# **BHASVIC**

Guide to Higher Education

Anthropology, Psychology Social Work, Sociology, Teacher Training

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#### What to ask on a social sciences open day

Thinking of studying for a degree in social science? Here are some questions you could ask tutors and students when you're at a university open day.

#### About the course

- What ranges of modules are available to me?
- Can I pick modules outside of my subject?
- What skills will I learn on this course? E.g. research methods, referencing, drawing graphs...
- Are there any guest lecturers or speakers who come to the university?
- Do I need maths or statistics?

#### **Equipment and facilities**

- What books are necessary for me to buy?
- How much reading is there each week?
- Are resources and reading material available to use online?
- Do I need to read anything before I start the course?
- Work experience and field trips

#### Are there any field trips?

- Where will they be is there a choice?
- How much does a field trip cost and will I have help with this?
- What assignments are set during a field trip, and do these count towards my degree mark?
- Do I have to organise placements or work experience during my summer breaks from university? Will I have help from the uni to do this?

#### **Assessments**

- What is the split between exams / coursework / group projects?
- Do I need to do a presentation on this course?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation or research-based project?
- How do I decide on a dissertation subject?
- Can I move on to a related Masters or PhD after I finish my course? Is there funding for me to do this?

#### What to ask on an Education or Teacher Training open day

Planning to study education at university? Print out our list of questions when you're on an open day to help you get all the information you need on the course.

#### About the course

- Which modules are optional and which are core?
- Can I specialise in a certain area if I want?
- Is specialist better than generalist when it comes to choosing my options?

### Facilities and equipment

- What books are necessary for me to buy?
- Will I be taught lectures with only people from my course?
- Can I get extra help from lecturers if I need it?

#### Placements and work experience

- How many placements will I have during this course?
- Do I organise my placement independently or will I have help?
- Does the uni have contacts with schools and colleges?

#### Assessment

- What is the split between exam/coursework/Group works/presentations?
- How will I be assessed on placements?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation/ research based project?

#### **Graduate prospects**

- How will this course help me get a job?
- How many graduates go on to to do teaching training qualifications?
- What disciplines does the study of education draw upon?

## **Anthropology**

Anthropology involves studying the similarities and differences between cultures and societies across the world and can help us understand issues in our own society, such as multiculturalism, religion and human rights. You will learn theories and methodologies for research work and have the opportunity to go on field trips abroad. Careers after this course include research, overseas development work and community work in the UK.

- BSC
- BA
- TIME ABROAD
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- FIELD TRIPS
- SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

## **Example course modules**

- Anthropological methods
- Introduction into prehistoric archaeology
- Methods and analysis in biological anthropology
- Research methods in social anthropology
- Evolutionary biology and geography
- Human ecology
- Human osteology
- Gender and society
- Material cultures
- · Ethnographic methods

#### Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



#### League tables for this subject

The Guardian | The Complete University Guide | The Times

## What students say about anthropology

I study anthropology. The four core modules in the first year vary between social and biological anthropology (one pure bio, one pure social and two inter-disciplinary modules). All are well taught and interesting, depending on your interests.

2nd year, Durham University

Typically in the first year, anthropology students have about 15 hours of lecture and lab time, so roughly five hours over the three different areas - social anthropology, biological anthropology and material culture. UCL has a designated anthropology building, but lectures also take place throughout the university.

1st year, UCL (University College London)

My course, anthropology, is really interesting, challenging and very enjoyable. I had around eight contact hours a week in the first year, including lectures and seminars for the different modules. My course requires a lot of work outside of classes - there is quite a big reading list for the different subjects, but often the texts are really helpful and interesting. In anthropology, the majority of assessment is in the form of essays or coursework. There are not many exams, which is good if you are better at writing essays than taking exams.

1st year, University of Sussex

## A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

No Specific Requirements

#### Useful to have

- Sociology
- Biology

#### **Application checklist**

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

#### Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Social Anthropology and Criminology
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Social Anthropology and Sociology
- Anthropology
- Social Anthropology and Development Studies
- English Literature/Anthropology
- Economics with Evolutionary Anthropology

## **Career prospects**

Fewer than 800 graduates completed anthropology degrees last year, and they were well spread out across a whole range of jobs – many industries have jobs that can be done by anthropology graduates and unlike a lot of degrees, there aren't many jobs we can point to and say 'graduates from this degree do that job'. Management and marketing jobs are the most popular, though, and many graduates go into the education or social care sectors. Graduates are also rather more likely than average to work in London, or to go overseas to work. This is quite a popular subject at postgraduate level, and if you want to go into research, you'll need to think about postgrad study.

#### **Transferable Skills**

Understanding different societies and analysing data, critical thinking, presentation skills, understanding different perspectives, discussion and presenting arguments & theories

## What employers like about this subject

A student taking an anthropology degree will acquire subject-specific skills that include the relevance of anthropology to contemporary cultural issues, an understanding of human society and culture and the operation of languages and power. Transferable skills you can develop include communication, problem-solving, team-working, the ability to gather and process information and the ability to construct convincing and well-presented arguments. There are few jobs specifically as anthropologists, but anthropology graduates are flexible and find work with many industries, including social and welfare, education, religious and faith organisations, recruitment, government, banking, retail and manufacturing.

## **Psychology**

How do children acquire language? Why do we forget things? What makes a good leader? If these sorts of questions interest you, psychology could appeal. You will study theories of behaviour, how the brain and mind work and develop skills to design experiments and collect data. Psychology is useful for a wide range of careers including social work, media and business, as well as being a first step to qualifying as a psychologist.

- BSC
- TIME IN LABS
- BA
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- STATISTICS
- SCIENCE
- PRACTICAL WORK
- FIELD TRIPS
- INDEPENDENT LEARNING

#### **Example course modules**

- Cell biology
- Mind and behaviour
- Exploring effective learning
- Experimental methods and statistical analysis
- Individual and social processes
- Developmental psychology
- Brain and cognition
- Social psychology
- Humans in biological perspective
- Evolution and behaviour

## Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



#### League tables for this subject

The Guardian The Complete University Guide The Times

#### What students say about psychology

The BSc psychology course starts off almost like an A-Level overlap in the first year, but gets rapidly more difficult, particularly noticeable with the neuroscience components. Content is often based on cutting-edge research and is fascinating, delivered by many inspiring lecturers. The work is essay and long-answer exam based, with different respective weightings depending on the module.

3rd year, Royal Holloway, University of London

I study psychology and I love it. Although the course is challenging, it was also extremely interesting and there are many opportunities to get 'hands on' - for example, during the second semester, we were all given the chance to hold a human brain in order to get a deeper understanding of the module, 'brain and mind'.

1st year, Bangor University

My course contains the basic modules of biology, cognition, social and individual types of psychology. It then also delves further into specific areas such as educational, forensic, sport and health psychology. As well as this, there is also some philosophy and maths involved. Although the maths is worked out with a computer programme, the results still need to be interpreted and understood.

1st year, Coventry University

## A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

No Specific Requirements

#### Useful to have

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Biology
- Mathematics

#### **Application checklist**

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

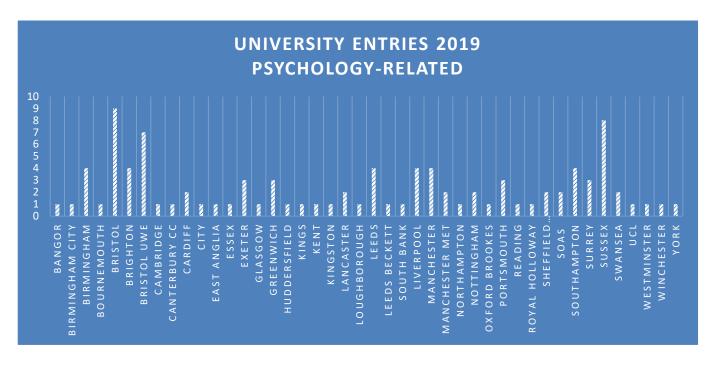
- January application
- Personal statement

#### **BHASVIC information 2019**

## In Sept 2019, 98 BHASVIC students went onto study Psychology-related degrees at 44 different universities

It is regularly in the top two subjects our students go onto study at university.

This includes students who went onto study Criminology, sometimes combined with Law.



## Top 10 Universities for Psychology - Complete University Guide 2020

- Oxford, Bath, Cambridge, St Andrews, Durham
- Loughborough, Newcastle, Kent, York all very high student satisfaction scores
- Lancaster, Leeds, Southampton all with top graduate prospects

## Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
- Psychology
- Psychology (Study Abroad)
- Psychology with Foundation
- Psychology with a Year Abroad
- Forensic Psychology
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Psychology (Clinical)
- Psychology (Clinical)
- Psychology with Criminology
- Psychology with Neuroscience
- Sociology with Psychology
- Criminology and Criminal Psychology
- Psychology in Education
- Criminology and Psychology
- Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology with Industrial/Professional Experience
- Criminology and Sociology
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Criminology
- · Criminology with Study Abroad
- Criminology with Psychology
- Law with Criminology
- Criminology and Law

#### **Career prospects**

One of the UK's fastest-growing subject at degree level, and the fourth most popular subject overall, one in 24 of all graduates last year had psychology degrees. As you'd expect with figures like that, jobs in psychology itself are incredibly competitive, so to stand a chance of securing one, you need to get a postgraduate qualification (probably a doctorate in most fields) and some relevant work experience. But even though there are so many psychology graduates – far more than there are jobs in psychology – this degree has a lower unemployment rate than average because its grads are so flexible and well-regarded by business. With a mix of good people skills and with excellent number and data handling skills, a psychology degree ticks most employers' boxes – but we'd suggest you don't drop your maths modules.

#### **Transferable Skills**

Understanding different theories and analysing data, critical thinking, presentation skills, understanding different perspectives, discussion and presenting arguments

#### What employers like about this subject

One of the country's most popular degrees, psychology enables students to gain subject-specific skills such as developing an understanding of current theory and practice in fields of psychology and how to generate and interpret research data. General skills that employers appreciate in psychology graduates include communication, project management, numeracy and negotiation skills. Some roles in psychology itself, such as clinical psychology, may need a postgraduate qualification to enter. Psychology graduates work for a wide range of employers including hospitals and health trusts, schools and colleges, social care organisations and management consultants.

## What Local Market information - Free Educational Psychologist training

For anyone interested in a career as an Educational Psychologist there is good news with the Department of Education's announcement to provide free training for over 600 Education Psychologist trainees for children. There will be three new training rounds from 2020.

## **Social work**

Do you want to have a positive impact on the lives of children, families or people with a disability or mental health issues? A social work degree will develop your knowledge and skills to work in areas such as child protection, family support and with the homeless. It can lead to a professional role as a social worker in child or adult services for a council, or be applied more broadly to working for the charitable, voluntary or private sectors.

- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- CHILDREN
- FAMILIES
- COMMUNITY

#### **Example course modules**

- Social work ethics and values
- Power, duties and accountabilities
- Social work in society
- Social policy: politics of the welfare state
- Law and the legal context of social work
- · Working with adults
- Social work research
- Social work as a vehicle for cultural transformation
- Child and family social work
- Substance use and misuse

#### Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



#### League tables for this subject

The Guardian The Complete University Guide The Times

#### What students say about social work

The social work degree requires a lot of dedication out of teaching hours. The combination of assessed essays, group work, presentations and exams is great as it helps you to be an all-rounder which is required for the role. Continuous learning is required to keep up to date with changes in legislation. It is a very challenging and interesting course which will help you grow as an individual.

1st year, University of Strathclyde

As a social work student, there is a 100 day placement in the second and third year, with a taster placement in the first year. Most of my course is essay-based. There is also the opportunity to showcase presentation skills in presentation-based assignments and group tasks. The course content is varied and interesting and can be challenging at times.

2nd year, Canterbury Christ Church University

I spent my time on full time placement (80 days) in a residential rehab and a community addiction team. This experience was invaluable and I was able to develop new skills and learn the realities of social work practice with the support and guidance of the university staff.

3rd year, University of Strathclyde

## A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

No Specific Requirements

#### Useful to have

- Psychology
- Sociology
- BTEC health and social care

#### **Application checklist**

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Work Experience

## Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Social Policy with Year Abroad
- Social Work
- Public Health
- Childhood Studies with Study Abroad

#### **Career prospects**

No prizes for guessing what by far the most common job for graduates in social work is! There's a

shortage of social workers in some parts of the UK, and graduates can specialise in specific fields such as mental health or children's social work. If you decide social work is not for you, then social work graduates also often go into management, education, youth and community work and even nursing. Starting salaries for this degree can sometimes reflect the high proportion of graduates who choose a social work career, as not all job options for social work graduates pay as well as other job sectors – but social work graduates still get paid, on average, more than graduates overall.

#### **Transferable Skills**

Understanding different societies and analysing data, critical thinking, presentation skills, understanding different perspectives, discussion and presenting arguments & theories

#### Jobs where this degree is useful

- Social worker
- Social services manager
- Guidance officer

#### Other real-life job examples

- Community worker
- Probation officer
- Adoption officer

#### What employers like about this subject

A degree in social work is, unsurprisingly, usually taken as part of training for a career in social work. Subject-related skills you might expect to gain include training in building relationships with people from all backgrounds and an understanding of the, often complicated, ethical issues that come with working with the different agencies and people involved in modern social work. A social work degree also includes 200 days of assessed practice. Graduates tend to be employed by local government and social work providers, but some also get jobs with schools, hospitals, housing associations, residential care organisations, advisory groups and universities, among other industries.

## Sociology

Sociology is the study of human social life and you can expect to cover topics such as work, families, gender roles, multiculturalism, media and culture and globalisation. Courses combine sociological theory with developing research skills and can include options to study criminology or social policy. A sociology degree can be useful for a diverse range of careers, such as market research, media, charities, management, youth and community work, the police and the probation service.

- BSC
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- RA
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- ESSAY-WRITING
- CRIMINOLOGY
- SOCIAL POLICY

#### **Example course modules**

- Observing society
- Urban sociology
- Understanding deviance and social problems
- Individual and society
- Applied ethics
- Media and crime
- Nature and society
- Sexuality and social control
- Contemporary work and organisational life
- Mobilisation, social movements and protest

## Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



#### League tables for this subject

The Guardian The Complete University Guide The Times

## What students say about sociology

In sociology we have four hours of lectures, and four hours of seminars a week. It doesn't sound like a lot, but there's a lot of personal reading and work to be done as well. It's a great course if you're newer to sociology, and just as interesting for more involved students. There's one piece of coursework to do with research methods, and everything else is marked according to essays done in exam conditions, and you'll do several practice essays.

1st year, Goldsmiths, University of London

The course is mainly coursework-based, with most of your marks coming from assignments. Learning sociology at uni is very different to college, but it's still really interesting with lots of work based on the gender, age and ethnicity areas you should be used to if you studied it at A-level.

2nd year, University of Huddersfield

Love the course! Some modules are challenging and require a lot of preparation such as research modules. I definitely recommend sociology as a degree. Overall I love it!

2nd year, University of Nottingham

## A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

No Specific Requirements

#### Useful to have

- Psychology
- Sociology

## **Application checklist**

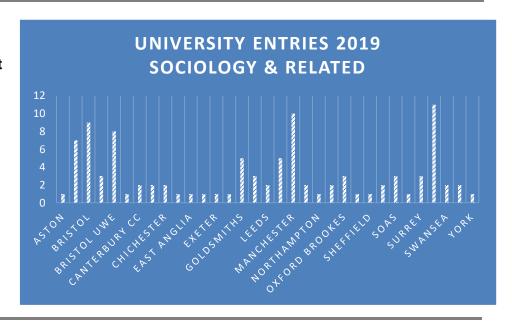
Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

#### **BHASVIC information 2019**

## In Sept 2019, 100 students went onto study Sociology-related degrees at 34 different unis.

Many were combined with linked subjects e.g. social policy, criminology, anthropology, cultural studies, development studies, youth work, social work, childhood studies, education. It is probably our single most popular degree subject for 2019.



#### Top 10 Universities for Sociology - Complete University Guide 2020

- Cambridge, Bristol, Bath, Exeter, Glasgow
- Sussex, Surrey, Sheffield, Keele all very high student satisfaction scores
- Aston, Portsmouth, Essex, Liverpool Hope all with top graduate prospects

#### Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Sociology with Psychology
- Criminology with Psychology
- · Criminology and Criminal Psychology
- Criminology and Psychology
- Criminology and Sociology
- Economics and Sociology
- Sociology
- Sociology with Year Abroad
- Criminology and Sociology
- Sociology with Psychology
- Criminology with Law
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Social Policy with Year Abroad
- Criminology and Sociology
- History and Sociology
- Politics and Sociology
- Sociology and Politics
- Politics and Sociology
- Political Science and Sociology
- Politics and Sociology
- Social Policy and Politics
- Media and Sociology
- Social Anthropology and Sociology
- Social Anthropology and Criminology
- Sociology with History
- History and Sociology
- Criminology and Sociology
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Criminology
- Criminology with Study Abroad
- Criminology with Psychology
- · Criminology and Criminal Psychology
- Law with Criminology
- Criminology and Law
- Education, Culture and Society
- Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities with Foundation Year
- Social Sciences (with a foundation year)

#### **Career prospects**

Most sociology graduates go straight into work when they complete their degrees, and a lot of graduates go into jobs in social professions such as education, community and youth work, housing and social work. But sociology is a flexible degree and you can find graduates from the subject in pretty much every reasonable job – obviously, you don't find many doctors or engineers, but you do find them in finance, the media, sport, healthcare, marketing and even IT. Sociology graduates taking further study often branch out into other qualifications, like teaching, law, psychology and even maths, so don't think a sociology degree restricts you to just one set of options.

#### **Transferable Skills**

Understanding different societies and analysing data, critical thinking, presentation skills, understanding different perspectives, discussion and presenting arguments & theories

#### Jobs where this degree is useful

- · Housing officer
- HR officer
- Welfare advisory offier

#### Other real-life job examples

- Social Researcher
- Financial analyst
- Police officer

#### What employers like about this subject

Subject-related skills you can get from a sociology degree include a knowledge of sociological theories and how they apply to people and organisations and their behaviour; the way sociology relates to social and civic policy and the methodology, interpretation and communication of social research. Transferable skills you can develop as a student studying sociology include communication, problem-solving, teamworking and good time management. Sociology graduates are employed in many industries including social care, hospitals, schools, banking, recruitment, the police, the prison service and local and central government.

#### Local Market information - More Children's Social Workers Needed

The Guardian reports on the struggle local authorities are having in recruiting children's social workers and the need to turn to agencies to fill the gap. According to data for 2017/18, 129 out of 152 local authorities recruited agency social workers, a rise on the previous year. With almost 6,000 children's Social Worker vacancies across England in September last year, there is an urgent need to recruit permanent staff, both for economic and continuity reasons

## **Teacher training courses**

Do you see yourself working with young children to develop their essential social skills, helping a primary school class grasp a key idea you've taught them, or sharing your passion for a subject with secondary school students? Teacher training degrees combine the study of curriculum subjects with learning teaching techniques and putting these into practice during hands-on school placements. The course leads to QTS (qualified teacher status) to enable you to teach in a school or college.

- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- PRIMARY
- SECONDARY
- EARLY YEARS
- POST-COMPULSORY EDUCATION

#### **Example course modules**

- Learning how to learn
- Developing professional knowledge
- Lifestyles and societies
- · Situated communication
- Acknowledging diversity in the classroom
- An integrated approach to meeting Children's needs
- Excellence in English, mathematics and sciences
- Wider curriculum: subjects in focus
- Education, values and society
- Reflective teaching: principles and practice

## Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



#### League tables for this subject

The Guardian The Complete University Guide The Times

#### What students say about teacher training

Being on a teacher training course has its challenges - thinking and preparing different exciting lessons for different subjects can be hard, but it's interesting when you work together as a team to see what you can accomplish. This year we've had numerous essays and assignments to write and a few practical assessments where we were required to teach our peers a lesson of ours. We also had block school experience where you go to a school for six weeks and teach groups or a class of children and plan and prepare lessons for them.

1st year, University of South Wales

My education studies course covers such a wide range of educational issues that I had never really considered before I started the course. The first year is about establishing the wider issues of our education system and being able to discover new viewpoints and new solutions to what we view as problems. We are taught to think both small and large scale - looking into schools here in the UK (helped by placements) to trips abroad and looking into international education. There are options to involve yourself in exploring both higher education all the way to primary education, so there really is a bit for everybody interested in education.

1st year, Bath Spa University

My course is very interesting. It's split into modules such as maths, English and DT, which means you get detailed information on how to teach each subject. It's easy to get confused into thinking the uni is going to teach you your timetables in maths - they're not, that's for you to go away and learn if you're not confident - the tutor is there to teach you how to teach it to children. My course also involves block placements, from three weeks to nine weeks. This is the best part of my course, as you gain so much experience and it is so rewarding to get a first feel of your chosen career.

1st year, University of Cumbria

## A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

 At least one from art, design and technology, English, modern language, geography, history, IT, maths, music, religious studies and sciences

## **Application checklist**

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Work Experience

## Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Primary Education 5-11 with QTS
- Primary Education (ITE)
- Education
- Early Childhood Studies
- Primary Education with Foundation Year
- Education, Culture and Society

#### **Career Prospects**

Teaching degrees for training and qualifying in education - the most popular of which is primary school teaching - tend to be three or four-year courses, but check with course tutors about how long you will need to study to get your Qualified Teacher Status. Most graduates go into teaching roles, usually primary school teaching, so these courses have good employment rates and starting salaries. But, be aware that primary school jobs are in short supply in some parts of the country, so if you hope to teach primary school children, don't expect to automatically be able to do so in your local area - you may still have to follow the jobs. That said, teaching roles are there to be found country-wide.

#### Jobs where this degree is useful

- Teacher
- Private tutor
- Special needs teacher

#### Other real-life job examples

- Sports coach
- · Careers adviser
- Learning mentor

#### What employers like about this subject

A degree in teacher training will help you develop skills in teaching and motivating students; child development; professional practice in teaching; theories of learning and safeguarding of young people. Other useful transferrable skills that a teacher training degree can provide include communication, time management, adaptability, problem-solving, motivation of yourself and others, team-working and leadership. Teacher training graduates at first degree level most commonly go into primary school teaching, but also work for secondary schools, in government (often as regulators or examiners), nurseries, colleges, hospitals and in business training.

**SOURCE: GRADUATE PROSPECTS** 

SOURCE: WHICH? STUDENT SURVEY

SOURCES: <u>HESA</u> & <u>HEPI-HEA</u>

## Sociology and Anthropology



- University Courses.
- Careers with a Sociology/ Anthropology Degree.
- Biographical Journeys of Sociologist.
- Professional Organisation Sociology and Anthropology.

**BHASVLE** under the Sociology and HSC page

Sociology Careers and Progression

https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/degree-subject-guides

https://www.whatuni.com/advice/guides/subject-guides/

https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses

https://universitycompare.com/guides/subject/

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/which-subject-should-you-study-university

https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors