

BA (HONS) SOCIOLOGY

Institute of Education, Arts and Society

Academic Level:	6	Credits:	360
UCAS Code:	L300		
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria		
Delivery Site:	Lancaster		
Programme Length:	Standard registration period (full time) - 3 years Maximum registration period - 7 years		
Mode of Delivery:	Blended Learning		
Pattern of Delivery:	Full time		
	Total weeks of study:	24 weeks	
	Delivery pattern:	2 x 12-week semesters	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
Programme Webpage:	https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-sociology/		

Entry Criteria

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the [Applicant Information](#) pages of the University website for more information. For [APL](#), please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage: <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-sociology/>

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Programme Aims

By the end of this programme you will be able to:

1. Recognise and express key classic sociological concepts, methodologies, traditions and theoretical approaches
2. Demonstrate critical engagement with social research techniques
3. Reflect deeply and critically to analyse contemporary issues through the lens of culture, intersectionality, equality and multi-marginalisation
4. Evaluate and apply social theory to local and wider contexts
5. Formulate a special interest as an emerging sociology research professional showing transferrable independent research skills
6. Evaluate the impact of digital transformation on social structures, including healthcare, work and public engagement
7. Critically reflect on ethical considerations in sociological research and practice.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 120 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

- K1.** Key sociological concepts, theories and their historical and contemporary relevance
- K2.** Different sociological research methods, including their strengths, limitations and applications in real-world contexts
- K3.** The principles of social justice, including their historical development and relevance in modern society
- K4.** Social inequalities, geographical locations and their policy related dimensions

After 240 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

- K5.** A critical approach to understanding how historical, cultural and social contexts shape key institutions including health, education, religion and work
- K6.** Knowledge, understanding and critical analysis of social challenges
- K7.** The impact of digital technology and artificial intelligence on societal structures including healthcare, work and social engagement
- K8.** A critical approach to social research methods including data collection and accepted methods of interpretation and evaluation

After 360 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:

- K9.** Detailed knowledge and critical understanding of historical and contemporary sociological debates
- K10.** Intersectionality and its application in sociological research, policy and practice, whilst recognising how social inequalities shape professional and personal identities
- K11.** How sociological research evolves and apply this knowledge to independent research projects

K12. A critical approach to the role of digital technology and globalisation in shaping professional identities and intercultural awareness in a transnational world.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 120 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

- S1.** A range of transferable generic academic skills such as academic writing, independent learning and presenting materials using a variety of digital tools
- S2.** An understanding of sociological research using appropriate methodologies, including data analysis and evidence evaluation
- S3.** The skills to work independently and collaborate with others to research, present and communicate sociological insights in a variety of contexts

After 240 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

- S4.** Independent sociological research using qualitative and quantitative methodologies
- S5.** Digital capability to gather, assess and evaluate evidence and use digital tools to present the outcomes of learning
- S6.** Analytical skills relating to sociological challenges and identifying arguments of evidence

After 360 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:

- S7.** Knowledge and critical understanding of social research by formulating your own research questions and interpret, critique and draw valid conclusions from data
- S8.** Effective communication of complex sociological ideas
- S9.** Deep self-reflection on academic, personal and professional development.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Programme Overview

The BA (Hons) Sociology programme is ideal for those who are interested in human actions, interactions, beliefs, perspectives and values in order to better understand society, and create ways of changing it for the better. The three-year programme will combine an understanding of traditions in sociological thought with the application of social theory, knowledge and practices, enabling you to build your own special interests through the duration of the programme. To this end, you can expect to build an awareness of classic sociological theories as well as cutting edge and contemporary approaches to the discipline to inform your studies. At the heart of the programme are interlinking and intersectional themes which emphasise how social theory, research and practice can understand and address epistemic injustice, rural and coastal deprivation, and help to dismantling disadvantage.

Year 1

The focus of the first year is introducing the key concepts within sociological approaches and developing the skills to negotiate Level 4 learning and above. The modules here emphasise ways of using these concepts and skills as ways to interrogate and analyse the world around them. The programme will begin with an introduction to the main traditions of sociological thought (such as Weber, Durkheim and Marx), interpreted and interrogated through the lens of local, regional and national issues today. This will be supported by modules concerned with re-examining everyday practices through the role of 'place' and material culture; digital media, communication and post-truth; and poverty and social justice. These areas of study will focus on the local contexts of Cumbria, and explore their links to wider issues, theories and practices.

Research is at the core of the programme throughout all three years. The first year of study includes a module introducing social research methods, which will equip you to read current research papers and make links between data, evidence, and findings. This will prepare you for your second year, when you will engage directly with current debates in several sub-fields of sociology.

Year 2

The second year will build on the skills learned in the first year to enable you to critically engage in a broad scope of topics. Based on your learning in the first year on topics around space, place, media and social justice, you will now develop these principles by approaching contemporary debates and challenges through both the places and spaces that we inhabit, and the underpinning histories of sociological debate which frame them. You will examine the complexities of debates in and around areas such as the sociology of health, education, work, religious belief, social movements and protest. Finishing the second year, the skills to evaluate and appraise a range of positions in each area of study will enable you to prepare for your third year by considering which topics you may want to develop in more detail through research.

This will be supported by the continued growth of your research capabilities. In the second year you will look specifically at how research methods translated into social policy, and the ways to practice effective and impactful research.

Year 3

In your third year, the modules are geared towards establishing your identity as a research-informed professional, both by reflecting on your prior learning and looking ahead to future employment. This includes reflections on the intersectional themes which link all of the previous modules – such as rurality, inequality, and gender – which will consolidate learning and enable synthesis of knowledge and skills. This aligns with a module specifically with explorations of the nature of professionalism and the idea of the professional, both as an object of study and also as a preparation for you to approach future careers in, for example, social work, teaching, criminology, or a Master of Research/PhD; and explorations of what it means to be a ‘global citizen’ in today’s world. Taken together, these modules will consolidate and develop the skills and knowledge you have learned throughout the programme, enabling you to take your next step in your career with strength and confidence.

The third year will also support your applied knowledge of how research transforms into practice. A specialist module is led by a different expert researcher each year, taking you alongside them for an in-depth study in one of their areas of interest. This, in turn, provides a model for you to conduct your own research in the dissertation module.

The dissertation provides an option of applying your research skills, either in your own research, or aligned with voluntary placement opportunities with local organisations (such as the Cumbria CVS, Healthwatch, etc.) to conduct small research projects. This enhances not only research skills but also employability skills by enabling you to explore the direct links between your studies and applied problems in the world of work.

The programme has been designed in alignment with the University of Cumbria’s (UoC) signature pedagogy of place-based learning, incorporating the core principles of the Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Plan. Authentic assessment is central to the assessment design, while Digital Augmentation, Learning Optimisation, and Universal Design are fundamental to curriculum development. Additionally, five Graduate Attributes are embedded throughout the programme via reflective practice and mapped to the assessments.

Learning and Teaching

Teaching

Teaching primarily consists of lectures and seminars. Lectures are presented by the module leader or a guest presenter to the entire cohort. The cohort is divided into smaller groups for seminars, which enables group discussion and debate on that week’s topic of study. In between lectures and seminars there will typically be a set reading or activity in between which will utilise the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for threads, quizzes and other interactions. These activities are an essential part of your development throughout the degree, sharpening your reading, interpretation and analytic skills.

At Level 4 you typically have around 15 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 3 hours of lectures
- 6 hours of seminars
- 6 hours of VLE work

Groupwork

Groupwork is an essential part of professional practice which has been embedded throughout the programme: whether through in-class discussions, on-line activities or in assessment pieces such as group presentations or podcasts.

Independent Learning

When not attending scheduled learning activities you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study.

Digital Capabilities

From the very start of the programme, you will be encouraged to utilise a range of media, including digital media, to explore topics and present your ideas. In addition to use of the VLE in between lectures and seminars, this also includes an assessment involving the creation of a video essay and a group podcast in the first year, the use of a learning blog and utilising media forms to record interviews in the second year and engaging with multiple digital resources in the third year for both research and career planning.

Teaching Staff

The programme team have drawn upon a diverse background to inform learning and teaching. Experience in areas such as Social Philosophy, History, Religious Studies, Social Sciences, and academic development ensures the curriculum is grounded in evidence-based practice and in line with UoC strategies such as the Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) Plan. Our research interests cover a wide range of contemporary issues and perspectives. The core delivery team will demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge in the Sociology discipline.

Assessment

Subject Benchmark Statements, published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), describe the academic standards expected of graduates in specific subject areas. They show what a graduate might reasonably be expected to know, do and understand at the end of your studies. Based on this for Sociology and the University of Cumbria Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan authentic assessment is fundamental to the assessment approach. The diverse mix of assessment will include:

Year 1

- Academic Skills Portfolio
- Group Podcast
- Group Presentation
- Report
- Video Essay
- Portfolio
- Written Assignment

Year 2

- Case Study
- Written Assignment

- Group Presentation
- Autoethnographic Research
- Interview or blog
- Reflective Essay
- Individual Presentation
- Action Research

Year 3

- Dissertation
- Written Assignment
- Role Play
- Presentation
- Group Debate
- Reflective Essay
- Short Video

Assessment varies between work produced by you individually, and work which requires you to present as a group. In the case of groupwork, marks are given to the entire group. To support this, key skills for good teamwork and best practice for making the most of group working are provided in an introductory module on theorising social life. This includes strategies for ensuring equity in group participation, which you will be expected to demonstrate within your groupwork. This is especially important, as reassessment will apply to the group as a whole (unless of exceptional cases e.g. individual absence, in which case a separate assessment will be undertaken). A number of modules will also support the development of a portfolio of evidence of 'living CV' to help translate your learning into future employability prospects.

Formative and summative assessment is used throughout the programme. Formative assessment helps you to identify your areas of development in line with assessment for learning providing feedback from tutors and peers to help you develop and enhance your skills.

Summative Assessment is designed in line with assessment for learning principles to allow you to engage deeply with the discipline of sociology and is used to evaluate your learning in line with module learning outcomes.

Feedback

Formative assessment will lead to feedback from tutors, other staff and peers. Feedback of summative assessment will be provided in written form by module tutors within the University's standard turnaround time (20 working days).

Graduate Prospects

The discipline of sociology is essential for understanding our society and ways to improve how we live. A sociology degree will help you for employment in a number of fields that require knowledge and critical understanding of social structures and interactions; including education, social work, policy, local and national government, work with NGOs, and many more. It will equip you with transferable and analytical skills, allowing you to navigate different sectors and adapt to an

evolving job market. Sociology graduates are therefore able to use their qualification to enter a number of jobs, including: youth work, probation services, the criminal justice system, charity and research organisations, as well as providing a stepping stone to further qualifications in marketing, journalism, social work, counselling, teaching or public relations and communication.

Employers highly value skills such as communication, interpersonal awareness, problem solving and critical thinking, areas in which sociology graduates excel. The ability to address contemporary societal issues leads to real world impact, making sociology graduates well positioned to contribute meaningfully in diverse fields. A deep understanding of intersectionality is second nature to sociology graduates and is crucial in analysing customer behaviour and rapid social changes. Moreover, the emphasis on intersectionality, self-reflection, and professionalism will help you transition from academia to the workplace and broader society.

You may consider further study to pursue an interest in sociology at a higher level. This can be achieved through a taught postgraduate programme – such as Postgraduate Certificate in Education, a Masters in Social Work, Public Health or Public Policy – or through a master's research degree.

MODULES

Year 1			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
SOCI4001	Theorising Social Life	20	Compulsory
SOCI4002	Exploring Space, Place and Material Culture	20	Compulsory
SOCI4003	Media, Culture and Persuasion	20	Compulsory
SOCI4004	Poverty, Policy and Place	20	Compulsory
SOCI4005	Understanding Social Research	20	Compulsory
SOCI4006	Power and Social Justice	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a CertHE Sociology			

Year 2			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
SOCI5001	Social Research in Policy and Practice	20	Compulsory
SOCI5002	Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life	20	Compulsory
SOCI5003	Religion and Society	20	Compulsory
SOCI5004	The Business of Work in a Digital World	20	Compulsory
SOCI5005	Protest, Resistance and Engagement	20	Compulsory
SOCI5006	Structures of Education	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 240 credits would receive a DipHE Sociology			

Year 3			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
SOCI6002	Specialist Module	20	Compulsory
SOCI6003	Being a Global Citizen	20	Compulsory
SOCI6004	The Future is Intersectional	20	Compulsory
SOCI6005	What is a Professional?	20	Compulsory
SOCI6001	Dissertation	40	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 300 credits would receive a BA Sociology			
Students exiting at this point with 360 credits would receive a BA (Hons) Sociology			

Key to Module Statuses

Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may be possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).
--------------------	--

Timetables

Timetables are normally available in August. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week.

Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to students as far in advance as possible, however there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The UoC academic calendar runs from August to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Support

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Advice Service](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

Course Costs

Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found at <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-sociology/>

Additional Costs

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- All module texts are accessible in the University library. At certain points, you may benefit from purchasing texts for yourself, but this is optional. The cost of a Sociology textbook is usually £30-40, while a monograph is £20. While buying texts is not essential to the programme, should you wish to buy texts you should budget around £250.

- If undertaking optional voluntary work in the Dissertation module, travel and subsidies will need to be funded by you. This will depend on the location of the work in relation to your residence and will vary from no cost (if walking) up to approx. £100 (if using transport).

Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

External and Internal Benchmarks

- [Subject Benchmark Statement: Sociology](#)
- [QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.](#)

Other internal reference points may include:

- UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan
- UoC Institutional Business Plans
- [UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes](#)

Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage:

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-sociology/>

Date of Programme Specification Production	May 2025
Date Programme Specification was last updated	August 2025