



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Sociology

UCAS code L302

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration
A level: BBB	Full-time	3 years

Apply by: **14 January 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Our approach to sociology engages you in a critical study of society. You will learn to make sense of what drives change in the social world and the possible directions this change may take.

Introduction

The effect of new ideas, technologies, government programmes and social conflict on everyday life is explored through your study of a broad range of subjects that take in local, national and global social relationships. The aim is to give you a comprehensive grasp of the sociological imagination and the real world issues it speaks to.

The core modules in year one provide you with a firm foundation for future study. How can sociology help us address social change and divisions? Where can our sociological imagination best apply itself? In year two, you will deepen your understanding of social theory and research methods and broaden your knowledge of society through a range of options. By year three, you will have the choice to study specialist subjects in depth and develop your independent learning.

You may opt for a dissertation and pursue a topic of your choice. Alternatively, you can gain valuable employability skills by opting for our social policy project, combining work experience with your studies and carrying out a piece of research commissioned by a local agency.

Our programmes are based on cutting-edge research and are ideal preparation for careers or further study where clear, creative thinking is valued. From the historical foundations of crime and punishment to the implications of digitisation in social, political, economic and cultural life.

What you'll learn

- Qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Data analysis
- Report writing
- Presentation
- Appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations
- Applying sociological theory to society's organisations including schools, hospitals and offices
- Researching, judging and evaluating complex information
- Making reasoned arguments
- Developing opinions and new ideas on social issues
- The ability to understand, scrutinise and re-assess common perceptions of the social world
- Relating sociological knowledge to social, public and civic policy

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

In year one, you'll be introduced to the classic works of Marx, Weber and Durkheim before exploring a range of 20th-century social theorists, thus laying a strong foundation for future study. On the practical side, there are two linked modules, *Social Change and Social Policy in Contemporary Society I and II*, which examine issues such as the family, social class, gender and 'race'. A further introductory module, *Studying Society*, explores the use of social science research methods and ensures that by the second year, you are fully acquainted with all the skills you need to progress in your studies.

*Some modules may not be available depending on your selected programme of study.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>CONTROLLING CRIME - AN INTRODUCTION (SOC1108)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO CRIME AND SOCIETY (SOC1107)</u>	15
<u>SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY 1 (SOC1102)</u>	15
<u>SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY 2: CHANGING INEQUALITIES (SOC1103)</u>	15
<u>BECOMING A SOCIAL RESEARCHER (SOC1106)</u>	30
<u>SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (SOC1101)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

Having established a firm grounding, you'll begin to increase your in-depth understanding of social theory and research methods, and broaden your knowledge of different topics in the discipline through a wide range of options.

*Some modules may not be available depending on your selected programme of study.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>QUANTITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (SOCI247)</u>	15
<u>QUALITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (SOCI248)</u>	15
<u>THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY: APPROACHES TO SOCIAL INQUIRY (SOCI242)</u>	30
Optional modules	Credits
<u>DEVIANCE, YOUTH AND CULTURE (SOCI252)</u>	15
<u>CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL POLICY IN THE UK (SOCI205)</u>	15
<u>THE BLACK PRESENCE - MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN BRITAIN 1800-1979 (SOCI223)</u>	15
<u>CRITICAL EDUCATION STUDIES (SOCI257)</u>	15
<u>COMPARING WELFARE STATES (SOCI207)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETY (SOCI258)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year three

By year three, you will have the choice to study specialist subjects in depth and develop your independent learning. Those who opt for a dissertation are given the freedom to pursue their interest in a topic of their own choice, whilst those opting for our applied social research or social policy project have the opportunity to combine work experience with academic rigour. We have considerable expertise in aligning your research interests with the needs and aims of local agencies.

*Some modules may not be available depending on your selected programme of study.

Dissertation routes

You must choose **SOCI301** or **SOCI303** or **SOCI347** or **SOCI311** (semester one only).

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DISSERTATION (SOCI301)</u>	30
<u>INTERCHANGE PORTFOLIO: WORK-BASED LEARNING (SOCI303)</u>	30
<u>CREATIVE CONSULTANT: DISSERTATION BY PORTFOLIO (SOCI347)</u>	30
<u>SHORT INTERCHANGE PROJECT (SOCI311)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>HEALTH, LIFECOURSE & SOCIETY (SOCI307)</u>	15
<u>GENDER AND CRIME (SOCI308)</u>	15
<u>HATE CRIME AND 'THE STIGMATISED OTHER' (SOCI313)</u>	15
<u>THE RISK SOCIETY: CRIME, SECURITY AND PUBLIC POLICY (SOCI320)</u>	15
<u>THE VIOLENCE OF NEO-IMPERIALISM: STATE-CORPORATE CRIME IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH (SOCI322)</u>	15
<u>CULTURE, ECONOMY AND CITIES (SOCI327)</u>	15
<u>GENDER AND THE WELFARE STATE (SOCI332)</u>	15
<u>SOCIOLOGIES OF CLASS AND INEQUALITY (SOCI335)</u>	15
<u>DRUGS, CRIME AND SOCIETY (SOCI339)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND THE SEDUCTIONS OF CRIME (SOCI340)</u>	15
<u>'RACE', COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY (SOCI346)</u>	15
<u>CRIME, JUSTICE AND THE SEX INDUSTRY (SOCI349)</u>	15
<u>LOVE, HATE AND ANGER: EMOTIONS AND SOCIETY (SOCI354)</u>	15
<u>CYBER CRIME, HARM, AND VICTIMISATION (SOCI362)</u>	15
<u>BODIES, POLITICS AND MORALITY (SOCI363)</u>	15
<u>COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SOCI369)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>ARCHITECTURE AND POWER: PARLIAMENTS, PRISONS AND COURTS (SOCI372)</u>	15
<u>MEN, MASCULINITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE (SOCI374)</u>	15
<u>NATURE IN DANGER: SOCIO-POLITICAL ROOTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HARM (SOCI378)</u>	15
<u>LOVE AND MARRIAGE: THE SOCIOLOGY OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS (SOCI380)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Combined degree

Choosing this subject as a combined degree

Studying Sociology as 50% of your degree gives you a thorough understanding of the way in which society works. Core modules in year one provide you with a firm foundation for future study.

Sociological theory embraces the classic work of Marx, Weber and Durkheim and a range of 20th century social theorists. A further 30 credits are available within Sociology and you may choose from the following modules. Social change and social policy investigates contemporary controversies around issues such as the family, social class, gender and 'race'. Studying society looks at the basics of social scientific work, including research methods, and an introduction to IT – ensuring you are fully conversant with utilising online resources. Both introduction to crime and society, and controlling crime explore key concepts in the criminology and criminal justice process.

Year two compulsory modules include thinking sociologically: approaches to social inquiry, and social research methods.

In year three, you will have the choice to study specialist subjects in-depth and develop your independent learning. You may opt for a dissertation and pursue a topic of your choice.

Alternatively, you can gain valuable employability skills and opt for our Applied social research module or Social policy project and combine work experience with your studies, by carrying out a piece of research commissioned by a local agency.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You will be taught through a combination of face-to-face teaching in group lectures and small class sessions, tutorials and seminars, which are supplemented by opportunities to get one-to-one guidance from academic staff during their weekly 'open office' hours. The rest of your study time will be spent undertaking directed independent study, making use of our excellent library and IT facilities.

You will also be supported throughout by an individual academic adviser. Learning is delivered in a variety of formats including lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, guided independent study, group work and reflective and experiential learning.

The primary purpose of lectures is to provide you with a broad introduction to key areas and debates on a given topic pitched at the appropriate level of study. The lectures aim to facilitate your reading and highlight issues to be explored during independent study time in preparation for seminars and assessment.

Seminars provide opportunities to explore particular issues and debates in greater detail in a way that supplements and builds upon the lectures. Seminars also allow for greater levels of student participation and such participation will be actively encouraged throughout the programme. Workshops frequently follow the format of seminars but they also may be used to develop particular skills in a teaching context. For example, workshops develop skills in data analysis and skills in interviewing.

Guided independent study may also feature in your learning experience. Group work is a feature of all seminar teaching and group work takes place both with and outside of formal scheduled classes.

How you're assessed

Assessment takes many forms, each appropriate to the learning outcomes of the particular module studied. Most modules are assessed by means of a mixture of essays and examinations. Typically, a module in year two might involve a 4,000

word essay or a 2,500 word essay plus a one hour examination. Some modules are assessed wholly or in part by other appropriate means, such as the preparation of projects and individual or group presentations. The final degree class is based on year two and three marks, weighted in favour of year three marks.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

We will enable you to develop a range of social scientific, analytic and communication skills and a variety of transferable skills valued by many employers in a range of industries (eg media organisations, local government and charitable organisations, and commercial and financial service sectors).

Our graduates have gone onto successful careers in:

- public and private sectors
- social welfare and criminal justice agencies (the police and probation services)
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Studying with us also provides a sound basis from which you will be able to pursue postgraduate studies either with a vocational orientation (MA in Social Work, Legal Practice Course, for example) or to further your research skills at masters and doctoral levels.

Recent employers

- Merseyside Police
- HM Prison Service
- National Probation Service
- Legal Services Commission
- Mencap
- IPSOS Mori
- Shell
- British Council

Work experience opportunities

We invite you to take part in [SLSJ Extra](#)—a series of talks and workshops featuring experts from the legal, criminal and voluntary sectors, along with leading professionals and reform advocates from the UK and beyond. Through SLSJ Extra, you'll see how the fields of law, sociology, social policy and criminology can open doors to a wide range of fulfilling careers. This rich extracurricular experience supports your future aspirations and helps you explore where your studies can take you.

We're also here to help you make the most of work experience opportunities. In your second year, you can choose to integrate work experience into your studies. By your third-year, you can take advantage of work placements through our [Interchange](#)

service, which connects you with voluntary and charitable organisations across the region, giving you the chance to apply your skills in real-world settings. You can also gain valuable volunteering experience with support from our Employability & Interchange Coordinators or by joining the **Peer Mentoring Scheme**.

We offer placements that allow you to undertake research projects with real impact on both local and national communities. These opportunities continue to grow each year. This year, for example, our research placements include collaborations with organisations such as the National Youth Advocacy Service and The Heseltine Institute.

Wherever you want to go, we'll help you get there.

Postgraduate opportunities

Typical courses studied by graduates from this programme:

- Social Research Methods MA
- Criminology Research MRes
- Social Research MRes

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Year abroad fee – £12,050 (applies to year in China)

Fees are for academic year 2025/26.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

BBB

Applicants may only offer ONE of the following A Levels: General Studies OR Citizenship Studies OR Critical Thinking.

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

DDD. Must be in one of the following subjects:

- Applied Human Biology
- Applied Law
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Science
- Business

- Business Accounting and Finance
- Computing
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Forensic and Criminal Investigation
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Information Technology
- Public Services
- Sport
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Strategic Management and Leadership
- Travel and Tourism
- Uniformed Protective Services.

International Baccalaureate

30 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H2,H2,H2,H2,H3,H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

BBB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus BB at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma(Humanities/Social Science) with 45 Level 3 credits with 30 at Distinction and 15 at Merit.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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