

Programme Specification for
BA Sociology and Social Policy



1. Programme title	BA Sociology and Social Policy
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. GCSE English and Maths with a minimum of Grade C is required; 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 6.0 (with minimum 5.5 in all components). 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:

- demonstrate critical knowledge and a systematic understanding of major concepts

and theoretical approaches in sociology and social policy;

- develop a coherent and detailed awareness of the social context relating to the discipline and the relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions;
- critically discuss the contemporary social problems and of social policy responses to them;
- demonstrate an understanding of globalisation and demographic change in relation to social policy responses;
- demonstrate conceptual knowledge of the origin and development of UK welfare institutions and the socio-demographic context in which they operate;
- develop a critical understanding of comparative analysis using appropriate social research methodology that enables students to progress to postgraduate training and education;
- foster skills in written, oral and ICT.

11. Programme outcomes	
<p>A. Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within sociology and social policy, and evaluate their applications. 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 and Social Policy. 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 in sociology and social policy and assess the 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active participation in a combination of lectures, seminars, computer labs, workshops; • weekly assignments and practical exercises; • tutorials; • e-mail support; • mass media; • independent self-directed study and/or experiential learning. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various summative assessment methods ranging from seen and unseen examinations, coursework, essays and portfolios; • formative assessment methods which are employed in a range of modules covering core knowledge and understanding to aid students' learning developmental progress.

<p>appropriateness of their use.</p> <p>7. The relationship between sociological and political arguments and evidence in a range of contexts.</p>	
<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 the merits and limitations of competing explanations of human behaviour, social situations and events. 2. Draw on materials from a range of sociological and social policy sources and demonstrate an ability to synthesise them. 3. Construct and critically evaluate appropriate sociologically informed questions. 4. Evaluate the viability of competing explanations in explaining problems, and draw appropriate conclusions. 5. Critically analyse the ethical implications of social research in a variety of applied research settings. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures, seminars and workshops; • exercises; • ICT use; • presentations; • resource-based learning and self-directed study with one-to-one tutorial assistance; • critical analysis and evaluation of sociological evidence as well as social policies data and inquiry through both disciplinary-based and interdisciplinary teaching and learning activities. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summative assessment such as coursework and examinations; • formative assessments by the submission of 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. Formulate and investigate sociological and social policy related questions. 2. Summarise and create explanations of the findings of empirical sociological research, including a critical assessment of the 	<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, ICT, student presentations and completion of exercises, tutorials, e-mail support and self-directed study; • placements;

<p>methodological framework used.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Practically use appropriate research tools in addressing social problems or enquiries. 4. Gather appropriate qualitative or quantitative information (methodology) to answer any social problem. 5. Discuss sociological and social policy topics with an appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates, and present conclusions in an appropriate scientific manner. 6. Analyse human situations, taking into account a variety of factors, including issues such as diversity, inequality, disability and discrimination. 7. Identify and comment on the value of sociological work with regard to social, public and civic policy issues. 8. Apply descriptive and inferential statistical techniques where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dissertation. <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>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. Demonstrate 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 Levels 4-6 modules using a variety of assessment methodologies.</p>

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

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The BA (Hons) Sociology and Social policy 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, so does the final year dissertation module. Placement year (sandwich mode) attracts a 120 credit value for the year.

Each 30 credit module represents approximately 300 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment including formal teaching, for which hours vary across levels and modules.

Each stage of the programme has an equivalent of 120 credits, with a total of 360 credits required to obtain the BA (Hons) Sociology with Social policy degree.

Year 1

SOC1400 Understanding Contemporary Society: Issues and Debates (*30 credits*)

SOC1410 Thinking Sociologically (*30 credits*)

SOC1420 Skills and Methods in Criminology and Sociology (*30 credits*)

SOC1430 Doing Things Together: Exploring Social Practices (*30 credits*)

Year 2

SOC2010 Social Policy and Contemporary Issues (*30 credits*)

SOC2500 Approaches to Research in the Social Sciences (*30 credits*)

SOC2510 Contemporary Social Theory (*30 credits*)

SOC2530 State, Society and Globalization (*30 credits*)

Year 3

SOC3711 Demography and Ageing Society (*30 credits*)

SOC3760 Dissertation (*30 credits*)

Optional Module One from the list below (*30 credits*)

Optional Module One from the list below (*30 credits*)

Options to be selected from:

SOC3510 Social Exclusion
SOC3580 Migration and Citizenship
SOC3699 Social Statistics and Data Analysis
SOC3700 Media, Communication and Society
SOC3701 Violence and Society
SOC3703 Social Movements, Conflict and Change
SOC3720 Diversity and its Discontents
LAW3330 Integrated Learning and Work Placement

N.B. TKSU students Placement (120 Credits) in Year 3.

LAW

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 4 (1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: SOC1400 <i>30 credits</i> SOC1410 <i>30 credits</i> SOC1420 <i>30 credits</i> SOC1430 <i>30 credits</i>		The core SOC1400 , SOC1410 , SOC1420 , and CRM1430 modules must be successfully completed to progress to Level 5 study.
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC2010 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC2500 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC2510 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC2530 <i>30 credits</i></p>		<p>The core SOC2010, SOC2500, SOC2510, SOC2530 and modules must be successfully completed to progress to Level 6 study.</p>
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC3711 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3760 <i>30 credits</i></p>	<p>Students must also choose any two from:</p> <p>SOC3510 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3580 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3699 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3700 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3701 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3703 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>SOC3720 <i>30 credits</i></p> <p>LAW3330 <i>30 credits</i></p>	
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12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
Level 4	SOC1400, SOC1410, SOC1420, CRM1430
Level 5	SOC2010, SOC2500, SOC2530, SOC2510
Level 6	SOC3711, SOC3760

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.

<http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/assess/>

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

The Employability Services of Middlesex University have built up a wide range of placement opportunities for social science students in the home office, local authorities, voluntary and charity organisations and also in research institutions. Student mobility under ERASMUS programmes is also getting popular at Middlesex University.

The department of Criminology and Sociology is a keen advocate of developing skills that enhance a student's employability. Whilst many of these skills can be developed within a classroom setting they can be further enhanced through practical experience. With that in mind we encourage first and second year students to consider voluntary work within a related Social Science area, which can be extended through the credit bearing final year optional placement module (**LAW3330**). In your second year of study you will be invited to select your final year option and should seek the advice of the module leader and the School's Placement Office.

In recent years our placement provision has expanded greatly and currently includes agencies and organisations such as ; Victim Support, British Transport Police, Southampton YOS, Centrepoint, World Development Movement, Solace Women's Aid, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Friends of the Earth, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ofcom, Herts Police, Special Constable Training, Enfield Island Youth & Community Trust, Barnet Mencap, Voluntary Action within Kent, Family Lives, College of North West London, Anne Frank Trust UK, Parkinson's UK Research Support Network, Teacher training, Prison Service, PAARS.

You may be able to identify an organisation, not listed here, that will offer a suitable placement opportunity. This should be discussed with the module leader at the earliest opportunity.

During your second year you will be invited to a workshop to discuss and explore this module.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

A variety of careers are open to sociology with social policy graduates.

These include working within:

- Local Authorities;
- Town Planning Services;
- Social Services;
- Housing Departments;
- Department of Work and Pension;
- 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 policy reform on everyday social life and activity.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

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

ERASMUS student exchange programme and Year 3 work-placement module are good opportunities for students as they can gather practical knowledge in sociology and social policy areas.

Our specialist teaching approach offers high levels of student support, ensuring students achieve excellent academic results. In addition to the full time academic teaching staff, the department also employ Graduate Academic Assistants (GAA's) who provide a 'drop in' service that enables you to discuss your learning needs. They will assist with your essay and dissertation planning, writing and referencing. In your first year you will also be supported by Student Learning Assistants (SLAs), who are second year students whose recent experiences will enable them to understand any concerns you may have as you embark on your study programme.

The My Learning electronic learning environment will provide links to the subject specific librarian, the Learning Enhancement Team, and the Academic Writing and Language coordinator.

Your module leaders also have weekly drop in hours for you to seek their advice. The day and times of these will be displayed outside their office.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

L300 (Sociology)
L400 (Social Policy)

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Sociology and Social Policy

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.
- QAA: The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2014.
- 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 and Social Policy

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, social policy and evaluate their applications.	C1	Demonstrate ability to formulate sociologically informed questions and social problems.
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 and Social Policy.	C3	Practically use appropriate research tools in addressing social problems or enquiries.
A4	The nature of social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions.	C4	Gather appropriate qualitative or quantitative information (methodology) to answer any social problem.
A5	The processes that underpin social change and social stability.	C5	Discuss sociology and social policy related topics with an appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates, and to present the conclusions in an appropriate scientific manner.
A6	A range of research strategies and methods and assess the appropriateness of their use.	C6	Analyse human situations, taking into account a variety of factors, including issues such as diversity, inequality, disability and discrimination.
A7	The relationship between sociological arguments, impacts of social policies 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.
		C8	Apply descriptive and inferential statistical techniques where appropriate.
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	Construct and evaluate sociologically informed questions.	D3	Teamwork.
B4	Evaluate the viability of competing explanations in explaining problems, and draw appropriate conclusions.	D4	Information and communications technology (ICT) skills.
B5	Critically analyse the ethical implications of social research in a variety of applied research settings.	D5	Numeracy, statistical methods, and data analysis.
		D6	Transferable skills for future careers.

Programme outcomes																									
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Highest level achieved by all graduates																									
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes																									
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Thinking Sociologically	SOC1410	X			X	X		X			X	X		X						X		X	X	X			X
Understanding Contemporary Society: Issues and Debates	SOC1400	X			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X			X
Researching the city	CRM1420	X	X		X		X		X	X			X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Doing Things Together: Exploring Social Practices	SOC1430	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Social Policy and Contemporary Issues	SOC2010	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X				X	X	X		X	X	X			X
Approaches to Research in the Social Science	SOC2500	X	X				X	X		X					X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X

