

Programme Specification for
BA Sociology



1. Programme title	BA Sociology
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	BA (Honours)
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time/ Part-time/ Thick Sandwich Programme

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The University's standard entry requirement is 240 to 280 UCAS tariff points; however, mature applicants with relevant experience and qualifications, including access course qualifications are also welcomed, provided they can show evidence of ability to benefit from the programme.

International students who have not been taught in the English medium must show evidence of proven ability in English such as TOEFL grade 550 or IELTS grade 6.5. University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations 'Information for students with disabilities.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

1. develop an understanding of major concepts and themes in contemporary sociology and an ability to relate them to life in the community;
2. develop a critical approach to their studies, evaluating theory and evidence

accordingly;

3. develop autonomous learning and research skills which provide a basis for lifelong learning;
4. foster skills in written, oral and IT communication;
5. develop a range of analytic and graduate skills adequate for a range of professional and life situations.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. A range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within sociology, and evaluate their application.
2. An analytical account of social diversity and inequality and their effects.
3. The use of comparative analysis in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of Sociology.
4. The nature of social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions.
5. The processes that underpin social change and social stability.
6. A range of research strategies and methods and assess the appropriateness of their use.
7. The relationship between sociological arguments and evidence in a range of contexts.
8. The ways in which Sociology can be distinguished from other.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- active participation in a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, weekly assignments and practical exercises, tutorials, e-mail support, independent self-directed study and/or experiential learning

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess a range of sociological perspectives and discuss the strengths of each for the understanding of events. 2. Draw on materials from a range of sources and demonstrate an ability to synthesise them. 3. Draw on evidence to evaluate competing explanations. 4. Evaluate the viability of competing explanations in explaining problems, and draw appropriate conclusions. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures, seminars and workshops; • exercises and presentations; • resource-based learning and self-directed study with one-to-one tutorial assistance. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summative coursework and examinations; • submission of formative reports and work in progress.
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate ability to formulate sociologically informed questions. 2. Summarise and explain the findings of empirical sociological research, including a critical assessment of the methodology used. 3. Practically select and use appropriate research tools in sociological investigation. 4. Gather appropriate information to answer sociologically informed questions. 5. Analyse the ethical implications of social research in a variety of applied research settings. 6. Discuss sociological topics with an 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active participation in formal and informal learning environments that makes use of instructional lectures, workshops, seminars, student presentations and completion of exercises, tutorials, e-mail support and self-directed study; • practical skill C5 is further developed by dissertation supervision at level 3. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seen and unseen examinations; • coursework; • portfolios and web-based assignments; • formative assessment methodologies are also employed to assist students' development of these practical skills

<p>appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates, and to present the conclusions in a variety of appropriate sociological formats.</p> <p>7. Identify and comment on the value of sociological work with regard to social, public and civic policy issues.</p>	
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective learning. 2. Communication. 3. Teamwork. 4. Information Technology. 5. Numeracy. 6. Career Development. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical work and structured opportunities for learning offered by assessment schemes. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed in our core skills level 1-3 modules using a variety of assessment methodologies.</p>

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The BA (Hons) Sociology programme is studied over three years full-time, four years in sandwich (placement) mode, or between four, five, and seven years part-time. The programme is arranged into year-long modules, comprising two teaching terms in each academic year.

The programme is divided into study units called modules. Each module has a credit value of 30 credits, but the final year dissertation module has a 60 credit value. Placement year (sandwich mode) attracts a 120 credit value for the year.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4 (1)

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC1400</p> <p>SOC1410</p> <p>SOC1430</p> <p>CRM1420</p>		<p>The core SOC1410 and CRM1420 modules must be successfully completed to progress to Level 2 study.</p>
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC2500</p> <p>SOC2510</p> <p>SOC2520</p> <p>SOC2530</p>		<p>The core SOC2500, SOC2510 and SOC2530 modules must be successfully completed for progress to SOC3760.</p>
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC3760</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least three modules from:</p> <p>SOC3580</p> <p>SOC3700</p> <p>SOC3701</p> <p>SOC3720</p> <p>SOC3703</p> <p>SOC3740</p> <p>SOC3750</p> <p>SOC3780</p> <p>LAW3330</p>	
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12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code

13. Curriculum map
See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations
The Department of Criminology and Sociology adheres to the Middlesex University Guide and Regulations on all assessment regulations.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)
The Employability Service of Middlesex University have built up a wide range of placement opportunities for sociology students in, for example, the home office, local authorities, voluntary agencies and research institutions.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

A variety of careers are open to sociology graduates. These include working within Local Authorities; Town Planning Services; Social Services; Housing Departments; Media & Journalism conducting research and analysis on a wide range of social issues such as changes in education; the future development of the health service; migration and the impact of collapsing international barriers and the impact of the media on understandings of public institutions and everyday social life and activity.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

Our students are encouraged to take full advantage of University-level and student union learning support schemes and facilities.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	L300
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19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Sociology
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20. Reference points

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Sociology (2007).
- QAA Institutional Audit, 2003 and 2005.
- The Learning Framework Programme Design Guide (2006).
- Middlesex University and School of Law, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy and Policies.
- Middlesex University and School of Law, Graduate Skills Strategy.
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2008.
- QAA Guidelines and Information.
- Student Feedback.
- External Examiner Feedback.

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for BA Sociology

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	A range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within sociology, and evaluate their application.	C1	Demonstrate ability to formulate sociologically informed questions.
A2	An analytical account of social diversity and inequality and their effects.	C2	Summarise and explain the findings of empirical sociological research, including a critical assessment of the methodology used.
A3	The use of comparative analysis in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of Sociology.	C3	Practically select and use appropriate research tools in sociological investigation.
A4	The nature of social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions.	C4	Gather appropriate information to answer sociologically informed questions.
A5	The processes that underpin social change and social stability.	C5	Analyse the ethical implications of social research in a variety of applied research settings.
A6	A range of research strategies and methods and assess the appropriateness of their use.	C6	Discuss sociological topics with an appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates, and to present the conclusions in a variety of appropriate sociological formats.
A7	The relationship between sociological arguments and evidence in a range of contexts.	C7	Identify and comment on the value of sociological work with regard to social, public and civic policy issues.
A8	The ways in which Sociology can be distinguished from other forms of understanding.		
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Assess a range of sociological perspectives and discuss the strengths of each for the understanding of events.	D1	Effective learning.
B2	Draw on materials from a range of sources and demonstrate an ability to synthesise them.	D2	Communication.
B3	Draw on evidence to evaluate competing explanations.	D3	Teamwork.

