

# **BHASVIC**

## **Guide to Higher Education & Employability 23-24**

**Anthropology, Psychology  
Social Work, Sociology,  
Teacher Training**

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## What to ask on a social science open day

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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

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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 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

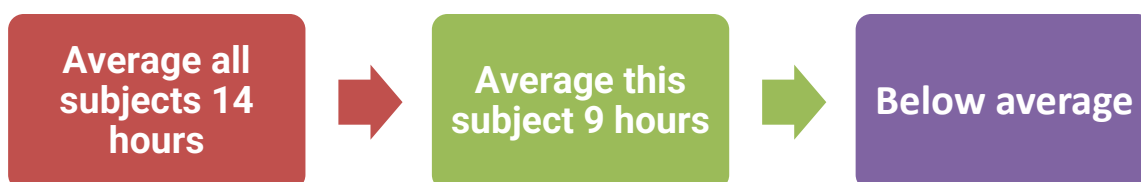
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- Anthropological methods
- Introduction into prehistoric archaeology
- Methods and analysis in biological anthropology
- Research methods in social anthropology
- Evolutionary biology and geography
- Human ecology
- Human osteology
- Gender and society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

### Teaching hours / week

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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

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[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

## What students say about anthropology

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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**

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- No Specific Requirements

#### **Useful to have**

- Sociology
- Biology

### **Application checklist**

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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

## **Career prospects**

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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**

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

## **What employers like about this subject**

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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.

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/anthropology>

## 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

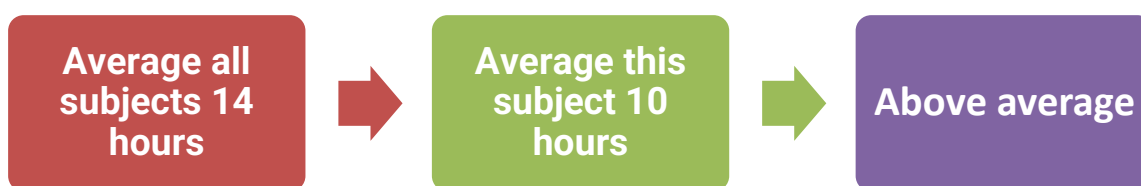
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- Cell biology
- Mind and behaviour
- Exploring effective learning
- Experimental methods and statistical analysis
- Individual and social processes
- Developmental psychology
- Brain and cognition
- Social psychology
- Humans in biological perspective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

### Teaching hours / week

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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

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[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

### What students say about psychology

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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*

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### **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

- No Specific Requirements

#### **Useful to have**

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Biology
- Mathematics

#### **Application checklist**

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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

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### **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

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#### **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

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

## What employers like about this subject

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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.

## Local Market information – Free Educational Psychologist training

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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. Personal statement advice and example: psychology

## Personal statement advice: Psychology

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Impress admissions tutors by getting the tone of your psychology personal statement spot-on. Here are some top tips on how to do so (no reverse psychology required)...

If you're writing a psychology personal statement, describing your personal insights into the subject or how you've pursued your interest outside the classroom will impress over quoting Freud or Milgram (which might sound a little pretentious).

That's what psychology admissions tutors say when asked them what they're looking for in your personal statement. Here are some more of their pointers to help you get started, and an example of how to write about why psychology appeals to you.

### Psychology tutors tell it like it is...

A lack of understanding: 'Some applicants display a misconception of what psychology is. We want to know that you understand the importance of scientific elements of the course and the importance of statistics and experimentation'.

Not enough engagement with the subject: 'Some applicants are rejected because of a lack of commitment to the subject, especially in cases where it appears that they've applied for a mixture of courses rather than five psychology ones'.

Making it too personal: 'Some applicants expand too much on personal circumstances, such as mental health issues or life events. Studying psychology may not necessarily help, so don't overplay personal stories'.

Getting the tone wrong: don't just say you 'want to help people' and don't use inappropriate language like 'less fortunate people'. Also, avoid inserting sophisticated language or phrases if you don't fully understand them – 'straightforward language is never a bad thing'.

## **Demonstrating why psychology appeals to you**

So, what should you include in your psychology personal statement? Dr Alice Jones, an admissions tutor at Goldsmiths University of London, wants applicants to show, with evidence, how they've developed their interest in psychology through independent learning.

This could include books or publications you've read. These don't have to be psychology textbooks or the works of Freud, Milgram or Zimbardo, but ideally something you've researched for yourself. Make sure you explain what each example has prompted you to think about and why.

It doesn't have to be a book or even something you've read with your eyes, either. Anything that shows you've extended your learning beyond the classroom, through journals, websites, podcasts, lectures and so on, will impress.

If you mention an interest in a particular career path, ensure you demonstrate some understanding about how you will get there too – an awareness that you'll need to pursue postgraduate training, for example.

## **Five things to include in your psychology statement**

The University of Bristol highlights five elements of a strong, academically focused psychology statement:

- Ensure it is well structured and well written.
- Give details of any specific interests or ambitions you have that relate to the content of the course.
- Demonstrate your enthusiasm for psychological research as a focus for academic study.
- Provide evidence of when you have pursued your interest in psychology outside the classroom (see above!)
- Give examples of non-curricular activities you are involved in which indicate the contribution you are likely to make to university life.

Any relevant work experience you have under your belt is also worth talking about. But if you haven't gained experience in the field directly, think creatively - there might be ways to link observations from your part-time job, voluntary work or extra-curricular activities to psychology. One successful applicant finished her statement with a short paragraph about her Saturday job on a supermarket fish counter, describing the satisfaction she got from knowing how to gut and fillet a mackerel. Linking her experience to psychology in an innovative but relevant way was a lot more interesting than just saying it had improved her teamwork or communication skills, which are a bit broad.

## **Example of how to write about why psychology appeals to you**

See an example of how to write about why psychology appeals as a course to you, from careers adviser Cerys Evans:

[https://web.ucas.com/ps\\_psychology](https://web.ucas.com/ps_psychology)

## Other routes

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### Degree apprenticeships (Levels 5 – 7)

[Arts therapist \(degree\)](#)

[Psychological wellbeing practitioner](#)

## Sources & Links

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[Psychology Subject Guide | Why Study Psychology At Uni? | UCAS](#)

[British Psychological Society](#)

[Association of Educational Psychologists](#)

[Experimental Psychology Society](#)

[British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy](#)

[UK Council for Psychotherapy](#)

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/on-demand.aspx>

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/ondemand/webinar/90/psychology>

[What can I do with a psychology degree? | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

Future Learn short courses <https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/psychology-and-mental-health-courses>

University of Aberystwyth taster session -developmental psychology <https://www.channeltalent.co.uk/event/developmental-psychology-i-see-what-you-mean-i-mean-i-see-what-you-see-now-a-taste-of-psychology-with-dr-catherine-g-ohanlon-from-aberystwyth-university/>

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/visit-us/open-days/ug-campus-open-days/2020/online-open-day.aspx>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/psychological-science/>

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/schools-and-colleges/Teacher-and-adviser-resources/downloadable-materials>

Psychology - <https://www.derby.ac.uk/departments/schools-colleges-liaison/digital-resources/psychology/>

University of Exeter [Psychology: https://youtu.be/jKsMjp\\_6xNQ](#)

Psychology Blog: <https://sites.gold.ac.uk/psychology/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/virtual-open-day/>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/manchester-live/subject-webinars/>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/course/Psychology-and-Cognitive-Neuroscience-BSc>

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/plymouth-on-demand/pod-law-criminology-and-policing>

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/plymouth-on-demand/pod-nursing-midwifery-and-allied-health-professions>

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/plymouth-on-demand/pod-psychology>

[https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/forensic-facial-reconstruction?utm\\_source=taster&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=TUOS\\_24\\_04\\_2018\\_FRX](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/forensic-facial-reconstruction?utm_source=taster&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=TUOS_24_04_2018_FRX)

[https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/valuing-health?utm\\_source=taster&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=TUOS\\_24\\_04\\_2018\\_MVH](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/valuing-health?utm_source=taster&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=TUOS_24_04_2018_MVH)

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/domestic-violence>

<https://www.solent.ac.uk/prospectus/resources/2021-course-brochure-health-psychology-and-sociology.pdf>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/childhood-youth-and-education>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/criminology>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/psychology>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/neuroscience>

## 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.

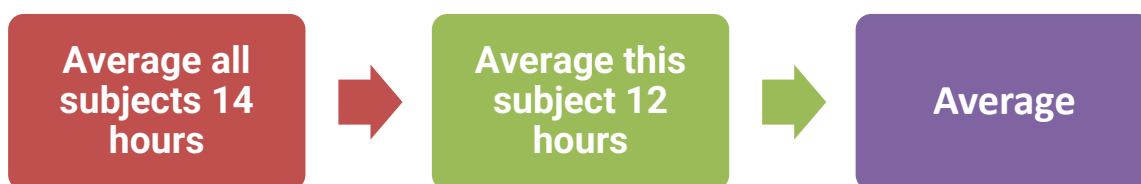
- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- CHILDREN
- FAMILIES
- COMMUNITY

### 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 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*

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### **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

- No Specific Requirements

#### **Useful to have**

- Psychology
- Sociology
- BTEC health and social care

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### **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

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### **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.

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### **Transferable Skills**

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

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### **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**

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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.

### **Personal statement advice: Social Work**

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Writing a personal statement for social work? We asked social work admissions tutors how you can convince them that you are right for the course.

#### **Social work personal statement basics**

According to University Campus Suffolk social work admissions tutor Martin Fookes, talking about your personality should not be the dominant feature of your personal statement. It's your understanding of what social work is all about, and how you reflect on your experiences, skills, and prior reading that will indicate whether or not you are sufficiently well-prepared.

Here are some more tips gathered from tutors (with special thanks to staff at Anglia Ruskin, Leeds, Portsmouth, and Sheffield Hallam Universities, and University Campus Suffolk). You won't be able to cover them all, but they will help you to focus your application, or perhaps to see what you need to do to strengthen it.

#### **Your knowledge of social work**

Your statement should demonstrate an understanding of what social work as a profession is all about – along with the skills, knowledge, and experience you will bring to it.

Discuss what you've learned or what's inspired you from relevant books, magazines, websites, documentaries, or social issues reported in the media, but perhaps steer away from talking about popular literature.

Going to university open days or conferences and talking to students and tutors will offer you some extra insights into the course.

It's okay to talk about personal experiences that shaped your interest in the degree, especially if you're a mature applicant, but be prepared to talk openly about it at interview.

Don't focus your interest on a narrow or specialist area of social work, but show a willingness to engage with issues that span the entire spectrum of society, including the elderly.



## Relevant work and extra-curricular experience

Make the most of every opportunity to gain experience of supporting people: in care homes, community schemes, youth clubs, play schemes, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, nurseries, mentoring, anti-bullying schemes, or working with the elderly or people with a disability.

Always demonstrate what you've learned from your experience, and how it has helped you develop appropriate skills or qualities.

Talk to social workers about the work they do, what they like about it, and what recent developments have impacted on their work, and reflect on this in your statement.

Relevant transferable skills from employment or extra-curricular activities could also be worth mentioning.

## The right skills and qualities for social work

Demonstrate your resilience and the ability to analyse situations critically.

You should also be able to show values of non-discriminatory behaviour and an understanding of the effects of disadvantage in society.

Do also reflect on an aspect of your academic learning, and explain what it has taught you about social work, or any appropriate skills it has helped you develop – and if it's relevant to you, perhaps mention barriers you've overcome yourself.

Think about solid illustrative examples of your skills in action, especially if those skills are relevant to social work – organisation, commitment, motivation, being able to work effectively with others, and so on.

Try to avoid clichés – say more than just 'I have a passion for helping people' or 'I am a people person,' by demonstrating how and why. This is a career that will require you to work objectively within professional boundaries.

[https://web.ucas.com/ps\\_social\\_work](https://web.ucas.com/ps_social_work)

## Other routes

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### Higher apprenticeships (Level 4)

- [Children, young people & families practitioner](#)
- [Police community support officer](#)
- [Senior housing/property management](#)

### Degree apprenticeships (Levels 5 – 7)

- [Children, young people & families manager](#)
- [Learning and skills teacher](#)
- [Police constable \(degree\)](#)
- [Probation officer](#)
- [Social worker \(degree\)](#)

## Sources & Links

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[Social Studies Subject Guide | Why Choose Social Studies? | UCAS](#)

[British Association of Social Workers](#)

[Nuffield Foundation O-Step degree programmes](#)

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/social-policy/>

## 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
- BA
- THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- ESSAY-WRITING
- CRIMINOLOGY
- SOCIAL POLICY

### Example course modules

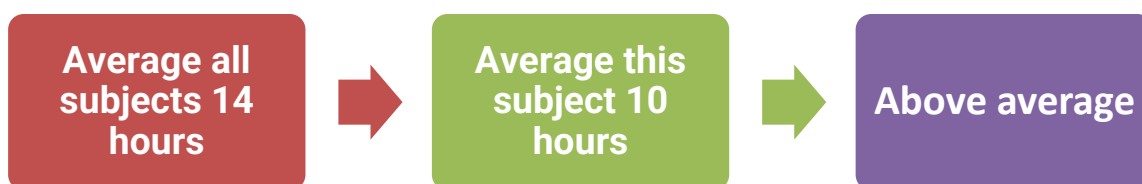
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- Observing society
- Urban sociology
- Understanding deviance and social problems
- Individual and society
- Applied ethics
- Media and crime
- Nature and society
- Sexuality and social control
- Contemporary work and organisational life
- Mobilisation,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

### Teaching hours / week

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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

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[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

## What students say about sociology

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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

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- No Specific Requirements

### Useful to have

- Psychology
- Sociology

## Application checklist

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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

childhood studies, education. It is probably our single most popular degree subject for 2020.

## Top 10 Universities for Sociology – Complete University Guide 2021

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- **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

## Career prospects

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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**

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

### **Jobs where this degree is useful**

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- Housing officer
- HR officer
- Welfare advisory officer

### **Other real-life job examples**

- Social Researcher
- Financial analyst
- Police officer

### **What employers like about this subject**

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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, team-working 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**

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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

## Personal Statement advice: Sociology

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### Sociology: show genuine interest

Here are some of the key messages you will find by researching sociology at various universities:

Cardiff University selectors like to see applicants who can demonstrate an informed understanding of the subject, a mature outlook, a wider awareness of social issues, and ideally a desire to take part themselves in 'advancing our understanding of a diverse and fast-changing social world.'

London School of Economics want to see an original statement that gives a sense of your enthusiasm and motivation for studying sociology, and to see something of your interest in 'relationships between peoples and society.' They like the majority of your statement to be based around your subject interest and for you to reflect on why you wish to study sociology, any aspects that are of special interest to you, and how it relates to your current academic programme and your additional reading or other experiences.

Amongst other attributes, Bournemouth University likes to see that you can work independently as well as in groups.

University of Birmingham tutors would like to get a glimpse of the relevant knowledge, skills, and experiences you've gained, an appreciation of what a degree in sociology involves, and the interests and enthusiasm you would bring to it.

Make it clear that you are academically interested in the subject, add any relevant extra-curricular experiences, and show that you've done your homework.

### Other routes

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#### Higher apprenticeships (Level 4)

- [Children, young people & families practitioner](#)

#### Degree apprenticeships (Levels 5 – 7)

- [Children, young people & families manager](#)
- [Probation officer](#)
- [Social worker \(degree\)](#)

### Sources & Links

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[Social Work Subject Guide | Why Study Social Work At Uni? | UCAS](#)

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx?Keywords=sociology>

British Sociological Society <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/>

Prospects <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/sociology>

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/visit-us/open-days/ug-campus-open-days/2020/online-open-day.aspx>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/sociology/>

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/schools-and-colleges/Teacher-and-adviser-resources/downloadable-materials>

<https://socialsciencesoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/teachers/online-resources/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/virtual-open-day/>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/manchester-live/subject-webinars/>

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/plymouth-on-demand/pod-law-criminology-and-policing>

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/plymouth-on-demand/pod-education-and-teaching>

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/undergraduate-courses/>

[https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/valuing-health?utm\\_source=taster&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=TUOS\\_24\\_04\\_2018\\_MVH](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/valuing-health?utm_source=taster&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=TUOS_24_04_2018_MVH)

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/domestic-violence>

<https://www.solent.ac.uk/prospectus/resources/2021-course-brochure-health-psychology-and-sociology.pdf>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/applicant/subjects/sociology>

<https://www.uos.ac.uk/>

## 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

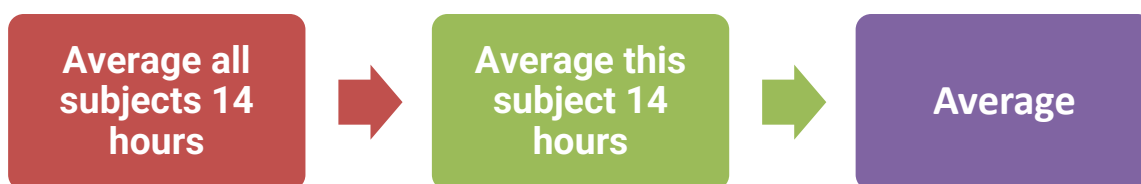
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- Learning how to learn
- Developing professional knowledge
- Lifestyles and societies
- Situated communication
- Acknowledging diversity in the classroom
- An integrated approach to meeting Children's needs
- Excellence in English, mathematics and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

### Teaching hours / week

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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

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[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)



## What students say about teacher training

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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**

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

### **Application checklist**

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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

### **Career Prospects**

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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**

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- Teacher
- Private tutor
- Special needs teacher

### **Other real-life job examples**

- Sports coach
- Careers adviser
- Learning mentor

### **What employers like about this subject**

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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. Personal statement advice: politics, philosophy, and sociology

### **Personal statement advice: teacher training and education**

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We asked admissions tutors how you can ensure your personal statement gets top marks and secures you that all-important interview.

If you want to study for a teacher training degree that leads directly to qualified teacher status (QTS), then you'll need to write a strong personal statement that reflects your ambition and experience.

Remember, if you're applying to a non-QTS degree and planning to qualify as a teacher through the postgraduate route (PGCE, School Direct, or SCITT), then your experience in schools is less important at this stage, but will be crucial in three years' time.

### **Teaching training: experience is essential**

Degree courses that lead to QTS usually require you to meet certain criteria over and above their entry grades, often asking for you to have built up experience of working in a classroom or learning environment.

Universities may insist that you have a minimum of two or three weeks' classroom experience, and they will want this to be recent or current. If you have worked in two or more contrasting schools or with different age groups, that's all the better.

If you've had additional experience of working with children or students in other settings, that may also provide some useful content for your statement, although it won't be sufficient on its own.

## How to expand on your classroom experience

Your insight into what it is to be a teacher is crucial. Here are some tips we've picked up from universities on how to expand on your experiences in your personal statement:

Outline your classroom experience and reflect on what you did, what you observed, and how it has informed your understanding of the role of teachers, the challenges they face, the nature of teaching and learning, or the interaction between the two.

Most importantly, describe some of the skills or qualities you've seen teachers use in the classroom, and show how you've demonstrated some of them yourself.

Reflect on any effective strategies you have seen teachers use to create a motivating and engaging learning environment, the way they interact with and inspire pupils, the way the classroom is managed, the way behaviour is managed, the way the curriculum is planned, or anything else that has made an impact on you.

Also reflect on anything significant you have gained from any experience of working with children in other settings.

### More teacher training statement dos and don'ts

Do explain why you want to teach, why you are interested in your chosen age range, and (if appropriate) why your specialist subject?

Do say something relevant about your academic studies, and demonstrate your own enthusiasm for learning.

Do mention any personal accomplishments or extra-curricular activities that you might be able to contribute to a school community.

Do expand on any relevant skills or qualities you've demonstrated in a part-time job.

Do comment on any current professional issues you've read about in, for example, the Times Educational Supplement (TES).

Don't forget the basics – the presentation, organisation, coherence, spelling, grammar, and punctuation of your statement will be crucial.

Don't include bland clichés such as 'I love children,' 'I was born to teach,' 'I am passionate about teaching,' 'I have wanted to be a teacher from a young age' – or the word 'babysitting.'

If you are applying for a general degree in education that doesn't lead directly to QTS, then demonstrate that you understand what the course involves, explain why you're interested in it, and relate your academic interests and experiences to it.

Have you chosen to study politics, philosophy, or sociology? Then you'll need to write a personal statement that's thoughtful, reflective, and enthusiastic. Admissions tutors give us their top tips below:

[https://web.ucas.com/ps\\_teacher\\_training](https://web.ucas.com/ps_teacher_training)

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## Other routes

### Higher apprenticeships (Level 4)

- [Assessor/coach](#)

## Degree apprenticeships (Levels 5 – 7)

- [Academic professional](#)
- [Learning and skills teacher](#)
- [Teacher](#)

## Sources & Links

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[Education Subject Guide | Why Study Education At Uni? | UCAS](#)

[Undergraduate teacher training in England](#)

[Undergraduate teacher training in Wales](#)

[Train to teach in Scotland](#)

[Train to teach in Northern Ireland](#)

Childhood Studies: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/subject-sessions/childhood-studies/>

In Sept 2022, 122 BHASVIC students went onto study Criminology, Psychology and Sociology related degrees at universities including Bath Spa, Bournemouth, Bristol, UWE, Canterbury Christ Church, Cardiff, Goldsmiths, King's College London, Leeds Beckett, Manchester Met, Newcastle, Northumbria, Newcastle, Nottingham Trent University, Oxford Brookes, Royal Holloway, Sheffield Hallam, Solent, Swansea, Teesside, Edinburgh, University of Law, UCL, Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Chichester, UEA, Exeter, Glasgow, Kent, Leeds, Lincoln, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, Winchester.

### Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019-22 entry

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- Anthropology
- Anthropology and Visual Practice
- Anthropology with a Year Abroad
- Applied Social Sciences
- Archaeology and Anthropology
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Psychology (Clinical)
- Business Psychology
- Childhood Studies with Study Abroad
- Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology with Industrial/Professional Experience
- Cognitive Science (Humanities)
- Childhood and Youth: Theory and Practice
- Comparative Religion and Social Anthropology
- Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology
- Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology (4 Years) [MSci]
- Cognitive Psychology with a Year Abroad
- Cognitive Science (Humanities)
- Counselling and Mental Health
- Criminology
- Criminology and Social Policy and Social Change
- Criminology and Sociology
- Criminology and Sociology (with Foundation Year)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Criminology and Criminal Psychology
- Criminology and Law
- Criminology and Psychology
- Criminology and Sociology
- Criminology with Law
- Criminology with Psychology
- Criminology with Study Abroad
- Criminology with Year Abroad
- Criminology and Forensic Studies
- Criminology and Psychology
- Criminology with Forensic Psychology
- Early Childhood Studies
- Economics and Sociology


- Economics with Evolutionary Anthropology
- Education
- Education, Culture and Society
- English Literature/Anthropology
- English and Sociology
- Forensic Investigative Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Human Sciences with Professional Placement
- History and Sociology
- Human Sciences with Professional Placement
- Liberal Arts
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Law with Criminology
- Marketing with Psychology
- Music and Music Psychology
- Media and Sociology
- Neuroscience
- Neuroscience and Psychology
- Philosophy and Psychology
- Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Thought
- Political Science and Sociology
- Politics and Sociology
- Politics and Social Anthropology
- Politics and Social Policy with Year Abroad
- Politics, Sexuality and Gender
- Primary and Early Years Education (with Qualified Teacher Status)
- Primary Education with QTS
- Primary Teaching (QTS)
- Primary Education (ITE)
- Primary Education 5-11 with QTS
- Primary Education with Foundation Year
- Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
- Psychology
- Psychological and Behavioural Science
- Psychology (Foundation)
- Psychology (Study Abroad)
- Psychology (with a professional placement year)
- Psychology (with Integrated Foundation Year)
- Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience
- Psychology and Education
- Psychology and Neuroscience
- Psychology Foundation Year
- Psychology in Education
- Psychology with Clinical Psychology
- Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience
- Psychology with Criminology
- Psychology with Mental Health
- Psychology with Neuroscience
- Psychology, Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience

- Psychology (Clinical)
- Psychology (with a foundation year)
- Psychology and Criminology
- Psychology and Sociology
- Psychology and Sport & Exercise Sciences
- Psychology in Education
- Psychology with a Foundation Year
- Psychology with a Year Abroad
- Psychology with Business and Management
- Psychology with Clinical Psychology
- Psychology with Counselling
- Psychology with Criminology
- Psychology with Forensic Investigation
- Psychology with Foundation
- Psychology with Neuroscience
- Psychology with Sociology
- Psychology with Study Abroad
- Psychology, Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience
- Psychology and Education
- Public Health
- Social Anthropology and Criminology
- Social Anthropology and Development Studies
- Social Anthropology and Sociology
- Social and Political Sciences
- Social Policy
- Social Policy and Social Change and Politics
- Social Policy and Sociology
- Social Policy with Criminology
- Social Policy with Innovation
- Social Policy, Sociology and Crime
- Social Sciences (with a foundation year)
- Sociology
- Sociology and Anthropology with Study Abroad
- Sociology and Criminology
- Sociology and Politics
- Sociology with Study Abroad
- Social Policy and Politics
- Social Policy with Year Abroad
- Social Sciences (with a foundation year)
- Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities with Foundation Year
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Sociology and Criminology
- Sociology and Politics
- Sociology with History
- Sociology with Psychology
- Sociology with Year Abroad
- Sport and Exercise Psychology

### [GRADUATE PROSPECTS](#)

### [WHICH? STUDENT SURVEY](#)

### [HESA](#) & [HEPI-HEA](#)

<p><b>Sociology and Anthropology</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University Courses.</li><li>• Careers with a Sociology/ Anthropology Degree.</li><li>• Biographical Journeys of Sociologist.</li><li>• Professional Organisation Sociology and Anthropology.</li></ul>	<p><u><a href="#">BHASVLE</a></u> under the Sociology and HSC page</p> <p>Sociology Careers and Progression</p>
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<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>

### [British Society for Criminology](#)

#### [Prospects](#)

University of Aberystwyth - Criminology taster - miscarriages of justice <https://www.channeltalent.co.uk/event/law-criminology-miscarriages-of-justice-a-taste-of-law-criminology-with-dr-sam-poyser-from-aberystwyth-university/>

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/schools-and-colleges/Teacher-and-adviser-resources/downloadable-materials>

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/visit-us/open-days/ug-campus-open-days/2020/online-open-day.aspx>

<http://www.centreforhatestudies.com/>

<https://www.solent.ac.uk/prospectus/resources/2021-course-brochure-health-psychology-and-sociology.pdf>