

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for BA Sociology



1. Programme title	BA Sociology
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	N/A
5. Final qualification	BA Honours
6. Academic year	2014/15
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	

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:

- Develop an understanding of major concepts and themes in contemporary sociology and an ability to relate them to life in the community.
- Develop a critical approach to their studies, evaluating theory and evidence accordingly
- Develop autonomous learning and research skills which provide a basis for lifelong learning
- Foster skills in written, oral and IT communication
- 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 forms of understanding

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

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

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

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through lectures, seminars, workshops, exercises, presentations, resource-based learning and self-directed study with one-to-one tutorial assistance.

Assessment

Students' cognitive skills are assessed summatively by coursework and examinations; and formatively by the submission of reports and work in progress.

C. Practical skills

(Subject specific practical skills)

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 appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates, and to present the conclusions in a variety of appropriate sociological formats.
7. Identify and comment on the value of sociological work with regard to social, public and civic policy issues

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn subject specific practical skills through 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.

Assessment

Students' subject specific practical skills are assessed by way of seen and unseen examinations, coursework, portfolios and web-based assignments.

Formative assessment methodologies are also employed to assist students' development of these practical skills

D. Graduate Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:

1. Effective learning
2. Communication
3. Teamwork
4. Information Technology
5. Numeracy
6. Career Development

Teaching/learning methods

Students acquire graduate skills through practical work and structured opportunities for learning offered by assessment schemes

Assessment

Graduate skills are developed and assessed in our core skills level 1-3 modules using a variety of assessment methodologies.

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, 4 years in sandwich (placement) mode, or between 4, 5, and 7 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

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC1400 SOC1410 SOC1430 CRM1420</p>	N/A	<p>The core SOC1410 and CRM1420 modules must be successfully completed to progress to Level 2 study</p>

Level 5

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the</p>	N/A	<p>The core SOC2500, SOC2510 and SOC2530 modules must be successfully</p>

following: SOC2500 SOC2510 SOC2520 SOC2530		completed for progress to SOC3760
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Level 6

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: SOC3760	Students must also choose at 3 modules from: SOC3700 SOC3701 SOC3720 SOC3703 SOC3740 SOC3750 LAW3330	

Compulsory modules are those that must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be made unless these modules have been successfully completed. Each of these modules makes a unique contribution to the learning objectives of the programme.

Optional modules are those from which a specified minimum number must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be given unless this specified minimum number of optional modules has been successfully completed. Each of the possible combinations of optional modules will make a similarly unique contribution to the achievement of the learning objectives of the programme.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Level 4	SOC1430 and CRM1420
Level 5	SOC2530, SOC2510, SOC2500
Level 6	SOC3760

13. Curriculum map

See Curriculum Map 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
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Sociology
20. Reference Points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 programme handbook and the University Regulations.