



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

## Sociology with Social Policy

UCAS code T828

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 Sociology with Social Policy programme offers you the opportunity to combine two closely related and complementary disciplines, tackling some of the most interesting and important social issues of our times.

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### Introduction

Sociology, the major component of this programme, involves the study of the ways in which societies are organised and how they function. How is the particular society we live in organised? Does it function effectively? Is it harmonious? Is it equal? Is it fair? What about other societies? Our approach to Sociology involves the 'critical' study of society, which means asking serious questions about power, social inequality and social injustice.

Social Policy, the minor component of this programme, involves the study of the ways in which different societies understand and meet the needs of their members to ensure their wellbeing. How do societies organise the care of older people, or tackle underemployment among particular groups, for instance? Again, our approach to Social Policy is critical and involves asking important questions about who decides which needs are met, what shape social support might take, and the effectiveness of social policies.

Studying these subjects together means tackling some of the most interesting and important social issues of our times. The programme involves critical engagement with relevant theories, concepts and ideas, as well as the development of a wide range of critical thinking, research and communication skills. You will be taught and supervised by world-leading experts in the subject areas and experience a range of research-engaged teaching, learning and assessment methods, including opportunities for applied and practice-based learning. You will also be provided with opportunities to tailor your learning to suit your own particular interests and aspirations as you progress.

If you are interested in understanding how the society you are part of works, the inequalities and injustices that exist within it, as well as how we might go about addressing the most pertinent and challenging social issues of our times, then this is the programme for you.

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## What you'll learn

- 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
- Knowledge and understanding of research methods, analysis and statistical techniques
- 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

Modules in year one of the programme provide a broad introduction to the two subject areas and disciplines via a series of mandatory modules. This includes an introduction to sociological theories and thinking, an introduction to key social policy issues and debates, as well as an introduction to crime as a key sociological and social policy issue. Year one also involves the development of key academic study skills, and an introduction to social science research methods.

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

## Modules

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

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

## Year two

Mandatory modules in year two build on these foundations by introducing you to more advanced and contemporary sociological theorising, comparative social policy, and the study of social exclusion, as well as more advanced social science research methods. You are also required to select two options from our constantly evolving list of research-led modules. These modules allow you to specialise and develop expertise in specific topic areas and reflect the staff group's own unique research interests and expertise.

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

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY: APPROACHES TO SOCIAL INQUIRY (SOCI242)</u></a>	30
<a href="#"><u>QUANTITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (SOCI247)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>QUALITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (SOCI248)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL POLICY IN THE UK (SOCI205)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>COMPARING WELFARE STATES (SOCI207)</u></a>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>DEVIANCE, YOUTH AND CULTURE (SOCI252)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL POLICY IN THE UK (SOCI205)</u></a>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>THE BLACK PRESENCE - MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN BRITAIN 1800-1979 (SOCI223)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CRITICAL EDUCATION STUDIES (SOCI257)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>COMPARING WELFARE STATES (SOCI207)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETY (SOCI258)</u></a>	15

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

## Year three

In year three, you are required to undertake a substantive piece of supervised but original research, either in the form of a dissertation or an applied Interchange Portfolio project. Both provide you with the unique opportunity to apply the competencies you have been developing over the previous two years to a topic area or issue that is important to you. The third year also provides opportunities for you to further your specific interests and specialisms through selected optional modules.

\*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
<a href="#"><u>DISSERTATION (SOCI301)</u></a>	30
<a href="#"><u>INTERCHANGE PORTFOLIO: WORK-BASED LEARNING (SOCI303)</u></a>	30

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>CREATIVE CONSULTANT: DISSERTATION BY PORTFOLIO (SOCI347)</u>	30
<u>SHORT INTERCHANGE PROJECT (SOCI311)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>HEALTH, LIFECOURSE &amp; 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

Optional modules	Credits
<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
<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.

## 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 within 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, analytical and communication skills, as well as a variety of transferable skills valued by many employers in a range of industries (e.g. media organisations, local government and charitable organisations, and commercial and financial services 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

We offer a series of specialist postgraduate programmes including:

- Criminology and Criminal Justice MA
- 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.](#)

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## 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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.

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## GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

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## 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.

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### **International Baccalaureate**

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

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### **Irish Leaving Certificate**

H2,H2,H2,H2,H3,H3

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### **Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher**

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

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### **Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced**

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

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### **Access**

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

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### **International qualifications**

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

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

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## 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.

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### IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

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### TOEFL iBT

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

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### Duolingo English Test

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

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### Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

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### **LanguageCert Academic**

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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### **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.

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### **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990**

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced**

176 overall, with no paper below 162

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### **International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature**

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

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### **International Baccalaureate English B**

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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## **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.

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## Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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