

Lancaster  
University



Sociology

Undergraduate Degrees 2026



# Welcome

**Studying for a degree can be challenging, fulfilling and life changing. Our sociology degrees offer you the opportunity to enhance your understanding of our complex social world, now and in the future - to gain experience of doing research - and to develop your employability and life skills.**

Established in 1969, sociology at Lancaster has developed an excellent global reputation and today we are 67th for Sociology in the world (QS World Subject Rankings 2025). You will be taught by talented and passionate scholars with specialist expertise in an exciting range of areas such as climate change, race, decoloniality, migration, gender, and consumption.

The subjects that we teach and study will open up your curiosity about the world we live in. In the context of multiple recent national, regional and global crises, cultivating a sociological imagination has never been more important. You can grow into an independent learner as you progress and find your own scholarly interests, in the same way that we have found ours.

Student experience is at the heart of what we do. We are committed to supporting you with all challenges, big and small. Student ambassadors and representatives ensure that your experience and voice is at the forefront of our minds.

We look forward to welcoming you and offering you the opportunity to secure a first-class university education in a supportive, intellectually vibrant, and friendly environment.









**We are living in a highly complex and rapidly changing world. Inequality, discrimination, climate change, global conflict and injustice are among the significant problems that we face. The need for insight into our divergent and collective social worlds has never been greater.**

Studying sociology at Lancaster presents you with the new ideas, critical approaches, and innovative methods that will help you move beyond commonplace assumptions and understandings about our social worlds. With these tools and skills in hand, you will be better equipped to explore contemporary human interdependencies and to gain skills to identify and build new futures.



Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Sociology		BA	L300	3	ABB
Sociology (Placement Year)		BA	L301	4	ABB
Sociology (Study Abroad)		BA	L302	4	ABB
Sociology and Criminology		BA	LM39	3	BBB
Sociology and Criminology (Placement Year)		BA	LM40	4	BBB
Sociology and Criminology (Study Abroad)		BA	LM41	4	BBB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements [lancaster.ac.uk](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk)





# Made for *learning*

## **Student support**

You will be assigned an academic tutor to act as your first point of contact and to provide support. You can also be actively involved in staff committees, giving you the chance to express your views and inform what we do.



## **Teaching**

You will be taught through workshops, where you can discuss readings, try out new ideas, and take part in practical activities, as well as getting to know your fellow students and staff. Some modules may also feature hands-on workshops, film screenings, or field trips.

## **Assessment**

As well as writing essays and exam papers, we use innovative assessment methods, such as presentations, posters, scenarios, blogs, vlogs, podcasts and zines.





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*The staff are all passionate about their interests and committed to the success of their students.*

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**Isobel, second year**

**BA Hons Sociology**

I really value the commitment to decolonising academia on this course. Decolonial thought is implemented throughout the modules and I've been given the opportunity to learn about some of sociology's key, foundational theorists and concepts. I've then been able to discuss the importance of these whilst challenging them in their inclusion and validation of the multiplicity of lives and lived experiences.

In my studies, I have been inspired by P.H. Collins's work about Black feminist epistemology. It provided me with an understanding of alternative and equally (if not more) insightful ways of knowing and producing knowledge through the lived experiences of black women. I've discussed this topic in multiple essays.

Studying sociology here offers a number of opportunities to engage in events, internships, activities etc. It also offers the Faculty Writing Space – a collaborative learning environment which has been useful for me when I'm stuck on an essay. As well as this, the sociology staff are absolutely amazing, I've met most of them and they're all passionate about their interests and are committed to the success of their students. I feel so lucky to be supported by such dedicated staff members.



# Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

## Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance.

## Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience and get paid for it with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities in areas such as public affairs, marketing, business development and events. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your access to direct work experience while you study.

## The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.

## Research internships

Your faculty is home to the Richardson Institute, a peace and conflict research centre. The Institute runs an internship programme where you can gain research experience working alongside leading policy and research organisations such as NGOs, think tanks, charities and faith-based organisations. You'll develop analytical skills and put your academic learning into practice in real-world contexts.



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*My favourite aspect of the internship was that every task was different.*

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*Housing Options Officer  
for Lichfield District  
Council*

*Lancaster University*



**Morgan**

Sociology graduate 2024

I gained a paid internship through the Faculty Internship Scheme working in public affairs and fundraising for an organisation called Generation Rent. I developed knowledge in government legislation and housing laws and skills in research techniques, how to construct formal letters and produce persuasive flyers.

My favourite aspect of the internship was that every task was different and built upon previous tasks. I enjoyed that my manager always believed I was capable of doing more than an intern was supposed to.

Since finishing my internship I worked in Housing for Wigan Council and I am now at Lichfield District Council as a Housing Options Officer, because of that internship I fell in love with housing policy and the impacts of Section 21 evictions. I'm also looking to do another degree for the Chartered Institute of Housing.



# Your global *experience*

**Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your students' union.**

## **Study abroad**

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living and studying in another country enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

## **Vacation travel and overseas summer schools**

You can also discover the world during your vacations. We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

In addition, you can attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more at [lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience](https://lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience)



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*A unique experience to enhance your career prospects.*

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**Erin**

**BA Hons Sociology (Study Abroad)**

Studying abroad was an experience I will never forget. I studied in Canada's capital city, Ottawa, at Carleton University and I would do it all over again if I could.

In spite of the minus-30 degree weather for at least four months, I ice skated to my lectures (crazy, I know!) and travelled through underground tunnels at the University as it was too cold to walk outside most days. My most memorable experience studying in Ottawa was most definitely being on the Basketball and American Football Cheerleading team. I was thrilled to be chosen to train with professional coaches for a year alongside my degree.

I studied modules about Canada's indigenous people and its criminal justice system. My time abroad wasn't all about studies – I was lucky enough to meet new friends on the course and travel to unforgettable places such as Mexico, Toronto and Montreal.

If you're looking for a unique experience to enhance your career prospects and university experience, then you should study abroad.



# Sociology

## BA (Hons)

**This course explores the big questions in today's world, equipping you with the skills, knowledge and confidence to act as a force for change in your chosen career.**

In your first year, you are introduced to core sociological concepts and the foundations of research practice. You'll learn how to think sociologically about everyday life, explore major social issues, and develop essential academic and study skills through reflection and engagement with public sociology.

In your second year, you build on this foundation by deepening your understanding of global social theory and contemporary inequalities. You'll gain practical experience with sociological research methods and begin designing your own research projects, applying theory and methods to issues related to race, class, and gender.

In your final year, you critically apply advanced sociological theories to urgent global challenges and specialist topics such as health, migration, or the environment. You'll develop your own independent research project—from idea to dissertation—demonstrating your ability to analyse complex problems, carry out research ethically and independently, and communicate your findings to diverse audiences.

### Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Thinking Sociologically

This module focuses on sociological issues, concepts, evidence and argument by examining key aspects of living in the contemporary world. You will have the opportunity to develop skills in conceptual analysis, apply sociological reasoning to empirical examples, and evaluate everyday life with new critical skills.

#### Framing Social Issues

How can the 'sociological imagination' help us make sense of important contemporary topics? Focussing upon the sociological study of these topics, this module will explore how sociology explores them compared to other disciplines.

#### Researching Society: Principles and Practices

How do sociologists decide what to study and how to study it? This module introduces you to key debates in sociological research, exploring how different theoretical approaches shape the questions we ask and the methods we use.

#### Essential Study Skills: Becoming a Sociologist

Providing you with the core skills needed to engage critically with ideas and research, this module will dive into what it means to think and work like a sociologist.

#### Public Sociology: Understanding and Creating Social Change

Exploring how sociology can contribute to real-world change, this module focusses on the role of public sociology in addressing social inequalities, informing policy and engaging with communities.

#### Making Sense of Justice

How do we make sense of justice? What issues of justice and injustice do the Social Sciences explore? You will explore the ways in which subjects in the School of Social Sciences approach and make sense of injustices and justice.



## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Global Social Theory: Connecting Sociologies

Introducing you to a diverse range of sociological approaches from around the world, this module will analyse how different social theories help us understand the emergence and transformation of our societies.

#### Research in Action: Methods for Investigating the Social World

Equipping you with essential research skills to explore pressing social questions, this module will examine how sociologists investigate the world around us.

#### Designing Sociological Research

Preparing you for independent research, this module will guide you through the process of developing sociological research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies and considering ethical and practical challenges.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

### Optional Modules

+ Race, Racism and Inequality

+ Transnational Debates on Gender and Society

+ Welfare States: Poverty, Policy and Politics

### Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

### Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Advanced Sociological Theories and Applications

Take an advanced look at how sociologists use paradigms, theories and concepts, as this module takes an in-depth look into every stage of research.

#### Sociology Independent Project

Develop and refine your research question, design an appropriate methodological approach and critically engage with relevant literature, as you conduct an original piece of sociological research on the topic of your choice.

#### Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Futures Beyond Borders

### Optional Modules

+ Environment and Society: Crisis, Justice and Change

+ Migration, Inequalities and Societies

+ Health, Bodies and Social Reproduction



# Sociology and Criminology

## BA (Hons)

**This is a thought-provoking degree that covers complex, challenging topics from criminal justice and youth crime to social justice and climate change, racism and hate, power and inequalities.**

In your first year, you will explore key sociological and criminological perspectives, learning how to think critically about society, crime, and justice. You'll be introduced to the sociological imagination and core criminological concepts while examining how social issues are framed and how the criminal justice system operates in practice.

In your second year, you'll deepen your understanding of social theory and criminological thought while developing essential research skills in both disciplines. You will explore topics such as race and inequality, gender, youth justice, cybercrime, and organised crime.

In your final year, you will apply advanced theoretical insights to contemporary issues in society and criminology—such as health, migration, prisons, environmental crime, and the crimes and harms of the powerful. You can also carry out an independent research project, demonstrating your ability to analyse complex problems and communicate your findings effectively.

### Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

### Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Explaining Criminology

You will study both positivistic and social analyses of crime and criminalisation and learn to evaluate criminological theory in relation to a range of intellectual movements.

#### Exploring the Criminal Justice System

You will explore the interplay between criminology and law by learning about the concepts, principles and processes of the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

#### Thinking Sociologically

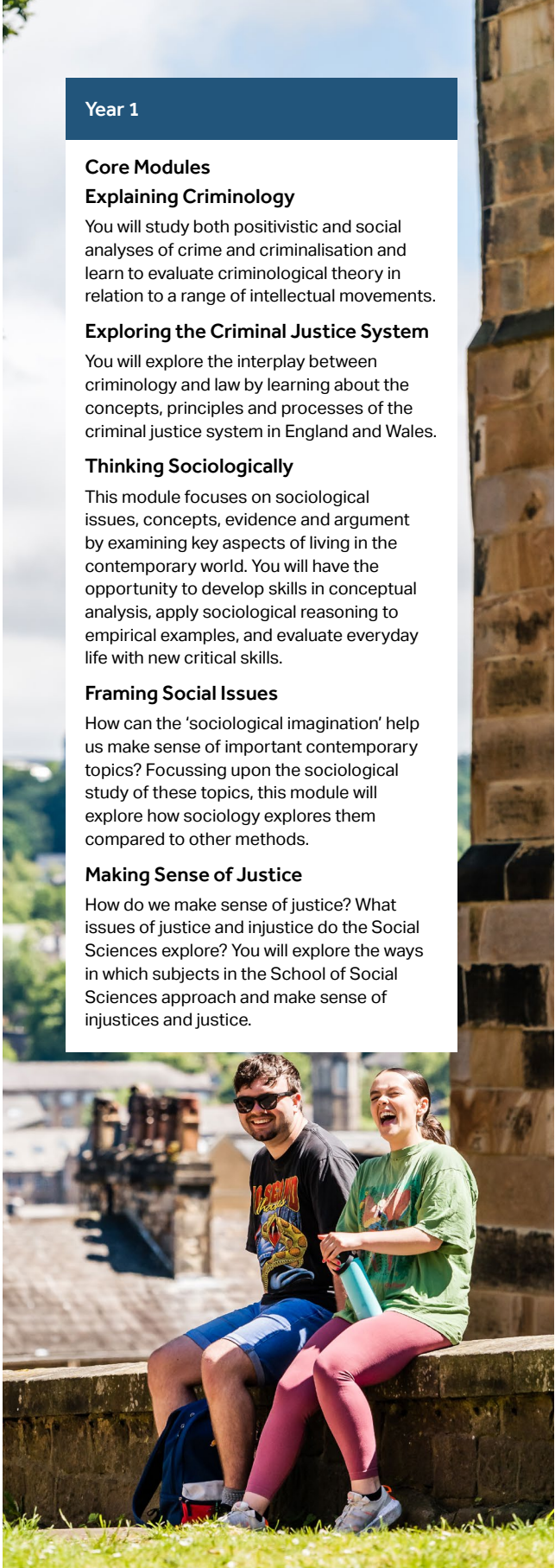
This module focuses on sociological issues, concepts, evidence and argument by examining key aspects of living in the contemporary world. You will have the opportunity to develop skills in conceptual analysis, apply sociological reasoning to empirical examples, and evaluate everyday life with new critical skills.

#### Framing Social Issues

How can the 'sociological imagination' help us make sense of important contemporary topics? Focussing upon the sociological study of these topics, this module will explore how sociology explores them compared to other methods.

#### Making Sense of Justice

How do we make sense of justice? What issues of justice and injustice do the Social Sciences explore? You will explore the ways in which subjects in the School of Social Sciences approach and make sense of injustices and justice.





## Core Modules

### Criminological Thought

This module introduces you to the scholarship in criminological theory and the sociology of deviance from the nineteenth century to the present.

### Global Social Theory: Connecting Sociologies

Introducing you to a diverse range of theoretical perspectives from around the world, this module will analyse how different social theories help us understand the emergence and transformation of our societies.

### Research in Action: Methods for Investigating the Social World

Equipping you with essential research skills to explore pressing social questions, this module will dive into how sociologists investigate the world around us.

### Designing Sociological Research

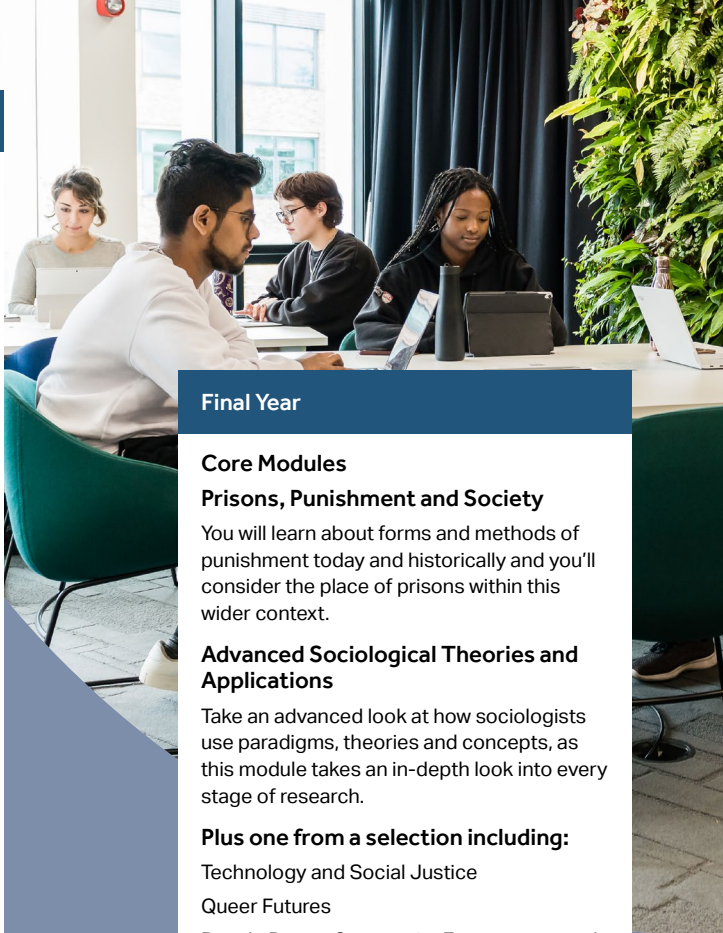
Preparing you for independent research, this module will guide you through the process of developing sociological research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies and considering ethical and practical challenges.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact  
Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions  
Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts  
Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

## Optional Modules

- + Youth Justice
- + Crime and Popular Culture
- + Organised Crime
- + Contemporary Issues in Policing
- + Cybercrime and Cybercriminality
- + Contemporary Crime Problems
- + Financial Crime
- + Race, Racism and Inequality
- + Transnational Debates on Gender and Society
- + Welfare States: Poverty, Policy and Politics



## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Prisons, Punishment and Society

You will learn about forms and methods of punishment today and historically and you'll consider the place of prisons within this wider context.

#### Advanced Sociological Theories and Applications

Take an advanced look at how sociologists use paradigms, theories and concepts, as this module takes an in-depth look into every stage of research.

#### Plus one from a selection including:

- Technology and Social Justice
- Queer Futures
- People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action
- Confronting the Climate Crisis

## Optional Modules

- + Power, Inequality and Decolonisation
- + Gendered Harm and Justice
- + Green Criminology
- + Crime, Time and Space
- + Hate Crime
- + Drugs, Crime and Society
- + Crime and Media
- + Crimes and Harms of the Powerful
- + Criminology Dissertation
- + Sex Crimes and Sexual Offending
- + Sociology Independent Project
- + Environment and Society: Crisis, Justice and Change
- + Migration, Inequalities and Societies
- Health, Bodies and Social Reproduction

# Careers and *employability*

## Workplace skills

Our degrees allow you to develop a range of transferable skills that include:

- + Research skills that enable you to find and evaluate different sources of information
- + Self-management and communication skills needed to compete successfully for employment in a wide range of occupations and/or further study
- + The ability to give accurate verbal summaries of written and visual information
- + The ability to work productively in a group or team, showing your ability to listen, contribute and lead effectively
- + Skills in audio, audio-visual and media production

## The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award rewards you for taking part in extra-curricular activities outside your academic studies. Developed in partnership with employers, the certificate rewards you for making the most of your time at Lancaster, and enhances your future job prospects by encouraging you to acquire new skills valued by employers. You will undertake a variety of activities and reflect on the skills you have developed. We want you to stand out from the crowd, and the Lancaster Award will help. Read more: [lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award](http://lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award)



## Graduate destinations

Our graduates can use their sociological imaginations to contribute in whatever field of work they enter, through their ability to understand societies, analyse complex problems and produce effective solutions. These are some of the careers that might appeal to you:

- + Development work with charities or non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- + Teaching and education
- + Human resources or industrial relations
- + Marketing, advertising, or social media
- + Social services





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*I gained  
a deep  
understanding  
and grew  
confident in  
myself.*

”



**Charlotte, graduated 2024**

**People & Payroll at Blackpool & Fylde College**

During my time studying sociology at Lancaster University, I gained such a deep understanding of how the everyday world around us works and grew confident in myself to portray ideas and back up my own opinions.

It was the perfect opportunity to meet people of all cultures and examine social life from all perspectives with amazing support from staff and peers alike.

I've learnt how to think critically and analyse each social situation which has been a beneficial addition to my skills in the workplace and, I've found, can be translated to almost any job sector.





[lancaster.ac.uk/sociology](https://lancaster.ac.uk/sociology)

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: [lancaster.ac.uk/study](https://lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: [lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](https://lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).