

Programme Specification for Programme Leading to:
BSc Sociology
BSc Sociology (Media)
BSc Sociology with Placement
BSc Sociology (Media) with Placement



*Applicable for all undergraduate students **starting at FHEQ Level 4** on or after 1st September 2021*

<u>Version No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes – QA USE ONLY</u>	<u>QA</u>
1	May 2021	Programme specification for 2021/22 created. FM2007 not running in 2021/22 SO2605 reinstated for 21/22 SO3613 added	BJR

Undergraduate programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences / Dept. of Social and Political Sciences / Social Science and Communication
4. Contributing college/department/division/ associated institution	LBIC for Alternative Foundation Level and level 4 (see section 25)
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	Bachelor of Science (Hons) Sociology (FHEQ Level 6) Bachelor of Science (Hons) Sociology with Placement (FHEQ Level 6) Bachelor of Science (Hons) Sociology (Media) (FHEQ Level 6) Bachelor of Science (Hons) Sociology (Media) with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)
7. Programme title	BSc Sociology
8. Programme type (Single honours/joint/major minor)	Single honours
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	3 years (full-time), 4 years (thin and thick sandwich)
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	6 years (full-time), 7 years (thin- and thick sandwich)
11. Variation(s) to September start	None
12. Modes of study	Full-time/ Thin sandwich / Thick Sandwich
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award	Certificate of Higher Education in Sociology (FHEQ Level 4) Certificate of Higher Education in Sociology (FHEQ Level 4) Diploma of Higher Education in Sociology (FHEQ Level 5) Diploma of Higher Education in Sociology (Media) (FHEQ Level 5) Diploma of Higher Education in Sociology with Placement (FHEQ Level 5) Diploma of Higher Education in Sociology (Media) with Placement (FHEQ Level 5) BSc (Ord) Sociology (FHEQ Level 6) BSc (Ord) Sociology (Media) (FHEQ Level 6)

	BSc (Ord) Sociology with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)BSc (Ord) Sociology (Media) with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)
15. UCAS code	LL3P L300
16. JACS Code	L300
17. Route Code	L300USOCIOL L300USOCMED
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design.	QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards. Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statements – Sociology, Communication and Media Studies Brunel 2030 Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the ' Managing Higher Education Provision with Others ' page.
19. Admission Requirements	Details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	<u>Information on Placements</u> The BSc Sociology(and Media pathway) with Placement offer a 4-year thin- or thick sandwich mode of study, designed to link academic learning with practical experience and knowledge gained in two separate periods of Work Placement. This experience contributes to the superior employability of our students on graduation. For the thin-sandwich the first work Placement takes place during the Year 1 summer term and Year 2 autumn term. The second Work Placement takes place during Year 3 spring and summer terms. For the thick sandwich, a single placement is carried out in FHEQ Level 5. The University has a specialist Placement & Careers Centre, staffed on a full-time basis year-round, in order to help students find suitable Placements. Within the Placement and Careers Centre are a team of Placement Officers and Placement Assistants who work with organizations to obtain work placement opportunities and provide a service to students to help them secure a work placement that is relevant to their course of study. Those who wish to organize their own Placement are also encouraged to do so, subject to approval by the Placement & Careers Centre. While on Placement, each student is assigned a Work Placement Tutor who is a member of academic staff who ensures that the Placement is proceeding without any major problems, and offers advice and guidance on placement learning and assessment. Careers: Sociological knowledge and skills are particularly useful assets in the job market. Graduates from this degree are in increasing demand in many sectors of society such as local authorities, voluntary agencies, marketing, and in education and research. In particular there are also openings available in business, particularly marketing and advertising, and media and recruitment.
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 2. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 2 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	None
22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.	http://www.brunel.ac.uk/cbass/social-sciences-media-communications/sociology/undergraduate-programmes

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To offer a distinctive and wide-ranging programme of Sociology (and Media Studies for media pathway).
- To provide a critical education in the structures and processes underpinning social transformation and diversity.
- To provide a wide-ranging education in Sociology (and Media for media pathway) focusing on themes of power, identity and culture.
- To educate students in the application of diverse Sociological (and Media for media pathway) theories and methods and equip them with appropriate knowledge, understanding and analytical skills.
- To produce graduates with the necessary transferable intellectual, vocational, and interpersonal skills appropriate to the contemporary employment market and postgraduate study.
- To enable students, through two Work Placement routes (4yr thin sandwich or thick sandwich), to develop skills and knowledge relevant to work and professional practice.

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

FHEQ Level	Category (K = Knowledge & Understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills & attributes)	Learning Outcome	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
4					
4	K	Know and comprehend key concepts and theoretical approaches within Sociology	SO1800 CO1801	SO1700 CO1703	SO1604 SO1603 SO1602
4	K – Media pathway	Know and comprehend key interdisciplinary concepts, theories and approaches within Sociology and Media	SO1800 CO1801	SO1700 CO1703	CO1602 SO1602
4	K	Know and understand the range and appropriate use of research methods used within Sociology (and Media, for media pathway)	SO1802 SO1803	SO1701 CO1704	
4	C	Ability to engage Sociological concepts, theories and methods.	SO1800 CO1803	SO1701 CO1704	SO1604 SO1603 SO1602
4	C – Media	Ability to engage Sociological and Media concepts, theories and methods.	SO1800 CO1803	SO1701 CO1704	CO1602 SO1602
4	C	Know and understand how to make reasoned arguments backed up with evidence.			All FHEQ Level 4 modular blocks
4	S	Identify and analyse the complexity of social and cultural situations.	SO1802 SO1801	SO1702 SO1705	SO1602

4	S	Know and comprehend how to communicate effectively verbally and in writing.			All FHEQ Level 4 blocks
5					
5	K	Analyse key concepts and theoretical approaches within Sociology			SO2022 CO2028 SO2604
5	K - Media	Analyse key concepts and theoretical approaches within Sociology & Media			CO2028 SO2604 CO2602
5	K	Analyse structures and processes of social diversity and cultural transformation			CO2028 SO2604 SO2022 SO2608
5	C	Critically examine and engage with positions and debates within Sociology			CO2028 SO2022 SO2608 SO2606 CO2603 SO2605
5	C - Media	Critically examine and engage with positions and debates within Sociology & Media			CO2028 CO2002 SO2604 CO2602 FM2007
5	C	Examine different methods of Sociological inquiry and data collection and apply them to relevant to contemporary issues and problems, (and Media for media pathway)			CO2028 SO2604
5	C	Analyse issues encountered in an employment context from an academic perspective (4yr thin- and thick sandwich).			SO2558 SO2550 SO2555
5	S	Effective planning and application of written, oral and other forms of communication.			All FHEQ Level 5 modular blocks
5	S	Ability to work across a variety of group and independent modes of study applying effective interpersonal and academic skills			CO2028 SO2022 CO2602 SO2604
	S	Adapt to different employment environments and organisational expectations (4yr thin- and thick sandwich).			SO2558 SO2550 SO2555
6					
6	K	Synthesise and evaluate key concepts and theoretical approaches within Sociology (and Media for media pathway).			SO3611 SO3605 SO3606 SO3607 SO3610 SO3609 SO3603 CO3603 SO3612 SO3613
6	K	Synthesise and evaluate a range of Sociological research methods in			SO3611 SO3605

		relation to their applications and ethical considerations (and Media for media pathway).			SO3606 SO3607 SO3610 SO3609 SO3612
6	C	Ability to construct Sociologically appropriate questions and discuss them with application to key theories (and Media for media pathway)			SO3611 SO3605 SO3606 SO3607 SO3603 SO3610 CO3602 SO3613
6	C	Ability to plan, undertake and produce an independent evaluative Sociological research project (and Media for media pathway)			SO3611 SO3605 SO3606 SO3607 SO3610 SO3609 SO3604 SO3608 CO3602
6	S	Summarise and evaluate Sociological research (and Media for media pathway)			SO3611 SO3605 SO3606 SO3607 SO3613
6	S	Practice, synthesise and evaluate effective oral, written, interpersonal and other communication skills			All FHEQ Level 6 modular blocks

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

Learning strategies

We expect student learning strategies to include:

- Enquiry
- Exploration
- Conceptualisation
- Realisation
- Archival research
- Empirical Research & Practice-based research
- Online research
- Documentation
- Critical review

Approach

- The curriculum and teaching and learning strategy of this programme adopts a variety of methods which reflects the contributions of individual lecturers. Collectively these rest upon a number of shared assumptions about the learning process: Learning is a social activity – students are encouraged to share knowledge, discuss ideas and aid each other in their intellectual development.
- Teaching is a joint activity with students
- Learning is interactive and co-constructive
- Teaching is a guided conversation rather than simple instruction to students
- Learning is evaluating concepts, theories and empirical data
- Teaching encourages intellectual independence on the part of students.
- Learning involves the application of conceptual and practice-based skills in group work

The aim of this curriculum is to introduce students to theories and concepts and to enable them to develop their critical understanding. In so doing we develop students skills as researchers but also as critical individuals who can build and defend a reasoned argument based on their studies, master new areas of inquiry and with analytic skills that enable them to present their findings for assessment or discussion with their peers in group activities. As students progress through each Level of the programme they experience a progressively increased learning challenge. FHEQ Level 4 utilizes study and assessment blocks to offer strong foundational theoretical, methodological and study skills. The programme sets out from a broad multi-disciplinary Social Sciences content at FHEQ Level 4 to a more focussed disciplinary content at FHEQ Level 5, and more specific thematic content at FHEQ Level 6, where students are encouraged to personalize their studies through their choice of a range of advanced optional modular blocks.

Activities

Teaching and learning will normally take place in a variety of contexts:

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Seminars
- External visits to places of relevance to modules
- Whole group interactive sessions
- Working in groups
- Weekly Journal Entries
- Comparative Analyses
- Group critiques
- Group and individual learning
- Tutor-led, participant-led, self-directed, research and study
- Use of subject-specific and generic technologies
- Resource-based learning, including library work, internet research

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated

Coherence exists between teaching, learning and assessment practices. Assessments are varied but always relevant to the nature of the activity/enquiry being carried out and to the expected outcome – which may involve presentation of research, written essay, portfolio work and group participation.

Assessment is through a variety of means to evaluate different skill sets:

- Coursework essays
- Examinations (seen and unseen)
- Individual and Group projects
- Portfolios
- Learning Contract
- Work diaries
- Reports
- Case Studies
- Critical Reviews
- Online assessment

Students' knowledge and understanding of learning outcomes are studied via a range of assessment practices. This mix simultaneously enforces a broad and comprehensive coverage of the Programme themes and the more selective, creative and skills-oriented form of understanding that comes from particular blocks. Knowledge and understanding of practice-based, research-oriented outcome are assessed by means of reports of skill-oriented work (as with research methods) at FHEQ Level 4 and 5, and the final year dissertation at FHEQ Level 6. For the Placement (4yr thin- and thick sandwich) mode of study, the relationship between employment context and sociological (and media) theories will be assessed via coursework.

Foundational skills are assessed by means of combination of modular, study and assessment blocks at FHEQ Level 4. Research and project-based skills are assessed by means of project work and report writing for the research methods modules at FHEQ Level 4 and 5, and the final year dissertation. As students progress through each Level, they are expected to demonstrate in their assignments an increasingly sophisticated ability, creativity and independence of effort. For the 4yr thin- and thick sandwich modes of study, further skills will be assessed via coursework.

Other skills are assessed by means of essays, critical reviews, portfolios, oral presentations, examinations, and, most significantly, the final year dissertation project. Employability, and the related skills of self-reliance and self-discipline are also taught across all Levels.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade D- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at D- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB3000 Project (40)
Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at D- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)
Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXX Title (XX credits)
Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade D- or better, but must be better than a grade F, in order to progress and to be eligible for the final award.

Foundation level

The Foundation level structure available to students is specified in document "Validated Programme Element Specification for LBIC Foundation University Studies"

FHEQ Level 4

Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit

All assessment blocks are 20 credits unless otherwise specified

SO1800 Case Study: Culture and Society

SO1801 Portfolio: Culture and Society

SO1802 Reflexive Journal: Identity & Power

SO1803 Group Project: Identity and Power

Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits

Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume

All study blocks are 20 credits unless otherwise specified

SO1700 Making Sense of Culture and Society (Issues I)

SO1701 Researching Culture & Society (Methods I) (10c)

SO1702 Becoming an Independent Learner: Culture & Society (Skills I) (10c)

SO1703 Me, You or Us? Analysing Identity & Power (Issues II)

SO1704 Exploring Identity & Power (Methods II) (10c)

SO1705 Becoming a Critical Scholar: Identity & Power (Skills II) (10c)

SO1555 Sociology & Communications Pre-Placement (Thin) (0c)

(available only to those undertaking the L2 thick sandwich placement)

Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume

<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modular blocks are 20 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>SO1602 Contemporary Society & Media</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology: SO1604 Key Ideas in Sociology (Sociology pathway only) Core: Block</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology (Media): SO1603 Key Ideas in Sociology (10c) (Media pathway only) Core: Block CO1602 Key Ideas in Media (10c) (Media pathway only) Core: Block</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>FHEQ Level 4 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2</p>	

FHEQ Level 5	
<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>SO2554 Sociology & Communications Pre-Placement (Thick) (0c) (available only to those undertaking the L2 thick sandwich placement)</p>	<p>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>

<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modular blocks are 20 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>CO2028 Research in Practice SO2604 Visual Cultures</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology: SO2022 Sociology of Everyday Life: Issues in Contemporary Culture</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology (Media): CO2602 Social Media & Networked Cultures</p> <p>Placement (4yr thin sandwich): FHEQ Level 5 Year 2: SO2022 (Sociology) or CO2602 (Media) and 40 credit of options FHEQ Level 5 Year 3: CO2028, SO2604 and 20 credit of options</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modular blocks are 20 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>60 credits from: CO2603 Creative Industries, Fashion & Culture SO2606 Bodies & Society SO2608 Deviant Identities CO2604 Media Genres</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology: SO2605 Apocalypse! Crisis & Society SA2601 Ethnicity, Culture & Identity</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology (Media): SO2022 Sociology of Everyday Life: Issues in Contemporary Culture</p>
<p>FHEQ Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2</p>	

<p>FHEQ Level 5 – Sandwich Placement</p>	
<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>	<p>Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume</p>
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>Thin Sandwich students only: SO2550 Sociology & Communications Placement-1 (Thin) (60c) Core: Block</p> <p>SO2555 Sociology & Communications Placement-2 (Thin) (60c) Core: Block</p> <p>Thick Sandwich students only: SO2558 Sociology & Communications Placement (Thick) (120c) Core: Block</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p>
<p>FHEQ Level 5 Placement Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2</p> <p>For BSc Sociology with Placement or BSc Sociology (Media) with Placement, (SO2550 and SO2555 together, or SO2558) will contribute 25% of the FHEQ Level 5 profile and 8.3% of the overall degree calculation.</p>	

FHEQ Level 6	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modular blocks are 40 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>A maximum of 40 credits selected from:</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology: SO3611 Sociology Dissertation Core: Block SO3605 Sociology Dissertation - Practice Core: Block</p> <p>For students studying toward BSc Sociology (Media): SO3606 Sociology (Media) Dissertation Core: Block SO3607 Sociology (Media) Dissertation (Practice) Core: Block</p>	<p>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modular blocks are 20 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>Select 80 credits altogether:</p> <p>CO3602 Comedy, the Media & Society SO3610 Racism, Identity and Difference SO3609 Digital Cultures SO3603 Beyond Human SO3604 Global Cities: Spaces & Culture SO3608 Sociology & Communications Work Experience CO3603 Changing Audiences SO3612 Gender Sexuality and Feminism SO3613 Lawyers, Guns and Money: Making the Modern World System AH3600 Psychogeography</p>
<p>FHEQ Level 6 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2 For BSc Sociology with Placement or BSc Sociology (Media) with Placement, (SO2550 and SO2555 together, or SO2558) will contribute 8.3% of the overall degree calculation.</p>	

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a major modification occurs, and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.