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, Lancaster Sociology has developed an excellent global reputation and today we are 64th for Sociology in the world (QS World University Rankings 2022). You will be taught by talented and passionate scholars in Sociology with specialist expertise in an exciting range of topic areas such as climate change, race, decoloniality, migration, gender, and consumption. As part of our unique programme at Lancaster you can elect to specialise your degree with modules in Gender and Women’s Studies.

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 around these topics 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 our students with all challenges, big and small, and our student ambassadors and representatives ensure that your experience and voice is at the centre of our 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.

Dr Ala Sirriyeh
Director of Sociology
Sociology at Lancaster

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.

91% of our research rated world-leading or internationally excellent

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021: Sociology

In the UK for Sociology
Guardian University Guide 2022

Top 20
15th in the UK for Sociology graduate prospects
Complete University Guide 2023

Top 100
64th in the world for Sociology
QS World Subject Rankings 2022

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>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr Stanley Blue
Senior Lecturer in Sociology

Lancaster Sociology is a special place. I should know, I came here to do my undergraduate degree and never left! I think that’s because of the community feel, and the care that staff have for students and their progress.

Nowadays, I teach the first year module and the final year dissertation module. Teaching at the start and end of the degree means I see how students develop their sociological imagination, and their conceptual and empirical skills, and apply everything they’ve learnt to their dissertation - an independent piece of sociological research on a topic that interests them the most!

Along the way I’m always amazed at the friendships that develop between new and aspiring sociologists and the ‘extra-curricular’ projects they grow – like the new student Sociology Society that hosts talks and socials.

I’m sure that, like me, you will love your time in the Sociology Department at Lancaster. And if you decide to join us, I’ll meet you in the first year class!
### Degree Structure

**BA (Hons) Sociology**

#### Year 1

**CORE**  
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**  
You will select one from the following optional modules in the Sociology Department and single honours students may choose to take a second.  
- Contemporary Social Problems  
- Gender and Women’s Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics  
- Transformations: From Mass Media to Social Media

**OPTIONAL MODULE**  
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.

**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.

#### Joint major students

You will study the core Sociology module **The Sociological Imagination** alongside the core module in your other subject. You will also choose one optional module from either subject, or a minor module in a different subject. This offers flexibility to shape your degree to your interests.

**Criminology and Sociology**  
+ Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice  
+ Optional Module or Minor Subject Module

**Film and Sociology**  
+ Introduction to Film Studies  
+ Optional Module or Minor Subject Module

**Politics and Sociology**  
+ Politics in the Modern World  
+ Optional Module or Minor Subject Module

#### Year 2

**CORE**  
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.

**CORE**  
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 final year.

**OPTIONAL MODULE**  
Minors Subject Module (continued from Year 1)  
Optional Modules  
See page 10 for a list of optional modules in Sociology. Joint major students can check out our website for details of the optional modules available in their second subject.  
www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

**Joint major students**

You will study the core module **Sociological Thought for Our Times** and the following modules in your joint major subject:

**Criminology and Sociology**  
- Criminological Thought  
  PLUS EITHER  
  - Skills for Researching Social and Cultural Life  
  - Measuring Crime: Understand Crime Data and Trends, AND  
  - Understanding Criminological Fieldwork

**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

Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information.  
www.lancaster.ac.uk
In the first year of my sociology degree, the thought of writing an 8,000-word dissertation seemed an unthinkable 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.

Daisy Barker
BA (Hons) Sociology
Graduated 2019
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
+ 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
+ Disasters: Why do Things Go Wrong?
+ Fans and Audiences in a Global Context
+ Feminism and Social Change
+ Global Migration and Belonging
+ Journalism and Multimedia Production
+ Living with Capitalism
+ Modernity and its Discontents
+ Sociology Goes to Hollywood
+ Social Media and Activism
+ Sociology of the Future
+ Terror

Climate Change and Society

With a range of lecturers from different departments and a diverse set of classroom activities, in this module, I was able to tackle one of the biggest debates within our generation from every angle. This module taught me the extent of our societies’ effects upon nature, and I have learned skills which will help me to do all I can to better society from any position in life.

Matthew Stapleton
BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology

Consumer Culture and Advertising

I chose to study sociology because it allows you to take everyday things and start to question them and look at them from another perspective. This module has been great because we looked at things like biographies of objects and now I’m looking at my water bottle and thinking “where were you made? Who made you? How much were they working for? What were the working conditions?” It’s so interesting to investigate all of these everyday things that I didn’t pay attention to before.

Daniella Pollard
BA (Hons) Sociology

Racisms and Racial Formation

This module was brilliant and, particularly when thinking about the Black Lives Matter events that happened in 2020, it felt very personal. I really enjoyed trying to understand those events in more academic terms, understanding the kind of mechanisms behind how racism works in our society. We also had great discussions in seminars where we applied concepts to events that had been happening. I really enjoyed the module!

Brad Hodgson
BA (Hons) Sociology
In your 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.

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

Placement year
You can take a placement year with the majority of our degrees. This involves spending Year 3 working in a graduate-level, paid, professional role in a sector of your choice. You then return to Lancaster in Year 4 to complete your studies and a reflective portfolio about your experience.

A placement year degree offers a boost to your employment prospects. It allows you to work in a field that either complements your academic studies, or branches out in a new direction. Most sectors offer placement year positions, and we support you in the competitive application process. We help you in securing a placement through personalised coaching and support during Year 2.

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.
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 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: www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

Study abroad
On our 4-year study abroad degrees you spend your third year studying at one of our international partner universities. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel
We typically run short, international trips during the Easter and Summer vacation periods. These tend to include a mix of academic study, cultural discovery and engaging with local students and businesses. They are a great way to make your CV stand out in the increasingly global world of work.

Previous trips have included 3-week stays in Malaysia, India, Ghana and China during summer vacation, or a 10-day trip to New York and Boston in the spring.

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

Please note that overseas opportunities may be impacted by international travel or Government border restrictions. Destinations are given as a guide only as places at overseas partners vary each year.
During her time at Lancaster University, Emily worked as a sociology student ambassador, became vice-president of the baking society and, between terms, volunteered in her local community. Having a career mentor in her second year helped her to discover an interest in public health, so she tailored her degree to prepare for a career in that area. After hearing about the final year Independent Research Project, Emily was excited:

I jumped at the opportunity when I saw there was a possibility of a research placement in local government, and with the help of my Department I was able to secure one.

I started the placement in my third year, shadowing the public health practitioners in the office, attending events, and joining meetings. I mainly worked with the sexual health services team. Together we designed a research project to reflect both my interests and their work. For my project I interviewed sexual health professionals, exploring their perceptions of how patients accessing sexual health testing kits online impacted both services and patient experiences.

There were lots of fantastic opportunities to get involved with. I helped to develop a sexual health video for young people and learned so much about working in public health, meeting and shadowing professionals from across the sector.

The module gave me the confidence and experience to start my own career in public health. When I applied for my role as a graduate trainee project manager, my placement experience helped me to write a great application and to stand out in the interview process; it also made me feel comfortable to enter a role helping to deliver projects across our region's health and social care system.

I would recommend the placement to anyone looking for work and research experience in an area you are passionate about.

Emily Hall
BA (Hons) Sociology
Graduated 2020
Erin spent one year of her Sociology degree at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

“Studying abroad 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
Teaching inspired by world-class research

Here in the Sociology Department, we have always been at the forefront of exciting and innovative research, which has been recognised globally. Sociology at Lancaster is ranked 64th in the world in the QS World Subject Rankings 2022. 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, covering 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. You can meet many people from this research centre on our interdisciplinary Year One module, and in optional modules available through the degree. We organise public events such as Feminist Movie Mondays.

**Mobilities**

Lancaster University is where the new ‘mobilities paradigm’ in the social sciences, humanities and sciences started. Put simply, this research centre 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. In particular we are now linking this work to the pressing climate emergency that we face. You can learn with our specialist researchers on an optional module, Climate Change and Society.

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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!"  
Prof Monika Buscher  
Monika is Professor of Sociology and Fellow of the Institute for Social Futures at Lancaster University
Your future career

**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 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
+ The ability to work productively in a group or team, showing your ability to listen, contribute and lead effectively
+ Skills in audio, audio-visual and media production

**Paid Internships**

As a student with us, you can apply to the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) Internship Scheme that offers exclusive opportunities that are ring-fenced for students in the Faculty. A myriad of paid, sector-specific internships are available each year in the summer vacation and part-time during term time. Just to give you a taster, some of the past employers include Carnegie Publishing, Lancaster Arts, More Music, The Dukes Theatre, Comma Press, Deco Publique, Crowberry Consulting, Fairfield Association, Active Lancashire and National Trust. Discover more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/FASS-placements](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/FASS-placements)

**The Lancaster Award**

The Lancaster Award rewards you for taking part in extra-curricular activities outside your academic studies. Developed in partnership with employers, the certificate rewards you for making the most of your time at Lancaster, and enhances your future job prospects by encouraging you to acquire new skills valued by employers. You will undertake a variety of activities and reflect on the skills you have developed. We want you to stand out from the crowd, and the Lancaster Award will help. Read more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award)

**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

**Important information**

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2023–24 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2022). 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. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University’s reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University’s liability can be found in the Student Contract at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms). Further legal information may be found at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legallnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legallnotice)