff.

Assessment

As well as writing essays, we use innovative assessment methods, such as presentations, posters, scenarios, blogs, reflective journals and portfolios, reviews of public campaigns, policy briefings, research proposals and an independent research project.

“

The staff are all passionate about their interests and committed to the success of their students.

”



Isobel, third year

BA Hons Sociology

I really value the commitment to decolonising academia on this course. Decolonial thought is implemented throughout the modules and I've been given the opportunity to learn about some of sociology's key, foundational theorists and concepts. I've been able to discuss the importance of these ideas while also questioning how well they represent and validate diverse lives and lived experiences.

In my studies, I have been inspired by P.H. Collins's work about Black feminist epistemology. It provided me with an understanding of alternative and equally (if not more) insightful ways of knowing and producing knowledge through the lived experiences of black women. I've discussed this topic in multiple essays.

Studying Sociology here offers a number of opportunities to engage in events, internships, activities etc. It also offers the Faculty Writing Space – a collaborative learning environment which has been useful for me when I'm stuck on an essay. As well as this, the sociology staff are absolutely amazing, I've met most of them and they're all passionate about their interests and are committed to the success of their students. I feel so lucky to be supported by such dedicated staff members.



Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance provided via a series of preparatory workshops and 1:1 appointments with our Placements Team.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities in areas such as public affairs, marketing, business development and events. The scheme offers you an opportunity to gain access to direct work experience while you study.

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate 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. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.

You can contribute points towards the Lancaster Award by completing the Digital Skills Certificate, a self-paced online programme that helps students learn new skills for study. You can also earn an online badge which can be exported to LinkedIn.



“

My favourite aspect of the internship was that every task was different.

”

*Housing Options Officer
for Lichfield District
Council*

Lancaster University



Morgan, graduated 2023
BA Hons Sociology

I gained a paid internship through the Faculty Internship Scheme working in public affairs and fundraising for an organisation called Generation Rent. I developed knowledge in government legislation and housing laws and skills in research techniques, how to construct formal letters and produce persuasive flyers.

My favourite aspect of the internship was that every task was different and built upon previous tasks. I enjoyed that my manager always believed I was capable of doing more than an intern was supposed to.

Since finishing my internship I worked in Housing for Wigan Council and I am now at Lichfield District Council as a Housing Options Officer; because of that internship I fell in love with housing policy and the impacts of Section 21 evictions. I'm also looking to do another degree for the Chartered Institute of Housing.



Your global *experience*

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.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

Vacation travel

You can also discover the world during your vacations. Our Global Experiences team run vacation travel trips to Malaysia which include a mix of academic study and cultural discovery. These trips range from cultural exchanges to studying sustainable practices with world leading experts.

Overseas summer schools

During summer vacation, you can apply to attend a summer school at one of our international partner universities all around the world. Destinations are varied – from Singapore to Italy, Hong Kong to Canada. Explore where you could go: lancaster.ac.uk/overseas-summer-schools

Follow us on Instagram @GlobalLancaster

Find out more at lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

“

The experience pushed me to become more independent, confident and open-minded.

”



Michelle, third year

BA Hons Sociology (Study Abroad)

Studying abroad has been one of the best experiences of my life. I studied at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, and the experience pushed me to become more independent, confident and open-minded.

Through modules like Indigenous Studies, I gained a deeper understanding of Australia's history and culture. Outside the classroom, I explored the vibrant city of Melbourne, took a few road trips and made some amazing new friends.

Some of my most memorable moments include feeding a real kangaroo (they were surprisingly soft) and seeing the Sydney Opera House for the first time. I remember spotting it from the plane window and feeling amazed, but walking up to it in person and standing on the steps felt completely surreal.

I would highly recommend studying abroad. It's a chance to explore parts of the world you may never otherwise see and to learn so much about yourself in the process.

Sociology

BA (Hons)

This course explores the big questions in today's world, equipping you with the skills, knowledge and confidence to act as a force for change in your chosen career.

In your first year, you are introduced to core sociological concepts and the foundations of research practice. You'll learn how to think sociologically about everyday life, explore major social issues, and develop essential academic and study skills through reflection and engagement with public sociology.

In your second year, you build on this foundation by deepening your understanding of global social theory and contemporary inequalities. You'll gain practical experience with sociological research methods and begin designing your own research projects, applying theory and methods to issues related to race, class, and gender.

In your final year, you critically apply advanced sociological theories to urgent global challenges and specialist topics such as health, migration, or the environment. You'll develop your own independent research project - from idea to dissertation - demonstrating your ability to analyse complex problems, carry out research ethically and independently, and communicate your findings to diverse audiences.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Thinking Sociologically

This module focuses on sociological issues, concepts, evidence and arguments 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.

Framing Social Issues

How can the 'sociological imagination' help us make sense of important contemporary topics? This module will uncover sociology's approach to studying key issues such as identity, crime, health and climate change.

Researching Society: Principles and Practices

How do sociologists decide what to study and how to study it? This module introduces you to key debates in sociological research, exploring how different theoretical approaches shape the questions we ask and the methods we use.

Public Sociology: Understanding and Creating Social Change

Exploring how sociology can contribute to real-world change, this module focuses on the role of public sociology in addressing social inequalities, informing policy and engaging with communities.

Optional modules:

- Contemporary Social Issues 1
- Explaining Criminology
- Doing Criminology: How We Know About Crime
- Crime and Popular Culture
- Understanding Media and Culture
- Media, Power and Identity
- Transformations in Digital Media
- Screens and Selves
- Global Challenges in World Politics
- Parties, Populism and Protest
- Policy Lab
- Political Theory in a Troubled World
- British Politics: Political Ideas in Action
- Ethics: How Should I Live?
- History of Philosophy: Ideas that Shaped the West

Year 2

Core Modules

Global Social Theory: Connecting Sociologies

Introducing you to a diverse range of sociological approaches from around the world, this module will analyse how different social theories help us understand the emergence and transformation of our societies.

Research in Action: Methods for Investigating the Social World

Equipping you with essential research skills to explore pressing social questions, this module will examine how sociologists investigate the world around us.

Designing Sociological Research

Preparing you for independent research, this module will guide you through the process of developing sociological research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies and considering ethical and practical challenges.

Optional modules include:

- Transnational Debates on Gender and Society
- Welfare States: Poverty, Policy and Politics
- Gender and Sexuality in Popular Culture
- Youth Justice
- Organised Crime
- Cybercrime and Cybercriminality
- Contemporary Issues in Policing
- Digital Cultures
- Visual Cultures
- Film, Gender, Race and Ideology
- Democracy, Dictatorship and Everything in Between
- Theories of Power and the State
- Who Governs Britain? Policy, Politics and Political Change
- Global Superpowers
- Politics of the Global South

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

Your third year is spent in a graduate-level work placement and assessed via assignments reflecting on your experiences.

Final Year

Core Modules

Advanced Sociological Theories and Applications

Take an advanced look at how sociologists use paradigms, theories and concepts, as this module takes an in-depth look into every stage of research.

Sociology Independent Project

Develop and refine your research question, design an appropriate methodological approach and critically engage with relevant literature, as you conduct an original piece of sociological research on the topic of your choice.

Optional modules include:

- Environment and Society: Crisis, Justice and Change
- Health, Bodies and Social Reproduction
- Migration, Inequalities and Societies
- Green Criminology
- Gendered Harm and Justice
- Drugs, Crime and Society
- Hate Crime
- Crimes and Harms of the Powerful
- Crime and Media
- Film Industries, Practices and Movements
- Global Film Genres
- The Making of Media and AI Futures
- Audiences, Fans and Participatory Cultures
- Democracy Under Pressure
- Policymaking in the Real World

Complete module lists are available on our Sociology course page: lancaster.ac.uk/social-sciences/sociology



Combined *honours degrees*

You can combine Sociology with a variety of other subjects in a combined honours degree. You'll take some of the core content from each subject, carefully selected to allow you to develop key knowledge in each, while still having the freedom to choose some optional modules.

Sociology and Criminology

This thought-provoking degree covers complex, challenging topics from criminal justice and youth crime to social justice and climate change, racism and hate, power and inequalities. Take a deep dive into different theories and perspectives, with input from professionals in areas such as law enforcement, social services and charities.

Sociology and Film

Make sense of how society works - and why it doesn't work in the same way for everyone. Develop an understanding of social theories, film history and theory, and see through a different lens. Establish a powerful combination of intellectual and practical skills and be well equipped to make your mark in your future profession.



Sociology and Media Studies

Media shapes who we are, what we think and what we value, while studying Sociology helps us make sense of how society works. Combined, these subjects provide a sophisticated understanding of the world around us and the intellectual and practical skills to dissect complex issues, readying you to succeed in your chosen career.

Sociology and Politics

Studying Sociology and Politics together will illuminate the world around you. They will empower you to better understand critical global issues such as inequality, migration, climate change and the crisis of democracy. You'll graduate with a strong skill set, capable of thriving in the professional world.



“
*I really
enjoy the
opportunity
to explore
the deep
connection
between film
and sociology.*
”



Peggy, third year

BA Hons Sociology and Film

Sociology and film were the first subjects I encountered at Lancaster University during my foundation year. Initially, I was more interested in sociology because I enjoy understanding reality and social problems around the world, but when I noticed Lancaster offered a joint degree in film and sociology, I thought it would be more interesting.

I found that the two subjects were deeply connected. For example, gender inequality and feminist theories in sociology can be explored in film. A film was even incorporated into one of the core sociology modules in my second year, which allowed me to delve deeper into this theory and gender inequality.

I really enjoy the opportunity to explore the deep connection between film and sociology offered by my degree. I also really like that when choosing modules, we're not limited to sociology and film modules. I could choose modules related to media and culture studies, making it easy to find something that interested me.



Careers and *employability*

You will graduate with the ability to critically analyse social issues and think creatively about possible solutions. You will be experienced in essential teamworking and collaboration skills and be able to articulate a clear, well-evidenced argument.

Workplace skills

Our degrees allow 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 communication 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

Careers Service

The University Careers Service offers dedicated career support and has connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across diverse sectors. Careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities are organised throughout the year.



Graduate destinations

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:

Civil servants for local authorities, local government and national government

Members of civil society groups, non-governmental organisations, and the not-for-profit sector

- Civil servant for local authorities and local and national government
- Civil society group member, non-governmental organisations, and the not-for-profit sector
- Social and policy research
- Teaching
- Social care
- Journalism



“

*I gained
a deep
understanding
and grew
confident in
myself.*

”



Charlotte, graduated 2024

People & Payroll at Blackpool & Fylde College

During my time studying sociology at Lancaster University, I gained such a deep understanding of how the everyday world around us works and grew confident in myself to portray ideas and back up my own opinions.

It was the perfect opportunity to meet people of all cultures and examine social life from all perspectives with amazing support from staff and peers alike.

I've learnt how to think critically and analyse each social situation which has been a beneficial addition to my skills in the workplace and, I've found, can be translated to almost any job sector.





lancaster.ac.uk/social-sciences/sociology

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.