

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Sociology

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Social Sciences
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025-26
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	York St John University
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Sociology Diploma of Higher Education Sociology BA (Ord) Sociology
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	8K9S
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Sociology 2016
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

BA (Hons) Sociology at YSJU is a three-year programme structured to develop our students into critical thinkers, possessing the real-world skills sets that will make you an asset in the job market. We never forget that your life after YSJU will be much longer and less predictable than your life at YSJU and the structure of the programme is designed to provide you with supportive opportunities to develop the sorts of skills that are required in graduate jobs. These will include presentational and communicative skills as well as criticality and problem-solving.

We want you to do well and to secure employment. To help, we will provide you with the pastoral support to develop as individuals as well as the academic instruction, tutelage, and research opportunities that will make you confident scholars in the study and practice of sociology. You will also be provided with opportunities to engage with employers at our jobs and volunteering fairs. This will help you to get an insight into both job roles and employer requirements.

Sociology helps to develop critically engaged individuals who understand a variety of social, cultural and political challenges; at York St John we do this by using research-led teaching to foster socially responsible citizens who can have a meaningful impact upon the world within which they live.

The practical benefits of undertaking a degree in Sociology can be seen in the development of both widely applicable and specific skills, which are transferable to the working world. These include the ability to

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

research, collect and analyse data, use a range of software packages, conduct comparative and policy analysis, administer, organise, plan and manage research projects, write and edit at the academic level, present evidence and argument, and engage in critical debate. These skills should mean that not only are you a knowledgeable scholar of Sociology, but also a sought-after candidate in the job market. In a post-industrial society where innovation and evolution are the norm, this programme provides you with precisely the graduate skills required to cope with a future that demands critical thinking and research ability in addition to real-world practical skills.

The distinctive and unique contribution of Social Scientists to the world is a critical and interpretive way of seeing that unpicks the structures, systems, partialities, and inequalities which influence how sectors, organisations and people behave. Our interpretation of Work-Related Experiential Learning, authentic to the subject, is to reframe this embedded critique using a lens of opportunity – gearing up York St John Social Scientists to not only see, but also affect and offer positive change to whatever structure (family, relationships, education, community) or organisation that they exist or work in or with. Embedded in our programme, this approach can be dissected into three main strands. 1) **Skill acquisition via taught content and assessment:** the nature of the assessments and taught content refocuses on problem solving of contemporary, relevant, problems, and of developing the skills to make social justice-oriented contributions predominantly in the third sector. 2) **Awareness and Articulation:** where modules highlight relevant career pathways associated with taught content and help you to communicate your skills and contribution to relevant employers. 3) **Partnership:** where exposure to and networking with industry stakeholders via classroom time and assessment, live briefs and real-world industry-led or designed problems allows you to practice authentic uses of your Social Sciences skills.

You will be changed by your experiences on BA (Hons) Sociology and successful completion of the programme will lead to the development of new skills and the enhancement of existing skills.

Special features

- **Research specialisms**
Modules are relevant, engaging and informed by up-to-the-minute social research conducted by academics who teach across the programme, with a focus on the areas of deviant leisure, social inequalities, technology, gender, politics, youth, policy and spatial sociology
- **Tailored specialisms**
The third year of the programme (Level 6) gives you the opportunity to specialize and tailor your interests towards a variety of different areas across the whole Social Sciences portfolio
- **Support with employability**
Through structured academic supervision and Careers support across the degree programme, you will be equipped with the necessary skills and competencies to prepare you for life after undergraduate study

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

BA (Hons) Sociology aims to provide you with opportunities to develop your skills, capabilities and critical thinking through the study of the social world and as such develops critically oriented individuals who understand and can respond to a variety of social, cultural and political challenges.

The programme, in terms of both structure and content, offers a valuable springboard to those wishing to pursue graduate study and research.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Demonstrate an awareness of differing sociological perspectives
- 4.2 Define key concepts in sociology and explain how they apply to social life
- 4.3 Locate and evaluate relevant academic literature
- 4.4 Construct convincing arguments and communicate information and ideas clearly
- 4.5 Demonstrate the ability to work both independently and collaboratively with fellow students
- 4.6 Demonstrate a range of digital skills as appropriate

Level 5

- 5.1 Apply sociological theories to a range of situations and issues
- 5.2 Analyse social processes shaping individuals, groups, social practices, social institutions and social structures
- 5.3 Identify the value of the discipline of sociology to working environments
- 5.4 Demonstrate how qualitative and quantitative research methods are used to explore social issues
- 5.5 Demonstrate how qualitative and quantitative research methods generate evidence in an ethical manner
- 5.6 Discuss sociological topics with appreciation of theory, evidence and relevance to current debates and present the conclusions in a variety of appropriate sociological formats suitable for different audiences

Level 6

- 6.1 Critically analyse sociology as a distinct form of knowledge and practice
- 6.2 Work independently to plan and carry out research with appropriate supervision
- 6.3 Appraise and select evidence to challenge assumptions and formulate alternatives
- 6.4 Critically evaluate evidence and competing explanations
- 6.5 Critically analyse evidence and communicate this clearly and effectively
- 6.6 Demonstrate the use of sociology within critical understanding of social issues

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
SSC4002M	4	1	Communicating Ideas	20	C	X
SOC4001M	4	1	Introduction to Sociological Theory	20	C	X
SOC4002M	4	1	Sociology of Everyday Life	20	C	X
SOC4004M	4	2	Social Inequalities: Key Themes	20	C	X
SOC4005M	4	2	Deviance	20	C	X
SOC4006M	4	2	Pleasure, Leisure and Social Interaction	20	C	X
SSC5001M	5	1	Social Research Methods 1	20	C	X
SOC5001M	5	1	Gender, Sexuality and Media	20	O	X
SOC5002M	5	1	Sociology of Work	20	O	X
SOC5008M	5	1	Media, Culture and the Social World	20	O	X
SOC5004M	5	2	Political Sociology	20	O	X
SOC5005M	5	2	Sociology of the Very Worst	20	O	X
SSC5002M	5	2	Social Research Methods 2	20	C	X
SOC5007M	5	2	Social Inequalities: Contemporary Debates	20	O	X
SOC5009M	5	2	Working in the Social Sciences	20	O	X
SSC6001M	6	1&2	Social Science Investigation	40	C	NC
CRI6002M	6	1	Sex Work	20	O ¹	X
CRI6006M	6	1	Critical Criminology	20	O ¹	X
SOC6009M	6	1	Gender, Body, Power	20	O ¹	X
SOC6002M	6	1	Spatial Sociology	20	O ¹	X
SOC6010M	6	1	Theory Now	20	O ¹	X
SOC6011M	6	1	Investigating Games	20	O ¹	X
CRI6003M	6	2	Crime and Media	20	O ¹	X
CRI6004M	6	2	Prisons and Penology	20	O ¹	X
CRI6009M	6	2	Youth and Resistance	20	O ¹	X
SOC6004M	6	2	State, Nation and Migration	20	O ¹	X
SOC6005M	6	2	Health, Illness and Society	20	O ¹	X

¹ At Level 6, Sociology students are required to select four optional modules, two of which must have an SOC code.

Please note that all modules are subject to staffing and timetable availability, and sufficient student numbers each year.

Learning, teaching and assessment

As a student on BA (Hons) Sociology you will experience a range of teaching styles and settings and a variety of approaches to support and direct your learning. Classes will generally involve tutor-led input interspersed with student activities. Activities may include small group work, discussions, guided reading and library-based research leading to feedback. Modules with lectures will also benefit from the provision of

seminars (small groups of students with a tutor) and tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor). In addition, there is an emphasis on independent study outside of formal teaching sessions including directed reading tasks, student-based project work, engaging with the online virtual learning environment (VLE) and encouragement to attend guest lectures and research seminars.

The range of resources is designed to enable you to work collaboratively and build your knowledge beyond guided reading so that you are able to engage with key debates within the approaches to theory. Sociology is a rich and varied discipline and, as such, you must be able and willing to explore the depth of knowledge and experience at your disposal. You will study a variety of challenging issues and cases.

Although learning about the discipline of sociology is important, the development of academic skills is not overlooked and there will be various activities which are aimed at making you more effective in the work that you produce whilst on the course. As part of this, skills which are valued by employers, such as communication, presentational and organisational skills are intrinsic to assignments. You will find further support in relation to the development of academic skills on the programme's Moodle site.

York St. John University adopts the position that students are co-producers of knowledge rather than just recipients of it. We see students as an important aspect of a student-centred approach. As such there will be opportunities for students to engage in research in different ways such as through the Research Assistant scheme. This provides students with the opportunity to take part in research projects being carried out by staff if successful. York St John University aims to ensure that you have opportunities to engage in the study of Sociology rather than just hear about how knowledge is produced.

Transferable skills and competencies as evident within graduate attributes will be achieved through the tiered learning progression. As such, Level 4 has increased contact time to ensure that you have a sound grounding in the subject area in key modules; this is gradually reduced at Level 5 and 6 in order to develop your autonomy, whilst still providing a supportive environment through regular tutorials. At Level 6, you will be expected to engage in critical enquiry-based learning to develop your individual autonomous reasoning, analytical and research skills to a high standard.

Throughout your studies you will have an opportunity to undertake modules that are related to the careers that you may wish to pursue in the future. At Level 5, you will study a specialist module that will allow you to reflect upon work and employability in the context of Sociology. In addition, Social Science careers events will feature guest speakers from related sectors to provide relevant insight. You will also be encouraged to undertake volunteering activities to enhance your future employability; this will be with organisations or agencies and voluntary groups that support a range of issues related to sociology.

You will be assigned an academic tutor in addition to module tutors. The role of the academic tutor is to provide additional support with your studies where necessary. Further to this support the university provides extensive support in a range of academic skills, such as writing assignments and the use of the library for locating relevant information.

York St John University is committed to embedding formative assessment activities as part of its approach to teaching, learning and assessment: these are activities which develop your understanding of how assessed work is marked and how you might produce work to a higher standard. The intention is to ensure that you receive on-going feedback relating to your learning and development which will assist you in being successful in your studies. You will encounter a range of assessment approaches which are designed to enable you to develop a range of skills and meet the learning outcomes detailed earlier. Formative and summative assessment will be by a variety of methods appropriate to the specified Programme Learning Outcomes, the level, and the specific module.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement for Sociology July 2016](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

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