

L3K807: Social Research Methods (Social Work)



Postgraduate Taught MA 2020

Essentials

UCAS code	
Degree	MA
Mode of study	Part Time + Full Time
Duration	1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time)
Start Date	02-10-2020
Location	Durham City (www.durham.ac.uk/study/location/durham.city)
More information	Still have questions? (www.durham.ac.uk/study/askus/)
Department(s) Website	www.durham.ac.uk/sociology

Course Summary

Description

This course provides an introduction to the principles and values of social work and an understanding of the organisation and delivery of social welfare and related services in the UK. It also provides you with a grounding in the social research methods necessary to conduct applied types of research that are a fundamental part of social work practice and evaluation.

Course Structure

You will take a range of taught modules primarily in the first two terms of the academic year. Starting from the first term, you will undertake a module on research design which enables you to develop a research proposal for your dissertation. Part-time candidates take an equal balance of credits in each year.

In previous years, typical modules offered were:

Core Modules

Perspectives on Social Research (15 credits)

- Introduction to social scientific research
- Establishing cause and interpreting meaning in social sciences
- Essentials of quantitative and qualitative research in the social sciences.

Statistical Exploration and Reasoning (15 credits)

- Spreadsheets and data analysis
- Populations, sample data and sampling distributions
- Point estimates and confidence intervals
- Significance tests, cress-tabulations, and Chi-Square tests
- Correlation and linear regression.

Research Design and Process (15 credits)

- Formulating research questions
- Evaluating and developing a research proposal
- Reviewing relevant literature
- Experimental vs. observational studies
- Sampling and selecting respondents
- Measurement.

Qualitative Research Methods in Social Science (15 credits)

- Introduction to theory and research practice in qualitative methods
- Ethnography and grounded theory

- Group discussions
- Data analysis and management processes.

Quantitative Research Methods in Social Science (15 credits)

- Numerical taxonomy and cluster analysis in practice
- Methods for representing complex systems including qualitative comparative analysis and social network analysis.

Social Work Context and Practice (30 credits)

- Contemporary social work and social welfare in a diverse society
- Construction of social problems
- Ethical frameworks for social practice
- Contemporary social work theories and practice.

Policy Related and Evaluation Research (15 credits)

- Relationship between theory and empirical research in evaluation
- Defining and measuring outcomes
- Case study analysis
- Poster presentation and participatory evaluation.

Dissertation (60 credits)

- 15,000 word dissertation based on a supervised research project.

Admissions Process

Subject requirements, level and grade

Normally a second-class honours degree (2:1) or equivalent.

Additional requirements

When submitting your online application, you will also need to provide:

1. Current Transcript and Certificate (if possible)
2. Two academic references (it is the applicants responsibility to obtain their references from their referees).

English Language requirements

Please check requirements for your subject and level of study (www.durham.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/1/3/3/)

How to apply

www.durham.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply

Fees and Funding

Full Time Fees

EU Student	£8,200.00 per year
Home Student	£8,200.00 per year
Island Student	£8,200.00 per year
International non-EU Student	£20,150.00 per year

Part Time Fees

EU Student	£4,600.00 per year
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The tuition fees shown are for one complete academic year of study, are set according to the academic year of entry, and remain the same throughout the duration of the programme for that cohort (**unless otherwise stated**).

Please also check costs for colleges and accommodation (www.durham.ac.uk/postgraduate/accommodation/costs/).

Scholarships and funding

www.durham.ac.uk/postgraduate/finance

Open days and visits

Pre-application open day

www.durham.ac.uk/postgraduate/visit

Overseas Visit Schedule

www.durham.ac.uk/international/office/meetus

Postgraduate Visits

PGVI or

www.durham.ac.uk/postgraduate/visit/

Department Information

Department of Sociology

Overview

The Department of Sociology is an interdisciplinary department with over 50 years' experience in teaching and research in sociology and social policy, expanding over time to provide a focus for collaboration across the related academic disciplines of criminology, social work, and community development. We are a leading international centre of excellence in interdisciplinary applied social research that shapes and informs social policy and practice, enhances individual, community and social wellbeing, promotes social inclusion, and forms the foundations of research-led education.

Website

www.durham.ac.uk/sociology

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