



## Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from  
The University of Sheffield

1	<b>Programme Title</b>	Sociology with Criminology
2	<b>Programme Code</b>	SCSU07
3	<b>JACS Code</b>	L400
4	<b>Level of Study</b>	Undergraduate
5a	<b>Final Qualification</b>	Bachelor of Arts with Honours (BA Hons)
5b	<b>Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</b>	Honours
6a	<b>Intermediate Qualification(s)</b>	None
6b	<b>Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</b>	Not applicable
7	<b>Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)</b>	Not applicable
8	<b>Faculty</b>	Social Sciences
9	<b>Department</b>	Department of Sociological Studies
10	<b>Other Departments providing credit bearing modules for the programme</b>	None
11	<b>Mode(s) of Attendance</b>	Full-time
12	<b>Duration of the Programme</b>	3 years
13	<b>Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body</b>	None
14	<b>Date of production/revision</b>	September 2016

### 15. Background to the programme and subject area

This programme allows students to develop their interests in the sociological and social policy aspects of the phenomena of crime and criminal justice. Sociology and criminology are natural partners given the roots of criminology in sociology and social policy, the effects of wider social policy on crime and criminal justice. As well as more traditional careers in criminal justice, the degree equips graduates for the range of new positions in the public and not-for-profit sectors which relate to inter-agency working, partnerships between agencies and community safety. It provides a focus on social exclusion and criminal justice, as well as the public sector more generally.

In the first year eight modules provide an introduction to sociology, and criminology. Students learn about social divisions in contemporary societies, aspects and elements of social research methods, and sociological perspectives on crime. In the second and third years there is a basic grounding in sociology, social theory, criminology and research methods.

25% of the modules studied will be in the area of criminology. Sociology modules make up the other 75% of the degree. The range of optional modules available includes subjects such as the study of social identity, social work and society, media and social policy and aspects of globalisation, as well as modules on crime and deviance, criminology and social policy and organised crime. Students will be required to undertake a dissertation in criminology.

Further information is available at [www.shef.ac.uk/socstudies](http://www.shef.ac.uk/socstudies).

## 16. Programme aims

The degree in Sociology with Criminology aims to:

- 1) provide teaching which is research led and at the cutting edge of developments in Sociology and criminology;
- 2) provide a broad understanding of sociology and criminology;
- 3) develop students' skills in research methods and evaluation in sociology and criminology and to provide opportunities for students to practise these skills;
- 4) allow students to develop more specialised knowledge, critical consideration of theoretical and conceptual issues, and skills in a range of sociology and criminological topics;
- 5) develop in students a range of subject-specific and generic skills appropriate to employment in a sociological or criminal justice context.

## 17. Programme learning outcomes

### Knowledge and understanding:

On completion of the programme students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

<b>K1</b>	The relationships between individuals, groups and social and political institutions; the role of culture in social life; the social, political and economic processes underpinning social change.
<b>K2</b>	The importance of the social, political and economic context to criminological problems.
<b>K3</b>	The value and importance of comparative analysis to a greater understanding of society.
<b>K4</b>	The key concepts and theoretical approaches in sociology and criminology.
<b>K5</b>	Both the distinctive characters of, and the interrelation between sociology and criminology.
<b>K6</b>	The nature and appropriate use of diverse research strategies and methods appropriate to sociology and criminology.
<b>K7</b>	The important interrelationship between society, state and economy.

### Skills and other attributes:

<b>S1</b>	General, cognitive or transferable skills: problem solving; making reasoned arguments; interpreting evidence and texts; written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts; time planning; interpersonal and teamwork skills.
<b>S2</b>	Social inquiry, information technology and research: gathering, retrieving and synthesising information; identifying and appraising a range of research strategies and methods; conducting empirical research; statistical and other quantitative techniques at a preliminary level.
<b>S3</b>	Evaluative and analytical: judging and evaluating evidence; critical analysis of sociological and criminological concepts; formulating sociologically informed questions; competence in using major sociological and criminological theoretical perspectives and applying them in the context of the study of crime; analysing, assessing and communicating empirical information; undertaking and presenting scholarly work, and communicating effectively orally and in writing, using language accurately and effectively.
<b>S4</b>	Moral sensitivity: appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations; assessing the merits of competing theories and explanations; understanding the ethical implications of sociological and criminological enquiry.

<b>S5</b>	Reflective: developing the ability to reflect upon their own accumulation of knowledge; recognising the relevance of sociological and criminological knowledge to social, public and civic policy.
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## 18. Teaching, learning and assessment

### Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

The programme is taught by means of a combination of lectures, tutorials, practical classes and project work (including a zero credit, online skills-based module).

The knowledge base (**K1 –7**) is developed through lectures, directed and self-directed reading, seminars and tutorials:

- **Lectures** provide an overview framework of the area of study and of the key issues and arguments.
- The knowledge base is then developed through **directed and self-directed reading** of primary and secondary source materials, building on the framework provided by lectures.
- **Seminars** and **tutorials** provide an opportunity to test knowledge and understanding of key substantive areas and clarify any areas of uncertainty.

Skills are developed through a combination of methods but principally through seminars, tutorials and practical classes, and through written coursework.

- Skills **S1, 2, 4** and **5** and **written communication skills (S3)** are further developed by assessed and non-assessed **coursework**.
- **Research skills (S2)** are developed through preparation for seminars and tutorials and through coursework. **Oral communication skills (S3)** are developed through participation in seminars and tutorials.
- General personal skills of **personal organisation** and **time management** are not formally taught but are developed through self-directed reading, including in preparation for seminars and preparation of coursework.

### Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

A range of assessment methods is used across the curriculum, different methods being used as appropriate for different modules. The principal methods used are examinations (which may be wholly or partly seen or wholly unseen, and in which students may be permitted the use of a range of materials), assessed coursework, assessed essays, take home exercises and project work. A combination of methods may be used in some modules. Care has been taken to provide a balance of methods in each semester.

**Knowledge and understanding** is tested primarily by examination, especially by unseen examination questions. The use of materials in examinations, including open book examinations, places greater emphasis on understanding than on knowledge and memory.

**Skills in research methods** are assessed by assessed coursework, take home exercises (including designing a research project) and by project work. The development of research skills in sociology and criminology is assessed by requiring all students to undertake the Dissertation in Criminology.

Skills of **critical analysis** are assessed by essay questions in assessed coursework and examinations.

**Written communication** skills are assessed generally through coursework, examination, dissertations and project work.

**Oral communication** and skills of **personal organisation** and **time management** are not formally assessed, but the latter are indirectly assessed in the preparation especially of assessed coursework, including dissertations, and also in examinations.

## 19. Reference points

**The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:**

Subject Benchmark Statements

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx>

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2008)

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/The-framework-for-higher-education-qualifications-in-England-Wales-and-Northern-Ireland.aspx>

University Strategic Plan

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/strategicplan>

Learning and Teaching Strategy (2011-16)

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/lets/staff/lts>

The research interests of the staff of the Department of Sociological Studies.

## 20. Programme structure and regulations

Students are required to study a mix of sociology, criminology and research methods at all levels of the programme. In practice Sociology must make up a minimum of 75% of each student's programme of study over the three years of the programme.

At **level 1** Students follow a largely prescribed programme of study, intended to provide a broad introduction to sociology and criminology and an introduction to research skills. They are required to take 100 credits within the Department of Sociological Studies, the other 20 credits being unrestricted.

At **levels 2 and 3** students are given a greater degree of freedom to construct their own programmes of study by choosing from a range of optional modules in social policy and criminology, having a choice in respect of at least half the study content of each year. At levels 2 and 3, students are required to take at least 100 credits within the Department of Sociological Studies, the other 20 credits being taken either within the Department or via an unrestricted module. In practice, most students choose to take all their credits within the Department. All level 2/3 modules are of 20 credits, except for the 40 credit Dissertation in Criminology. There are four core modules at level 2 and at level 3 students are required to take a 20 credit core module and the dissertation.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line [www.shef.ac.uk/calendar](http://www.shef.ac.uk/calendar).

## 21. Student development over the course of study

Substantive knowledge and research skills are developed progressively throughout the degree programme.

At **level 1** students' are introduced to core topics in sociology, criminology, and research methods.

It is expected that students at level 1 will require substantial direction and tuition is more intensive than at later stages of the programme.

At **level 2** students complete their study of prescribed core substantive topics in sociology and criminology and develop their knowledge of research techniques. The content of semester 1 at level 2 is prescribed. In semester 2 they begin to deepen their knowledge and understanding of specific topics in criminology and social policy by studying particular optional subjects.

It is expected that students at this level will have begun to develop their skills of critical analysis and to develop their potential for self-directed study. Tuition in some modules is therefore less intensive than at level 1.

At **level 3** students continue to develop their research skills by undertaking a Dissertation in Criminology.

Students continue to deepen their knowledge and understanding of specific topics in sociology and criminology by studying further optional subjects.

It is expected that students at this level will demonstrate the level of skills expected of an Honours level graduate in accordance with the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and will be able to engage critically with discussions about developments in thinking in criminology and social policy. Students are expected to have developed a degree of self-direction in their study and tuition at this level will therefore be less intensive than at level 2, with a reduced emphasis on lectures and a greater emphasis on self-directed reading and on seminar classes.

## **22. Criteria for admission to the programme**

Detailed information regarding admission to undergraduate programmes is available in the University's On-Line Prospectus at [www.shef.ac.uk/prospective](http://www.shef.ac.uk/prospective).

## **23. Additional information**

The Department is proud to host an active Sociology Society – run by and for students. The society aims to provide academic and social support for all students in the Department of Sociological Studies. The group organises seminars with guest speakers, maintains the Departmental Library, produces a newsletter and holds regular social events.

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at [www.shef.ac.uk/ssid](http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid).