

1. Programme Title(s):

MSc/PGDip*/PGCert* in Social Research.

*exit awards only

2. Awarding body or institution: University of Leicester**3. a) Mode of study**

Full-time and part-time

b) Type of study

On campus

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is one year full-time or two years part-time. The maximum period of registration is two years full-time or four years part-time.

5. Typical entry requirements:

Candidates should normally have at least an upper second-class honours degree in Sociology or another relevant Social Science discipline from a British university or its equivalent. Professional qualifications and experience may be taken into account. Special entries will be required to submit examples of written work in order to demonstrate their aptitude for MSc level study. For those candidates, whose first language is not English, they will be asked to demonstrate competency in English to the appropriate standard. Our requirement is an IELTS score of 6.5 or above.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL not allowed

7. Programme aims:

The course aims to provide an expert grounding in the practice of social inquiry, thus enabling students to design and carry out independent research. To achieve this aim the course will provide the necessary academic skills to develop, implement and evaluate social research, providing an excellent basis for career development and a foundation for doctoral research and an academic career as well as careers in social research generally. Students taking the course will be offered thorough, critical knowledge of the theoretical positions that guide research traditions, the research process, including both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis; of the political problems and ethical considerations arising in conducting research, including sensitivity to issues of ethnicity, gender, age and sexuality; of the range of data sources available to social scientists along with their strengths and limitations and tuition in a range of practical skills including use of relevant software packages, writing and presentation.

The MSc in Social Research equips students with the research skills for employment within research organisations, as well as with the transferable skills valued by many other employers (including public services, marketing institutes or Non-Governmental Organisations). It is also a strong foundation for going on to doctoral study in sociology or the other social sciences.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

QAA Benchmarking Statement for Sociology. University of Leicester Teaching and Learning Strategy, and Codes of Practice. Previously accredited postgraduate programmes in Sociology at the University of Leicester (e.g. MSc in Social Research, MA Contemporary Sociology). Level 7 on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(a) Subject and Professional skills</i>		
Knowledge		
Advanced knowledge of research methods and their application to a substantive area of sociology.	Seminars, independent study	Research proposal, Research critique, Essays, dissertation
Concepts		
Enhanced knowledge of sociological concepts and their relation to research	Seminars, independent study	Research critique, Essays, dissertation
Techniques		

<p>Competence in quantitative and qualitative data collection and data analysis. Knowledge of the techniques of data collection and analysis used in different employment sectors.</p> <p><i>Conduct applied research using the appropriate research methods).</i></p> <p><i>Ability to deal with ethical issues inherent in the research.</i></p> <p><i>Ability to relate the applied research done during the MSc with a potential PhD project.</i></p>	<p>Seminars, independent study</p>	<p>Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.</p>
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Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critical analysis		
<p>Ability to recognise the limitations of research approaches and to apply concepts and techniques critically.</p> <p>Ability to reflect critically on the use of research methods in different employment sectors.</p>	<p>Seminars, independent study</p>	<p>Research critique, research proposal, essays and dissertation</p>
Presentation		
<p>Ability to organise and present research material appropriate to the medium of assessment and the research question addressed.</p> <p>Ability to explain complex ideas in a clear and concise way.</p>	<p>Seminars</p>	<p>Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.</p>
Appraisal of evidence		

<p>Ability to analyse and assess the adequacy of data in the context of specific research questions.</p> <p>Ability to analyse and assess the adequacy of data used in different professional contexts.</p> <p><i>Ability to use a large amount of data .</i></p> <p><i>Ability to reflect on the limitations of the research conducted.</i></p>	Seminars, independent study	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.
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(b) Transferable skills

Research skills

<p>Knowledge of theoretical, practical and ethical dimensions of research.</p> <p>Ability to locate, organise and analyse complex data and construct critical arguments.</p> <p>Ability to identify and analyse the research methods used in different professional environments.</p> <p><i>Ability to use research methods that could be the basis for a PhD project.</i></p>	Seminars, research supervision, independent study	Research proposal, research critique, Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports, essays and dissertation.
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Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Communication skills		
<p>Ability to communicate effectively in seminars and supervision sessions and to write clearly and in an appropriate style.</p> <p>Ability to understand how different communication skills can be used in different professional environments.</p>	Seminar, research supervision...	Written assignments.
Data presentation		
<p>Ability to present research clearly and effectively in appropriate forms.</p> <p><i>Ability to structure in a coherent way a large amount of data</i></p>	Seminars, essays feedback, research supervision, oral presentations feedback	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports and dissertation.

Information technology		
Ability to use information assignments, technology dissertation and correctly in	Seminars, essays feedback, appropriately research support of sociological study.	Written supervision
Problem solving		
Ability to locate, organize and analyse complex arguments and data to construct critical accounts. <i>Ability to deal with ethical issues</i>	Seminars, dissertation supervision and independent study	Qualitative Analysis Exercise, statistical analysis reports and dissertation.
Working relationships		
Knowing when and how to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others, ability to contribute and comment appropriately on ideas in seminars	Seminars, independent study, dissertation, research supervision	Seminar contributions, dissertation.
Managing learning		
Ability to use different types of knowledge and learning methods in order to deal with different research questions. Ability to understand how different types of knowledge and learning methods are used in different professional contexts. <i>Ability to identify, timetable and complete a credible research project and reflect upon the results and process</i>	Seminars, independent study and research supervision	Written assignments
Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?

10. Special features:

The contributing academic staff within the programme incorporates their research specialisms into the teaching. The programme includes an *Advanced Research Methods* module, which represents an opportunity to explore the most recent developments in the discipline.

11. Indications of programme quality:

Staff with strong record in epistemology and methods of social sciences.

The quality of the MSc in Social Research and MA in Contemporary Sociology has been recognised by the external examiner and by students.

12. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, [Senate Regulations](#)).

Essays are marked anonymously and moderated. Dissertations are also marked by two internal examiners, one of whom is usually the supervisor. A sample of the work is then sent to the external examiner who inspects all fails and distinctions as well as a sample of work that has been passed by the internal examiners. Each student's overall performance is reviewed at the Examination Board after they have completed the course.

13. Progression points

The programme follows Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, [Senate Regulations](#)).

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

The progress of each student shall be considered by a Board of Examiners at the end of the taught component of the programme in June/July. The Board of Examiners shall determine whether a student is permitted to progress to the dissertation or research project. Where the structure of a programme is such that a student has already begun work on his/her dissertation or research project, the Board of Examiners shall determine whether the student may continue with this work.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

The programme will follow Senate Regulation 6 (Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study, [Senate Regulations](#)).

15. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

Shared modules with the MA Contemporary Sociology will need to be taken into account in timetabling

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Semester 1	Semester 2
Research Questions to Research Design (SY7049) (30 Credits)	Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis (SY7035) (15 Credits)
Collecting and Analysing Numeric Data (SY7013) (15 Credits)	Multivariate Analysis and Statistical Modelling (SY7014) (15 Credits)
Philosophy of Social Sciences (SY7006) (15 Credits)	Advanced Research Methods (SY7036) (30 Credits)
Dissertation (SY7005) (60 Credits)	

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

Module specifications are attached.