

1. Programme Title(s):

MA in Contemporary Sociology

PG Dip in Contemporary Sociology*

PG Cert in Contemporary Sociology*

*exit award only

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time and part-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is one year full-time or two years part-time

The maximum period of registration is two years full-time or four years part-time

5. Typical entry requirements:

Candidates should normally have at least an upper second-class honours degree in Sociology or another relevant Social Science discipline from a British university or its equivalent. Professional qualifications and experience may be taken into account. Special entries will be required to submit examples of written work in order to demonstrate their aptitude for MSc level study. For those candidates, whose first language is not English, they will be asked to demonstrate competency in English to the appropriate standard. Our requirement is an IELTS score of 6.5 or above.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL not allowed

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to provide students with an up-to-date, advanced training in Sociology, focusing in particular on contemporary theories, themes and debates. In the core modules students will explore some of the main problems of contemporary societies, such as environmental change, terrorism, the role of the media, together with analysis of theoretical developments in sociology in recent decades. They will also gain exposure to some of the practical applications of sociological research in the public context. Option modules will provide the opportunity for specialisation in areas of research in which members of the programme team are currently active.

The skills of critical analysis and the advanced understanding of societies and social issues provided by the course is an excellent basis for entering employment in a range of sectors within the UK and other parts of the world. This includes working in research, politics, and the public sector. Graduates are also well placed to go into teaching, publishing and the cultural industry. The MA is also a foundation for those wishing to progress to a PhD.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Benchmark statements for sociology
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Sociology.pdf>
- University of Leicester Learning and Teaching Strategy
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Development Review Report (February 2013)
- External Examiners' Reports
- First Destination Survey
- Previously accredited postgraduate programmes in Sociology at the University of Leicester (e.g. MSc in Social Research, MA in Civil Society).

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Advanced knowledge of theories, debates and themes in contemporary sociology	Seminars and independent study	Essays and dissertation
Concepts		
Enhanced knowledge of sociological concepts and their application to contemporary matters	Seminars and independent study	Essays; Reflective Portfolio, Presentation, dissertation
Techniques		
Competence in qualitative data collection and data analysis. <i>Conduct applied research using the appropriate research methods (MA only).</i> <i>Ability to deal with ethical issues inherent in the research (MA only).</i>	Seminars, independent study	Qualitative Data Analysis Exercise, essays and dissertation, Report on Presentation.
Critical analysis		
Ability to appreciate key points of critique and debate in modern sociology and to relate these to social issues	Seminar discussions and presentations	Seminar participation, essays, portfolios and dissertation
Presentation		
Ability to organise and present research material appropriate to the medium of assessment and the topic addressed	Seminar discussions and presentations	Essays, dissertation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Appraisal of evidence		
Ability to analyse and assess the adequacy of theories, concepts and data in the context of specific social problems.	Seminars and independent study	Essays, research proposal, and dissertation
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Advanced knowledge of specialized areas of contemporary sociological research	Seminars and independent study	Portfolios, essays and dissertation
Communication skills		
Ability to describe and discuss theories, concepts and research findings in sociology	Seminar discussions, dissertation supervision meetings	Seminar participation, Presentations, reflective portfolio.
Data presentation		
Ability to present ideas and analysis in a concise and critical fashion, drawing upon the work of scholars in sociology. <i>Ability to structure in a coherent way a large amount of data (MA only).</i>	Written feedback on assignments, dissertation draft comments	Written assignments, statistical analysis exercise, dissertation
Information technology		
Ability to use information technology appropriately and correctly in support of sociological study	Tutorial guidance, dissertation supervision, independent study	Written assignments, seminar presentations and accompanying report, dissertation
Problem solving		
Ability to locate, organize and analyse complex arguments and data to construct critical accounts. <i>Ability to deal with ethical issues (MA only).</i>	Seminars, dissertation supervision and independent study	Written assignments, research proposal, dissertation
Working relationships		
Ability to know when and how to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others	Seminar presentations and discussions	Essays, reflective portfolio, research proposal, seminar presentations, dissertation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Managing learning		
Ability to use different types of knowledge and learning methods in order to deal with different research questions. <i>Ability to identify, timetable and complete a credible advanced analytical project and to reflect upon the process and results (MA only).</i>	Participation in seminars and oral presentations, written assignments, dissertation preparation, independent study	Seminar participation, research proposal, written assignments, dissertation
Career management		
Ability to relate the knowledge and expertise acquired in the programme with a current or future personal career plan.	Seminars and research supervision	Written assignments, seminar presentations, dissertation.

10. Special features:

None

11. Indications of programme quality:

Staff with strong record in research and teaching in the fields of contemporary sociology and research methods. The quality of the MA Contemporary Sociology has been recognised by the external examiner and by students.

12. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, [Senate Regulations](#)).

13. Progression points

The programme follows Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, [Senate Regulations](#)).

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

The progress of each student shall be considered by a Board of Examiners at the end of the taught component of the programme in June/July. The Board of Examiners shall determine whether a student is permitted to progress to the dissertation or research project. Where the structure of a programme is such that a student has already begun work on his/her dissertation or research project, the Board of Examiners shall determine whether the student may continue with this work.

Essays are marked anonymously and moderated. Dissertations are also marked by two internal examiners, one of whom is usually the supervisor. A sample of the work is then sent to the external examiner who inspects all fails and distinctions as well as a sample of work that has been passed by

the internal examiners. Each student's overall performance is reviewed at the Examination Board after they have completed the course.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

The programme will follow Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, [Senate Regulations](#)).

15. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

Shared modules with the MSc in Social Research will need to be taken into account in timetabling.

16. External Examiners:

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The MA in Contemporary Sociology consists of five taught core modules, one option, and a supervised research based dissertation.

Semester 1	Semester 2
SY7018 Issues in Contemporary Society (30 credits)	SY7019 Debates in Contemporary Sociology (30 Credits)
Research Questions to Research design (SY7034) (15 Credits)	SY7035 Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis (15 Credits)
SY7043 Exploring the Social World (15 Credits)	Option (15 Credits)
Dissertation (SY7005) (60 Credits)	

Options Semester 2:

- New Communication Technologies, Social Media and Digital Politics (SY7038)
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- Race and Ethnicity (SY7022)
- Sociology of Sport (SY7020)
- The Cultural Industries: Theory, Policy and Practice (MS7211)
- Gender Politics in Contemporary Media (MS7214)
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Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>