School of Sociology and Social Policy

BA Social Science
4 year extended degree programme
The BA Social Science extended degree is designed for those without standard entry requirements who feel they have missed out on education. It allows you to realise your potential and explore different aspects of society.

**IS THIS FOR ME?**
There can be good reasons why someone does not achieve their best at school or college. Your learning may have been disrupted by adverse circumstances; you may have had limited opportunities – or support; you may have left formal education some time ago and gained experience, abilities and maturity that you did not have when younger.

What we are looking for in applicants is less about prior qualifications and more about your capacity for hard work and dedication to realising your potential.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**
Usually, we look for evidence of prior study at GCSE level, such as Maths and English at GCSE Grade C or equivalent. However, we do consider applications from people who can demonstrate their potential and commitment in other ways.

We particularly welcome applications from mature students that do not meet the standard entry requirements, and all applicants will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their potential to succeed at an informal interview.

You should apply for the BA Social Science through UCAS. If you are presently taking a course at a school or college, your institution should have UCAS application forms. Application forms are also available online at UCAS. [http://www.ucas.com/](http://www.ucas.com/)

**HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?**
There is a strong emphasis in the programme on helping you to develop skills for success. Teaching is imaginative and supportive to make sure that you are intellectually stretched and helped through any sticking points in your learning. Group sizes are small enough for you to engage actively and be well supported by your peers. Members of the course team are available to offer help with all aspects of your progress and you will have periodic individual meetings with your personal tutor to help you realise your goals.

**HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**
Methods of assessment reflect those that you will find later in your degree programme in order to ensure that you are well prepared for your continuing study. We see assessment as a key way of enabling you to learn by doing and make sure that feedback from tutors supports this process.

**WE CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR THIS COURSE ALL YEAR ROUND**
HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED?
Our aspirations go beyond academic and teaching excellence; we are also concerned for the welfare of our students outside the classroom. Our support and administrative staff provide a supportive environment and add to our friendly and welcoming atmosphere. We also have a dedicated Student Experience Manager, who provides advice and support to undergraduate students with regards to pastoral care. Students are also assigned an academic personal tutor to discuss academic, career and personal matters.

FEES
The fee details on this page are for entry in 2012. If you intend to start the course after this date, please see our website or contact us for the latest details.

FEES FOR 2012/2013 SESSION
For UK students from England, our fees for foundation year courses* will be:

£0 (no fee) for students with a household income of up to £25,000

£4,500 for students with a household income of £25,001 to £42,600

£9,000 for students with a household income of £42,601 and over

We are still considering our foundation year course fees for UK students from outside England and for other EU students. Please contact us for the latest updates.

Fees for all our courses may increase each year in line with government regulations. For the most up-to-date fees, please see our website.

Find out more about the funding available from the government or from the University to help with the cost of tuition.

Directgov [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Typesoffinance/index.htm]

*Please note that the level of financial assistance outlined here only applies whilst you are studying at Level 0. Once you progress onto Level 1 of other degree programmes within the University, alternative University scholarships and bursaries are available. Contact us directly for more information or refer to our website.
UCAS CODE: L301  
NUMBER OF PLACES: 53  
DURATION 1 YEAR FULL-TIME, THEN 3-YEAR DEGREE.

This course is not open to international students.

The degree is an extended four-year degree programme, designed for those who do not meet the standard entry requirements.

The first year of the programme forms a ‘level zero’ foundation year. Delivered in a friendly and supportive environment, this offers you a unique combination of academic and skill-based modules, blending a firm academic grounding in social science with study skills and information technology.

Successful completion of the foundation year will allow you to progress on to some of the most popular degree programmes within the Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law, and the School of Healthcare (see page 6).

You will study three core streams during your first year.

**Understanding Social Divisions in Contemporary Society**

Provides an introduction to understanding how society is socially divided based on key sociological concepts. The inequalities associated with gender, class, race, disability and health will be explored to give students a thorough understanding of how ‘individuals’ and groups in society are disadvantaged across the life-course. The module is designed to enable students to use theory to understand social change, social institutions; and how practices and policies attempt to address inequalities and discrimination.

**KEY TOPIC AREAS COVERED:**

- Childhood and Youth
- Sexuality, Race and Ethnicity, Disability
- Adulthood, Gender and Health

**Researching and Studying the Social Sciences**

Introduces students to the study skills required for study at undergraduate level. The module provides you with the opportunity to gain and practice skills in time management, the collection and evaluation of information, effective reading, note taking, essay writing, preparation for examinations and giving presentations. The module is intended to enable students to develop these skills in order to eventually meet level 1 requirements. Students will be able to grasp the relevancy of study skills through practically applying them to the areas of law, crime and politics. You will look at historical and contemporary basic theories and concepts within the criminal justice and political system both nationally and internationally; and be able to demonstrate academic writing and presentation skills.

**KEY TOPIC AREAS COVERED:**

- Introduction to and Developing Study Skills
- Sociology of Crime
- System, Young People & Crime
- Researching Crime
- Framing Politics, Political Parties, the Extreme Right in Europe and Britain
- Human Rights and the European Human Rights Act and Globalisation

Understanding Social Welfare will provide an introduction to the key ideas in political and social thought in particular the Liberal, Marxist and Feminist traditions. It will discuss ideas of citizenship and democracy. The second half of the module will consider the development of public policy in the light of these key ideas and encourage students to reflect upon the relevance of these theoretical positions in relation to welfare policy and citizenship.

Focusing on the British experience, the module is designed to encourage students to use theory to explain social change and also to use theory to critically assess existing social institutions.

**KEY TOPIC AREAS COVERED:**

- Conservatism
- The Social Democratic Welfare State
- Marxism
- Welfare and Citizenship
- Liberalism
- The Welfare State Today
- Feminism
- Poverty – Definitions and Measurement
- Children, Young People and Welfare
BA SOCIAL SCIENCE DEGREE PATHS

Following completion of this ‘level zero’ foundation year, successful students would be expected to progress onto a full undergraduate degree. Details of approved Social Science degrees are below.

**SOCIODY AND SOCIAL POLICY**
- BA Sociology (requires a pass)
- BA Social Policy (requires a pass)
- BA Social Policy and Sociology (requires a pass)

**POLITICS**
- BA Politics and Social Policy (requires a pass)
- BA Politics and Parliamentary Studies (requires a pass + average 60%)
- BA International Development (requires a pass + average 60%)
- BA International Relations (requires a pass + average 60%)
- BA Politics (requires a pass + average 60%)
- BA Politics and Sociology (requires a pass)

**LAW**
- LLB Law (requires a pass at average 70%)
- BA Criminal Justice and Criminology (requires a pass at average 65%)

*A maximum of three places will be available on these two courses.*

**EDUCATION**
- BA Childhood Studies (requires a pass)

**HEALTH CARE**
- BA Social Work (requires a pass, average 65% and successful interview)

**LIFELONG LEARNING**
- BA Child Welfare and Social Studies (requires a pass)
- BA Integrated Social Studies (requires a pass)
- HE Cert Child Welfare and Social Studies.

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**IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY**

A qualification from Leeds counts. Our graduates are highly valued by employers.

When you complete your degree programme, you will also become part of a network of highly employable graduates. From the very start of your foundation year there will be support to help you to use your time at university to maximise your opportunities for career development.

We always have the careers of our students in mind and here are a few examples of careers you could go on to do.

**CAREERS IN BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR:**
graduate trainees with some of the biggest UK companies (WHSmith, Arcadia Group, Deloittes); human resources; careers in law; communications management and broadcasting; advertising.

**CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR:**
civil service; teaching; youth work; fostering/children’s services; probation services; social work; prison service; housing and homelessness prevention.

**POST-GRADUATE STUDIES:**
in teaching; journalism; occupational therapy; marketing; town planning; social work; criminal justice studies; social research

Helping students to develop transferable skills is key to our programmes of study.

We offer a study abroad year, which is a real ‘CV-builder’ (and great experience intellectually and in a fun-way!)

We also offer a year in industry, which will give you great experience and which is key to our strategy for enhancing the employability of our students.
“At the age of 35, I had been working in the building trade for nearly twenty years but I had always had a yearning to do something more. Having left school with only two O-levels, I rang the University to ask what I would need to do to study and I was invited in to meet the staff.

To my surprise, after meeting with staff in the School of Sociology and Social Policy I was offered a place on the foundation degree. Throughout the course, the tutors were really helpful and my skills, including writing skills and computer skills improved over time.

It was initially very daunting, however once I arrived and settled in I gained in confidence. The course helped me to remain focused and re-gain my life.

I have always had an interest in international relations and I’d really like to do conflict and development aid work, which is why, after my BA I decided to narrow down my interests even more by completing a Masters.”

Howard Trehwitt, former BA Social Science student who has progressed to the BA International Relations and MA Conflict, Development and Security courses.

“The course for me was really beneficial because I’d been out of education for so long, it had been a long time since I’d written an essay or done any research and the foundation year just guided me in how to get back into that.

For anyone that’s considering going to university, if they missed out originally, I’d highly recommend doing this course. It can be daunting thinking about coming to uni as a 20+ yr old, being with all the kids, it’s not scary at all, certainly through the foundation course its predominantly mature students anyway.

While doing the foundation year I already knew which course I wanted to do, which was International Development, because it links in with what I wanted to do as a career. I’d heard that you could do a semester abroad in your second year so I’m hoping to go to Ghana.

The workload in the foundation year, is very well balanced if you have other commitments, I just couldn’t recommend it anymore – it’s brilliant.”

Sean McKillop, former BA Social Science student who has now progressed on to the BA International Development course.
FIND OUT MORE

You can find more information on the course on our website:
www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/undergraduates/ba-social-science/

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