

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London					
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College					
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Psychosocial Studies BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year					
4	Programme Code(s)	UBAPSYSL_C (4-year part-time) UUBAPSYS_C (3-year full-time) UUBFPSYS_C (4-year full-time with Foundation Year) UBFPSYSL_C (6-year part-time with Foundation Year)					
5	UCAS code	C880/ C88F (with foundation year)					
6	Home Department	Psychosocial Studies					
7	Exit Award(s)	Cert HE, Dip HE					
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years (FT); 4 years (PT); 4 years FT with Foundation Year; 6 years PT with Foundation Year					
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL	
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	Level: 6					
11	Other teaching depts. or institution	N/A					
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A					
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Group</u>	Sociology, Social Psychology (within the Psychology benchmark group)					

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>BA Psychosocial Studies is an undergraduate programme that can be taken full-time over 3 years and part-time over 4 years. It aims to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of Psychosocial Studies.</p> <p>The course addresses the psychological and the social and cultural processes involved in the formation of the 'self'. The intellectual premise of the course is to think through the complex and interconnected relations between internal psychological forces and external social and material conditions. How do the social and psyche interact? Psychosocial studies enables students to unravel the interconnected psychic and social forces that produce us as people and to determine our complex relations to one another. While sociology students study the social world and psychology students study the brain and behaviour, Psychosocial Studies students investigate the relation between individuals and the social sphere: how people are made up of the relationships they have with one another and with the world around them. This means deepening our understanding of the emotional, imaginary and symbolic aspects of living together. Using different theories from psychoanalysis, social and political theory, sociology, feminist theory, post-colonial theory, we study the ways in which the subject navigates the forces of both his/her own internal</p>

life and the external social conditions.

We address questions such as: why are our societies filled with perpetual cycles of violence and trauma on the one hand, and with enormous potential for care and concern for one another on the other? We want answers to the pressing questions of our time, which are often questions about the precarious connectedness of different communities, be they global, national, public, civic, social, cultural, historical or the intimate communities of personal life.

The course is based around the study of social, psychological and cultural theories that refuse a separation of psychic and social domains, and propose instead a variety of ways that subject formation and identity is constituted. The programme is divided into interdisciplinary theme based modules such as: Love, Hate, Power, Bodies, Sexualities, Psychoanalysis and Social Theory, Class, Urban Multiculture and Racism and Antisemitism, among others, in addition there are 'practice' or 'fieldwork' modules. ending with a Dissertation.

The BA Psychosocial Studies aims to help students think through the problematic of our increasingly interconnected collective fates, and the affective, imaginary and symbolic dimensions of living with one another. As an interdisciplinary degree that draws in equal measure on knowledge and skills sets from across the Humanities and Social Sciences, students are introduced from the start to the ways some concepts and research practices (including the psychosocial itself), move across disciplines. Through 'fieldwork' that runs alongside the theoretical components throughout the programme, students will develop a mobile set of skills to grapple with the 'now', and the ability to critically assess and put to work trans-disciplinary theoretical concepts in their analysis of psychosocial phenomena.

Key aims:

- To introduce students to psychosocial theory and psychosocial investigative, procedural, and creative practices
- To enable students to use these theories and practices to understand the relation between subjectivity and identity, and historical, social and political formations
- To utilise the notion of 'situated knowledges' to encourage students to investigate experience-near psychosocial phenomena, starting with the everyday, before linking these to understandings of broader social and political forces and formations.

Indicative Topics/Themes introduced across the Modules

POWER: psychosocial accounts of the 'psychic life of power', subject formation, agency, passivity, resistance, revolution, political subversion, disobedience and revolt, including work on therapeutic cultures, the production and care of the self, and biopolitics.

LOVE: psychoanalytic accounts of affect, feeling, attachment, desire, sexuality, emotion and the social and political life of the emotions as a cultural phenomena.

HATE: theories of negativity, ambivalence, racism, misogyny, homophobia, class hatred, sexual violence, social abjection, death drive, violence, hate speech, hate crimes, self-hatred.

CARE: central to psychosocial studies is the exploration of intimacy, care, parenting, aging, families, kinship, 'personal' life

BELONGING: social responsibility, collective denial, cohabitation, coequality, communality, community, the psychodynamics of institutional (organisational) processes and psychosocial approaches to human rights

PUBLICS: Debates on how public cultures emerge and are sustained, histories of social movements, intimate citizenship, social identities, social class, urban cultures and psychosocial readings of digital lives and visual culture

POSTCOLONIAL HISTORIES: the psychosocial ramifications of dispersal, migration, transnationalism, diaspora, nomadism, and the colonial histories of the disciplinary frameworks used in psychosocial studies including psychoanalysis, sociology and anthropology.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY: psychosocial readings of bodies, fantasy, desires, sexualities, Feminist theories, Queer theories.

SOCIAL THEORY and MODERNITY: critical accounts of the rise of the 'modern subject' and its connections to social divisions of Gender, Class, Sexuality, 'Race'/Ethnicity', state violence, fantasy, conflict and hate including their psychic/affective dimensions.

UNCONSCIOUS PROCESSES: their social and political dimensions, including Lacanian political theory, Freud, Klein and Winnicott.

LOSS: the anthropology of suffering, memory, trauma, loss, grief, and melancholia

Indicative practices that students are introduced to in the fieldwork modules:

Psycho-geography – exploring place, the everyday and the situation, through walking, mapping, observation, and conversation (Module: Observation and the Everyday: L4)

Psycho-temporality – developing temporal practices such as longitudinal research, ethnography and other practices of waiting, watching, and observation over time. (Module: Creative Archives: L5)

Inscriptional practices – academic writing, blogging, tweeting, and developing collective interactive writing practices

Preservative practices – exploring practices of collecting, preserving, gathering, gleaning and archiving.

Analytic practices – developing capacities in critiquing, deconstructing, examining, comparing, analysing.

Creative practices – opportunities for collective creative projects and developing creative collaborative skills that link to continuity and sustainability and to working in a team.

Distinctive Features

- Part-time, evening, face-to-face study
- Taught by leading figures in this new interdisciplinary field of studies that spans the Humanities and Social Sciences
- An approach to the psychosocial that does not simply combine modules in Sociology and Psychology, but instead offers a genuine investigation of the inter-relations and tensions between social and psychic domains through exciting

	<p>thematic modules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules on both psychosocial theory and psychosocial practices for investigating the social and personal worlds and the ability to think through the experiential and the socio-cultural together through a critical and analytical framework. • An emphasis on psychoanalytic theory and critical and cultural theory not usually found in programmes in Psychology or Sociology <p>BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year</p> <p>For the BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the PT of FT programmes. The curriculum for the 'with foundation year' programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme 'with foundation year' are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<p>UCAS tariff points: 96-120</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score applies to applicants who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>Birkbeck welcomes applicants without traditional entry qualifications as decisions are based on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential</p> <p>BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year</p> <p>UCAS tariff points : 64.</p> <p>This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Psychosocial Studies but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 64 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.</p>
17	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>Foundation Year:</p> <p>Students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines

	<p>4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.</p> <p>For all modes of study:</p> <p><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an understanding of key psychosocial theory including the complex and shifting relation between the personal/subjectivity and identity, and publics, and social and cultural contexts, including institutional ones. 2. Demonstrate a capacity to engage in psychosocial investigative research practices 3. Be able to work effectively in groups, including navigating peer-led projects and peer-assessment 4. Develop a capacity for Independent Study in the form of a theoretical, empirical or practice based Dissertation 5. Develop reflective skills to enable self-evaluation of learning and development
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18	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
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	<p>The emphasis of the programme is on both theoretical and embedded social experiential learning. The Teaching and Learning Methods therefore reflect a range of approaches including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures, seminars and tutorials • ‘Practical’ fieldwork exploring the everyday: these might include working in a project-based way with students to collectively produce supervised assignments such as the establishment of student e-journals, blogs, and electronic archives, or experiential projects in specific localities • Brief experiential reflexive placements in workplaces, organisations, institutions and community settings to investigate psychosocial phenomena through experience-near, embedded observational practices. <p>Assessment</p> <p>Students will produce a range of assignments to assess their learning that will be both individually and collectively produced.</p> <p>These will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short pieces of writing as part of electronic discussion board contributions about key reading, collected into a portfolio at the end of the academic year, and supplemented with a reflective statement about their learning 2. Formal academic essays, both short (2000 words) and long (3000 words) for the assessment of core modules 3. Collectively produced outputs for the assessment of fieldwork modules such as e-journals, blogs, maps, visual ethnographies such as video-diaries and photographic assignments, collective writing assignments using Wiki technology, and electronic archives, plus individual reflective work and commentaries on group assignments for the purposes of assessment. 4. Case studies based on observations of psychosocial processes in placement settings. 5. A dissertation in the final year.
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19	Programme Description
<p>The BA Psychosocial Studies programme consists of: Nine 30-credit modules, two 15-credit modules and a 60 credit dissertation making a total of 360 credits.</p> <p>There are three kinds of module on this programme:</p> <p>a) Compulsory modules in key psychosocial topics such as love, hate, power, bodies, sexualities, urban multicultures and psychoanalytic and social theory;</p> <p>b) Fieldwork modules that develop student's group-based skills and involve students in exploring the everyday physical and digital worlds they live in;</p> <p>d) Core Dissertation module that enables students to research a topic of their choice and write a dissertation based on their research.</p> <p>BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year: Students in the foundation year of the BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation year take 120 additional credits at Level 3 in the foundation year. There are four core modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City 2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge 3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP 4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy <p>Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year</p>	

20	Programme Structure			
Full-time – 3 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPA071S4	Love	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA070S4	Hate: On the Power of the Negative	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA073S4	Power	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA074S4	Observation and the Everyday (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
5	SSPA101S5	Bodies	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA092S5	Psychoanalysis and Social Theory	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA093H5	Sexualities	15	Compulsory
5	SSPA102H5	Urban Multicultures	15	Compulsory
5	SSPA075S5	Creative Archives (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 3				
6	SSPA111D6	Dissertation (Incorporating Inscriptional Practices)	60	Core
6		Option 1	30	Optional
6		Option 2	30	Optional

Part-time – 4 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPA071S4	Love	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA070S4	Hate: On the Power of the Negative	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA074S4	Observation and the Everyday (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
4	SSPA073S4	Power	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA101S5	Bodies	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA075S5	Creative Archives (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 3				
5	SSPA092S5	Psychoanalysis and Social Theory	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA102H5	Urban Multicultures	15	Compulsory
5	SSPA093H5	Sexuality	15	Compulsory
Year 4				
6	SSPA111D6	Dissertation (incorporating Inscriptional Practices)	60	Core
6		Option 1	30	Optional
6		Option 2	30	Optional

BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year - Full-time 4 years				
FOUNDATION Year (0)				
Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPA071S4	Love	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA070S4	Hate: On the Power of the Negative	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA073S4	Power	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA074S4	Observation and the Everyday (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPA101S5	Bodies	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA092S5	Psychoanalysis and Social Theory	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA093H5	Sexualities	15	Compulsory
5	SSPA102H5	Urban Multicultures	15	Compulsory
5	SSPA075S5	Creative Archives (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPA111D6	Dissertation (Incorporating Inscriptional Practices)	60	Core
6		Option 1	30	Optional
6		Option 2	30	Optional
BA Psychosocial Studies with Foundation Year - Part-time 6 years				
FOUNDATION Year 0a				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
FOUNDATION Year 0b				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPA071S4	Love	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA070S4	Hate: On the Power of the Negative	30	Compulsory
4	SSPA074S4	Observation and the Everyday (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPA073S4	Power	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA101S5	Bodies	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA075S5	Creative Archives (fieldwork)	30	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPA092S5	Psychoanalysis and Social Theory	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA102H5	Urban Multicultures	15	Compulsory
5	SSPA093H5	Sexuality	15	Compulsory

Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPA111D6	Dissertation (incorporating Inscriptional Practices -)	60	Core
6		Option 1	30	Optional
6		Option 2	30	Optional

Indicative list of option modules:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPA094S6	Class	30	Optional
6	SSPA096S6	Racism and Antisemitism	30	Optional
6	Various SSGE100S6 GGPH063S6 SSGE095S6 SSGE093S6	Interdisciplinary option modules: For example: Geographies of Revolt: Movements, Uprisings, and Social Transformation (Level 6) Cities and Urban Inequalities Global Nature Conservation Level 6 Cities in the Global South	30	Optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

21	Programme Director	Brendan McGeever
22	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	October 2014
23	Date approved by TQEC	Autumn 2013
24	Date approved by Academic Board	Autumn 2013
25	Date(s) updated/amended	June 2020 (for 2020/21)