

**Kingston  
University**  
London

# Sociology BSc(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

[www.kingston.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/sociology)



# Sociology BSc(Hons)

single/joint honours

Sociology helps us to understand society. It is concerned with how people influence one another as individuals and groups, and the ways in which social factors affect what we do and how we think. It explores questions about the nature of society, human relationships and behaviour. It looks at issues around power and inequality, change and development. It is interested in all aspects of social worlds be they of local or global relevance. Sociology encourages us to look behind the scenes of everyday life, and challenges our prejudices and assumptions. Through careful thought, research and analysis, Sociology provides us with new and interesting perspectives that are relevant for understanding and engaging with the world today.

## Our programme

Sociology at Kingston is based on a broad modular teaching programme that will introduce you to the core themes and skills of the discipline and enable you to tailor your studies to your own particular interests within the field.

"Studying Sociology at Kingston gave me insight into my own life and the lives of other people." June, graduate

### An excellent reputation for teaching

In Sociology we use a wide range of teaching methods that are designed to help you learn in a supportive and friendly environment. In addition to your course tutors, you will also have a personal academic advisor to support you in your studies.

### Resources

As a Sociology undergraduate you will have access to excellent library and computing facilities to help you with your studies.

## Careers

A degree in Sociology opens the door to a wide range of career choices. Sociology graduates typically enter the following fields: the 'culture' industry, marketing, social work and the 'caring professions', research, voluntary agencies, the police, the civil service, local government and teaching. Employment outcomes are healthy: the biggest categories of graduates in the past two years have gone on to positions in management (25%) and local government (18%). The careers service runs alumni talks where students can benefit from expertise of previous graduates.

## Student feedback

Eleanor graduated with an upper second class degree in Sociology. She chose to continue her studies at Kingston by taking the PGCE to become a primary school teacher. "I chose to study Sociology at Kingston University because the modules offered sounded varied and interesting. I particularly enjoyed the freedom of being able to take modules from other fields, such as Psychology, and doing personal projects that allowed me to concentrate my studies on the areas I found most interesting, for example the media and child-based issues such as bullying and child abuse."

## Why study Sociology at Kingston University?

- It helps you to understand yourself and the social world around you.
- It teaches you to think in a systematic and critical way, utilising a range of teaching methods.
- It provides you with the skills of research and analysis offering choice and flexibility (even offering the chance to study foreign languages if you opt for it) as well as a solid grounding in sociology.
- It opens the door to a wide range of career opportunities.
- Our unrivalled location allows easy access to central London with many national institutions and cultural facilities.
- It prepares you to be an informed and active member of a global society.



## Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

## What you will study

The modules you take, and how many, depend on whether you are studying Sociology as a full field (single honours) or as a major, minor or half field (joint honours) with another subject. The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined. The choice of modules available increases as you progress through the degree so that you can explore specialist areas to develop your own particular sociological interests.

### Year 1

The first year introduces you to the major sociological themes, concepts and skills.

#### Classical Social Theory

This module highlights some of the key sociological questions addressed by sociology's 'founding fathers'. It will give you an important grounding in the theories used to explain the character and dynamics of modern society.

#### Focus on Britain

This is a topical module that will enable you to engage with some key sociological debates relating to family, race, ethnicity, crime, delinquency, religion and the mass media.

#### The Sociological Imagination

This module teaches you to think sociologically. In this context it explores social identities and the social significance of everyday life.

#### Social Research Methods

This module introduces you to the research process and teaches you how to conduct your own research projects using a range of qualitative and quantitative techniques.

#### Social Inequality and Social Justice

The aim of this module is to explore inequality through a combination of applying concepts and making measurements. Among considerations are the geography of social inequalities be they economic, class and status, gender, ethnic, religious, age or sexual inequalities, and effective policies to combat these.

#### Rise in Global Capitalism

This module looks at the historical background to the present day emergence of the global economy and so provides the context for many social changes in the modern world. It examines the emergence of capitalism in the early modern period, the gold standard and the age of imperialism, the crisis of the inter-war period and post-war globalisation.

#### Culture and Society

This module aims to introduce you to the concept of 'culture' as an object of analysis. It explores the relationship between culture and society, the role of culture in the formation of identity, and the major social institutions and processes involved in the production of culture.

#### Avenues to Justice

This module will provide you with an overview of the principles, practices and institutions of the contemporary British criminal justice system. You will learn to critically evaluate a number of key criminal justice policy debates, for example, police powers and defendants' rights.

### Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the stipulated subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

### Year 2

#### Contemporary Social Theory

This module deals with subjectivist sociology and critical responses to it in 20th century theorising. You will be encouraged to critically evaluate the relevance and intellectual coherence of: phenomenology, symbolic interactionism, ethnomethodology, critical theory, and post-modernism.

#### Social Issues

This module constitutes a programme of 'mini options'. The module will offer you an introductory insight into areas of current staff interest and research.

#### Sociology Research Project

The aim of the Project is to allow you to develop confidence in your own sociological competence. The project provides you with an opportunity to carry out research in an area of your own choosing (to be agreed with the tutor) and so explore an area of social life that is of particular interest.

#### The Western Path to Development

This module takes a critical look at the concept of the West and its ability to deliver prosperity and well-being to all countries and people. It asks the question of whether we are too driven by our own financial and material gain in the West. Do we neglect human relationships, family life and the more spiritual aspects to life at our peril? What are the impacts of our demand for more and more 'things', on the planet and non-Western societies around the world?

Other modules offered in Year 2 include:

- Youth, Conformity and Transgression
- Perspectives on Interpersonal Violence
- Urban Cultures, Contested Spaces
- Diverse Britain: Media, Culture and Ethnicity
- Slavery and Race in the USA

### Year 3

#### Social Change and the Developing World

This module introduces you to the knowledge and skills required to obtain a theoretical understanding of the sociology of industrialisation and development. The purpose of this module is to allow you to engage with the large number of competing paradigms which purport to explain the sociology of rapidly changing societies.

#### Situated Knowledges

This module addresses fundamental philosophical questions about the nature of society and the nature of sociological knowledge. It links these questions to theoretical positions and perspectives by referencing how these perspectives view particular empirical social situations. The aim is to provide you with a basic 'map' of types of sociological thought to help you understand the conflicting dualisms that inform sociological reasoning, and the associated problematic status of its knowledge-claims.

#### Sociology Dissertation

The Sociology dissertation provides you with an opportunity to produce a sustained piece of independent research and analysis. Support is provided through fortnightly classes and individual supervision.

Other modules offered in Year 3 include:

- Comics and Society
- Gangsters, G-men and Gangstaz
- Language and Social Interaction
- Contemporary Issues in Crime, Control and Punishment
- Gender and Society
- A Change is Gonna Come: Global Perspectives and Cultures of Popular Music
- Knowledge, Meaning and Morality
- Spirituality, Self and Society
- Urban Divisions and Social Disorder
- The Consumer Society
- British Society Since the 1960s
- Security, Policing and the State
- Representation, Reality and Modern Myth



Want to know more?  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/sociology)

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan  
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Sociology staff

All the Sociology staff at Kingston are committed to providing you with excellent teaching, rooted in the most up-to-date research and our own experience as practising sociologists.

- **Prof Julia Davidson, director of research**  
Research interests: Child abuse and sex offenders.
- **Dr Bridget Towers, director of studies**  
Research interests: Medical Policing.
- **Dr Emma Casey, senior lecturer**  
Research interests: Gender, leisure and gambling.
- **Dr Sylvia Collins-Mayo, principal lecturer**  
Research interests: Religion and youth.
- **Dr Isabel Crowhurst, lecturer**  
Research interests: Gender and Sexuality.
- **Dr Carlie Goldsmith, lecturer**  
Research interests: Youth and inequality.
- **Dr Rupa Huq, senior lecturer and admissions tutor**  
Research interests: Youth culture and popular music, ethnicity, suburbia.
- **Dr Andy King, senior lecturer**  
Research interests: Lifecourse, qualitative methods and sexuality.
- **Dr Simon Locke, senior lecturer**  
Research interests: The public understanding of science.
- **Mark Penson, deputy head, School of Social Sciences**  
Research interests: Film, society and sexuality.
- **Dr Mark Ramsden, senior lecturer**  
Research interests: Economic and social development.
- **Dr Heidi Seetzen, senior lecturer**  
Research interests: Social space and the City.
- **Mike Whittingham, senior lecturer**  
Research interests: Urban culture, industrialisation and development.



## Entry requirements

### Typical offer

- Points: single honours: 260; joint honours: 240–360 depending on combination
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: A-level: General Studies accepted when one of three A-levels or equivalent
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English Language and Literature (grade A–C preferred)

### Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

### International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

### Other entry routes

- Access course.
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

## Joint honours combinations

You can choose to study Sociology as a single honours degree or as a major, half or minor field in combination with one of the following:

- Business
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics (Applied)
- English Language & Communication
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- History
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Media & Cultural Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Television & New Broadcasting Media

## UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

## Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays)

## Contact details

### Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Kingston University  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 2EE  
T: +44 (0)20 8417 2378/2361  
F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292  
E: [fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk)

### Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829  
E: [accommodation@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@kingston.ac.uk)  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation)

### Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding)

### Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252  
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447  
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia)

### International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/international](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/international)