

## Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>Birkbeck College</b>
3	<b>Programme Title(s)</b>	<b>BSc Social Sciences</b> <b>BSc Social Sciences with Foundation Year</b>
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	UUBSSOSCI_C Full time (3-Years); UUBFSOSC_C Full time (4-Years with foundation yr); UBSSOSDC_C Part time (4-years) UBFSOSCI_C Part time (6-years with foundation yr)
5	<b>UCAS code (if applicable)</b>	L900; L300 (with foundation year)
6	<b>Home Departments</b>	Psychosocial Studies
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	BSc Social Sciences Dip HE Social Sciences Cert HE Social Sciences Cert CE Social Sciences
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	BSc Social Sciences: 3 years FT/4 years PT BSc Social Sciences with Foundation Year: 4 years full time / 6 years part-time
9	<b>Mode of Study</b>	FT and PT
10	<b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>	6
11	<b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>	Option modules taken from: Departments of Applied Linguistics and Communication; Geography, History; Philosophy; Politics.
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)</b>	N/A
13	<b><a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement</a></b>	N/A
14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>	
	<p><b>BSc Social Sciences:</b> This interdisciplinary degree aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equip students with the conceptual, theoretical and intellectual skills to analyse the origins and dynamics of social processes from the perspectives of the individual, the group, the state and international communities.</li> <li>• Develop students' skills as active learners in academic, work-related and broader lifelong learning contexts.</li> <li>• Provide students with a solid foundation in social theory and social research that can be broadened and deepened through the study of option subjects across the social science disciplines offered at Birkbeck.</li> <li>• Enable students to become competent, critical and responsible researchers of the social world with the ability to make informed choices about research methods and apply them competently.</li> <li>• Prepare students for further postgraduate study and/or to prepare them for career and professional development opportunities in a range of fields which require</li> </ul>	

	<p>research, analytical and communication competences as acquired and practised during their degree studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop students’ analytical reflection on their learning experiences across a range of professional and non-professional contexts as well as their skills of planning and directing their learning.</li> <li>• Integrate students’ explorations of their learning about the social world with wider debates regarding diversity and social justice.</li> </ul> <p>Distinctive Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BSc Social Sciences is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in social theory and social research while allowing students to pick option subjects from across the social science disciplines offered at Birkbeck.</li> <li>• The programme focuses on providing students with the ability to understand, choose, and competently apply different methods of inquiry.</li> <li>• Students can draw on a wide range of optional courses</li> </ul> <p><b>BSc Social Sciences with Foundation year:</b>                  For the BSc Social Sciences with Foundation Year programme, the purpose 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 or 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>
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15	<p><b>Entry Criteria</b></p> <p><b>BSc Social Sciences:</b>                  Students will normally be expected to have three A-levels (or the equivalent) at a level of performance determined from time to time.</p> <p>There are no formal entry requirements for mature students. Students should, however, be able to read, speak and write English with sufficient fluency to manage undergraduate study in this medium. They should also be able to devote sufficient time to their study. Admission interviews may be conducted to determine whether students have the potential to succeed in Honours level study and whether they need additional support before enrolling.</p> <p>Students who have already taken a Birkbeck Certificate in Higher Education in a related subject and who have performed sufficiently well will normally be admitted to the second year of the programme. The programme director will determine entry and credit for modules can be given</p> <p><b>BSc Social Sciences with Foundation year:</b></p>
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This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BSc Social Sciences 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 48 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.

16 **Learning Outcomes**

**For Foundation Year:**  
 Students will have acquired:

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
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.

**For all modes of study:**

**Subject Specific**

1. Students have acquired an integrated understanding of how different social science concepts, theories and insights can be combined for the purpose of analysing social processes
2. Students have acquired an understanding of social theory and social research
3. Students have acquired an understanding of the nature of social science knowledge and how it is generated

**Intellectual**

1. Students are able to critically apply scientific standards in the evaluation of their own and other people’s work
2. Students are able to construct an intellectually coherent and empirically substantiated argument

**Practical**

1. Ability competently to apply qualitative and quantitative methods of social inquiry
2. Ability competently to plan, design, organise and implement research projects

**Personal and Social**

1. Ability and confidence to communicate clearly in oral and written form

	<p>2. Ability and confidence to work independently and in an organised fashion, developing into self-directed and reflective learners</p> <p>3. Students are aware of the ethical questions surrounding inquiries into social questions and are able to connect these concerns with wider debates on diversity and social justice</p>
17	<p><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></p> <p>Most of the teaching will take the form of lectures and seminars. For the dissertation, learning will rely more heavily on one-to-one tutorials/supervisions. Students are encouraged through learning journals and other pieces of coursework to become self-aware and independent learners.</p> <p>A range of assessment methods is used, for instance essays, other written tasks (e.g. learning journals, policy briefs), presentations and end-of-module exams.</p>
18	<p><b>Programme Structure</b></p> <p><b>BSc Social Sciences:</b></p> <p>The BSc Social Sciences programme consists of modules worth a total of 360 credits, comprising 120 credits at Levels 4, 5 and 6 respectively.</p> <p>A typical <b>full-time route</b> through the programme is as follows:</p> <p><b>In Year 1</b> students are introduced to key contemporary debates in the social sciences and to university study in general. They take 2 compulsory modules and choose Level 4 option modules worth a total of 60 credits.</p> <p><b>In Year 2</b> students are introduced to issues of social and public policy, and how these relate to theoretical debates in the social sciences. They also cover the research methods used in the social sciences, including qualitative and quantitative techniques and related epistemological debates. Students take 2 compulsory modules and choose Level 5 option modules worth 60 credits.</p> <p><b>In Year 3</b>, students take advanced modules of their choice and can opt to develop advanced analytical and research skills by undertaking an independent dissertation, worth 60 credits.</p> <p><b>Year 1 - Compulsory modules</b></p> <p>Introductions: Understanding the Social World Social Inequalities and Diversities</p> <p><b>Year 2 - Compulsory modules</b></p> <p>Knowing the Social World Social Relations and Social Policy Level 5.</p> <p><b>Year 3 – Compulsory Module</b> (for students not undertaking a dissertation) Social Conflict</p> <p>A typical <b>part-time route</b> through the programme is as follows:</p>

In Year 1, students are introduced to key contemporary debates in the social sciences and to university study in general. They take 1 compulsory module and choose option modules at Level 4 worth a total of 60 credits.

In Year 2, students study the debates associated with the social science disciplines about the person as an individual and as a member of multiple local, national and international collectives. They are introduced to debates in social theory, drawing on a number of disciplinary perspectives. Students are also introduced to the research methods used in the social sciences, including qualitative and quantitative techniques and related epistemological debates. They take 2 compulsory modules and choose a Level 5 option module worth 30 credits.

In Year 3, students are introduced to issues of social and public policy and how these relate to theoretical debates in the social sciences. They take 1 compulsory module plus a Level 5 option module worth 30 credits and a Level 6 option module worth 30 credits.

In Year 4, students take advanced modules of their choice and can opt to develop advanced analytical and research skills by undertaking an independent dissertation, worth 60 credits alongside Level 6 options worth 30 credits. For those not taking a dissertation there is one compulsory module, and they choose Level 6 options worth 60 credits.

#### **Year 1 compulsory module**

- Introductions: Understanding the Social World

#### **Year 2 compulsory modules**

- Knowing the Social World
- Social Inequalities and Diversities

#### **Year 3 compulsory modules**

- Social Relations and Social Policy Level 5

#### **Year 4 – Compulsory Module** (for students not undertaking a dissertation)

- Social Conflict

#### **BSc Social Sciences with Foundation year**

Students in the BSc Social Sciences with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3. There are four core modules:

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

Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may **progress** onto Year one of BSc Social Sciences with Foundation Year.

<b>4 year programme BSc Social Sciences (Part-time)</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	FFHE026S4	Introductions: Understanding the Social	30	Compulsory
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	FFSO002S4	Social Inequalities and Diversities	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Compulsory
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Compulsory
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field		Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field		Option
<b>Year 4</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	FDSO006D6	Social Sciences Dissertation	60	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
		<b>OR</b>		
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6	SSGE104S6	Social Conflict	30	Compulsory (for students not undertaking a dissertation)
<b>3 year programme BSc Social Sciences (Full-time)</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	FFHE026S4	Introductions: Understanding the Social	30	Compulsory
4	FFSO002S4	Social Inequalities and Diversities	30	Compulsory
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 2</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Compulsory
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	FDSO006D6	Social Sciences Dissertation	60	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
		<b>or</b>		

6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6	SSGE104S6	Social Conflict	30	Compulsory (for students not undertaking a

**BSc Social Sciences 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	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	30	Core

**Year 1**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	FFHE026S4	Introductions: Understanding the Social	30	Compulsory
4	FFSO002S4	Social Inequalities and Diversities	30	Compulsory
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option

**Year 2**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Compulsory
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option

**Year 3**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	FDSO006D6	Social Sciences Dissertation	60	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	60	Option
		OR		
6	SSGE104S6	Social Conflict	30	Compulsory
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field (3x30 credits)	90	Option

**BSc Social Sciences 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)**

3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core

<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
4	FFHE026S4	Introductions: Understanding the Social World	30	Compulsory
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
4		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 2</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
4	FFSO002S4	Social Inequalities and Diversities	30	Compulsory
5	SSPA001S5	Knowing the Social World	30	Compulsory
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 3</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
5	POSO027S5	Social Relations and Social Policy	30	Compulsory
5		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
<b>Year 4</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
6	FDSO006D6	Social Sciences Dissertation	60	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
		<b>or</b>		
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6		Option(s) from approved modules within field	30	Option
6	SSGE104S6	Social Conflict	30	Compulsory (for students not undertaking a dissertation)

**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*

<sup>19</sup>	<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr Kalpana Wilson
<sup>20</sup>	<b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> )	Autumn Term 2007
<sup>21</sup>	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	Spring 2007
<sup>22</sup>	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	Spring 2007
<sup>23</sup>	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	June 2020