

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| Name, title and level of final qualification(s) | BA Sociology (Level 6) |
| Name and title of any exit qualification(s) | Dip HE Cert HE |
| Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year? | Yes |
| Awarding Body | University of London |
| Teaching Institution(s) | Birkbeck, University of London |
| Home school/other teaching departments | School of Social Sciences |
| Location of delivery | Central London |
| Language of delivery and assessment | English |
| Mode of study, length of study and normal start month | Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (4 years) / Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) September |
| Professional, statutory or regulatory body | N/A |
| QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England | Sociology |
| UCAS code | L302, L301 (with Foundation Year) |
| Birkbeck Course Code | UUBASCGY_C (full-time, 3 years) UBASOCCGY_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFSCGY_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFSOCCGY_C (part-time with FY, 6 years) |
| HECoS Code | 101307 |
| Start date of programme | 2024-25 |
| Date of programme approval | November 2022 |
| Date of last programme amendment approval | N/A |
| Valid for academic entry year | 2023-24 |
| Date of last revision to document | 03/08/2022 |

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 96-120 points (48 points for with Foundation Year)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

To explore and examine social life and the social relations that give shape to societies across the contemporary world.

To reach students who interested in contemporary society and in confronting and understanding the most challenging and important social and ethical questions of our time.

To provide students with both core and option modules in which to learn about different ways of examining social life, social relations and social change.

To provide students with a wealth of analytical skills and encourage rigorous, critical thought that can be easily transferred to other settings after their degree.

To provide students with access to leading academics and at the same time encourage their independence of thought in confronting the social realities of the contemporary period.

Foundation year aims:

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 you with the opportunity to explore your interests and build on your study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, you can progress onto year one of the FT or PT 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 and if you successfully complete the degree programme 'with foundation year' you are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.

Course structure

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credit | Comp Core/ Option | Likely teaching term(s) |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Full-time – 3 years | | | | | |
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 4 | SSPA161S4 | Key Concepts: Global Foundations in Sociology | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 4 | SSPA162S | Global societies | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 4 | SSPA073S4 | Power | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 4 | | College-wide option (see below) | 30 | Optional | T1, or 3 |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA163S5 | The Self, Society and the State | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 5 | SSPA159S5 | Social Theory | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |

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|---|-----------|---|----|------------|------------|
| 5 | SSPA164S5 | The Politics of Knowledge: Sociology and the World | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | |
| Year 3 | | | | | |
| 6 | SSPA111D6 | Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory | T1-3 |
| 6 | SSPA165S6 | Human Rights and Politics | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 6 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | |
| Part-time – 4 years | | | | | |
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 4 | SSPA161S4 | Key Concepts: Global Foundations in Sociology | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 4 | SSPA073S4 | Power | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 4 | | College-wide option | 30 | Optional | T3 |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA163S5 | The Self, Society and the State | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 4 | SSPA162S | Global Societies | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | T3 |
| Year 3 | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA164S5 | The Politics of Knowledge: Sociology and the World | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | SSPA159S5 | Social Theory | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 6 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | T1, 2 or 3 |
| Year 4 | | | | | |
| 6 | SSPA111D6 | Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory | T1-3 |
| 6 | SSPA165S6 | Human Rights and Politics | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| Full-time with Foundation Year – 4 years | | | | | |
| Foundation year (year 0) | | | | | |
| 3 | CASE002S3 | Fundamentals of Study | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 3 | SSSS001S3 | Crossing Borders | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 3 | CASE001S3 | Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge | 30 | Core | T2-3 |
| 3 | SSSS002S3 | Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy OR Level 4 Language model | 30 | Option | T2-3 |
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 4 | SSPA161S4 | Key Concepts: Global Foundations in Sociology | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 4 | SSPA162S | Global societies | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 4 | SSPA073S4 | Power | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 4 | | College-wide option (see below) | 30 | Optional | Various |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA163S5 | The Self, Society and the State | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 5 | SSPA159S5 | Social Theory | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | SSPA164S5 | The Politics of Knowledge: Sociology and the World | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | |

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|---|-----------|---|----|------------|------------|
| Year 3 | | | | | |
| 6 | SSPA111D6 | Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory | T1-3 |
| 6 | SSPA165S6 | Human Rights and Politics | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 6 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | |
| Part-time with Foundation Year – 6 years | | | | | |
| Foundation Year (0A) | | | | | |
| 3 | CASE002S3 | Fundamentals of Study | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 3 | CASE001S3 | Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge | 30 | Core | T2-3 |
| Foundation Year (0B) | | | | | |
| 3 | SSSS001S3 | Crossing Borders | 30 | Core | T1 |
| 3 | SSSS002S3 | Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy OR Level 4 Language model | 30 | Option | T2-3 |
| Year 1 | | | | | |
| 4 | SSPA161S4 | Key Concepts: Global Foundations in Sociology | 30 | Compulsory | T1 |
| 4 | SSPA073S4 | Power | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 4 | | College-wide option | 30 | Optional | T1, 2 or 3 |
| Year 2 | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA163S5 | The Self, Society and the State | 30 | Compulsory | |
| 4 | SSPA162S4 | Global Societies | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | T1, 2 or 3 |
| Year 3 | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA164S5 | The Politics of Knowledge: Sociology and the World | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 5 | SSPA159S5 | Social Theory | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| 6 | | Option (see list below) | 30 | Optional | T1, 2 or 3 |
| Year 4 | | | | | |
| 6 | SSPA111D6 | Dissertation | 60 | Compulsory | T1-3 |
| 6 | SSPA165S6 | Human Rights and Politics | 30 | Compulsory | T2 |
| Indicative level 5 options: | | | | | |
| 5 | SSPA160S5 | 'Race', Colonial Histories, Postcolonial Cultures | 30 | Optional | T3 |
| 5 | SSHC550S5 | African Modernities | 30 | Optional | |
| 5 | SSHC499S5 | Crossing Borders: Passports, Bodies and the State, 1600 to today | | | |
| 5 | POSO003S5 | Contemporary British Politics | 30 | Optional | T1-2 |
| Indicative level 6 options | | | | | |
| 6 | SSPA096S6 | Racism and Antisemitism | 30 | Optional | T2 |
| 6 | SSPA094S6 | Class | 30 | Optional | T1 |
| 6 | GGPH063S6 | Cities and Urban Inequalities | 30 | Optional | |
| 6 | SSGE100S6 | Geographies of Revolt: Movements, Uprisings and Social Transformation | 30 | Optional | |

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|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|----|----------|----|
| 6 | SSGE070S6 | The Politics of Race and Diaspora | 30 | Optional | |
| 6 | SSGE093S6 | Cities in the Global South | 30 | Optional | T3 |

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

These include short, formative (non-assessed) written exercises and assessed essays. The expected complexity of essays increases as you progress through your studies. In your final year you will complete a dissertation, a longer essay of your own design.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

By the end of the foundation year, you will be able to:

1. Articulate at a foundational level key concepts in some of the disciplines offered in Social Sciences, History and Philosophy.
2. Undertake academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines
3. Understand other key learning skills required for university-level study and know of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.

At the end of the programme, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary societies in national contexts and in global and international contexts.

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of core theoretical, methodological and substantive themes in classical and modern sociology.
- Demonstrate the analytical skills necessary to interpret key texts from the canon of classical and modern sociology.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of 'sociological thinking' and the relationship between sociology and other major disciplines in the social sciences.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the debates on identity and recognition in national contexts and individual/group identities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of key debates within epistemology and methodology in sociology and related disciplines.
- Identify the impact of social forces and structures that create and shape contemporary societies in the present moment and across time.
- Understand social processes and their influence and impact on individuals, groups, societies, institutions and states.
- Analyse complex issues systematically and creatively;
- Display a range of subject specific and transferable skills which can prepare them for employment or further studies. These include skills in writing and thinking conceptually and with empirical data, group work, independent research, analysis and critique, oral presentation.
- The ability to exercise ethical judgement, take personal responsibility for structuring a programme of study and demonstrate initiative.

Careers and further study

You will find sociology graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Politics and government
- Civil service
- Public policy
- Academia
- Journalism

Birkbeck's BA Sociology graduates will also complete with a set of valuable attributes, including

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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