



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

What is studying
Sociology
at Salford really like?



SCHOOL OF
**HEALTH
& SOCIETY**

What
modules will I
study?

How will I
be assessed?

What does my
timetable look
like?

Going to university involves making some tough decisions and we know that you're probably wondering how you're supposed to make the best choice for you.

This booklet aims to help you with your decision by providing a snapshot of what being a Sociology student at the University of Salford could look like. Find out more about your modules, see what your timetable could look like and hear from a current student.

Please note that the information in this booklet is intended to give an example of course information and some of it may change before September 2020.

Visit us!

We also offer an exclusive day for offer holders which aims to arm you with all the information you need to make your decision. You can visit us on campus and experience first-hand what studying Sociology at the University of Salford will be like.

If you haven't already, you can book onto an upcoming Applicant Visit Day [here](#)



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We've pulled together some of the most frequently asked questions we have received from applicants to your course. Let's get straight into answering them for you...

Who will I meet?

You can expect to be on your course with around 20 other students – this means that you'll get to know your course mates really well! Some classes may be bigger, as you may come together with students on other courses who are also studying some Sociology modules.

You'll meet four or five different tutors in your first year, who will teach your different modules. You'll also have a personal tutor who is there to support you. They will have weekly office hours so you can always book an appointment if you need to chat to them!



How will I learn?

You will be taught through a mix of Lectures, Seminars and Tutorials. You will also be expected to undertake some independent study, or 'directed study'. Your tutors will advise on how much independent study you will be expected to undertake.

Lectures

Formal lectures are used as a way of providing knowledge and information on a topic to a large group of students at the same time. They are sessions where, in the main, the flow of information is from the lecturer to the student. However, some lecturers encourage or welcome comments or queries from students during the lecture. If you have any further queries you may be able to raise these with the lecturer at the end of the lecture, or, more realistically, in the setting of your seminar group.

Lecturers may supplement their lecture with handouts which may be made available at the end of the lecture or via 'Blackboard'. You may be asked to undertake preparatory reading in advance of the lecture. Where this is the case, it is vital that you do this to assist in your understanding of the material being delivered.

Seminars



Seminars are used as a way of consolidating information given in lectures and are often used as a means of developing your understanding of the relationship between theory and practice. Seminars consist of groups of approximately 25 students where you are encouraged to discuss issues raised directly or indirectly by the lecture. A seminar tutor will facilitate your seminar and the emphasis will be on your participation and a sharing of your experiences, ideas and opinions.

Tutorials

Tutorials are used as a means of supporting your learning. You will be allocated a Personal Tutor. In Year 1 this is usually your Seminar Group Tutor. Issues discussed may include academic guidance or your personal and professional development. Students will be offered 1 hour of tutorial support each semester.

Directed Study

Directed study is used to promote the skill of independent learning. During each module, you will be given work to complete outside of the teaching sessions. This may be a specific task; recommended reading; a piece of research; or be connected to the assessment for the module. The expectation is that you will take responsibility for your own learning and involves the key skill of time management.



What will I study in my first year?

You'll have six modules, three in each semester. We've outlined below the sort of content that will be covered in each module. This is the sort of thing you can ask your future tutors about at our Applicant Visit Days!

Thinking Sociologically

You will develop knowledge of the major forms of sociological reasoning and the ability to think sociologically about the major problems and issues in society and social life. You will gain an understanding of key concepts in sociology.

You will explore topics such as Marx, Weber and Capitalism and Sociology and the City.

Assessment: Examination

Social Divisions and Inequality

You will be introduced to social scientific concepts and theories about the nature of social divisions, diversity and social inequality in advanced industrial societies. You will develop an understanding of evidence about major forms of social division and their causes and social consequences and compare alternative explanations of complexity and differentiation in contemporary society.

Assessment: Examination

Becoming a Social Scientist

This module introduces you to the ways in which sociologists and criminologists work and aims to develop the critical, interpretive, reflective and academic skills required to succeed on the programme. You will cover Library Skills, Academic Writing, Studying at University and Principles of Research, amongst other topics.

Assessment: Individual Presentation (30%) and Portfolio (70%)

Crime, Conflict and Society

The module introduces you to the study of crime and conflict, raising key issues that you'll need to consider as a criminologist. The module asks the big questions of how we can explain crime and conflict, and how society should respond to it.

You will explore topics such as Causes of Crime, Crime, Conflict and the Media and Crime Victims and the Fear of Crime.

Assessment: Essay



Culture, Power and Identity

You will become familiar with sociological approaches to the understanding of culture, and the relationship between culture, power and identity. You will examine the social and cultural construction of identity and consider the formation of collective and individual identity, as forces of control and opportunity.

You will explore topics such as Media Representations, Youth and Subculture and Consumption & Shopping.

Assessment: Critical Film Review

Criminal Justice and Human Rights

You will explore the role of the police, courts and prisons in the criminal justice process. Upon completion, you'll have gained knowledge on the impact of criminal justice policies and practice on offenders, victims and wider society. You'll be able to analyse the criminal system in terms of its effectiveness and compatibility with human rights.

You will explore topic such as Youth Justice and Prisons and Imprisonment, and benefit from hearing from guest speakers.

Assessment: Examination

Please note that module information is subject to change, but the above gives you detail about the Sociology modules currently running and some example methods of assessment.

Looking ahead

Your second year at the University of Salford gives you the opportunity to tailor the course to match your interests. You will study three core modules and choose three modules that interest you. Here's the list of current optional modules:

- / Bodies: Biology to Blushing
- / Connected Lives
- / Identities and Interactions
- / Culture and (Deviant) Leisure
- / Visual Representation
- / Human Rights, Genocide and Resistance
- / Intersectionality and Crime
- / Policing and Social Control
- / Prisons and Punishment
- / Understanding Victims and Victimization
- / Violence in Society
- / Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice
- / Constructing Guilt and Innocence
- / The Criminal Justice Process (only available in year three)
- / Foreign Language

Inside-out module



A brand-new addition for Sociology students is the Inside-out module which you can apply for in your third year. This module is delivered inside HMP Forest Bank Prison with 'inside' students who are serving prisoners enrolled as University of Salford students for the duration of the module.



Read about Jessica's experience on the module here

How does my week look?

Year 1, semester 2

	MORNING				AFTERNOON				
	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
Mon						Meet friends for Lunch	Criminal Justice and Human Rights 2-4		
							LECTURE		
Tue							Culture, Power and Identity 1-3		
							LECTURE		
Wed									
								Society team meet up	
									Hockey team social 5.30
Thu									
Fri									

Gym time!

Study day

Library

Comedy night at the New Adelphi Theatre")

A day in the life of a 3rd year Sociology student



Siobhan

My mornings usually start by grabbing a coffee on route to my first class of the day. I'll often walk through peel park on my way to campus. I love being able to have some mindful time with nature (especially in those warmer months!) and it's such a good energy boost for the rest of my day.

My first lecture is at 10am for a module called connected lives. We learn about the different forms of social connections in society and examine theoretical perspectives that discuss their meanings and transformations over time. This week we thought about the growing significance of friendship in social life- it was really interesting and definitely gave me a deeper understanding of the aspects of the social world that can sometimes be taken for granted!

It's a course run in the prison itself with a combination of inside (prison) and outside (university) students who work alongside and learn together.

The seminar for this module was straight after the lecture. These sessions are more student led and discussion based, they really help make the reading more interactive and give you space to build on your understanding of how some of these theories really apply to contemporary society.

After this I'll catch up with some friends either in the library or one of the cafes on campus. We usually take it in turns to bring a lunchtime treat. Today my friend brought an amazing carrot cake... definitely a good way to keep motivated!

Around 2pm I make my way to Forest Bank prison for the inside out module.

It's a course run in the prison itself with a combination of inside (prison) and outside (university) students who work alongside and learn together.

NEW ADELPHI COMEDY



heading over to the New Adelphi comedy night :)

This module is really unique, it's different than any traditional class as it gives you a chance to study with people who have a lived experience of the criminal justice system. We get a different topic to discuss and unpack together weekly, on this day we explored the concept of rehabilitation. There were some really interesting discussions, and it's always valuable considering these criminological topics from a different point of view. Time always flies by in this session as it's such an immersive experience!

At 5pm I'll jump back on the bus to town and meet some friends. Luckily Salford and Manchester are both on the doorstep here, so I'm never short of things to do. In the days before a deadline we might get a coffee and work on our essays together, but today we took it easy...after going out for some sushi we headed over to the comedy night at the New Adelphi building to end the day with a laugh!

Next steps...

Hopefully that's answered some of your burning questions. If you can, attending an Applicant Visit Day is a fantastic opportunity not to be missed. You'll have the opportunity to speak to your tutors, current students and support staff about any more questions you have before you make your decision.

Book your place here

Alternatively, get in touch with our friendly team by emailing enquiries@salford.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)161 295 4545.