

Sociology

About this course

Sociology is the study of how people think, act and organise themselves in society. Through each stage of this degree programme you will progressively build an understanding of theoretical frameworks and practical research methods which can be used to analyse the formation, development and possible futures of modern society. You will develop critical reasoning skills and an ability to collect, interpret and communicate social research data.

In the 4th year there is the opportunity to do an extended original piece of research on a sociological topic of your choice that is written up in the form of an Honours Dissertation. Students in 4th year are also eligible to apply for the Community Links module which offers the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and employability skills through part-time placements with locally based voluntary, public sector and social enterprise organisations.

BSc (Hons) Sociology provides you with the opportunity to explore key sociological issues and debates including those on the changing nature of modern society, the media, work, identity and nationhood, social movements, environment, politics and the regulation of gender and sexuality. This degree will also enable you to engage with contemporary social and cultural theories that are essential for making sense of a rapidly changing world.

What you study

BSc (Hons) Sociology shares a common first two years with both the Behavioural Science and Psychology degrees (this enables flexible transfer between Programmes). There is an exclusive focus upon Sociology in the third and fourth years.

Stage 1

Individual in Society; Reading Sociology; Introductory Psychology; Research Methods in Psychology; History and Social Change; Globalisation and Society.

Stage 2

Classical Sociological Theory; Work, Welfare & Consumption; Self and Society; Cognitive Psychology; Biological Psychology; Sociological and Psychological Research Methods.

Stage 3

Sociological Theories; Sociology of Gender; Sociological Methods; Scottish Culture and Society; plus a variety of Options including Sociological Perspectives on Health; Cultural Theory and Popular Culture; Images of Crime; Sociology of Leisure and Tourism; Controlling Crime; and Propaganda, PR and Misinformation.

Stage 4

Sociology Project; Science and Society plus a variety of Options including Conversation Analysis and Discourse Analysis; Political Sociology; Penal Institutions; Visualising the Environment; Contemporary Cultural Analysis; Images of the City; Social Organisation of Sexuality; and Media, Self and Society. There will be an opportunity for Sociology students to apply for the Community Links module which offers part-time work placements with locally based voluntary, public sector and social enterprise organisations.

Course

BSc (Hons) Sociology
BSc (Hons) Behavioural Science
BSc (Hons) Psychology

UCAS Code

L301 BSc/Soc
C890 BSc/BS
C800 BSc/Psy

Duration

Four years FT
Four years FT Four
years FT



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Sociology

How you learn

You will learn in a variety of different ways that reflect the diverse knowledge and wide skills which are essential to making a successful Sociology graduate. Class contact time will be on average 8 hours per week made up of lectures, seminars and laboratories. You will be expected to attend lectures which offer an overview of the key aspects of each module topic and provide guidance for further independent study. You will also participate in laboratory classes that encourage the development of practical research and experimentation skills; and you will take part seminars and tutorials that give the opportunity to engage in discussion groups and develop communication and presentation skills.

How you are assessed

A variety of assessment methods are used throughout the programme of study including formal examinations using seen and unseen papers; class tests; essays; laboratory reports; poster presentations and formal oral presentations. All Sociology students will be expected to undertake a research project in Sociology during their fourth year culminating in a 10,000 word dissertation on a topic chosen by the student.

Career opportunities

A degree in Sociology provides graduates with the practical skills and necessary knowledge which many employers demand. Abertay Sociology graduates are well suited to types of employment that require a good understanding of people and society, for example, Social Research; Marketing; Teaching; Social Work; Youth & Community Work; Personnel Management; Public Relations; Journalism; Policing and the Probation Service. This Sociology degree provides a strong foundation for further academic study at post-graduate level and the taking of professional qualifications.

Course Accessibility

Students participating in this course may be involved in the following activities: team working, attending lectures and tutorials, and undertaking practical work and IT and network laboratories. For advice on course accessibility, please contact John Petrie (Student Advisor) at j.petrie@abertay.ac.uk or telephone (01382) 308051.

Further Information

Details of the entrance requirements can be found on our website. If you would like more information on this course, please contact the Student Recruitment Office (details at the bottom of page).

The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to print. As the University has a policy of regularly reviewing its courses, the course or content may be subject to change without prior notice.

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10/07

Contact

For further information contact:
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Dundee DD1 1HG

t: 01382 308080 f: 01382 308081
w: www.abertay.ac.uk/questions

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