



Sociology

Undergraduate Degrees

2025




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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, Lancaster Sociology has developed an excellent global reputation and today we are 83rd for Sociology in the world (QS World University Rankings 2024). 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 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 Deirdre Duffy
 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*



14th
in the UK for
Sociology
*Complete University
Guide 2025*










**Top
20**
for Sociology
Graduate Prospects
*Complete University
Guide 2025*



**Top
100**
83rd in the world
for Sociology
QS World Subject
Rankings 2024

Degrees and entry requirements

Degree		Duration	UCAS code	Typical offer
BA (Hons) Sociology	 	3 years	L300	ABB
BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology		3 years	LM39	ABB
BA (Hons) Film and Sociology	 	3 years	PL33	ABB
BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology	 	3 years	LL23	ABB

 Study abroad available  Placement year available

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements
www.lancaster.ac.uk



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, which means I see students begin their sociological journey, and their conceptual and empirical skills.

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 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 Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics
- + Transformations: From Mass Media to Social Media

+ OPTIONAL MODULE

OR

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

See page 10 for examples 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

OR

MINOR SUBJECT MODULE (continued from Year 1)

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
- OR**
- + Measuring Crime: Understand Crime Data and Trends, **AND**
- + Understanding Criminological Fieldwork

Film and Sociology

- + Global Cinemas: Forms, Debates, Histories
- + 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

Degree structure

Final Year

CORE
Independent Dissertation Project

+

OPTIONAL SOCIOLOGY MODULES
(see page 10 for examples)

You will write a 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 below.

OR

MINOR SUBJECT MODULE
(continued from Years 1 and 2)

Placement Year

If you are on a Placement Year programme, and 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 final year curriculum.

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 3 at a partner institution studying modules relevant to your degree. In your fourth year, you will return to Lancaster to complete the final year curriculum.

Joint major students

You will 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

Daisy's research highlight



In the first year of my sociology degree, the thought of writing a 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 within the word count 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

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 Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics
- + Transformations: From Mass Media to Social Media

Year 2

- + Climate Change and Society
- + Digital Cultures
- + Gender and Intersecting Inequalities
- + Global Families and Intimacy
- + Media and Visual Culture
- + Racisms and Racial Formations
- + Socio-Cultural Approaches to Advertising
- + Television, Culture and Society

Final Year

- + Disasters: Why do Things Go Wrong?
- + Fans and Audiences in a Global Context
- + Feminism and Social Change
- + Food Cultures
- + Migration, Citizenship and Belonging
- + Modernity and its Discontents
- + Racism, Populism and the Far Right
- + Sociology Goes to Hollywood
- + Social Media and Activism
- + Terror
- + Welfare States: Histories and Futures



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



Socio-Cultural Approaches to 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





Gender Studies

Take the opportunity to explore or specialise in Gender Studies as part of your Sociology degree. The flexibility of our undergraduate programmes allows you to take one or more modules in Gender Studies while working towards a related degree.

In your first year here, you can choose the following module:

Gender Studies: Identities, Inequalities and Politics

This module considers gender relations, the different social conditions in which people live, especially in relation to gendered differences amongst people. You will explore 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, from your second year onwards, you can take further optional modules such as Gender and Intersecting Inequalities and Feminism and Social Change.

In your final year, 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; Linguistics; Law; and Politics, Philosophy and Religion.

Check out the Centre for Gender Studies Lancaster on Facebook or @cgslancaster 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 involve 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.

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:

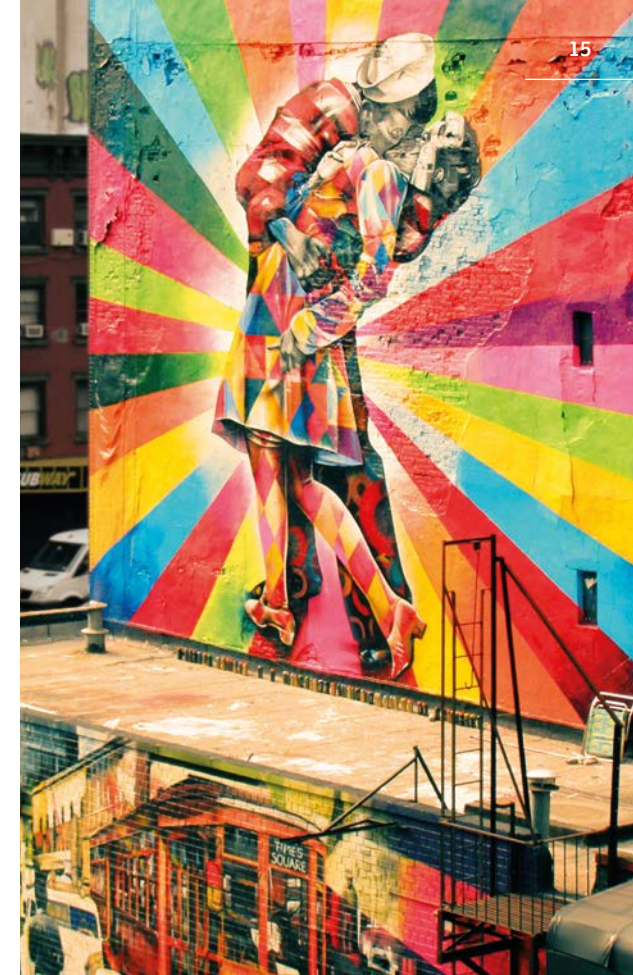
- + Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme – paid work placements that you can apply to undertake during vacation periods.
- + Richardson Internship Programme – develop your research skills on real-world projects working with NGOs, think tanks, charities and faith-based organisations.

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 abroad. Current partner universities are located in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and the USA. 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.

Destinations are given as a guide only as places at overseas partners vary each year.



Vacation travel

We typically run short, international trips during the summer vacation. 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 been 2-3 week trips to destinations such as China, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland.

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



Erin's year in Canada

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



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 St John's Hospice, Lancaster Arts, More Music charity, the Dukes Theatre, Comma Press, Deco Publique Events, Active Lancashire, and the National Trust.

Discover more:

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

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 2025–26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). 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 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. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice





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www.lancaster.ac.uk/sociology

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