COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Sociology

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Course Title	*MSc Sociology*
Final Award	*MSc*
Exit Awards	*PGCertHE, PGDipHE.*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P3623FTC/PTC*
Mode of study	*Full time, Part time*
Mode of delivery	*Campus*
Normal length of course	*1 year FT; 2 years PT*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*From September 2024 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Humanities and Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/msc-sociology*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*Not applicable*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To offer students a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights within Sociology (theoretical, methodological, and empirical)
- To enable students to develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- To deliver a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- To provide a conceptual understanding to enable critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in Sociology
- To equip students with the tools to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new research questions.
- To foster the opportunity for students to practise initiative and personal responsibility, and the individual learning skills required for continuing professional development, including the enhancement of transferable skills for lifelong learning and graduate employment in the context of changing labour markets.
- To encourage critical thinking about a range of social problems in a global context, and creative solutions to make a positive difference to society.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Formulate and investigate critically sociologically informed questions.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
A2	Identify, assess, and analyse, critically sources of evidence in building a sociological argument.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
A3	Plan and conduct systematically sociological research using quantitative and qualitative data sources.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A4	Recognise and be able to communicate competently to different audiences the relevance of sociological knowledge for social, public, and civic policy.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Critically assess the merits of competing explanations, and draw reasoned conclusions.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
B2	Demonstrate an ability to synthesise bodies of evidence and arguments, and to operationalise them to develop suitable research questions.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
B3	Demonstrate an ability to work independently to plan and develop an independent project to produce a clear outcome.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
B4	Reflexively question assumptions which are taken for granted.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Select and use appropriate research tools for collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, including appropriate uses of software and suitable interpretive procedures.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*

C2	Identify and comment critically upon the value of sociological work for specific organisations or with regard to social, public and civic policy issues.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
C3	Summarise and explain the findings of empirical sociological research, including a critical assessment of the methodological frameworks used.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Discuss critically and present ideas and interpretations in a clear and reasoned way to different audiences.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
D2	Work independently, and plan, and manage time effectively.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
D3	Reflect critically upon and understand their own strengths and weaknesses, and take action to enhance their capacities.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*
D$	Develop digital and IT skills of information retrieval, storage, analysis and collaboration.	*Workshops, seminars, lectures, group work, individual study, individual and group tutorials.*	*(Essays, presentations, reports, set exercises, Final Project, etc.)*

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy](#) 2025
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for Sociology
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)ode/qualifications-frameworks"
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards
- [University of Portsmouth Policy for Recognition of Prior Learning](#)

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document details

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Minimum student registration numbers	