

# L300: Sociology



Undergraduate BA 2021

## Essentials

For the latest information on our plans for teaching in academic year 2020/21 in light of Covid-19, please see [www.durham.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.durham.ac.uk/coronavirus)

<b>UCAS code</b>	L300
<b>Degree</b>	BA
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full Time
<b>Duration</b>	3 years
<b>Location</b>	Durham City ( <a href="http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/location/durham.city">www.durham.ac.uk/study/location/durham.city</a> )
<b>A-Level</b>	AAB
<b>BTEC</b>	DDD
<b>International Baccalaureate</b>	36
<b>Alternative qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other UK qualifications (<a href="http://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/UK.pdf">www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/UK.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• EU qualifications (<a href="http://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/EU.pdf">www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/EU.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• International qualifications (<a href="http://www.dur.ac.uk/international/country.information/">www.dur.ac.uk/international/country.information/</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Contextual Offers</b>	You may be eligible for an offer which is one or two grades lower than our standard entry requirements. Find out more ( <a href="http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/">www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/</a> ).
<b>More information</b>	Still have questions? ( <a href="http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/askus/">www.durham.ac.uk/study/askus/</a> )
<b>Department(s) Website</b>	<a href="http://www.durham.ac.uk/sociology">www.durham.ac.uk/sociology</a>

## Course Summary

### Description

In broad terms, sociology seeks to understand the relationship between individual people and the wider cultural and institutional contexts within which they live. In doing so, it strives not only to make sense of social and cultural systems but also to bring about transformative social change, drawing upon the systematic study of social issues to challenge inequalities and to inform the development of effective, evidence-based policy and practice.

The curriculum at Durham is informed by our core research themes, including: education and inequality; health and medicine; violence and abuse; and social justice. Alongside these and other substantive topics, you will study sociological theory and its development through to the present day, as well as learn the craft of sociological research and analysis.

As well as gaining detailed knowledge of sociological issues, you will also develop a wide range of transferable skills valued by graduate employers, including how to assemble and evaluate different kinds of evidence, how to turn evidence into an effective argument, and how to design social research and analyse different kinds of data.

The degree is based on a modular structure, you will be required to take the equivalent of six modules (some of which may be 'double modules') within each year of study. Over the course of the degree, modules become increasingly focused on specialist topics and issues, with the chance to undertake a sociological research project on a specific topic of substantive interest in the final year of study.

### Year 1

You will develop knowledge and understanding of foundational concepts and issues in sociology and sociological research, as a platform for study in Years 2 and 3.

#### Compulsory modules:

- Classical Sociological Theory
- Critical Scholarship in the Social Sciences
- Social Research Methods
- Societies in Transition.

#### Optional module:

- Any open module to the value of 20 credits offered elsewhere in the Department (e.g. Introduction to Criminological Theory) or by another Board of Studies, including appropriate credit-bearing language modules offered by the Centre for Foreign Language Study.

### Year 2

You will develop your understanding of key issues in sociological theory and research, building on work completed during the first year of study. You will also begin to study in detail various topics of substantive

sociological relevance that relate to the Department's major research themes.

**Compulsory modules:**

- Modern and Contemporary Sociological Theory
- Research Methods in Action.

**Optional modules:**

- Communities and Social Justice
- Contemporary Criminological Theory
- Crime, Power and Social Inequalities
- Police and Policing
- Self, Identity and Society
- Sociology of Education and Social Inequalities
- Sociology of Health and Medicine
- Violence and Abuse in Society
- Any open module to the value of 20 credits offered elsewhere by another Board of Studies, including appropriate credit-bearing language modules offered by the Centre for Foreign Language Study.

## Year 3

In the final year of study, you will focus on detailed critical analysis and evaluation of salient social issues drawing upon conceptual knowledge and understanding developed over the previous two years of study. You will also undertake an independent research project related to a specific area of sociological interest through your dissertation thesis.

**Compulsory module:**

- Dissertation.

**Optional modules:**

- Community Placement
- Crime, Justice and the Sex Industry
- Cyberculture and Cybercrime
- Inside Out: Issues in Criminal Justice
- Social Policy
- Sociology of Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation
- Sociology of Work and Professions
- Feminist Anti-Violence Activism (short module)
- Justice, Violence and Abuse (short module)
- Youth in Crisis (short module)
- Sociology of Mental Health (short module)
- Sociology of Reproduction and Parenthood (short module)
- Any open module to the value of 20 credits offered by another Board of Studies, including appropriate credit-bearing language modules offered by the Centre for Foreign Language Study.

*Every year, we review course structure and core content in light of (e.g.) external and student feedback, and will publish finalised core requirements for 2021 entry from September 2020. This means that the above should be taken as indicative of what the course offers rather than an exact reflection as some specific details may change.*

## **Study Abroad**

We are part of the ERASMUS programme which encourages students to study for part of their course in a university of another EU country.

We currently have links with the universities of Helsinki in Finland and Duisburg-Essen in Germany. Students can also apply to the university-wide international exchange programme with universities in North America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

## **Placement Year**

You may be able to take a work placement. Find out more ([www.durham.ac.uk/placements/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/placements/)).

## Admissions Process

### Subject requirements, level and grade

**A level offer – AAB.**

**BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma – DDD.**

**IB Diploma score – 36** with 665 in higher level subjects.

In addition to satisfying the University's general entry requirements, please note:

- While not essential, applicants who have studied at least one strongly essay-based subject prior to entry will be better prepared for this course and preference may be given to such applicants over those who have not. A non-exhaustive list of example essay-based subjects includes: Business Studies, Criminology, English, Geography, History, Politics, Psychology, Religion/Philosophy and Sociology.
- We also welcome applications from those holding or studying for qualifications equivalent to those standard requirements, such as an Access to HE Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U Diplomas, etc. Common alternatives are outlined here ([www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/UKequivalencies2017-18.pdf](http://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/UKequivalencies2017-18.pdf)) but contact University Admissions ([www.dur.ac.uk/study/askus/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/study/askus/)) for advice if you cannot find your qualifications listed.
- We do not include General Studies, Critical Thinking or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) as part of an offer, although any of these (especially the EPQ) may strengthen the overall quality of an application.
- Offers one grade down from the standard A level offer may be made to applicants who show special merit and potential in their applications, while offers up to two grades down from the standard offer will be made in line with the University's Guaranteed Contextual Offer ([www.dur.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/))
- If you do not satisfy our general entry requirements, the Foundation ([www.dur.ac.uk/foundation.programme/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/foundation.programme/)) Programme offers multidisciplinary degrees to prepare you for a range of specified degree courses.
- If you are an international student who does not meet the requirements for direct entry to this degree, you may be eligible to take an International Foundation Year pathway programme at the Durham University International Study Centre ([www.durhamisc.com/?ch=uniweb&cc=signposting&cid=uniweb&utm\\_source=signposting&utm\\_medium=signposting&utm\\_campaign=uniweb](http://www.durhamisc.com/?ch=uniweb&cc=signposting&cid=uniweb&utm_source=signposting&utm_medium=signposting&utm_campaign=uniweb)).
- We are pleased to consider applications for deferred entry.

We endeavour to make offers as quickly as possible, however, we are committed to the principle of equal consideration, which means that any application made to us through UCAS by the deadline of the 15th January has a chance of being considered for an offer. Because of this, we cannot make all our decisions straight away when they reach us, so we may not inform some applicants who applied as early as September of our decision until March. However, we do this because each application really matters to us and we want to make offers to those applicants who show the strongest merit and potential in their application.

### Science A levels

Applicants taking Science A levels that include a practical component will be required to take and pass this as a condition of entry. This applies only to applicants sitting A levels with an English examination board.

## **English Language requirements**

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

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## **How to apply**

[www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply](http://www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply)

## **Information relevant to your country**

[www.durham.ac.uk/international/country.information/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/international/country.information/)

## Fees and Funding

The tuition fees for 2021/22 academic year have not yet been finalised, they will be displayed here once approved.

The tuition fees shown for **home and EU** students are for one complete academic year of full time study and are set according to the academic year of entry. Fees for subsequent years of your course may rise in line with an inflationary uplift as determined by the government.

The tuition fees shown for **overseas** students are for one complete academic year of full time 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/undergraduate/accommodation/costs/](http://www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation/costs/)).

## Scholarships and funding

[www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance](http://www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance)

## **Career Opportunities**

### **Sociology and Criminology**

Further details on career opportunities can be found here: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/employability>



## **Open days and visits**

### **Pre-application open day**

Pre-application open days are the best way to discover all you need to know about Durham University. With representatives from all relevant academic and support service departments, and opportunities to explore college options, the open days provide our prospective undergraduates with the full experience of Durham University.

Please see the following page for further details and information on how to book a place:  
[www.durham.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.durham.ac.uk/opendays)

### **Discover Durham Tours**

Discover Durham tours offer a brief introduction to the University. The tour begins at one of our undergraduate colleges, where you will receive an introductory talk from a member of college staff, followed by a tour of the college by current students.

[www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/live/visit/discoverdurham](http://www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/live/visit/discoverdurham)

### **Overseas Visit Schedule**

[www.durham.ac.uk/international/office/meetus](http://www.durham.ac.uk/international/office/meetus)

## Department Information

### Sociology and Criminology

#### Overview

## Criminology

Explore crime, deviance and criminal justice as social issues.

Criminology is concerned with understanding crime, deviance and criminal justice. Criminologists ask, for example, why it is that some people are more likely to be victims or perpetrators of crime than others; how crime can be effectively controlled and prevented; and even how we come to define particular activities as “criminal” or not in the first place.

- 4th in *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020*.

## Sociology

Develop a sophisticated understanding of societies and social issues. In broad terms, sociology seeks to understand the relationship between individual people and the wider cultural and institutional contexts within which they live. In doing so, it strives not only to make sense of social and cultural systems but also bring about transformative social change, drawing upon the systematic study of social issues to challenge inequalities and to inform the development of effective, evidence-based policy and practice.

- World Top 100 in the *QS World University Subject Rankings for Social Policy and Administration 2020*.

### Staff

For a current list of staff, please see the Department of Sociology web pages.

### Facilities

The library’s resources for the study of criminology are among the best in northern Britain, and college libraries also hold copies of some of the main textbooks. We make extensive use of duo (Durham’s online teaching resource), and undergraduates can enjoy the use of the resources room within the Department, which has additional published material and networked computer access.

### Website

[www.durham.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.durham.ac.uk/sociology)

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